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Introduction

What makes a man burn with excitement about the gospel of God in Jesus Christ? This series, taken primarily from the book of Romans, reveals why the great apostle Paul was on fire for the gospel. It is my hope and prayer that as you listen, the Holy Spirit will fan the flames of gospel truth in your heart and fill you with a renewed vision for being a man of God on fire for the gospel.

Chapter 1

What Sets a Man on Fire? How Does a Man Burn for God?

Introduction

The Christian's Identity and Conduct - Romans 12:1-2

It is the _____ of the life lived that makes people want to listen to the _____.
_____ you are determines how you _____.

Five Lessons

1. We are all _____.

2. Why do we live the Christian life?
 - a. Reasons we don't.
 - i. Not because we're trying to live _____. We're not _____.
 - ii. Not because we believe in _____. We're not fearful _____.
 - iii. Not because of _____ obedience. We're not _____.
 - iv. Not because of the _____. We're not _____.
 - b. Reasons we do.
 - i. Paul appeals to the mind. We live it because of _____.
 - ii. Paul appeals to the heart. We live it because of God's _____ to us.

3. How do we live the Christian Life?
 - a. By _____ our _____ for His service. Rom. 6:13, 16, 19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:12-13; 8:12-13.
 - i. Why did Paul stress the body?
 - ii. It's a _____ sacrifice.

- iii. It's a _____ sacrifice.
 - iv. It's _____ worship.
 - v. Three conclusions about our bodies.
4. How can we present our bodies?
- a. Do not be conformed to _____.
 - i. World means...
 - ii. Worldliness is a matter of _____.
 - Theology
 - Evangelism
 - Morality
 - Warning!
 - iii. Worldliness is a matter of _____.
 - iv. Do not be _____ to this world.
 - A person puts on an outward expression which _____ represent his inner life. Phil. 2:6-8.
 - b. Be _____ by renewing your mind.
 - i. An act of a person changing his _____ to one which _____ represent his inner life. Matt. 17:2; 2 Cor. 3:18
 - ii. The problem is the _____ of the mind. Eph. 4:23
 - a. What happened at the fall? Gen. 3:1; 6:5.
 - b. Only _____ can change the _____ because it changes the spirit of the mind. Prov. 23:7.
 - c. How can we practice renewing the mind?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

What does His Word teach us about our salvation? The purpose of our salvation was to _____ us from one domain to another.
 From _____.
 To _____.

e. It changes the way we view...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5. What is the goal of Christian Conduct? You are _____ what the will of God is. Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Matt. 5:16.

a. What isn't the goal?

b. When you prove God's will, you _____ something about God's will. John 7:16-17.

- i. You discover God's will is _____. Rom. 8:28; Ps. 119; 67-68; 71
- ii. You discover God's will is _____. Rom. 2:18; John 3:33; 1 John 5:3
- iii. You discover God's will is _____. Matt. 5:48; Col. 1:28; Heb. 13:20-21; Jude 1:24-25

LET THE REAL YOU SHINE!

Study Notes.....

Chapter 2

What Has the Gospel Changed? – Part 1 and 2

Introduction

“The Believer’s Foundation” - Romans 13:11-14

Why are these verses important? 5 Dangers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

There are four fundamental distinctives about believers in Rom. 13:11-14.

1. His view of

2. His view of

a. Darkness is a reference to:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Believers are _____ and _____ in this world.

3. His view of

a. He lives with a hope of _____.

b. He eagerly awaits _____.

c. With regard to Jesus, He will...

1. Return in _____.
2. Complete His _____.
3. Judge _____.
4. Establish His _____.

- d. With regard to events,
 - 1. Time will be _____.
 - 2. The cosmos will be _____.
 - 3. The universe will be _____.
 - 4. The world will be _____.

- e. With regard to believers,
 - 1. Believers will be judged for _____.
 - 2. Believers will see _____.
 - 3. Believers' bodies will be _____.
 - 4. Believers will hear _____.
 - 5. Believers will judge _____.

- 4. His view of _____. He is a _____ person.
 - a. He has a new _____.

 - b. He has a new _____.

 - c. He belongs to _____.

Study Notes.....

Chapter 3

The Gospel Applied to Relationships

Introduction

I want to teach you this:

1. How to study and interpret the Scriptures.
2. The wonderful grace of God that is in Jesus Christ by showing how the gospel is like an orange.
3. The power of the wonderful grace of God that is in Jesus Christ in relationships through a little demonstration.

How to study and interpret the Scriptures - 2 Corinthians.

