

**THE GOOD NEWS**  
**Once Upon A Time, Part 7**  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

One word that tells the story of the Bible is "redemption" - God has pursued a relationship with a prodigal race

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV) "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,... I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The message Christ brought was contrary to what they anticipated  
John 20:31 (NIV) "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

Matthew 16:20-22 (NIV) "From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests & the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed & on the third day be raised to life. Peter took Him aside & began to rebuke Him. 'Never, Lord!' he said. 'This shall never happen to You!'"

What prevented God from establishing His Kingdom wasn't Rome, but their sin

Genesis 2:17 (NIV) "...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."  
Romans 6:23 (NIV) "For the wages of sin is death,..."

Luke 22:19-20 (NIV) "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.'"

Jesus established the "new covenant" through His body & blood

What Christ did on the cross was the culmination of the story of redemption

Romans 5:12 (NIV) "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

John 1:29 (NIV) "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Revelation 5:12 (NIV) "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,..."

Hebrews 10:3,4 (NIV) "But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

Because of our sin, humanity had a debt it could not pay

While God would not overlook our debt, He was willing to pay the debt for us through Christ

Jesus did something for you that you could not do for yourself

This "new covenant" established a new way of relating to God for all time

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, & teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Not long after Christ's death a horrible thing happened, people spread a different gospel  
Galatians 1:6-7 (NIV) "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all."

This "wrong gospel" was that our relationship with God was based on our performance and not Christ's payment

As a result of this message, the very people who were attracted to Jesus are terrified to be around us

Galatians 1:8 (NIV) "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!"

Christ did not give His life so you could get on a treadmill and live by performance

You must understand you are perfectly righteous in Christ strictly because of what He has done for you

All you have to do, all you can do is place your faith in what Christ has done for you

What God says about you if you have trusted Christ!

Romans 8:1 – God has no condemnation for us

Ephesians 1:7 – We are fully forgiven

Ephesians 2:8-9 – It is by grace we've been saved through faith, not as result of works

1 Corinthians 1:30 – Christ is our righteousness and holiness

Philippians 1:1 – We are saints, holy ones

Hebrews 10:10 – We've been made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus

Colossians 1:22 - We are holy, without blemish or accusation

If you have feelings of needing to perform to be accepted by God, stop and confess, "There is nothing I can do to earn righteousness. I'm trusting what Christ did for me."

Your obedience is not so you will be accepted, it's because you have been accepted

Your problem is your sin debt before God that you can't do anything about

1 Timothy 2:5,6 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men."

The gospel is about payment, not performance

Trusting what Christ has done is easy - anyone can do it. Don't ever think it was cheap - it was the greatest injustice that ever took place, & it was on our behalf

### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- If you are a Christian, would you thank God your right standing before Him is not based on your performance but on the payment Christ made for you through His sacrificial death
- If you are not a Christian, would you accept God's gift of forgiveness through Christ
- I/we plan to attend Class 101 with Pastor Russ on Sun, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> after the 11:15 am service