



Acts 13 Part 3

There were a lot of things to learn from the first two parts of our study into Acts chapter 13, but one of the things that I do want to re-cap is what Paul is trying to tell us in verses 38 and 39.

Act 13:38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Act 13:39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

We spoke about the fact that the Torah and the Levitical Laws of God did in fact forgive sins if they were carried out properly, and once again we can point to several scriptures all through the Bible that clearly state that Gods sacrificial system did indeed provide a way for our Father to forgive sins.

There are just to many scriptures to point to, to deny the fact that the sacrificial system laid out through our Fathers Levitical law did in fact provide a path to forgiveness and a couple of scriptures that we've already discussed are found in Leviticus 4:35, and Romans 9:30 through 32.

But I want us to be absolutely sure that we understand the truth of Gods Word concerning Gods written law.

There are those Pastors, Priest, Bishops, and Popes out there who would have us believe that Gods laws are inadequate, and that's why they needed to be replaced. They continuously teach and preach that Gods laws were somehow imperfect, and broken.

They would have us believe that Gods law was unable to provide a path to forgive man of his sins and because Gods un-perfect, and inadequate, laws were broken and incapable of providing a path to forgiveness... God had to send his only begotten son with a new set of laws to replace Gods old inadequate, feeble, broken law.

To put it very plainly and simply my friends.. nothing could be farther from the truth according to what we find in the scripture.

Instead of listening to the many different doctrines of today's denominational charters, and their

so called “Church Fathers” (who have absolutely no say what so ever when it comes to whats written in the Word of God any more than you or I do by the way)... lets take a look at what the scripture itself says about the laws of God our Father and lets see if Gods laws were inadequate, or imperfect, or broken, or incapable of providing a path to forgiveness, and needed to be replaced by his son.

Lets see if the Psalmist David thought that Gods law was inadequate, or broken, or needed to be replaced:

Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psa 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Psa 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psa 19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

So according to David Gods law is perfect.

What else can we extract from the scriptures concerning Gods law? Well once again I would be re missed if I did not once again bring up Romans chapter 9: verses 30 through 32:

Rom 9:30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

Rom 9:33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

So according to Paul.. the law of God is a law that can lead to righteousness if it is kept by faith. Can we see that here? I want everyone to see what Paul just said right here in this verse.

Paul says that if you keep the laws of God by faith... that Gods law does lead to righteousness, and he also says this:

Rom 2:13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

Rom 7:12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Heres some more of what Paul says about the law of God:

Rom 3:31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

What else does he say about the law of God?

Rom 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Why does Paul say that those who are in the flesh can not please God? Because they do not submit to Gods law... says... Paul.

So when Paul speaks in Acts chapter 13 verses 38 and 39 and he says “*everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses*” he's not telling us that the law was flawed or imperfect, or that men could not be forgiven by keeping Gods law.

He's simply telling us that there were some specific sins that the sacrificial system laid out by our Father through Moses could not forgive. The law of God provided a way for men to be forgiven of most sins but there were some sins that even Gods sacrificial law could not atone for.

Mens hearts had grown so evil, and so depraved that men began to sin in ways that God never even imagine. Consider this scripture from Jeremiah chapter 7 verses 31 through 32:

Jer 7:31 And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.

Jer 7:32 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere.

God says in verse 31 that it never entered his mind that men would burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to these other Gods.

This was something so wicked, so evil, so perverted, so unlike what he created man for... that it never entered our Fathers mind that man would do such a wicked and evil thing.

Let me ask you this my friends... what do you suppose he thinks of men dragging their children out of the wombs of their mothers onto cold steel trays and butchering them into pieces while they're still alive mind you... so that they can sell their organs to the highest bidder?

So the law that our Father put forth was designed to take care of the majority of sins that our Father knew would be stumbling blocks for his children... but he never imagined just how evil his children would actually become.

The wickedness in mans heart was never part of Gods plan, and so in order for our Father to save his children from that wickedness he once again... created a path for men to escape such evil and wickedness.

Our Father had never imagined that the day would come when his heart would grieve that he ever created man.

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

How many times do we suppose... that we have broken the very heart of God our Father?

How many times do we suppose that we have shaken our fists in the face of God our Father... how many times has man spit on, and profaned his laws... how many times has man walked all over his Sabbaths... ignored his appointments... and even laughed in his face while whoring ourselves with other idols?

