

LESSON #5 HOPE GROWS AS I LEARN GOD'S MESSAGES

Law

Gospel

1. Content.
2. Result in my heart.

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I. THE LAW'S VERDICT AND PURPOSE

Read Romans 3:9-20

1. What is the problem with all people, Jews and Gentiles alike? (v9) _____

2. Paul then gives a number of ways that we can see the truth of v9 illustrated. What are some ways that we see clearly that all people are sinful? (v10-18) _____

3. To fully grasp what God is saying, read vv 12-14 with your name inserted.
4. When a person is asked if they think they will go to heaven when they die, the typical answer is "Probably." When asked why, they usually reply, "I've been pretty good. I've never actually murdered anyone and I generally try to do right." Evaluate that answer in the light of this section of Scripture. _____
5. These verses are law verses. In vv 19-20, we hear what the main purpose of God's law is. What? _____

II. THE GOSPEL'S VERDICT AND PURPOSE

Read Romans 3:21-24

1. There is righteousness. Where? _____
2. How does God bring that righteousness to me? (v22) _____

3. No matter how many "good works" we might try to do, what would God's verdict have to be? (v23) _____
4. But according to v24, God declares me "justified." That means ... _____

5. Pick out the different ways that God describes our justification in v24. _____

6. In vv 9-20, we heard about how we had destroyed our relationship with God. Verse 25a tells us what our relationship to God is now. What? _____
7. Glance at Rom. 5:18-19. For how many people does this declaration of righteousness hold true? _____
8. Why is that truth, called "**objective justification**," so vital to know? _____

9. The law's purpose was to show my sin and my need for a Savior. What is the Gospel's purpose? _____
10. Most of our worship services begin with a section called "Confession and Absolution." Here's a sample of one:

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. (sung) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

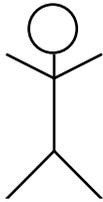
C: (sung) Amen.

1. How do you see the law in this? _____

2. How is the Gospel proclaimed? _____

(Notice how forcefully the declaration of forgiveness is given, with no strings attached)

3. Why do we use this -- or something like it -- in most of our worship services _____



God's Great Exchange



III. WHAT IS FAITH?

Read Romans 4:18-25

1. At 100 years old, what were the chances of Abe having the child God had promised to him____

2. In v21 we get a definition of faith. What? _____

3. God caused Abraham and Sarah to have that child (Isaac). If God had the power to keep that promise, what about the promises He's made to us? (i.e. forgiveness, the resurrection, His guidance in our lives, etc.) _____

4. Look at v24 and answer this question: In the eyes of God you are a spiritual a) negative. b) neutral. c) positive.

5. Why did Jesus have to die? (v25) _____

6. Why did Jesus rise? _____

IV. THE BLESSINGS OF JUSTIFICATION FOR YOU

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom. 5:11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom. 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Rom. 6:23 ... the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Rom. 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,

Rom. 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Rom. 12:5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Write down some of the blessings of justification for you. _____

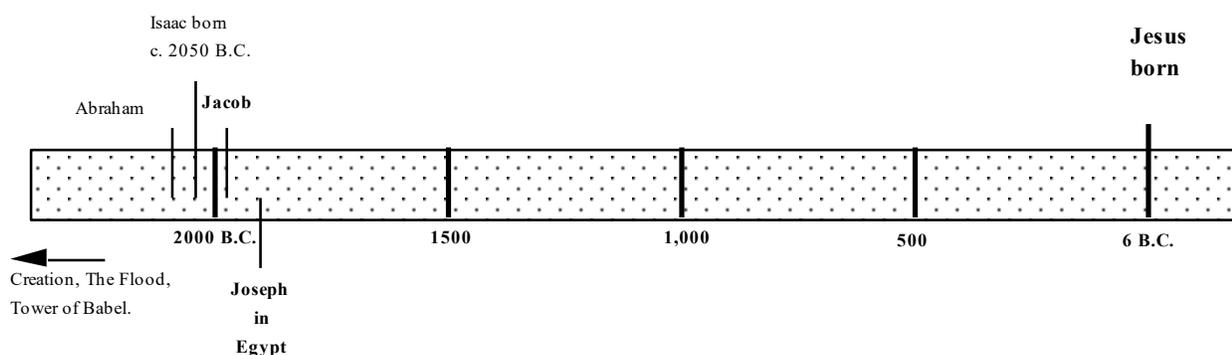
Summary:

- The Law's verdict is that I deserve to go to hell. It makes me see my sinfulness and my need for a Savior.
- The Gospel's verdict is that God has declared me innocent. The Gospel shows me my Savior and what He's done for me and for all.
- God convinces me - through Law and Gospel - that I stand before Him as justified! Innocent!

