

“No Mercy?”

Proverbs 1:1-7; James 2:8-13

September 5, 2021

Why No Mercy

- Misunderstandings – Miscommunications happen all the time
 - o When I assume everyone thinks the way I do, accidents happen.
 - Story
- Ludwig Wittgenstein
 - o Philosopher, done a lot of things. Really saw all of life through the lens of miscommunication
 - Sets out to write a rule book.
 - Decides the project is beyond him, changes his tune. Still brilliant guy but since they’re still disagreements over miscommunications, his project failed.
- The problem is right now, there’s a whole lot of Christians who seem to be obsessed with telling whole groups of other people what to do and believe.
 - o That’s find, insofar as two conditions are met.
 - That you yourself are living out the Gospel
 - That you yourself are actively sharing the Gospel
- What then, is the Gospel?

Bozos on the Same Bus

- Story – People irritate me. I irritate others. While it’s our natural tendency to give ourselves grace and understanding, it is also our tendency apart from the Gospel to believe we’re better than other people.
 - o The Bible will have NONE OF THIS.
- *God’s Word teaches plainly that all have sinned and stand condemned before God*
 - o **Romans 3:10** – “As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one.”
 - o **Romans 3:23** – “or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - o **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Story – John 8 – Woman caught in adultery
 - o **John 8:7b** – “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”
- Do you see, “DON’T JUDGE OTHERS”?

God takes Action through Jesus Christ

This saving action is foretold in the OLD TESTAMENT.

- o One of the reasons we read and study the OT is because, in its own way, it’s about Jesus. All about Him.
 - All that to say, Christ’s salvation is told of in the Old Testament.
- God in Christ relieves us of the punishment of sin – death
 - o **Isaiah 53:4-5** – “He who knew no sin became sin for us but he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
 - o **2 Corinthians 5:21** – “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- Christ’s sacrifice on the cross has redeemed from the curse of the Law all who trust in Him by faith - No Laws
 - o **Galatians 3:10-14** – “For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the

- Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”*
- Believers have been justified (declared righteous) by His grace
 - **Romans 3:24-28** – *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”*
 - We are no longer under condemnation
 - **Romans 8:1** – *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

What Christians Do?

- They don't wait for their death condemning other people around them!
- All who have trusted Christ have received the Holy Spirit
 - **Romans 8:9** – *“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”*
 - **Galatians 5:13-16** – *“It is His power in us that gives us the ability to please God For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”*
- Christ's perfect sacrifice brings release from the eternal death sentence that the Law brings upon all sinners, and it gives believers the ability to please God as we put off the works of the flesh
 - **Colossians 3:1-9** – *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.”*
 - **Colossians 3:12-17** – *“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

Galatians 5:16-25 – *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”*

- Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.