How many times do you suppose that we trade our time with him... for time with the world? How many times have we put him on the back burner... even on his Sabbath day... so that we could donate his time to football, basketball, baseball, movies, video games, sit coms, soap Oprah's, and the things of this world, not bothering to keep his Sabbath day holy, or to abstain from the work that he commanded us to rest from.

So when God laid down his perfect law before men... you see it was perfect.

It was all we needed at the time because our hearts had not grown as wicked as they are today. But because of mans thirst for evil... and the wickedness of his heart... Gods laws needed to be extended to cover the wickedness of mans heart.

And so it was that he sent his only begotten son who was the Word of God made flesh, to become man so that he could once and for all atone for the wickedness of mans heart, and so

that he could raise man up a new creature, a clean bride, once again acceptable to his Father so that all who would choose him... could be grafted back into his family and under his wings of protection.

You see Yahshua Jesus is not the replacement of our Fathers law.. he is simply an extension of it. The extension that we needed because of our wickedness. The very wickedness that lives with in our flesh because we decided that we wanted to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and we wanted to know the difference between good... and evil.

Man now who wanted to know evil has evil coming out of his nostrils much like the meet that he craved in the desert.

Num 11:18 And say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat.

Num 11:19 You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, Num 11:20 but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"'"

The people were crying out to Moses because all God was giving them was mana in the desert and they wanted meet... so they started to say that it was better for them to be slaves in Egypt... and so God gave them what they wanted until it was coming out of their nostrils.

And so it is with evil my friends. Man will have his fill of evil until it is coming out of his nostrils, and by the time man is finished feasting on evil... it will be coming out of his nostrils, and by the time our Messiah finally does come man will have all but destroyed himself from the face of the earth because of the evil that he has been feasting on.

Matthew 24 verse 22 tells us that if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

So according to the scriptures... Gods law was completely capable of leading man to righteousness, and it was completely perfect, and it was completely complete. It was only because of the wickedness of mens hearts that God had to extend the breath and width of his law through his son in order to provide man with a path to return to him.

There is nothing on this Earth, or in the universe as we know it.. more powerful than the love of our Father.. and just like the prodigal son who leaves his Father and winds up waking up in a pen full of pigs.. the time comes at least for some of us.. that we realize that we need to return to our Father and to go to back home. And unlike the love of men... the power of the love of God knows no bounds when it comes to his children.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do not let them lie to you concerning the laws of God our Father... make sure... that you understand, and hold firm to what is written.

Predestination True or False?

Lets move on to verses 46 through 48:

Act 13:46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Act 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Act 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

There's a lot to be said about what we find here in these three verses and the first one I'd like to talk about is found in verse 48:

Act 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

This one verse has been a pivot point of controversy concerning what is known as "Predestination". Predestination is a man made doctrine that says that God has already predestined each person to Heaven or to Hell. So it really doesn't matter what you think your free will is... it's all been predestined by God for you.

This doctrine of "Predestination" is part and parcel of Calvinism. The famous Westminster Confession defines this doctrine as meaning that God, "from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass".

And then Ephesians 1:11 is usually quoted:

*Eph 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,
Eph 1:12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*

So once again we have people that believe that Paul believed in “Predestination”, but if we look closely at what Paul taught, we can see that Paul clearly did not believe in “Predestination”.

Now when I read Ephesians 1:11 and 2 what I understand is that we have obtained an inheritance... who is we?... we who have believed and have faith in the Messiah... and because we believe in and have faith in the Messiah... we now have been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will so that we who were the first to hope in the Messiah might be to the praise of his glory.

In other words once you decide to believe in and have faith in him... you are predestined to do his will because this is what is expected of you according to his will. So this does not in any way force me to believe that God has forcibly predestined me to be or not to be saved. It's by my own God given free will that God allows me to decide which path to take and this is and always has been Paul's teaching on the matter as well.

No one is predestined from birth to Heaven or to hell.

Notice what Paul says in verse 46:

Act 13:46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Paul says that it was necessary that the Word of God be spoken to the Jews first, but since they made the decision for themselves not to believe.. Paul says that they're now turning to the Gentiles.