*What curses does the law pronounce against the one who fails but once!
But in the gospel Christ appears, pard'ning the guilt of num'rous years. (CW #286)
Hope Grows!*

FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK

1. Complete the homework sections below.
2. To build up your knowledge of God's Word, memorize these passages:
Rom. 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
3. Memorize the Old Testament books of the Bible, Genesis through Esther. (The historical books) and Job through Song of Songs (The poetical books).
4. Suggested daily reading: Genesis 30-36



Last week we saw God fulfill the first of the promises which He had given to Abraham when Isaac was born. Isaac got married to a lady named Rebekah, and they had twin sons. (Jacob and Esau.) It was through Jacob that the promises would be carried on.

Jacob's home life is a mess. He fell in love with a woman named Rachel, and agreed to work for her father Laban for seven years so that he could marry her. But Laban tricked Jacob and gave him his older daughter Leah instead. Jacob still wanted to marry Rachel, and so agreed to work for another seven years for Rachel. So now Jacob has two wives, who are sisters. (Imagine the jealousy and competition that brought about!)

Leah (the one whom Jacob hadn't wanted to marry) bore four sons for Jacob, which made Rachel extremely jealous. To try to compete with her sister, Rachel gave Jacob her personal attendant -- Bilhah -- and told Jacob to have children through her. (That was a custom of that day -- if a woman were barren, she could give her servant to her husband. The children that were born would be considered the children of the barren woman, not of the servant. Abraham and Sarah had done this with Hagar, Sarah's servant.)

After Jacob has two sons with Bilhah, Leah gives Jacob her attendant, Zilpah, and Jacob has two more sons through her. Then Leah has two more sons, as well as a daughter (Dinah). Finally Rachel bore two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. She died as she gave birth to Benjamin.

In summary: Jacob has two wives, two concubines, 12 sons and a daughter. Leah's sons = Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, and later, Issachar and Zebulun. Bilhah's sons (Bilhah was Rachel's servant) = Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah's sons (Zilpah was Leah's servant) = Gad and Asher. Rachel's sons = Joseph and Benjamin.

Can you imagine growing up in that household? To make things worse, Jacob showed great favoritism to Rachel's two sons, particularly to Joseph. (If you'd like, you can read the account in Genesis 25-35.) But God had great plans for this family, and today we'll study it.

Read Genesis 37

1. The early verses point out that Jacob, also known as Israel, loved Joseph more than his brothers. How did Jacob show favoritism to Joseph? (v3) _____

2. How did this affect the family? (v4) _____
3. Then Joseph has two dreams, which he relates to his brothers. What did those dreams seem to indicate _____
4. Later, Joseph's brothers are off tending the flocks, and Joseph is sent to check on them. (Often shepherds had to travel for miles to find pasture.) As the brothers saw him coming, wearing his robe, what did they want to do? _____

5. But Reuben, the oldest, stops them. He talks his brothers into throwing Joseph into an empty cistern. Then Judah comes up with an alternate plan. What did they decide to do? (v28) _____

6. How did they "explain" all this to Jacob, their father? _____

7. When Joseph -- now a slave -- gets to Egypt, what happens to him? (v36) _____

Read Genesis 39

8. Joseph continued to serve God wholeheartedly, even in this difficult situation. He proved so trustworthy that Potiphar promoted him to what position? (v4-6) _____

9. Because Joseph was well-built and handsome, what did Potiphar's wife want him to do? (v7)

10. Joseph's answer is outstanding. At the end of v9 we hear the heart of the matter. Why would Joseph not do it? _____
11. One day Potiphar's wife caught Joseph alone in the house. When she propositioned him, what did Joseph do? _____
12. Potiphar's wife then lied to Potiphar, said that Joseph had propositioned her. Because of it, what happened to Joseph? (v20) _____
13. Instead of becoming bitter or discouraged, Joseph continues to serve God. Because of that, what did the warden do with Joseph? (vv22-23) _____

At this time Pharaoh imprisoned both his chief baker and chief cupbearer. Each of these men had a dream, and God allowed Joseph to interpret their dreams; the baker would be executed, but the chief cupbearer would be restored to his former position. Joseph asked the cupbearer to tell the Pharaoh about Joseph, that he'd been unjustly imprisoned. Unfortunately, the cupbearer forgot -- Joseph languished in prison.

Then the Pharaoh had two dreams which greatly troubled him. When no one could help, the chief cupbearer finally remembered Joseph, and Joseph is called into the presence of Pharaoh. God gave Joseph the interpretation of the dreams; there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of horrible famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to store grain during the seven good years so as to be prepared for the famine. Pharaoh is so impressed that he appoints Joseph to oversee the collection of grain. All of a sudden Joseph is the second most powerful man in Egypt! Huge amounts of grain are stored during the seven good years, then the famine hits.

