

CHAPTER 5

Do You Know You Are to Live in the Gospel of RGB?

Foundational Review

First I want to establish Scripture as the foundation of our study. This study is not about what I said in my book; this is about what the Scripture says. You must have your Bible with you. Second, we must establish foundations – for where we are going – to find answers to the question Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do you know who you are?

Chapters 4-5-6 are a unit. Our last session was #4. This session is #5, and the next session is #6. In this session – I want to go over the Grace-Faith Relationship that we established in our last session, take it apart, and examine its three parts up close. And we will do that through a story.

Basic Truth

TRUTH #1

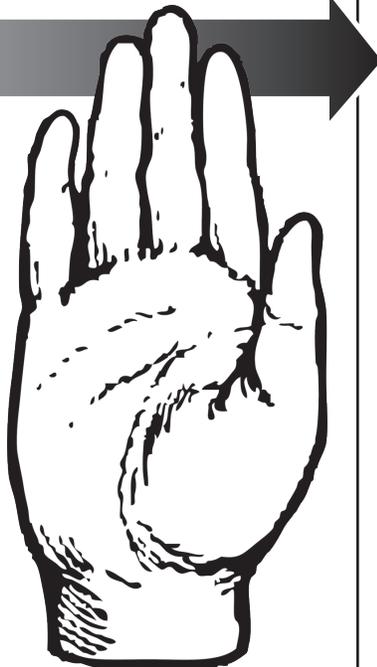
First I want to establish something vitally important. We know that God loves us. Yes? Good.

TRUTH #2

What is the next truth to be established firmly in your minds? READ Isaiah 59:2. How wide is that separation? Is there any possible way to bridge that gulf between you and God on your own? What is the topic of chapter 2 of Steps to Christ?

The second truth is the great need of mankind for a Savior. Just like the first truth – that God loves you personally. Unless you can accept these two truths – that God loves you personally and that you have a need that you yourself cannot meet – the rest of what we discuss in this seminar will not make any sense whatsoever.

I believe that this is the greatest stumbling block truth to evangelism – not Sabbath, not State of the Dead, not Hell. Many people, including many Seventh-day Adventists, are unwilling to admit and



You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1) and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian – the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
 - Christ
 - Cross
 - Commandments
 - Great Controversy
 - Second Coming
- In a Grace-Faith Relationship (Ephesians 2:8-10)

refuse to acknowledge that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation from the terrible scourge of Sin – and that they are totally unable to meet this need on their own.

The Problem

Turn to Genesis 3. Look at the first five verses. Do you recognize the story? Good. Now, READ Genesis 3:6 and listen carefully. Count the number of different considerations that went through Eve's mind as she contemplated what the serpent had just told her.

QUESTION #1:

How many different factors did Eve consider when allowing sin into the world? (Put your finger in this place – don't lose it.)

QUESTION #2:

Do you remember the story of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness? Good. How many temptations did Jesus face in the wilderness? Hold your place in Genesis 3:6.

Chapter 7: Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

QUESTION #3:

Turn to 1 John 2:16. How many basic temptations does the enemy still use today? What are they? Name them from the verse.

Turn back to Genesis 3:6. Compare the two texts – do they look the same?

Sin comes in a set of three. We could look at Psalm 51:1-2 for the three names for the three kinds of sin. And we could look at Romans 5:6, 8, 10 for how they are described there. But I don't want to dwell here – we will come back to this in our next session.

QUESTION #4:

READ 1 Corinthians 13:13. How many parts would you expect God to use in the Covenant Grace- Faith Relationship to solve the sin problem?



The Illustration and the Story

THE ILLUSTRATION

Last time we talked, we discussed the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as a single concept. Today I want to examine that concept in its three parts. I call these three parts of the solution: R – G – B. Look at the back of a video player. Three plug-in jacks – Red, Green, Blue – are the three colors that your eye can see. From these three colors your brain then creates all of the other colors. I want to use these three letters to examine God's Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with us.

THE STORY

To do this, I want to use the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Turn there, starting in verse 11. Do you know this story? Write a short summary outline of the story.

REMEMBER TRUTH #2.

You and I are the Prodigal. For the rest of this chapter to make sense, you must see yourself as the Prodigal.

Received From:

Faith, the First Gift, and the Son

QUESTION #1:

Let's focus on the gifts that the Father gives the Son.

- a. READ Luke 15:22. What gifts did the Prodigal Son receive on returning home?

- b. What's so special about these gifts? What is the significance of each gift?

Robe

Ring

Sandals

- c. What's the significance of these gifts? What do they mean to the Prodigal?

- d. Was he expecting these gifts? Did he deserve these gifts?

QUESTION #2:

Now, you are the Prodigal. What is the First Gift offered by God to you? (John 3:16)

- a. How big a gift is this? Describe what all you think is encompassed by this gift. (clue: Philippians 2:5-8)

b. Just like the Prodigal: Do you deserve it?
(Romans 3:10-19)

c. Then why does God offer it? What does it say in
John 3:16? (CHECK Truth #1 above)

QUESTION #3:

READ Ephesians 2:8. How can we accept this Gift?

