

### **Why We Believe God (Part III)**

1. **The Gospel of Christ Is The Power Of God Unto Salvation**
  - a) The world at the time of Paul's writing in Romans was steeped in idolatry.
  - b) The gospel had not been spread to the colder climate countries.
  - c) The part of the world where churches were developed was a warmer climate which had a lot to do with how fast the gospel grew.
  - d) At that time no evangelism was being carried out in colder climate countries.
  - e) The Gospel was being spread all over in Paul's time that idolatry was all over (like Pompeii).
  - f) Jews were proud as a small nation. They had God. The whole known Roman empire was in idolatry.
  
2. **Some Churches In Today's Society Minimizes Sin**
  - a) Side Note: Quick Definition of Minimizes- To reduce or bring down to the smallest amount or to lessen the true value of something (To make sin not look so bad as it really is)
  - b) When Paul was writing to the Corinthians which was in the middle of the wicked culture (which is now Greece) a new lifestyle had to be preached.
  - c) There were all kinds of sins. (1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10, 10:14-22, & etc.)
  - d) Some people like a church that minimalizes sin, some like an entertainment church where they are preaching Christ as an addition to their life style, and some like a church where Christ is preached or taught in a way that is conducive to each one's current lifestyle.
  - e) Side Note: Quick Definition of Conducive- Leads to a desirable result ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com))
  
3. **Brief Overview of Romans**
  - a) Romans chapter 2 & 3 are still talking with the Jews. The Jews knew that God was going to judge the world.
  - b) Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
  - c) Now what Paul is saying here in this verse is shall we use more grace to commit more sins?
  - d) They were going around saying that was what Paul was preaching.
  - e) Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
  - f) Reference N of Dakes Bible- Since the gospel has come and the New Testament has been made, men can be justified and made righteous without the law
  - g) Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
  - h) In these 2 verses Paul calls being "saved" in the verse being "righteous"
  - i) Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
  - j) Here in this verse righteousness is imputed and the righteousness of God is the righteousness from God or that God sends.

4. **In Reading Romans 3:22 & 4:24 We See That You Will Have To Do 2 Things:**

- a) #1 You are going to have to believe in two persons & #2 God & Jesus
- b) If you are not sure who God is, you take a risk in being made righteous.

5. **There Is Something About The Holy Ghost!**

- a) According to Paul, God makes you righteous or gives you salvation which is the Holy Ghost.
- b) The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God
- c) No one has salvation unless this Spirit comes into your mind/brain. This takes place in your brain. There has to be a spiritual transformation in the inner self.
- d) What happens is it is a change. This Spirit from God changes what you were born in.
- e) Our human spirit which was in corruption is what was born in your human nature (Genesis 3, Romans 5, Ephesians 2:1, etc.)
- f) This Spirit has to rid you of the sinful nature that is unlike God.
- g) This Spirit has to deliver and set you free from all sinful deeds of a life time. Sinful deeds deep within the human make up of your inner self. The Spirit has to do all this.
- h) This is a psychological transformation. (how you think, feel, personality, development, etc., nurture and nature)
- i) This Power (God's Spirit has to do all of this).

6. **The Sin of Self-Love**

- a) There is a secret within each heart. What is it? The sin of self-love.
- b) A life time of dealing with the secret of self-love.
- c) 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- d) 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- e) The pride of life. We hate this or no longer prefer these things.

7. **Our Old Sinful Nature**

- a) Read Romans 6:21-23
- b) This talks about things we used to do. When you are walking in the scriptures that will make you free.
- c) The wages of these things I am now ashamed of – stop basking in what we used to do or how we were. We might have been better off if we had not heard of and done some things.
- d) Romans 3:23 – We have the human nature of sin we are born in.
- e) We inherited the wages and were born into it because of Adam (Psalms 51:5, Romans 3:23, 5:12-14, etc.)
- f) Only person not born like this was Jesus. Jesus was not born with a sinful nature Because God is Jesus' Father with no sinful nature to pass on to his only Begotten Son, Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

8. **We Have Not Followed Cunningly Devised Fables (2 Peter 1:16)**

- a) The relevancy of Jesus may be dismissed like so many figures of history. Some preachers preach the story with no power. Thus, the story of Jesus becomes no more than a fairy tale like “Humpty Dumpty”.
- b) The hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ should save.
- c) How are you going to believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth if you do not know where Jesus Christ came from? Now we come to Romans 4.