Read Genesis 42

14. Not only did the famine hit Egypt, but all over the world. What does Jacob tell his sons to do? _____
15. In v6 we see Joseph’s dreams of long ago beginning to come to fulfillment. How? _____
16. Joseph’s brothers don’t recognize him, so Joseph decides to test them to see if they’ve repented? He jails them for three days, then tells them to go and get Benjamin. Whom is kept in Egypt? _____
17. When the brothers open their sacks of grain, how are they further confounded? _____

Jacob doesn’t want to send Benjamin. Finally, though, they’re out of food. So back the brothers go, with Benjamin. When they head back toward home, Joseph again places their silver in the sacks and places a special silver cup in Benjamin’s sack. He then sends his servants after the brothers to accuse them of stealing the cup. The brothers protest their innocence, even saying that if the cup is found in one of their sacks, that person should be put to death. When it’s in Benjamin’s sack, they’re crushed. They all go back to Joseph and fall down before him to beg for mercy. Judah in particular shows that his faith has matured dramatically, as he offers to remain as Joseph’s slave so that Benjamin can go back to Jacob.

Read Genesis 45:1-13

18. Joseph is convinced that his brothers have repented. What does he now do? (v1) _____
19. How did the brothers react? (v3) _____
20. In vv 5-8 Joseph gives an excellent confession of faith. What does he say about all these events? _____
21. What directives does Joseph then give to his brothers? (vv9-13) _____
22. How does the account of Joseph help you in dealing with people who try to do wrong to you? _____

23. What impressed you most about Joseph? _____

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you and I need to hear a) God's Law? b) God's Gospel?

2. In your own words, what does the word "justification" mean?

3. Which of these statements is more correct:
 - a) Jesus died to pay for the sins of believers.
 - b) Jesus died to pay for the sins of the world, even for those of unbelievers.

4. Why do we want to begin most of our worship services with a confession and absolution?

Here's a chart contrasting the Law and the Gospel. After looking it over, identify the passages below as being primarily a Law passage or a Gospel passage. (L or G)

<u>Law</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
1. Tells me that I must be something or do something.	Tells me that God has done it all.
2. Says that God hates sin and the sinner.	Says that God loves the world and loves me.
3. Demands perfect obedience from all people.	Makes no demands; instead, it offers and gives.
4. Terrifies, conflicts, and burdens; bad news!	Comforts, soothes, and motivates; Good news!
5. Shows my sinfulness.	Shows my Savior.
1. _____ Luke 2:10-11 Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.	
2. _____ Exo. 20:18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear.	
3. _____ Matt. 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.	
4. _____ Eph. 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.	
5. _____ 2 Cor. 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.	
6. _____ John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.	
7. _____ Gal. 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."	
8. _____ Psalms 5:5 The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong.	
9. _____ Matt 22:39 Love your neighbor as yourself.	
10. _____ 1John 2:2 He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.	

God wrote His Law on the hearts of all people and gave us a conscience. (Romans 2:14-15) But our conscience can make mistakes, so God repeated His law in the 10 Commandments. They are recorded on the addendum, along with Luther's explanations. Look that over, then read what's below and write down which commandment(s) were broken in each.

1. Jerry tells his parents that they are stupid and don't know anything about anything. _____
2. Jane gets mad and says, "Jesus, that was dumb!" _____
3. Sue decides that it's not important to attend worship or study the Bible. _____
4. Jerry has an affair with a married woman. _____
5. Jim spreads rumors concerning his co-workers. _____
6. Sue loves her children more than she loves God. _____
7. Joe sees some children vandalizing his neighbor's house and he does nothing to stop it. _____
8. George's neighbor buys a new car, and George finds himself brooding over the fact that there is no way he could afford that type of car for himself. _____
9. Sam holds a grudge against a co-worker whom he felt had "stabbed him in the back." _____
10. Jane fantasizes about having an affair with her neighbor's husband. _____

Write the passages, from memory if possible.

Rom. 3:20 Therefore no one _____ be declared _____ in his sight
_____ observing _____ law; rather, _____ the law we _____
conscious of _____ .

Rom. 5:8 But God _____ his own _____ for _____ in this: _____
we were still _____ , Christ _____ for us.

Addendum #2

The Ten Commandments

As the head of the household should teach them in the simplest way to those in his household.

#1 You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

#2 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use His name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use it superstitiously, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

#3 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

#4 Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

#5 You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

#6 You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

#7 You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

#8 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

#9 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house or obtain it by false claims, but do all we can to help him keep it.

#10 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his workers or his animals or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away from our neighbor his wife, workers or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.