

## FOUR GOSPEL PARADOXES

### Int.

1. Aim: To teach these four truths in an unusual way so it will help us to remember them and to live by them.
2. Lk. 14:11. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Exalt = elevate or lifted up Abased = humiliated
3. Mt. 23:12. "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
4. Jesus and the Apostles used several different ways of teaching:
  - a. Lecture - Parables
  - b. Paradox = a statement that seems to be false but is true.
    - i. These verses Lk. 14:11 Mt. 23:12
    - ii. "The way up is down". & "The way to be rich is to be poor."
5. This is a valuable way of teaching. Let us notice 4 of these Paradoxes.

### Discussion

#### I. THE SWORD THAT BRINGS PEACE

##### A. Verses

1. Jn. 16:33. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have **peace**. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
2. Mt. 10:34. "Think not that I am come to send **peace** on earth: I came not to send peace, but a **sword**."
  - a. A sword usually represents fighting, a war. It is connected with strife and punishment.

- b. Peace is when you do not have fighting, strife or war. It is just the opposite.
- 3. But Jesus talks about peace with a sword.

#### B. The Sword is the Bible

- 1. Heb. 4:12. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- 2. Eph. 6:17. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

#### C. How does this sword, which is the word of God, bring peace?

- 1. It settles our troubles with God.
  - a. Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"
  - b. He gives us rules for good living
  - c. These rules guarantee peace on this earth and peace for eternity.
- 2. It brings love to us for our neighbor - Mt. 22:39
- 3. It makes us at ease with our own conscience

#### D. Phil. 4:7. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- 1. Peace that is beyond our understanding.
- 2. Following God's Will is the only way to have real and lasting peace.

#### E. This is a peace that is: HOLY - ETERNAL - WORTHWHILE

- F. Jn. 14:27. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

## II. THE BONDAGE THAT IS LIBERTY

### A. Verses

1. Rom. 1:1. "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"
2. Gal. 5:1. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
3. Rom. 8:21. "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

### B. Bondage or liberty

1. We think of bondage as losing freedom to someone else
2. Slavery is a situation where we are in bondage to our captors or owners and must obey them in everything.
3. Liberty describes a person who has freedom with privileges. He has authority over his own life.

### C. What does it mean to be a slave to Jesus?

1. Jn. 12:26. "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour."
2. Mk. 10:44. "And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."
3. To be a slave to Jesus means we become his servant. He is our Lord or Master.

D. When we become slaves to Jesus it is liberty because we are free from:

1. Guilt

- a. He promised forgiveness
- b. Heb. 10:17. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."
- c. Our past sins will be forgotten, never to be remembered again. They are blotted out of the record.
- d. Therefore by being a servant of Jesus we are free from the guilt of sin with all of its consequences.
- e. Rom. 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Worry & anxiety

- a. Mt. 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
- b. We do not have to worry about the necessities of life, because Jesus has promised that if we seek him first, become his servant, then all of these things will be provided.
- c. This slavery to Jesus brings liberty.
- d. Rom. 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

E. If we are full of worry and anxiety and guilt, it is a sign that we have not completely become a servant of Christ. When we do become a servant of Christ then we have liberty - real freedom. Freedom from Guilt and worry.

### III. THE SURRENDER THAT GIVES VICTORY

#### A. Verses

1. Mt. 10:39. "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."
2. Mt. 16:25. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
3. Jesus calls on us to surrender to him and it will mean victory

#### B. Surrender or victory

1. Surrender = It usually means that we have lost or been defeated and we must yield to the other person.
2. Victory = usually means that we are the winner over someone else who has surrendered or that we have defeated.
3. Jesus is telling us that we can be victorious by surrendering!! That is a paradox. How can we win when we lose?

#### C. How can we win?

1. The person who is living for self fails the more he seems to succeed.
2. If we live for this life only in the world then we lose that life which is spiritual which is what Jesus calls "LIFE"!
3. Sinners believe that they are smart because they are enjoying "life" now. But they are deceived!!
4. Jesus assures us that the way to win eternal life is to surrender our life to him.
5. Jn. 12:25. "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."

#### IV. THE DEATH THAT GIVES LIFE

- A. Death = usually means the end of life.
- B. For a Christian death is only the beginning
  - 1. Phil. 1:21. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"
    - a. To die is gain
    - b. Paul would then gain the life in heaven
  - 2. Rev. 14:13 "...blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth..."
- C. The death of a Christian is not the end but it is the beginning of a much better life. - 1 Thes. 1:13-18

#### CONCLUSION

- 1. These four PARADOXES teach four essential principles of Christianity:
  - (1) Jesus gives us peace - by obedience to his word
  - (2) We must be His servant in order to be really free
  - (3) To win eternal life we must surrender our earthly life.
  - (4) The death of a Christian is the beginning of life.
- 2. "The way up -- is down"!
  - a. Up - to be in favour with God.
  - b. Down = we must humble our self and be obedient to His Will.
- 3. Lk. 14:11. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com