

New Morning Magical Heads-up!

While the Apostle Paul was in Corinth, around 56-58 A.D., he wrote his letter to the ecclesia(s) in Rome, which included many who were believing Jews. He begins by explaining his understanding of the Gospel, and contrasts it with the Mosaic Law. Paul examines the judgment and the righteousness of God. One of the important differences he notes is that under judgment, someone who is "righteous" under the Law is still a sinner in need of constant redemption via sacrifices. In Christ, where we obtain God's righteousness, we are justified and conciliated through grace even though we still sin. Paul demonstrates our freedom from judgment, sin, the Law, and even from death itself, because of Christ.

Paul deals with the trouble that believing Jews had with the idea that Gentiles were included in God's promises to the Hebrew patriarch, Abraham. Finally, Paul goes into various aspects of conduct.

So, with this backdrop to give us a bit of context, let's find the jewels in Paul's letter to the Romans that can benefit us most today, beginning in Chapter 1, verse 16:

16 For not ashamed am I of the evangel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who is believing -- to the Jew first, and to the Greek as well.

Notice that the Father's power to save, or deliver us out from the sentence of death and into eonian life is contained in the evangel of Christ. Why to the Jew first, though, and then to the Gentile (or Greek)? Simple: Yeshua came first to save Israel, but it became clear early on, in multiple encounters with Gentiles that this blessing was not exclusive to Jews. Of course, you'll remember the Apostle Peter's encounter with the Roman centurion and his family who were filled with the Holy Spirit upon believing in Christ. This event shocked the Jews, but they had to admit that the Father was playing no favorites. Even when Paul began his ministry, he went first to the Synagogues in an attempt to persuade Jews to adopt faith in Christ. Unfortunately for them, Paul's message only offended his Jewish brethren and they tried to kill him more than once. Paul had no choice but to extend the evangel to the Gentiles who were far more receptive.

17 For in it *[the evangel]* God's righteousness is being revealed, out of faith for faith, according as it is written: "Now the just one by faith shall be living."

You may remember the Old Testament Scripture that Paul quotes: *"Now the just one by faith shall be living."* Throughout the Scriptures, the Father honors those who trust Him, even when – maybe even especially when – they aren't immediately benefitting from the prophecies of future events. You and I are doing the same thing today, believing in Yeshua and trusting the Father to raise us in the Day of the Lord into immortal, celestial bodies.

Paul's phrase in verse 17, *"For in [the evangel] God's righteousness is being revealed, out of faith for faith,"* might be read, *"God's righteousness is being revealed out of Yeshua's faith in exchange for, or as a reward for our faith."*

We see over and over again throughout all the Scriptures just how much the Father honors faith, or trust in Hebrew. He loves being trusted, because He IS trustworthy, but our trust in Him seems especially important to Him because it comes in the absence of being able to physically observe His promises firsthand, much less observe Him firsthand. You may have no inkling inside you of the Father's pleasure because of your faith – your trust – in Him and in Christ. Believe me when I tell you – and I know that Paul would echo this – Your Father loves you for who you are, and loves you even more for your trust in Him and all that He has promised. Your faith today carries the importance that Yeshua told the disciples it would when He presented Himself to Thomas in John 20:27-29.

27 **[After Yeshua entered the room]** He is saying to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and perceive My hands, and bring your hand and thrust it into My side, and do not become unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Now Jesus is saying to him, "Seeing that you have seen Me, you have believed. **Happy are those who are not perceiving and believe."**

This story is such a good example of how hard it was for Yeshua's disciples to really get Who He was and to believe what He said. After all, He was a man with Whom they walked side-by-side for 3½ years. Still, Thomas had to have a flesh to flesh demonstration before he would believe, and, for what it's worth, I bet some of the others did too, but didn't have the chutzpah to say it.

Why are you and I *"happy...who are not perceiving and believe"*? It's easy to believe in what or whom you can see or touch. What's to believe when Yeshua is standing in front of you (which is why grace and faith aren't mentioned in Scriptures that refer to future eons)? For us today, faith is far from easy, precisely because we can't see or touch Yeshua, much less the Father! While we're at it, just look at the promises that have come to us through the Apostle Paul's unique revelation; overwhelming blessings that were unheard of by the other apostles.

I'll just say again that it seems apparent that the Father loves being trusted, especially by those who do so only by His word through others. It really is a remarkable phenomenon when you stop to consider it.

Now verse 18:

18 For God's indignation is being revealed from heaven on all the irreverence and injustice of men who are retaining the truth in injustice, ***[these people know the truth, but who are unrighteous, or unjust, in how they hold on to it]***

19 because that which is known of God is apparent among them, for God manifests it to them.

