

Truth & Judgment – Love’s Paradox

- Creative Conference @ Life Center
- Alabaster House Gala @ Museum of the Bible
- SNL Conference @ CCC

I. Gospel — Power to Save — [slide 1]

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it** is the power of God for salvation **to** everyone who believes, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. 17 For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith **for** faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

GOspel the POWER OF God for SALVATION

What is at the center of the universe? It is not matter in motion or a karmic cycle or an infinite void or an absolute tyrant,

BUT a loving relationship among persons.

II. Love is Central to Freedom

Humans were created **from** love **for** love. We love before we believe or trust. We love and believe before we think.

1John 4:8 Anyone who does not **love** does not know God, because God is love. [slide 2]

When we reject the Creator we replace TRUTH with a lie.

III. Falling from Love’s Paradox to Law’s Polarity

A. Suppressing Truth —> Un - Righteous

Rom. 1:18 For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, who **by** their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**.

19 For what can be known about God is **plain** to them, because God has **shown** it to them.

20 For his **invisible** attributes, namely, his **eternal power** and **divine nature**, have been **clearly perceived**, ever since the cre-

ation of the world, **in the things that have been made**. So they are **without excuse**.

B. Suppressing Truth —> by Polarity (Misguided moralism)

Ro 2:1 Therefore **you have no excuse**, O man, every one of you who **judges**. For in passing judgment on another you **condemn yourself**, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2 We **KNOW** that the judgment of God **rightly falls** on those who practice such things. **Truth does not discriminate**

3 **Do you suppose**, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that **you will escape** the judgment of God? **Invalid supposition**

C. Missing the Point

4 Or do you **presume** (think lightly) on the **riches** of his **kindness** and **forbearance** and **patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? **Insolent presumption**

5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. **Stony Heart**

D. Just Reward

Ro 2:6 He will render to each one according to his works:
(Salvation is all by GRACE; Reward is all WORKS!)

SEEKING the glory of God

7 to those who by **patience in well-doing seek** for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

SEEKING Self-glory

8 but for those who are **self-seeking** and do not obey the truth, but **obey unrighteousness**, there will be wrath and fury. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every

human being who **does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek,

10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who **does good**, the Jew first and also the Greek.

11 For God shows no partiality.

E. Paradox of Conscience and Law

12 For **all** who have **sinned without the law** will also perish without the law, and all who have **sinned under the law** will be judged by the law. 13 For it is **not the hearers** of the law who are righteous before God, **but the doers** of the law who *will be justified*.

Doing Counts; Possessing Doesn't (Point of Pride)

14 For when **Gentiles, who do not have the law**, *by nature* do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 **on that day** when, according to my gospel, **God judges the secrets** of men by Christ Jesus.

Motives revealed

IV. False Security of Legalism

A. Heritage

17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God uncircumcision.

B. Knowledge

18 and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law;

C. Ability to Teach (but not Keep Covenant)

19 and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

D. Unable to Bring Honor to the Name

23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. 24 For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

E. Signs without Reality

25 For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes

V. Response

A. Be Still and Know. [slide 3]

Ps 46:10 "Be **still**, and **know** that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

B. God is Doing a New Thing

Is 43:18 "Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

19 **Behold**, I am doing **a new thing**; [slide 4]
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

C. Outpouring of Holy Spirit on All

[Acts 2:17](#) “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,** [\[slide 5 - Joel 2\]](#) and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

D. We Will Know He Has Done It

[Ps 22:31](#) they shall *b*come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet *c*unborn,
that **he has done it.**

E. New Assignments

[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.

[Rom 16:20](#) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.