1. First, you have to study to get the right historical background regarding the culture and the people involved.
 - a. Paul went to Corinth (Acts 18) accompanied by Silas and Timothy and stayed with a couple of tent makers-Aquila and Priscilla.
 - b. He first ministered in the synagogue but was “resisted” and “blasphemed”. Although the leader of the synagogue was converted with his household, there was so much trouble that he shook out his garments before them and said, “Your blood be on your own head. I am clean. From now on I shall go to the Gentiles” (Acts 18:6). And he did. But, the Jews rose up with such hostility against Paul that they brought him before the Roman court there in Corinth and charged him with “persuading men to worship God contrary to law” (vs. 13). Although Gallio could care less, Paul always had this Jewish hostility to deal with in Corinth.
 - c. Paul’s leadership, apostleship, and message was constantly under attack in Corinth, even after two years of ministry, he had to deal with the accusations of his opponents who slipped into the church and sought to lead the people away from the gospel and back to keeping Jewish traditions. Paul acknowledged this division in I Cor. 11:18 and clearly identified them in 2 Cor. 11:22 “Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.”
 - d. Here’s some of the things they said about him:
 - i. He’s unimpressive in the flesh.
 - ii. His speech is contemptible.
 - iii. He’s not an apostle.

- iv. His gospel is deficient because he doesn't teach the Jewish laws.
 - e. As a result of this, some of the church began to close off to Paul and Timothy and were being tempted to return to the religion of the Pharisees.
 - f. Bottom line to keep in mind: Paul and Timothy and the Corinthians had experienced a breach in their relationship because the Corinthians were judging Paul and Timothy according to appearance or according to the flesh.
 - g. Now this is where the message of 2 Corinthians becomes relevant: All of us see the weaknesses of those around us. We're offended and hurt by some of those weaknesses because we ourselves may still be fleshly. There's a relationship problem between Paul and Timothy and the Corinthians. Paul and Timothy and the Corinthians need to be reconciled. So the entire letter is about this reconciliation.
2. Second, you want to read the entire letter many times and never interpret one verse apart from the context of the whole.
 3. Third, you should look for certain themes or concepts that run throughout the letter.
 - a. Comfort: P & T intend to comfort the Corinthians with the comfort God has given to them in their suffering after they left Corinth and went to Asia (1:3-5; 8). That comfort we're going to see is the grace of God that is in Jesus Christ (the gospel).
 - b. Contrasts the confidence and boasting of those who look at the flesh and his acknowledgement of the weakness of the flesh and his boasting in the Lord. The ministry of law brings condemnation because it looks at the flesh, but the ministry of the Spirit brings life and reconciliation. 2 Cor. 3:4-6.
 - c. Paul's confidence and comfort that comes from the grace of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 3:1-5:10.
 4. Fourth, the goal of interpretation is not to find something that will support what we already believe or think, but to discover the intent of the writer. Once we have the intent of the writer, then we can ask, "What does this mean to me?"
 - a. I'll illustrate this by highlighting a very important point throughout this book: it's the "we's" "us's" and "our" and "you's".
 - b. Chapt. 4-5 especially we want to keep in mind what Paul is intending to say to the Corinthians, not to us. Read through 4-5.
 5. Fifth, after arriving at the intent of the writer, then we can ask, what does this teach us about God, sin, ourselves, salvation, relationships, etc.

The wonderful grace of God that is in Jesus Christ by showing how the gospel is like an orange.

1. Demonstrate how God removed the flesh at the cross when he put us in Christ and took away everything that was hostile toward God so that we could be reconciled with God and have peace.
2. Rom. 8:6-7: For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
3. Col. 2:13b-15. "He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them having triumphed over them through Him."
4. The flesh: human nature under the influence of sin. It's that part of us that always sins. As Paul says in Rom. 8 and 2 Cor. 12, it is weak and filled with flaws. Although Christians are no longer "in the flesh" that is a slave to its power to kill, they still live in bodies of flesh that display weakness and sin to varying degrees and frequency.
5. When you look at the orange, what is it about the orange that makes your mouth water? What do you envision?
6. The peeling is like the flesh. At the cross, God removed the flesh from all of those whom He put in Christ and made them alive together with him.
7. That's the grace of God in Christ—the gospel in an orange. It's what is the basis for comfort to Paul and Timothy and we're going to see is the basis for reconciliation between them and the Corinthians.

The power of the wonderful grace of God that is in Jesus Christ in relationships through a little demonstration.

