

"THE SEAMLESS THREAD OF THE TESTAMENTS"

Selected Passages

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Three identical topics for both:
 - 1. God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit):
 - 2. Salvation (justification by faith alone): (*I Cor. 3:11*)
 - 3. Purpose (seek and to save that which is lost): (*I Cor. 15:34*)
- B. Flexible methods to accommodate an expanding population:
 - 1. The strategic city -Jerusalem – "city of peace":
 - 2. The local church – Jerusalem, Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Colosse, Phillipi):
 - 3. The heresy of replacement theology (conditional vs. unconditional promises):
- C. Similar functions of local churches (*Corinth yesterday and Grace today*):
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

II. GENERIC WORD PICTURES FOR BOTH TESTAMENTS:

- A. The following "sheep" (being): (*Ps. 23; Jn. 10:27; I Pet. 2:21*) (See also *I Cor. 11:1*)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- B. The faithful "slave" (doing): (*Rom. 6:16-19; I Cor. 7:23*)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. The fruitful "branch": (*Jn. 15:1-5, 8; 16*) (See back)
 - 1.
 - 2.

"Each piece of fruit will always contain seeds to produce potentially more fruit in the future."
- D. The finish line of the "race":; (*See Heb. 12:1-2; I Cor. 2:9*)
 - 1.
 - 2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY: (*Psalms 139:13-18*) (Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.

FORMING A BIBLICAL MINDSET

Understanding faithfulness: "Punctually and consistently thorough in the performance of duty, steadfast in keeping commitments as unto the Lord"

Legalism: "Legalism is not the presence of laws. If the presence of laws is legalism, then God would have to be charged with promoting legalism since He has given mankind 613 laws in the Old Testament and over 2,000 thousand more in the New Testament. Legalism is also not the imposition of laws on someone else since the Bible sanctions parents and church leaders to impose laws on their families and church groups. Legalism is the conformity to a standard for the purpose of exalting self. It is a wrong attitude toward the code of laws under which a person lives. It is a fleshly attitude which conforms to a code of conduct for the purpose of exalting self. Having to do something is not legalism but the wrong attitude toward doing it, is. It suggests individuals are better than others because of what they do and don't do, and that God loves them more than someone else, because of what they do and don't do. Legalists have no gray areas believing every act is either black or white. Spirituality to them is doing the things on their good list and avoiding the things on the bad list, in spite of their Godless motives on the inside. Legalism is attractive because it appeals to their self righteous pride and their emotional feelings at the same time." *Dr. Charles Ryrie (Since legalism is not a Biblical word, any definition must be derived from the implications of Scripture, not direct statements)*

Liberty: "Liberty is not the opposite of legalism. It does not give believers the freedom to live as they want to live. It gives true believers the freedom to live a seemingly impossible life as God wills them to live. The specific impossible commands along with the power and motivation to obey them, come from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Liberty has brought the freedom to be slaves of righteousness. (Rom. 6:18) It places them in a position where they can live as God pleases, something they were unable to do as lost people. Liberated living is not unrestricted. Liberated living is love-limiting living, and that is true spirituality." *Dr. Charles Ryrie (Ja. 1:25; Gal. 5:1, 13-15; 6:2; Rom. 8:2)*

License: License is the false notion that true believers can live their life however they personally choose without any outside source posting any restrictive boundaries. It is tolerant self serving indulgence. Like legalists, they have no gray areas either but neither do they believe much is black. Almost everything is white; everything is acceptable as long as it is not specifically forbidden in the New Testament. They believe that Christian freedom is virtually absolute and unqualified. As long as their conscience is free, individuals can do as they please." (Gal. 5:13)

Grace: Grace is God giving us what we cannot earn. Grace is the unmerited favor of God. Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense. Grace must be experienced before it can be more fully comprehended.

"Those who distort grace focus on God's job of 'forgiving' at the expense of their responsibility to 'obey'. The New Testament continually reminds us that living under grace does not relieve us of the obligation of obedience; it intensifies that obligation – a standard that leads to joy, not misery. Joy comes from obeying God. While it is true that there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, there are plenty of things we must do to enjoy God's blessings." *Jeffress*

- The point - "Grace does not mean that we serve no master; but that we have the privilege of serving a new Master. When we experience grace, regardless of the circumstances, it is a radical experience that results in revolutionary changes." (See II Cor. 5:17)

Understanding fruitfulness: (See Jn. 15:4-5) "Treasuring and pursuing the eternal over the temporal" (Mt. 6:33)

What "fruit" is all about: Fruit is designed for the enjoyment of those around me. Fruit glorifies the Father because it makes Jesus a reality to everyone around me. Fruit is my passion to tell God's love story, to anyone who has yet to experience it. More fruit is to sacrificially serve with others (local church) to be even more productive in telling God's love story. Much fruit is abandoning my life to individually build into others, so that God's love story will be shared for years to come. (Compare Jn. 21:19,22; with Mk. 1:17)