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SAVED. SO NOW WHAT?

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12: 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

INTRODUCTION :

When I was a young pastor, I was talking to a person and invited him to go to church on Sunday. He wasn't a Christian. The first thing the person asked wasn't "What do you do there?" or "Where do you gather?" or "What time is the service?" He's first question, in Tagalog is "Ano ang bawal sa inyo?" (What are the things your church prohibits to do?) That was my first encounter on how the world looks at Christians.

They think we are a group of people with a list of "Do's and Don'ts".

The church is very good at sharing and telling the gospel. But a lot of people think that the gospel ends when we tell people that it is only through faith in Christ alone that we are saved AND THEN, we are not able to teach people how to live the gospel, as if, after being saved, you're just waiting for Jesus Christ to come back or go home to our Lord and be with him in heaven. **But what about the in-between?**

In fact, after a Christian is saved, it seems like he is given a list of do's and don'ts and people are watching you like a hawk and that if you don't measure up, you are condemned.

There's a story by Chuck Swindoll in his book "Grace Awakening"

Before, watching movies were considered sinful. When he was a youth worker many years ago in an ethnic community, he attended a church that had Scandinavian roots. Being a rather forward-looking and creative young man, he decided he would show the youth group a missionary film. We're talking simple, safe, black-and-white religious- oriented movie. That film projector hadn't been off an hour before a group of the leaders in the church called him in and asked him about what he had done. They asked, "Did you show the young people a film?" In all honesty he responded, "Well, yeah, I did." "We don't like that," they replied. Without trying to be argumentative, the youth worker reasoned, "Well, I remember that at the last missionary conference, our church showed slides--"

One of the church officers put his hand up signaling him to cease talking. Then, in these words, he emphatically explained the conflict: "If it's still, fine. If it moves, sin!" You can show slides, but when they start movin', you're gettin' into sin.

Doing a list, following rules and etc ends up with a "joyless Christian." That's an oxymoron. It's like saying dry water or cold sun.

The Bible says,

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Do people see that you have righteousness, peace and joy in your life?

On the contrary, there are some Christians whose face looks like that they are attending a funeral.

Quote : If we truly believe, Jesus is alive, then why do we act as if He never rose from the dead?

**Last time we talked about “He is Risen, Now what?” Today.
So what do we do now, after we are saved?**

This is going to be a 3-part series

- I. RESPOND WITH LOVE**
- II. RELINQUISH YOUR CONTROL**
- III. RENEW YOUR MIND**

I. RESPOND WITH LOVE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy,

One of the methods of effective Bible interpretation is **pay attention to words** and **pay attention to context**.

Therefore means “there is something before”.

Example : He is hungry. Therefore, he ordered some food. He is thirsty. Therefore, he drank some water.

Remember we are in Romans 12. So the “therefore” is Romans Chapters 1-11. Let’s do a quick summary by God’s grace of Romans 1-11

Google Maps example : When I go to a place, I go to Google Maps and I look at the bird’s eyeview of where I am going so it gives me an idea why I have to turn right here and etc.

Romans Chapters 1-3, tells us that the preaching the Good news is of outmost importance,

Romans 1 : 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

then it shows us why we need to share the Gospel. It showed our true condition as sinners, that no one measures up to God’s holiness.

Romans 3: 10 “There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

But God loves us that He gave His one and only Son to pay for our sins.

Romans 5: 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

So because of Jesus Christ, we are now righteous before God and not condemned.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

God gave the Holy Spirit in you which gives you the power to live the Christian life.

Roman 8: 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Without being saved. Without the Holy Spirit. We can never live the Christian life.

Quote : The Christian life is not hard. It is impossible.

Some people ask me, “Pastor, what’s the evidence that you were baptized by the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit is in you?” A changed life.

And we can now call God our Father because of that

Romans 8: 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Quote : If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. J.I. Packer “Knowing God”

All of this is because of God’s grace, we have done nothing to deserve this.

*Romans 9: 15 “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”*

16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

Illustration : A man was giving a testimony about how he got saved and said, it’s all by God’s grace, nothing came from him, he did not contribute anything to be saved. After the testimony, a person approached him and said, “It’s impossible you did not contribute anything to your salvation.” The person replied, “Oh I’m sorry. I forgot to tell the people listening that I contributed something to my being saved.. my sin.”

All of this, we can have by faith alone and not by what we have done.

Romans 10: 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

THINKING ABOUT ALL OF THIS, THE REACTION OF PAUL IS TO WORSHIP – DOXOLOGY!

Romans 11 : 33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

*35 “Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”*

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Remember, I mentioned that worship is an overflow of knowing the truth. If you only know what God has done for us and the tremendous benefit of that, we will all be on our knees today and praising and worshipping God our Father.

Let's quickly open up this doxology by God's grace because it somehow sums up Romans 1-11 and then paves the way, now in Paul's "Therefore..."

First, no one dictated to God or advised God, who should or should not be saved. HE IS GOD. And that's the problem with people, they think they are smarter or know more or more compassionate than God.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"*

Remember GOD IS SOVEREIGN. HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS AND HOWEVER HE WANTS IT TO BE DONE. BUT REMEMBER HE IS ALSO GOOD AND LOVING, WE CANNOT KNOW HIS WAYS BUT IF YOU ARE UNDERGOING A SITUATION RIGHT NOW, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, REMEMBER HE WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU. REMEMBER HE IS YOUR FATHER.