1. Read 2 Cor. 5:11-21 to discover the power of the grace of God.
 - a. Don't look at appearance, but at heart.
 - b. The love of Christ in the gospel controls our relationships.
 - c. Christ died for all (vs. 14), (not everyone without exception)—the "we all" in vs. 10. All who are put in Christ by God. (1 Cor. 1:30).
 - d. All who are in Christ live for His name, not their own selfish desires (vs. 15).
 - e. Because God has removed the flesh at the cross, we don't relate to people on the basis of their flesh weaknesses and appearance. We view them as God does—flesh removed and cast out of the way – new creations (vs. 16-17).
 - f. He contrasts the gospel of the Jews who were teaching that to be saved, you had to become Jews (in other words Jesus only reconciles Jews) with the gospel of grace that Jesus also reconciled Gentiles from the world (vs. 18-19).

- g. On the basis of the gospel, be reconciled to God by being reconciled to us (20-21).
 - h. If you won't be reconciled, then you've received the grace of God in vain (6:1).
2. Demonstrate what God has done using the shower curtains.
 3. Having comforted them with the gospel comfort and truth, Paul urges them to apply it in their relationship and not receive the grace of God in vain.
 - a. The grace of God—forgiveness through the cross—is meant to be applied everyday in every relationship.
 - b. If it is not, the problem doesn't lie with the other person, but with you. 2 Cor. 6:1; 11-13; 7:2-3.

Now we can ask: What does this teach me? What does this mean in my relationships?

1. Have you received the grace of God in Christ?
2. Have you received it in vain? Do you look at the flesh of people and judge them as if God hasn't removed it in Christ? Have you lost the wonder of the gospel? *Dangerous Wonder* by Michael Yaconelli; in the chapter, The Obstacle of Dullness, p. 23-25, Yaconelli writes:...
3. Have you restrained your affections from anyone because of something they have done to you, or you heard they did to you, or because of weaknesses you see in them?

Study Notes.....

Chapter 4

The Doxology of the Gospel

Introduction

The Doxology of the Gospel - Romans 11:33-36

Four Declarations of Praise to God

1. A Declaration of God's Depth. 33a
 - a. The Depth of God
 1. Rom. 1:16-17
 2. Rom. 3:20-21, 28
 3. Rom. 5:17-19
 4. Rom. 8:2-3
 5. Rom. 8:14-15
 6. Rom. 8:23, 29-31
 7. Rom. 11:15-16
 - b. The Depth of His Riches
 1. Rom. 2:4
 2. Rom. 9:23
 3. Rom. 10:12
 4. Rom. 11:12
 5. Eph. 1:17-18
 6. Eph. 2:8
 7. Eph. 3:8
 8. Eph. 3:16
 9. Phil. 4:19
 10. Col. 1:27
 - c. The Depth of His Wisdom
 1. 1 Cor. 1:21-24
 2. 1 Cor. 2:7
 3. Eph. 3:10
 4. Rom. 8:3-4
 - d. The Depth of His Knowledge
 1. God is...
 2. God knows all...
 3. God knows our...
- 1 John 3:19-20

2. A Declaration of God's Infinite Character. 33b
 - a. God's Judgments

 - b. God's Ways

 - c. Finite Man Cannot Understand God's Infinite Character. 1 Cor. 2:9-11, 14; Job 5:8-9

3. A Declaration of God's Independence from Man. 34-35
 - a. God puts man in his place.

 - b. Who has known God's mind? 1 Cor. 2:11

 - c. Who has counseled God?

 - d. Who has given to God first? Rom. 3:9-12

4. A Declaration of God's Glory. 36
 - a. God is the source of everything. Ps. 50:10; 1 Cor. 8:6

 - b. God sustains everything. Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17

 - c. God is the end of everything. Eph. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:28

 - d. To God be the glory in everything. 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:4-6

The test: Do you declare the "Amen"?

Study Notes.....

Chapter 5

What Do You Do in Troubled Times?

Introduction

1. Jesus told His disciples He was leaving them.
2. A new commandment (13:34).
3. Another commandment (14:1; 14:27b).
4. The greatest temptation in times of trouble:

Why our hearts shouldn't be troubled:

1. He's going to prepare a place for them. V. 2
2. He's going to come again so you can be where I am and I can be where you are. V. 3

When you are in troubled times, what do you do? Go to the Father.

1. Jesus is the way to the Father in troubled times. V. 6
 - a. He is the _____ you need in troubled times.
 - b. He is the _____ you need in troubled times.
2. We are to believe Jesus is the Father's presence with us. Vs. 7-12
 - a. We are to believe in Jesus in times of trouble because the Father is in Jesus. V. 11
 - b. The Father in Jesus will work in you in troubled times. V. 12.
3. We are to pray through Jesus. Vs. 13-14.
 - a. Pray that the Father may be _____ in the son.
 - b. Pray that through Jesus' truth and life He'll be glorified.
 - i. His Word is truth.
 - ii. His Spirit is life.

