

# ADVENT

{5<sup>th</sup> Week – Sunday, December 30, 2018 A.D.}

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## The Gospel:

- “Part A -- Law:”
  - God is Holy and Just.
  - As bearers of “His image and likeness,” men, created by God as very good moral creatures, are purposed by God to offer Him alone holy worship, in spirit and in truth, continually and eternally. **Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3:17-19, Hebrews 9:27, 1 Peter 1:14-19, Revelation 4:6-11**
  - Men, of themselves, since the fall, are not holy and just. With their sin of rebellion against the Lordship of God came separation from God and death as sin’s consequence.
  - Men are not able to save themselves. They need God to rescue them from the consequence of their sin, which is the wrathful just judgment of a holy and just God. **Romans 3:19-20, Revelation 20:11-15**
  - The Great High Priest had to be also the Kinsman Redeemer, of the same flesh and blood, to buy us back from the death which is the wage of our sin before the wrathful just judgment of the holy and just God. **Hebrews 2:14-18, Hebrews 9:11-14, Hebrews 4:15**
  - It is absolutely certain that God will justly prosecute, judge and execute justice (eternal damnation) upon all who remain apart from Jesus Christ. **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Jude 1:5-7, 2 Peter 2:4-9, Matthew 25:41-46, Revelation 14:9-12, Romans 1:18-23, Romans 2:5-11**
- “Part B -- Grace:”
  - Salvation is only by Grace through Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior. It is the result of a miraculous regeneration i.e. to be born again, from above, by God. **Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:12-13**
  - Atonement (broadest sense – propitiation and expiation), is particular, actual and eternal. It is solely the work of God. **Romans 3:21-26, Romans 5:12-19**
  - God is the Worker/Actor of our justification, regeneration, from first to last. **Ephesians 2:1-10**
  - God acts first and foremost for the sake of Himself/His Holy Name. **Isaiah 43:25, Ezekiel 36:22-38**
  - God acts graciously of His own good and sovereign pleasure.
  - Gods acts with a “steadfast loving kindness”, with “new mercies every morning.” Great is His faithfulness. **Lamentations 3:21-38, Romans 8:28-39, Romans 5:6-10, 1 John 4:9-11**
  - Holy Scripture is used by God’s Holy Spirit to cause saving faith in Jesus Christ, as the Christ, the Son of God, the resurrection, the way, the truth and the life and the name . . . **John 20:31, Romans 10:8-13, John 11:25-27**
  - Jesus Christ had to be the Son of God and the Son of Man for His work of Salvation to be sufficient and satisfactory to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. His work was of infinite value and fully satisfied all the demands of God through the keeping and fulfilling of the letter and spirit of the Law, in its widest sense. **Colossians 1:15-20, Colossians 2:9-14**
  - The crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ are of primary importance as touching every aspect of our faith, specifically the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**
  - Consistent with Himself as the only One, True and Holy Living God, God has made salvation available exclusively through Jesus Christ. **John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, John 11:25-26, John 6:35-40, John 6:44-51, John 15:1-6, John 8:12, John 10:7-10**
  - This exclusivity significantly contributes to the exaltation and glory of Christ, in the eternal worship, love and gratitude of the Church. **Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:19-23, Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 19:11-16, Ephesians 1:10, Hebrews 7:26, Revelation 17:14**
  - Biblical Saving Faith is a miraculous gift of God, which is part of the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, as God saves those He has chosen from eternity past to give to Christ and makes them willing to believe. It is made manifest by its content of biblical truth, its personal agreement with that truth and its reliance upon that truth in every domain of life lived. Its fruit is biblically holy works. **Ephesians 2:1-10, John 20:31, 1 John 5:5, Titus 3:5-7, 2 Timothy 1:8-12, Romans 4:20-25, James 2:14-26**

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**Biblical Saving Faith {its basis is the great Grace of God, to be Merciful (expression of Steadfast Loving-Kindness) to whomever He wills, to His Glory alone}**

**{centered upon God; Father, Son (Jesus Christ), Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures):**

- **Content** of the faith is truly **True** (absolute truth – biblically derived)
- **Personal Agreement** with all God reveals
- **Personal Reliance** in **Mind/Heart/Will/Strength** and **Life**

#### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, . . . and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved **through faith**; and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

#### **John 20:31**

<sup>31</sup> but **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing you may have life in His name.

#### **1 John 5:5**

<sup>5</sup> **Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

#### **Titus 3:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in **righteousness**, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being **justified** by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

#### **2 Timothy 1:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord** or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in **suffering for the gospel** according to the power of **God**, <sup>9</sup> **who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity**, <sup>10</sup> but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the **gospel**, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things, but **I am not ashamed**; for **I know whom I have believed** and **I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day**.

#### **Romans 4:20-25**

<sup>20</sup> yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and **being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform**. <sup>22</sup> **Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS**. <sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup> but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as **those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead**. <sup>25</sup> **He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification**.

#### **James 2:14-26**

<sup>14</sup> What use is it, my brethren, if someone says **he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?** . . . faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. . . . <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that **faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected**; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. . . .

Recognizing **diversity yet unity in Apologetics** (Defenses of the Faith): i.e. faith (sovereign efficacy of God through His Word on unbelievers), evidence, reason, presupposition et al.

Recognizing the **essential need of union with Christ** to cover our shortfall, even in the area of imperfect, yet saving faith.