

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 21:15-26

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 214

TITLE:

COMPROMISE OR JUST BEING WISE?

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Arriving in Jerusalem *for the last time, Paul ends his third and final missionary venture by bringing a report and the passion to save his brethren according to the flesh - The Jew!*

He had been Warned *repeatedly not to go up to Jerusalem without counting the cost of beatings and imprisonment.*

Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

I Believe Paul Knew *Exactly what he was doing... Ringing in his ears was his commission...*

Acts 9:15-16

"Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. :16 "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

Jesus had said...

"For this cause came I into the world

1.) God's Hand Was With Paul

vv. 15-20a

Others had joined Paul en-route to Jerusalem

- if he's going to be beaten up, then I'm going to be there to bind him up!
- if he's going to be arrested, then I'm going to visit him

- Friends from Caesarea traveled with him
- Friends in Jerusalem greeted him

Paul was bringing a rather *large sum of money from all the gentile churches to aid them in a time of great financial hardship.*

Nothing is ever mentioned of the gift

James, The son of Joseph & Mary & half brother of Jesus Christ
(Matthew 13:55-56 Jesus was the eldest of at least 7 children born of Mary & Joseph
- see Galatians 1:19)

To Tell in Detail GRK step by step, line by line

Re-Counting

His report must have been a fantastic reenactment of the past.

The Holy Spirit Selected to Record Paul's Ministry for Nearly 20 years!!!
- not the Jerusalem churches activities...

- all that God had done,
- all that had happened
- all that it had meant... he did all this to bring me to this point today!!!

**Hey James,
isn't that awesome to consider that
God knows we're here - together, - right now !!!**

The longer you walk with the Lord the longer the list grows of the Lord doing good things to you and for you - remember them - Do not forget them...

Psalm 143:5
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the
work of Your hands.

2.) The Church of Christ was Bound in Legalism vv. 20b-23

Legalism Breeds;
Confusion, Misunderstanding & Division
(not to mention pride)

a.) They were bound by Confusion vv. 20b

What they believed was...

"We were saved by grace, but now we are made complete by keeping the law"

Remember How Simple it Was

the Day you received Christ - You Voted 'Yes' for Jesus!!! since then you've become tangled up in to do's

Galatians 3:1-3
O foolish {Chino Hillians} Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? :2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? :3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Salvation, The Law & The Believer
This was settled earlier Back to Acts 15:1

Peter & the Pork Roast

Peter's hunger, God used for a spiritual picture-show

If you're hungry - God says Eat ~ If you're thirsty - God say's Drink

John 4:14

"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

"those who seek to keep the Law are forever retarded in their spiritual growth"

Why?

Because they run around trying to glue the broken commandments together,

OR

They try to sew the veil of the temple back together

The Proper Effects of The Law

Humility - Brokenness - Repentance - Deep burden to get away from it

A Soul that is Awakening to God Cries Out Like Paul Did.

Romans 7:24-25

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
:25 I thank God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Why the Cry ?

Romans 7:9-11

I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. :10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. :11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Galatians 2:16

"knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

**The Law Says "You're Guilty!" - Condemned !!!
Pride say's "I'm not so bad..... "**

Matthew 5:48

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. - do nothing ever again wrong in thought & deed
You Can't Do It

Matthew 9:10-13

Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. :11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" :12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. :13 "But go and learn what this means: `I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Are you a Sinner - in need of the Savior?

Jesus Says

Matthew 11:28

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. :29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. :30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Are you an O.K. Guy - Not in need of the Savior?

Matthew 7:23

"And then I will declare to them, `I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Summation of the Argument is this;

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

rumors and gossip had done its job

there is a devious nature within the human spirit to almost revel
in the tragedy of another

Verse 21

These were lies.

Paul never told the Jews to not circumcise. It Was Part of the Abrahamic Covenant that a Jewish baby-boy be circumcised!

ONLY THAT CIRCUMCISION, LIKE BAPTISM TODAY, - CANNOT SAVE YOU

Getting Baptized Only Gets you wet... Unless you have previously established a personal relationship with Jesus

"The Rumors were A-sailing"

This week I heard a doozzy - the Mormon's new line of attack

Rumors don't have a leg to stand on,
but they sure do travel fast

To Those who Say they Keep the Law, Paul Says

Galatians 5:12

Regarding those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate ` castrate themselves completely!

Trimming the skin - cleaning up your act - will not help you in the end - What a Chop it will be!!!

Why should God let you in to Heaven?

Externals

When I'm away, *I'll look into my wallet to see a picture of my wife or my children - I might even kiss that picture of them - but after returning home to LAX I wouldn't kiss and hug the picture, I would kiss and hug them - why ?*

The Picture showed me *what was coming - a symbol - a type - Until the real thing appeared - Jesus!!!*

"I'll go to church on Sunday!!!"

"I'll confess my sins to the Pastor - Priest"

Hebrews 10:11

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1 John 1:7-9

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. :8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. :9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Sunday Christians are Not Christians at All

- Keep the Law Brother
- Keep the Traditions of the Church Sister

It wasn't until 70 AD. with *the destruction of the temple did the legalistic Christians cease to offer a sacrificial lamb*

IT'S LIKE A FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY

Your child naturally rejects the law of your home
The law is to govern them, & to protect them until a meaningful (graceful) relationship can be established with them in adulthood

The Law was a picture - a symbol - a type
Until Jesus Appeared !!!

Hebrews 10:1a

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-- not the realities themselves.

When Israel was a child, *an adolescent, the Law was needed to break their stubborn will until they grew up, and grace was not only extended but appreciated*

Galatians 3:23-24

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. :24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

c.) They were bound by Division vv. 22-23
they saw the Jewish believer accountable to God in a different way

Verse 22-23

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brethren, **note** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

* *Note* **GRK 4648** *skopeo (skop-eh'-o)*
to take aim or to (spy), them out. to regard as trouble

* *Divisions* **GRK 1370** *dichostsis (dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah);*
disunion, to untie a group of logs, to cause a separation in the body - dissension:

1 Corinthians 3:3

you are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not carnal, and walk as unredeemed men?

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

3.) Paul Desired all to Come to Faith

vv. 24-26

vv. 24 Paul was asked to “act out” what he disagreed with regarding his witness to the Jews...

- #1 be purified with them
- #2 pay their way
- #3 Shave their heads

- to silence the gossipers? - Maybe.
- to provide a platform to witness from. - absolutely

Many Fine Bible teachers here hold Paul in contempt for becoming one of these weak legalistic Christians... the very ones that opposed his message and the grace of the gospel...

**Paul has been roasted for this, even till this day
He is guilty of doing exactly what Jesus has done**

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; :20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; :21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; :22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

*Would we go this far to share
the news of Jesus Christ*

“Paul here is asked to teach the people with his life what James should have taught them from his mouth”

Verse 24

“...that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law”

Paul, we want you to become a "middle of the road" Christian so that no one gets upset over your understanding of salvation by grace through faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Verse 25

The Organized church @ Jerusalem was allowing & promoting clicks and divisions between the two ethnic groups - The Hebrew Believers & The Non-Hebrew Believers

Galatians 3:26-28

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. :27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. :28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Verse 26

Compromise or Just Being Wise?

Paul had already written the books of Romans & Galatians
(theological treaties regarding salvation)

Do You Love People, Do You Really?

then winning them to Jesus is the major goal in your life

If Paul failed, *he failed for an intense desire to lead his fellow Jews to faith in Jesus Christ - But never does a wrong justify the Right*