So it does not sound to me like Paul was preaching “Predestination” when he clearly says that the Jews had clearly chosen to thrust aside the truth for themselves. In fact we constantly see Paul urging people to choose life, and to believe in the Messiah. What would be the point of this if some were already predestined to Heaven and some predestined to hell?

We have to remember that Paul himself was a Pharisee, and during the time of Paul there were three man views on predestination. The Saducees, the Pharisees, and the Esseens all had conflicting views on the matter.

The Saducees did not believe in any kind of predestination by God.. The Pharisees believed that

some things were predestined by God but that other things were determined by mans will.. and the Essenes believed like Calvin did.. they believed that everything was predestined by God and that mans job was to simply live out their predestined life to find out what was already predestined for them, and that no man would know this until there lives had ended.

Paul being a Pharisee who was raised up as a Pharisee of Pharisee's at the top of his class would have most likely believed as the Pharisees did. So Paul probably believed that some things were indeed predestined by God but he clearly believed that man had free will to choose good over evil, and to choose the path that he would take.

Paul in all of his letters teaches people to turn back and to repent, and to choose to obtain from the flesh and to choose the spirit. And although we could get into a heated debate over "Predestination" I think it's fair to say that Paul believed that each person had been given the God given opportunity to choose good over evil.

Predestination my friends is a trick from the Devil himself. If the wicked one can get you to believe that you have been predestined for hell... and he can convince you that there's no point in even trying to turn to God.. then he's already won the battle has he not?

Predestination is nothing more than a man made philosophy my friends... do not believe it even for a moment.

God our Father sees all of time, and he see's the parade from the beginning to the end, but we live in the here and now.. and it's here and now that our decisions are made. The decisions that we make here today will no doubt effect the future of tomorrow.

Every action creates a reaction, and only God our Father knows exactly how time works. Can man change the future through the decisions that he makes today?

Here's what God has to say about "Predestination":

Eze 18:19 "Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?' When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live.

Eze 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Eze 18:21 "But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

Eze 18:22 None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live.

Eze 18:23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not

rather that he should turn from his way and live?

So because God our Father does not want even one to perish and that all would come to repentance there must be a choice to be made! In fact even God himself tells us that there is a choice to be made:

Deu 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

Deu 30:16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

Deu 30:17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,

Deu 30:18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

Deu 30:20 loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

So once again my friends I say to you do not be fooled by the wickedness of mans "Predestination" doctrine. It is a trick of the Devil himself to try and convince people that they are already predestined to hell by their Father when their Father clearly tells them that he has set the choice of life or death before them to make.

This is nothing more than a trick, just like the "Once saved always saved" doctrine of men that causes men to believe that they can say a sixty second prayer down at the front of the Isle and they're saved forever.

These are doctrines of men, and nothing more. Things not found in scripture ought not to be taught and these men will soon find out the error of their ways but until that time it's up to us to study to show ourselves approved so that we're not lead astray by every wind of doctrine that proceeds out of the mouth of a man.

And let me finish with this my friends... if my Father tells me that he has set before me a choice between life and good, and death and evil... then I have to believe that my Father has indeed set before me life and good, and death and evil... and so then.. that for me is the death of "Predestination".

Know the truth of Gods word and keep it close to your heart, and guard what he has given you because the world will be quick to steal it away along with your salvation if you allow it.

And as we close out Acts chapter 13 we can see that once again after Paul speaks all this truth to them... they once again conspire against him, and the elitists gather round to drive them out of town.

But I want us to take note of the fact that Paul does not stand and argue with them... Paul and Barnabas simply shake the dust off of their feet and continue on, and this should remind us of what our Messiah told the 70 when he sent them out when he was with them.

Luk 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

Luk 10:2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Luk 10:3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Luk 10:4 Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.

Luk 10:5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'

Luk 10:6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

Luk 10:7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Luk 10:8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

Luk 10:9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Luk 10:10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,

Luk 10:11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you.

Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

Luk 10:12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Remember it's our job to plant the seed of truth. We need not argue about it or debate it. Once planted our work is done. Some will accept the truth and some will not, and some will not accept it today but may accept it tomorrow.

Once we have sown the seed of truth in their hearing... our work is done. It's then time for us to get out of the way and let the Ruach Hakodesh of God take over from there.

Take these things to your prayer closet and bow your head and bend your knee... face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask the instructor himself... if these things be true... or not.