



THE MEANING OF PENTECOST

When you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost you are actually receiving a portion of Christ in you. With a portion of Christ's Holy Spirit within you should live your life as Christ the Lord would have you. In each of Paul's letters to the various churches throughout Greece, Italy, and modern day Turkey, he tells us how we are to behave.

Romans 1:1-32

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my

prayers;

10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the cre-

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ation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, dis-

obedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

In the first chapter of the letter to Rome we see Paul exhorting the church on how they are to live and behave. We see that when you look around, you see many who are facing the wrath of God though they call themselves Christian.

We see a world that is filled with all of the ravages of sin. We see a world filled with adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, and every sin that Paul describes from the 18th verse to the close to the first chapter. These were churches that Paul was writing to. These were Holy Ghost-filled Saints of God that Paul was writing to. The same sin that is prevalent today was prevalent 2,000 years ago. The Roman Empire was famous for its debauchery.

The world we live in today is also famous for its debauchery. We live in a world where the children are taught in school that fornication is a normal part of growing up. Children are given contraceptives in school so that they live in sin without consequences.

AIDS is a consequence of all of the sinning promoted by the education system. Children are getting AIDS in record number with no end in sight. This country has found itself fighting the wrath of God! This country that promotes wickedness and debauchery has found themselves fighting against the judgment of God. AIDS is the judgment of GOD!

To be filled with the Holy Ghost means that you turn away from all of the wickedness that

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the world promotes. There are many in the Christian community who do not believe in repenting and seeking the Lord's forgiveness for their sin. There are even television preachers that preach against repentance and a new life in Christ. These are the preachers who say that they do not believe everything in the Bible. These are the preachers who believe that everyone is saved no matter how they are living.

This goes contrary to everything that is written in the Bible.

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

There is not a single person alive that is free from sin, except through the forgiving power of Jesus Christ. We all had to come to the altar of repentance to have Christ wash away our sins. We all had to humble ourselves in prayer to receive the Holy Ghost. We all had to submit to the will of God and his divine ordinances. There is not a single soul that is free from the righteousness of the Lord!

Though certain preachers do not believe in the preaching and teaching of repentance, I know that the Lord requires each and every one of us to repent of our sins and wicked ways. Not a single one listening to this sermon tonight is without sin! Though you have been filled with the Holy Ghost for years, there is still a consistent renewal and repentance.

This is a continual growth and development in the Lord when we are filled with his divine spirit. We are given a new life that continues to grow in the Lord. As we grow in the Lord the Lord is continually showing us improvements that have to be made. The Lord is con-

tinually refining his saints so that they will become more like their savior Jesus Christ. The saints are to grow into being like the Lord, which is only done through consistent prayer.

Jesus Christ has given us a new life in himself. One of the first scriptures I memorized is:

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This new life in Christ changed my whole perspective of the world. Everything I thought was right and righteous proved to be false, and all of those "Holy Roller Christians" with their nice outfits and demeanor proved righteous while the world proved that they were on the path to death and destruction. The world has chosen the path of Satan and sin while the true born-again saint has chosen to follow the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joshua asked Israel at the end of his life to make a choice. You also must choose whether you want to serve the Lord or continue to follow the ways of the world.

Joshua 24:15

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

You have to make the same choice whether you are going to serve the Lord or Satan!

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