

This session includes a personal testimony by Pastor Robert Winters.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

7 Romans 5: 12 – 21 “Law of Judgment and Grace” – with commentary

The purpose of the Letter to the Romans is to develop a “Model for Living the Awakened/Transformed Life.” Today’s study is the 7th of 27 lessons.

According to our Study Chart we are studying the 2nd section of our chart called “Awaken to The Work of God.” **Next week will move into a new area of the Roman’s Chart concerning the relationship of Sin and The Law demonstrating the need for Christ’s Ethic.**

Contextual Statement

According to the Roman’s Chart, this is a second session concerning the Law of Judgment and Grace. The function of Judgment and Grace is to awaken us to the work of God. Remember, the work of God is to re-awaken us to our *created essence* to be human/humane, and to awaken us to our *human purpose* of living surrendered to God. Consequently, our gratitude becomes a constant praising of God.

Read the assignment twice – out loud!

Background: Paul’s use of Adam and Christ are symbols for the human situation that none can escape: death reigns, sin abounds, The Law convicts, grace through Christ restores us to our *created essence* and to our *human purpose*. (See immediately above.)

Before you begin, use Gut Trip Analysis to ground the following words:

Justification (Awakening)

At the start of the IHOP Bible Study session, an extended conversation was held on this topic. **The Rev. Bob Winters** shared his despair and theological doubt about God’s grace during his long time illness, his recent operation to transplant a kidney and his liver, then his growing awareness of grace in his life. The point he made is the objectivity of grace and salvation.

This is the foundation of Gut Trip Analysis. Our justification already is present with us 100%. This is an indicative reality. The human situation is that we are blind to it and are in need of spiritual awakening. John Wesley points out that the human situation is that we are spiritually blind. However, our human predicament is that we are unable to awaken ourselves! This is where the work of the church comes in to be the awakers—provided we are awake ourselves.

Sin (Separation)

Gut Trip Analysis uses Paul Tillich’s formula for this term as Separation plus Guilt. His point is that we often are unawake of our human guilt, but that does not change anything. Separation is our “state of being;” that is, it is our fate to show up in separation: gender, culture, language, etc. From this position, we continue to do acts that separate us from others (hurtful activities, racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.) I like to use Jesus’ formula of the Great Commandment; we are separated from our neighbors through injustice, from ourselves in self-depreciation, and separated from God through

our refusal or neglect of surrendering our-selves to God (or to the Ground of our Being – Tillich).

Righteousness (Right Relationship)

Righteousness is living in a right relationship to our intended created purpose or essence. God intends us to live humane/human lives. Our human experience is that we miss the mark of living fully human (humane) lives.

Grace (Awakening as a gift)

Grace is a gift. In Gut Trip Analysis, this gift comes to us as an event. For Pastor Bob, this event was standing on the other side of his medical depression in the knowledge that during this entire time he was sustained and loved as the doubting person he was at the time.

Judgment (“The reward for the deed is found in the deed itself.”)

Awakening comes to us as judgment and gift. God loves us so much that God always wants us to live surrendered human/humane lives. When we don’t surrender there is a built-in clause in our actions. There is a reward or penalty of living a life that hurts others, self and God, just as there is a reward or penalty for living a life that brings happiness to others, self and God.

I. Vss. 12 – 14: Make a note to remind yourself how Paul describes our human hopelessness.

Note: The story (or mythology) of becoming human is recorded in Genesis 1 through 11: Chapter 1) – Creation; 2-3) -- Adam, Eve and disobedience to our intended purpose; 4) – Cain and Able demonstrates the final separation through murder; 6-9) – Noah and Flood to demonstrate the consequences of our disobedience; 11) – Tower of Babel that demonstrates again the consequences of our pridefulness.

The points Paul makes here are:

Vss. 12 and 14-- Death is common to all regardless of The Law;

Vs. 14b-- Adam is the “pattern of the one who is to come (Jesus Christ).”

Vs. 15-- Implied in the use of the term “The Law” is the “trespass.”

II. How has Paul classified the two understandings of being human?

A. Describe how “Adam” represents hopelessness

Note: Adam represents Hopelessness in the human entrapment. There is “No Exit” from living other than through death.

Vs. 15a—Adam represents the trespass; 16a and 17a -- Adam represents one man’s sin; Vs. 17a – Adam represents death; Vs.18a – Adam represents condemnation; Vs. 19a – Adam represents that disobedience makes sinners.

B. Describe how “Christ” represents hope.

Note: Christ represents Hope achieved through death. Death is not the final answer. This Hope transforms all.

Vs. 15b—God’s grace overflows to many. This gift of God follows “many trespasses that brings justification (Awakening). Vs. 17b-- God’s abundant grace and righteousness; Vs. 18b—One act of trespass resulted in righteous justification (brought into union with our intended creation); Vs. 19b—the Obedience of one man is done in the experience of many trespasses.

C. How is this hope achieved?

Vs. 17a-- Death reigns through the trespass.

Vs. 17b—How much more will those who receive God's abundant provisions of grace and righteousness in life **through Jesus Christ**. (Note: it is through Jesus Christ in the same sense that as the Awakened we only live "through the cross of Christ." We never have immediate relationships with anyone or anything. Our primary relationship is with Christ! Then, we ask WWJD.

D. Does this alter our human situation?

No, we remain fully humane. But having a primary relationship with Christ transforms everything. By asking WWJD we become more fully human by being humane.

E. How do we do this?

We surrender trying. We give up and give in to God through Christ.

D. Vs. 20 – Describe the roles of The Law and Grace.

LAW— Convicts. Drives us to despair.

GRACE—Awakens to fulfill our human essence (surrendered living).

IV. Vss. 15 – 21 are in parallel statements, such as 15 c and 15 b, 16a and 16b, etc.

Study each parallel, use Gut Trip Analysis to ground each parallel statement.

Make a note to yourself about each statement.

15 a—Trespass the Divine Commandment 15b—Grace overflowing

16a-- One man's sin (state and acts) 16b—Gift follows many trespasses

17a-- One man's sin (death reigns) 17b—How much more gift reigns.

18a-- Condemnation for all 18b—One act of righteousness brings life

19a-- Disobedience made sinners 19b—One act of obedience made righteous

20a-- Law adds and trespasses increase 20b—Grace increased all the more

21a-- Sin reigns in death 21b—Grace reigns in righteousness

Alright folks, talk to me!