20 For His invisible attributes are described ***[meaning that we can make them out]*** from the creation of the world, being apprehended by His achievements, besides His imperceptible power and divinity, for them to be defenseless, ***[These people cannot claim ignorance as a defense, because they know better and they know it!]***

21 because, knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him, but vain were they made in their reasonings, and darkened is their unintelligent heart. ***[These people have brought upon themselves emptiness to their reasonings and darkness to their hearts.]***

22 Alleging themselves to be wise, they are made stupid,

23 and they change the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of a corruptible human being and flying creatures and quadrupeds and reptiles. ***[They are constructing idols, and Lord knows the Father hates idols and idol-worship!]***

24 Wherefore **God gives them over**, in the lusts of their hearts, to the uncleanness of dishonoring their bodies among themselves,

25 those who alter the truth of God into the lie, and are **venerated** ***[these people are admired, considered wise, and treated as important by others]***, and offer divine service to the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed for the eons! Amen!

You understand, don't you, that we're still talking about people who know the truth; yet who behave as if they don't! When the Father "gives [people] over," we're looking, not at judgment so much as ultimate choices and consequences to the point that these people are not recoverable in this eon, and possibly the next!

Keep going now in verse 26:

26 Therefore God gives them over ***[here we are again!]*** to dishonorable passions. For their females, besides, alter the natural use into that which is beside nature.

27 Likewise also the males, besides, leaving the natural use of the female, were inflamed

in their craving for one another, males with males effecting indecency, and getting back in themselves the retribution of their deception which must be.

This “*giving over*” of people isn’t to the devil or an entity named Satan; it’s to “*the lusts of their hearts, to the uncleanness of dishonoring their bodies among themselves,*” and “*to dishonorable passions.*” What if the AIDS epidemic was the “*getting back in themselves the retribution of their deception which must be*”? I’ll leave it with you to answer. I’ll only point out that no cure has been found for AIDS to this day; treatment, yes; extended life spans as a result of treatment, yes; but no cure. HIV/AIDS IS the solution to a different problem, it’s not the problem, if you’ll allow me. The problem is, “*the uncleanness of dishonoring their bodies among themselves.*” Only when someone addresses this problem does the cure become self-evident.

Now verse 28:

28 And according as they do not test God, to have Him in recognition [***no one is recognizing the Father’s authority or checking in with the Him!***], **God gives them over** [***one more time!***] to a disqualified mind [***Now these folks are in real trouble, because now their minds don’t even work right!***], to do that which is not befitting, [***listen to the list that follows***]

29 filled with all injustice, wickedness, evil, greed, distended with envy, murder, strife, guile, depravity, whisperers,

30 vilifiers, detesters of God, outragers, proud, ostentatious, inventors of evil things, stubborn to parents,

31 unintelligent, perfidious, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 those who, recognizing the just statute of God, that those committing such things are deserving of death, not only are doing them, but are endorsing, also, those who are committing them.

Take 10 seconds (this is being recorded in 2020) and look at Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, or Minneapolis, and all of the qualities that Paul listed are on public display!

If this is the Father’s judgment, it is only so because He’s given these people over to a disqualified mind. Understand that they already disqualified their own minds with their stupidity, but now they’ve been given over to it. The likelihood of ever recovering from what someone has been given over to is so unlikely that the Scriptures do not support the idea anywhere.

Why are we going through all this when our whole theme is going free? I'll invoke Paul's words here: *"Not wanting you to be ignorant, brethren and sisters!"* You and I need to grasp how the Father's indignation shows up, as we read in verse 18. This is not Old Testament style judgment; we yet live in the administration of grace; however, when people take on minds that are full of injustice, especially when they know better, idolatry and all the other truly wicked qualities in Paul's list from verse 21 on, He simply gives them over and they completely fall out of any protection from the ravages of this wicked eon that can accrue to such depravity.

People in this eon have been given every opportunity to accord God the reverence and respect that He is due, if only by virtue of the marvelous creation that surrounds them. When they refuse to recognize Him, reject the divine order that He has established, and violate His divine design, especially within their own bodies, then He says, *"OK. You're on your own now. Don't come crying to Me when you're dying with diseases you've earned."* These people become literally disabled at least mentally, from any hope of reason or even morality. Lord help them when He returns, but I find no evidence in Scripture that He lifts a finger toward them. His reign is with an iron club; I don't have a lot of hope that these kinds of people will survive long within Yeshua's no tolerance government.

Most of what we've read today doesn't apply to you and me, thank God, and it won't, I pray, but when you scratch your head in abject horror at the scenes playing out every day on this globe, you now know why it's happening.

All you and I have to do is to stay focused on Yeshua's face, on the Father's voice, on the leading of the Holy Spirit for every step you take, and on the activity of our own spirits, and we'll negotiate the remainder of this wicked eon in good shape.

One last instruction, if I may: Attend to yourself, and leave everyone alone to attend to themselves. If someone you know and love falls and takes your hand to assist them back up, good for you; but if not, let them go. You only endanger yourself by investing more in someone than they invest in themselves.

Lifeguards are trained not to immediately rescue someone who's in trouble in the water. They wait until the person stops struggling, because if they go in before that, the drowning person will pull them down too.

I regret that this may be a heavier than usual Morning Magical, but I wouldn't be serving you fully by leaving this kind of information out of our discussions.

So until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN