January 2014 News Topic

**The Kingdom versus Grace: In which Gospel are you a Member?**

**Most churches today say that they preach the gospel.  It is best to see where they stand, to see first of all, what gospel (good news) they preach, and if they really preach what they say they do.  Make sure you are with like faith believers, where the preaching of the gospel refers to one’s salvation in this “Age of Grace”.  I remember as a young man, the leaders of our church would always speak of studying the four gospels; what they meant by this was, reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.  That is fine, in that the entire Bible is for our benefit and edification, but this was not the gospel that was intended for you and me; it does reveal Christ’s teachings as it related to the times of the disciples (from which we can glean much understanding).  The four gospels deal with the ministering of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with His chosen people, the Israelites; this was the “Kingdom Gospel” (Luke 9:1-6; 18:31-34) .  It served a vital purpose in a previous time, and it will return at a later date, as we have learned from studying God’s Word.  It included the repentance of sins, and water baptism.  We must always keep in mind the varied dispensations that have occurred over time.  God has not required the same thing to be focused upon, or believed in, at all points in time through the ages.  In the Old Testament, Abraham was told the “good news” that in him all nations would be blessed.  The rest of the world was to be blessed through him; he knew nothing of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior that was to come.**

**While some people may say that God’s Word is a “mystery”, I believe they may be saying that it may be confusing to them from time to time; some may also imply that it is contradictory. Well, if such persons would take time to “rightly divide” the Truth (His Word), they would find His Word was delivered in a whole new light; the confusion would be gone and any questions about contradictions would disappear.  Yes, there were numerous mysteries in His Word that were revealed in His time.  The existence of the “mystery” (beyond human understanding) I would like to address here, is the “Mystery Gospel”; or, the “Gospel of Grace”; this is yours and my “Saving Grace”.  Abraham, through faith, took God at His Word; he knew that God would bless the world through him.  Believing in something, anything, requires a simple foundation of understanding; how can someone, such as Abraham, believe in something that was never revealed, made known, to him?   Thus, Abraham knew nothing of this “Gospel of Grace”, through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ our Lord  (I Corinthians 15: 1-4).  This IS the “Age of Grace”!  It is a new day, a new time, and a relatively new and different dispensation!  Once again, this is the gospel for you and me!  It is time to glean a better understanding of what is out there for you; I promise you, you will rejoice, once you grasp the idea of “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”! Once you begin to study His Word in this new light, it will ALL make more sense to you!  Do not take my word for it on this matter, but go to His Word.  Take Him at His Word!  Read it all, but focus on what was intended for you, in your daily walk with Him.**

**Some persons say, and rightly so, that the reason people do not understand the truth, is because they do not want to understand or speak the truth, because they have too much vested in their present practices; or as my brother likes to say, “They have a dog in the fight”.  Yes, I am a dispensationalist; some persons may say that I am an “ultra” or “hyper” dispensationalist; their terms, not mine.  The beliefs of a dispensationalist is one that views the biblical teachings as those that are directed to each of us; yet, we believe and study the whole Bible, as it surely is the inspired Word of God.  How does a dispensationalist study the Bible? This is best described by Joel Finck (from the “Gems of Grace Truth”): “We believe the whole Bible is God’s inspired Word and is to be read and studied from cover to cover.  Learn from the moral principles of the Law, find inspiration in the Psalms, be instructed by the practical wisdom of the Proverbs, but remember that our personal instructions are in the epistles of Paul.”**

**When was this knowledge of the “Gospel of Grace” brought forth, and who was the messenger?  It was brought to us by the Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul; this is commonly referred to as the Pauline Gospel (Those books penned by Paul, but authored by God).  Paul was the messenger, but it came to him directly from Our Lord.  If you are not sure that your church adheres to the Pauline Gospel, then it is time to ask some questions! If you feel it to be a chore to go to church, then you are not “rightly dividing” the word of truth (The Bible) and you are not being spiritually fed the Pauline Gospel. Are you attending church to “be seen”?  Are you attending church for “status”?  If this be the case, then it is time to humble yourselves, and find for yourselves a Gospel of Grace Believing Church. Where are you RIGHT NOW?  Does your church “entertain” you and put on a “good show”?  Once again, I would surmise, you are going for all the wrong reasons!  Too many churches today have “given in” to popular opinion, and even given in to some congregational demands; what a shame; they have compromised, and they have drifted from the gospel of grace, to encompass entertainment, and numerous man-made additions have evolved into the service, to be nothing more than to be “right” in man’s eyes, not in God’s.  The devil is sneaky, persistent, and attempts to be pervasive; he will use “church-goers” as pawns to carry on his evil deeds.   But wait a minute, compromise is good, right?  Not in this realm my friend.  Pastor Sadler says is best:**

**“Nothing will undermine the Lord’s work more quickly than *compromise*.  It is an insidious mood of toleration of unsound teaching for the sake of peaceful coexistence.  Mark these words and mark them well: Compromise is the influence of Satan to corrupt the Word of God!  It is a shame that Satan so often uses believers to accomplish his purpose………..**

**Another way in which Satan has done his work well is by subtly influencing believers to sacrifice their convictions on the altar of compromise.  Dear ones, compromise is a cancer.  It is a mood of toleration that promises *acceptance* at the expense of the gospel of the grace of God.  It is a slippery slope that will cause you eventually to lose your identity as a grace believer.  The same can be true of a local grace assembly if the leadership is more interested in numbers than standing for the truth.  Beware!”**

**Are you a member of the Gospel of Grace?  Are you aware of the dispensation we are presently in, in this Church Age: The Age of Grace?  Are you a member of the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head of the Body?  I hope and trust you can answer in the affirmative to all of these questions.  With that said, we must stay strong in the faith and not compromise what we know to be the Truth; His Truth!  What was once a mystery, is a mystery no more; it was revealed to the world more than a couple thousand years ago when our Savior conquered death, and rose from the grave; the Supreme Sacrifice was made to cover ALL of man’s sin.  It is our faith, our belief, our hope and desire to spend eternity with Him, and we will, through His faithfulness.  As some seem to beg for the forgiveness of sins; this seems a bit strange; it has already been covered.  I would beseech you brethren, for you to thank him for covering all our sins, not beg for forgiveness (it has been paid for); but definitely thank him continuously for paying for our/your past, present and future sins.  Our security and destiny was sealed, once we made the choice to believe on His promise, there was nothing more we could do for ourselves, it was only made possible through His Mercy and Grace. It is so sad when I see people doing everything they can to be “good persons” as they attempt to “work their way to heaven” (or plead for forgiveness of sin); there will be no balancing scales weighing your good and bad deeds.  To this day, it amazes me how so many people get off track and seem to have forgotten that, “Jesus Paid It All”.**

**God’s Speed Dear Friends!**

**Stay Focused in His Word!**

**Know what is directed specifically to you (II Timothy 2:15).**

**Thank Him continuously, for only He could have paid the Ultimate Price for you!**

 **Joe**