The Power of the Gospel

2) Empowering Grace

The gospel of grace, as taught by Paul, empowers us for the totality of life on planet earth

Those who teach the gospel of grace as he did will constantly use the word 'therefore'

'I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called'

(Eph.4:1)

'This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind...'

(Eph.4:17)

'Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another...'

(Eph.4:25)

'<u>Therefore</u> be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us'

(Eph.5:1-2)

'<u>Therefore</u> do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is...' (Eph.5:17)

'Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life'

(Rom.6:4)

'Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts' (Rom.6:12)

'Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live'

(Rom.8:12-13)

'Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure'

(Phil.2:12-13)

'Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry' (Col.3:5)

'Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection' (Col.3:12-14)

There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus

But is that all Paul said about the believer and <u>sin</u>?

'For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace'
(Rom.6:14)

'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...'

(Titus 2:11-13)

The same grace which appeared to us at salvation also <u>teaches</u> us how to live

The word translated as 'teach' is paideuo, from which we get the word pedagogue, meaning a teacher

- Under the old covenant the pedagogue (teacher) was the law
- Under the new covenant the pedagogue (teacher) is the Holy Spirit
- He teaches us to say 'no!' to ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...
- We trust the Holy Spirit to do this work in us...and in others

The Spirit teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly lusts'

'For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you' (Rom.8:5-9)

Tithing does not belong to the new covenant

Furthermore, we will not receive anything more from God by our financial giving

But is that all we need to say about giving under the new covenant?

In 2 Cor.8 and 9 Paul describes our giving as the energy of grace, as opposed to law

'For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints'

(2 Cor.8:3-4)

'And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work'

(2 Cor.9:8)

Our works add nothing to our salvation

But is that all we are going to say about works?

Paul taught the difference between <u>dead</u> works and <u>good</u> works

'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them'

(Eph.2:8-10)

Does grace make us lazy?

"...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works"

(Titus 2:13-14)

"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me"

(1 Cor.15:10)

Grace lifts us to a supernatural level of living

How do we know what God's works for us are?

- 1) By The Gifts He Has Given Us
- You can't do anything what you want to do, or others want you to do
- You can do what He wants you to do
- We are all anointed; the question is what are we anointed for?

2) By observing what the Father is doing

'Most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner' (Jn.5:19). We are co-workers and fellow labourers together with Him.

'My Father works and I work...'

Watch Him open doors. 'When I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, a door was opened to me by the Lord' (2 Cor.2:12)

'When they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles' (Acts 14:27)

'As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God'

(1 Pet.4:10)