The problem with people they think they know what's best for them or for others when they don't even know if they're going to live or die or be run by a bus tomorrow.

*How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

That's why Isaiah says :

*Isaiah 55: ⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.*

*⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Then of course, we have done nothing to deserve all of what we have right now, even our salvation.

*35 "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"*

Religious Illustration : One of my officemates invited me to her home because traditionally her mom was cooking a lot of food and feeding a lot of people on the feast day of their god, Krishna Janmashtami. I asked her why are you doing this? It's because when I do this, the god will protect from obstacles in my life.

And that's the problem with religion. They think if they do something for their god, then their god will have to do something for them. If they are good enough, they will go to heaven. If they are charitable enough, they will go to heaven, if they are religious enough, they will go to heaven.

On the contrary, our God is a God of grace. He chose to save us simply because He loves us and sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins and we only need to receive it by faith.

On the other hand, God gives even if we don't deserve it.

Journal : I was writing in my journal one time, that I decided to just look at what I wrote in the past.

Let me read it for you.

Awesome Grace, October 27, 2016

I received good news today regarding getting (a big blessing)

This happened when I was mourning over a sin I committed. How else can you explain this? It's grace.

Grace is mind-boggling. It rewards you without you deserving it. This leaves you with no other reaction but utter gratitude. Grace. I can't explain it but I receive it. Thank You Lord!

That's why Paul wrote :

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things.

God owns everything and everything comes from Him. If He gives it, it's because He wants to give it. If He takes it away, He is the owner of it anyway.... Even our lives.... And that's what people don't understand. HE GIVES AND TAKES AWAY... HE IS GOD!

GOD GIVES AND TAKES AWAY...HE IS GOD!

This is the reason why salvation is by grace and we only need to accept by faith.

What happens when we do that??? ALL GLORY GOES TO GOD!

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

THEREFORE That's why knowing all of this....here's what Paul said,

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,

Etymology : urge "parakaleo" to walk alongside, to encourage.

It's not a command. It's an encouragement.

in view of God's mercy,

Etymology : oiktrimos "bowels in which compassion resides" it has something to do with the emotion of compassion... and love.

God has seen our condition as sinners without Him and of course, the consequence of it is eternal judgement in hell...

REMEMBER THIS : HIS WRATH AGAINST SIN AND HIS COMPASSION FOR SINNERS ARE BOTH OVERWHELMING.

HIS COMPASSION AND HIS LOVE SENT HIS SON JESUS CHRIST TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SIN AND WE GOT EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE JUST TALKED ABOUT EARLIER.

This is the reason why the response is not legalism – do this and do that.

Remember, Paul says "I urge you, I encourage you..." It's not... "Do this...do that..."

The response is not licentiousness or lawlessness

in view of God's mercy,

Licentiousness is saying, "Anyway, God saved us from sin so therefore I can do whatever I want."

People who continue living a sinful lifestyle and says, we are saved by grace.... Does not really understand what grace is all about...

So how do we respond to God's love and mercy and grace? *IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY*

The response is love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 16: 14 Do everything in love.

And everything else, like giving thanks to Him, giving Him glory, it's a "love" response.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION : Remember the Ephesian church in the book of Revelation?

They were doing all the right stuff and yet there's one thing that our Lord has against them... "

Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

All that we are doing, this prayer meeting, the Bible study, the sharing of the Gospel, the helping missionaries, the helping people, attending church, the joint fellowship....IT'S ALL OUT OF LOVE FOR GOD AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

I was speaking earlier to my wife about the Mother's Day celebration joint fellowship because there was some miscommunication and confusion. Then I reminded myself. "Anyways, when we are there, it's not about the mothers. We honor the mothers because it's Mother's Day (human invention) but primarily we are there together with our brothers and sisters in the Lord because it's The Lord's Day"

Remember this :

Legalism says, "Do this and do that and God will love you."

Licentiousness says, "God loves you so do whatever you want."

Love says, "God loves me so much therefore, I love Him."

This is the reason why the Greatest Commandment is,

Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.

OUR FIRST RESPONSE TO EVERYTHING IS LOVE!...IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY

That's why Paul says :

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love.

Illustration : There was this wife who had an abusive husband. He was mean to her. He was shouting at her. In the husband's eyes, the wife does nothing good even if the wife, cooks for him, irons his clothes, does the laundry... and everything else. Everyday, the wife was crying because of the burden and she was sharing this with her friend and the friend was worried about her.

Until one day, the husband died. After a few years, the wife married again and this time, the husband was good and gentle, appreciative, kind and loving and buys her gifts and etc.

One day, her friend visited. The friend saw the wife crying while cooking so she got worried again and asked, "Why are you crying? Is your husband being mean to you again?"

The wife replied, “No, the reason why I’m crying is because I remember, I was doing all of these things with my former husband but because I was scared of him and I was doing out of duty. But this time, these are tears of joy. I’m doing this now, simply because I want to and I love him so much because I know that he loves me tremendously too.”

Saved. Now what? First, **We respond with love.**

Next week, we will study the next two things we should do after being saved,
Relinquish Control and Renew Your Mind.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.