9. **The Jews Knew Who God Was & That God Was The Father**

- a) Romans chapters 2-4 mentions the Jew first then the Greeks.
- b) Paul is saying the Jews should be at the top of the list of persons believing in Christ. If you have been in the CLGI all your life you should not be the chief of sinners.
- c) Read St. John 8:33-40, 42
- d) In these passages of scriptures, they were not confused about who God was – they knew where heaven was.
- e) About 90% of people who say they are Christians today are confused about heaven. The Jews were never confused about where heaven was or who God was nor are they today.
- f) Christians today are saying that God is a personality; three in one; three personalities in one person.
- g) Before Jesus was born the Jews knew about the Holy Ghost.
- h) Magic formula in Romans 10:9. They knew about the Holy Ghost. David knew about the Holy Ghost (Psalms 51) – David said take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
- i) The Jews had problems with Jesus because Jesus associated himself with our God.
- j) The Jews knew Jesus knew saw this when he was 12. When reading the scriptures in the temple.
- k) In St John 6, the Jews were upset when Jesus said I came down from heaven – They said Jesus you have a devil. Problem: They could not get past Jesus – They knew Jesus’ mother and father and family.
- l) The heaven we are going to is the Jews’ heaven. The Jews believed that Abraham saw God. The Christians today do not believe it. A Muslim never disagrees with the Koran. The devil makes sure of that.

10. **A Look At Genesis 12 & Romans 4 Regarding Abraham**

- a) In Romans chapter 4 Paul knows his audience. He is going to show the Jews that Abraham was a sinner. In Romans 3:23 – this included Abraham and David (they were sinners)
- b) Justified= righteous = born again, saved.
- c) Abraham was born again.
- d) What was it about God that Abraham believed?
- e) Read Romans 4:17-21 & Genesis 12

- f) Abraham did not begin believing when he was told he was going to have a son but he started believing when he began obeying, when God told him to leave his countrymen.
- g) Did Abraham see God in a vision? Or a dream: if God was a spirit how do you interpret Genesis 12:1?

11. **God Is Not An Invisible Being Who Has No Body, He Is A Spirit-Being & Looks Like Us**

- a) If God were a spirit (invisible being)– read those passages as if the spirit said, in the place of where the scripture said “the Lord”.
- b) When you become convinced of who God is then you can convince others.
- c) In verse 7 – the spirit does not work. Genesis 15:6 He believed in the Lord (not spirit). That God that Abraham believed in must be our God.
- d) Read Romans 4:24
- e) If this happened – Justified= righteous = born again, saved.
- f) Then you know it is true
- g) God – Spirit Who?
- h) If the Spirit of God or God’s power raised Jesus, then it also happened to you in salvation. (Romans 8:11)

12. **Just Like Us, Abraham Was A Sinner When God First Called Him Then He Got Right With God**

- a) When God first came to Abraham he was in idolatry. How was Abraham going to tell the difference in a spirit from another spirit? God came to Abraham, personally. There is a lot of things in the bible that seem unbelievable. When the bible changes from fable to truth there will be a change. Only the Spirit of God can help you to believe.
- b) Hebrews 11. Took the power of God to do the things in Hebrews 11. Our faith will help us to do what we must do.
- c) Abraham as an idolater, was wrong but he got right and stayed right.
- d) Next Lesson will be about David. Paul used David to show God’s forgiveness.
- e) David was right, then he was wrong, and then he got right.
- f) Never been right – can get right.
- g) Been wrong can get right
- h) If you have been wrong, you can get right.