When you are in troubled times, what do you do? Love Jesus.

1. Keeping Jesus' commandments is _____ Jesus (His word). Vs. 15, 21, 23, 24
 - a. First command: Love as he has loved you (13:34).
 - b. Second command: Don't let your heart be troubled (14:1).
 - i. Don't act as if you have no _____.
 - ii. Don't act as if you have no _____.
 - iii. Don't act as if you have no _____.
2. When you go to the Father and love Jesus, He will send "another Helper". Vs. 16-18
 - a. The Father glorifies the son by sending _____.
 - b. He will walk with you and help you through troubled times.
 - c. Jesus said He will come to you; His life will be in you.
 - d. We are to be _____ with Jesus' life in troubled times.
3. The Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in you. Vs. 19-21.
 - a. You'll be assured that Jesus is in the Father.
 - b. You'll be assured that you are in Jesus.
 - c. You'll be assured that Jesus is in you.
 - d. You'll be assured of the love of the Father and the Son.
4. We have a "place" in the Father, and the Father and the Son have a "place" in us if we love Jesus and keep His commandments (his word). Vs. 22-23.
 - a. They will make their place in us through the presence of the _____. Vs. 26.
 - b. The Holy Spirit will _____ us. Vs. 26
 - c. He will give us His _____. Vs. 27

What do you do in troubled times?

1. Believe: Go to the Father through Jesus.
2. Pray in Jesus' name that the Father be glorified in Jesus.
3. Love Jesus by keeping His commandments.
4. Receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the life of Jesus.

Now, let's go out to the test of troubled times. Vs. 28-31

Study Notes.....

Chapter 6

The Gospel in a Sentence

Introduction

Four Words to Remember

1. Thirst

- a. *Thirst*:
- b. Ps. 42:1-2
- c. Is. 55:1-2
- d. Matthew 5:6

2. Come!

- a. A word of hope.
- b. Here was the gospel appeal.
- c. What did it mean to *come*?
- d. What does it mean for us to *come*?

3. Drink

- a. One must drink!
- b. How does a thirsty man drink?
- c. *Drink* is a figurative expression ...
- d. One must act, apply, DRINK of Jesus.

4. Promise

1. Verse 38 sums up Coming and Drinking – it is to believe.
2. And the promise is this:
3. In John 3:5, the water brings...
4. In John 4:14, the water springs...
5. Here in John 7:38, living water flows...
6. Are others being satisfied with living water flowing out of our innermost being?
 - a. The belly, the innermost being, is the part of us that constantly craves.
 - b. It is that part of fallen man which is his god. Paul wrote in Phil. 3:19 “whose god is their bellies”.
 - c. It is what receives the most care and attention.

- d. The belly is that part of us that is never really satisfied and is constantly demanding more or something else to be happy.
- 7. This passage reveals the characteristic of new birth by the Holy Spirit. John's commentary makes it clear. Vs. 39. Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit who would be given to everyone who believed in Him.

Are you thirsting for Jesus?

Study Notes.....

Chapter 7

Thirsting for Jesus

Introduction

Seek...

1. Things above where Christ is. Col. 3:1-3
2. First, the Kingdom of the Heavens and His righteousness. Matt. 6:33
3. The face of the Lord. Hos. 5:15; Amos 5:4; Heb. 11:6
4. The Father to give the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:9-13
5. The glory, honor, and immortality that comes from God. Rom. 2:7; John 5:44
6. To enter through the narrow gate of discipleship. Luke 13:24
7. The Lord, righteousness, and humility. Zeph. 2:3
8. A city that is to come. Heb. 13:14
9. To discover the log in your eye. Matt. 7:5-8
10. The good of those near you. 1 Cor. 10:24; 14:12; 1 Thess. 5:15

What are we not to seek that people seek who don't know God?

1. The material things of this world. Matt. 6:32; Luke 12:29
2. Your own interests. Phil. 2:21
3. Glory from men. 1 Thess. 2:6
4. A sign from God to prove Jesus is true. Mark 8:12

When will you find what you are seeking for?

1. When you seek with all your heart. Jer. 29:13
2. When you seek Him, first. Matt. 6:33

What will you find when you seek...

1. You will find *Him!* Jer. 29:13
2. You will find your life. Col. 3:3; 9:24
3. The goodness of the Lord. Lam. 3:25; Matt. 6:33
4. A reward. Heb. 11:6
5. Eternal Life. Rom. 2:7
6. You will be hidden in the day of wrath. Zeph. 2:3

What does this mean? Jesus is everything.

What has God said to you?

Study Notes.....