



Paul

On a Mission from God

Week 6

Paul's Big Ideas – Part 2

Michael Gorman's book, *Apostle of the Crucified Lord*, has been very helpful in the development of this class.



Today's Three Big Ideas

**The Revelatory, Representative, and
Reconciling Crucifixion of Jesus the
Messiah**

The Lordship of Jesus

**The Climax of the Covenant and the
Overlap of the Ages**



The Cross: reveals, represents, & reconciles

- ❖ **I Corinthians 1:22-25 – reveals**
 - For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
- ❖ **Romans 5:8 -- reveals**
 - But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
- ❖ **Romans 5:15 -- represents**
 - But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

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reveals, represents, & reconciles (cont.)

- ❖ **Galatians 2:20 -- reconciles**
 - The Son of God . . . loved me and gave himself for me.
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:14b,19 – represents & reconciles**
 - We are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. . . . In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

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reveals, represents, & reconciles (cont.)

- ❖ For Paul, Jesus' death on the cross is inexhaustibly significant. Here are three key implications.
- ❖ The cross reveals God's love and faithfulness.
- ❖ Jesus died as the obedient representative of Israel, and, hence, the world. He is a second Adam, who undoes the tragic choice. Adam was the way of death. Jesus is the way of life.
 - Jesus is the one faithful Jew who does for the people of God what they were unable to do and be for themselves.
 - If you give up Jesus' genuine humanity, you give up his representation of humanity.
- ❖ Jesus' death is the event that reconciles us with God. In it we find our liberation from sin, the forgiveness of our sins, and our righteousness.

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The Lordship of Jesus

- ❖ Romans 10:12
 - There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, rich in mercy to all who call upon him.
- ❖ Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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The Lordship of Jesus

- ❖ Proclaiming Jesus as Lord is *not* synonymous with proclaiming his Trinitarian divinity. When Paul speaks of Jesus as Lord it is specifically his exalted status. But Paul does speak of Jesus as he speaks of God.
 - This is the Son of Man at the right hand of God in Daniel 7.
 - I Corinthians 8:6
 - “. . . yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”
 - Romans 9:5
 - “. . . and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.”
- ❖ The theopolitical dimension is inescapable: If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar is not.
- ❖ As Lord, Jesus shares in the honor that is God’s and he is to be obeyed as God is to be obeyed.

Crucified Jesus → Risen Jesus → King Jesus → Lord Jesus

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The Climax of the Covenant and the Overlap of the Ages

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:20
 - For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God.
- ❖ I Corinthians 10:11
 - These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
- ❖ I Corinthians 11:25
 - In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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The Beginning of the End

- ❖ Christians are thoroughly hopeful and future-oriented
 - For Christians, hope is not “wishfulness” but absolute certainty.
 - Confidence is the Christian synonym for hope.
- ❖ Eschatology – reflection on Christian hope
 - The consummation of God’s purposes for all creation
 - The completion of our lives in perfect fellowship with God
- ❖ Paul’s understanding of the end-times shapes every bit of his theology and it ought to shape ours!
 - Paul and all the apostles had to make sense of all they had seen, heard, and experienced. In this, they were guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit – post-Pentecost.
 - The heart of this is the “already/not yet” arrival of the kingdom of God.

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Jewish Expectations of the End

THE PRESENT AGE

**THE COMING AGE
(= THE KINGDOM OF GOD)**

Satan’s time
sin
sickness
death
no Spirit

God’s time
righteousness
wholeness
resurrection
the Spirit

The Messiah’s arrival
The Day of the Lord

from *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*, by Gordon Fee, 1996

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