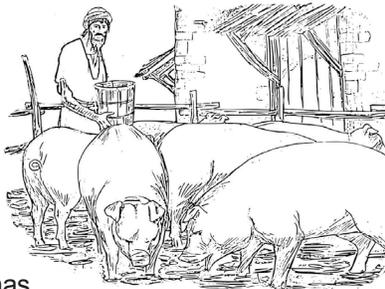
If you don't know what Faith is, look at Romans 3:21.
We talked about it in our last session.

Growing In:

Hope, The Second Gift, the Holy Spirit

Let's return to OUR Story. Yes, please see it as OUR story, not just the Prodigal's story. Watch carefully what happens to the Prodigal. See if you recognize this same Growth in your own life.

READ Luke 15:17. Do you mean to tell me that this Prodigal, who is so deluded by the Devil, so steeped in sin, so enslaved to his sinful life that he is now staring at a locust pod – *pig food* – as food for himself, now suddenly has an amazing insight into his own situation? Really?



QUESTION #1:

READ John 16:8; Ephesians 1:18.

a. What was the gift that the Prodigal received, even while still at the pig sty?

b. Who helped the Prodigal to understand his situation?

c. Who has been convicting him all the way?

QUESTION #2:

Is that same Gift also offered to you? (John 14:16)

QUESTION #3:

The work of the Holy Spirit.

a. REVIEW Luke 15:17. What did the Holy Spirit help the Prodigal Son to remember that would cause him to think that his Father would even give him the time of day, even as a servant?

b. In Luke 15:19, what else does the Prodigal remember?

c. READ verse 18. Although the Prodigal does not know how the generosity of his Father will interact with his own unworthiness, what has the Prodigal decided to do? (clue: Romans 6:16, 19)

d. READ Romans 8:5. What has the Prodigal set his mind on? What course of action has he chosen to follow? (Luke 15:18)

e. READ John 14:17. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit does – when you have chosen to “present yourself?”

This is what happens when you “present yourself” in this manner to the Holy Spirit's influence. READ 2 Corinthians 3:18. In our next session we will discuss all that transpires as a result of this interaction with the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION #4:

Let's focus on your response to this second gift.

READ John 15:5. What does Jesus say that you should do as a response?

QUESTION #5:

READ Hebrews 10:23 and Romans 15:13. Use the information in these two scriptures and answer the following questions.

a. What is Hope; that is, what is constant expectancy?

b. In whom do you have Hope – yourself or God?

c. Whom do you constantly expect to be faithful – you or God?

This concept of Hope, this constant expectancy that the Holy Spirit will accomplish in us what God and Jesus have promised, is one of the most powerful concepts ever. Can you see the reason for the joy and peace talked about in Romans 15:13? As a summary statement, READ Romans 5:1-5. Think about that Scripture as a preparation for the next session.



Becoming Like:

Love, the Third Gift, and the Father

QUESTION #1:

Just to be very clear, about whom was the Prodigal's father thinking as he watched the road every day? Was he thinking about himself or about his son?

QUESTION #2:

As the Prodigal approaches the turn off from the main road that leads to home, he is a bit hesitant.

a. READ Luke 15:19. Whom did the Prodigal think he would embarrass when he returned home, himself or his father? Whom is the Prodigal thinking about, himself or his Father?

b. Whom is the Prodigal becoming like?

QUESTION #3:

READ 2 Peter 1:2-4. Now concentrate on verse 4.

a. Whom does God want you to become like? Whom was the Prodigal becoming like?

b. READ Galatians 5:22-23. How else is this state of being described?

c. If the Spirit makes you alive, how do you function when this fruit appears in your life? (look at Galatians 5:25)

d. READ Ephesians 3:19. How does Paul describe this state of being?

e. READ Jeremiah 31:33. With your new knowledge, explain the meaning of this verse.

f. READ Jeremiah 24:7. What is the impact of the final outcome of the Great Controversy? Where is God going with this Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with you?

Summary

Do you know who you are?

- A Saint, and greatly beloved.
- A human being, in great need of Salvation.
- A recipient, of the greatest rescue plan ever devised.

QUESTION #1:

READ 1 John 4:16. Here is the perennial question: Why does God do this for you?

This is why God is running towards you. Remember, you are the Prodigal.



READ Luke 15:20. This is one of the most awesome pictures of God in the Bible. The running God, running to embrace you.

This then is the core of the Christian life. This is the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. This is the agreement that you have with God. What He has promised you and what you have promised Him. It's a Covenant. It is the basics of how Christianity works. This will be the operating basis for the rest of our sessions, just as it is the basis for the Christian life in Christ.

Take Home

Thought Questions – When you enter into the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship:

a. What does God promise to do for you? (Ephesians 3:14-20)

b. What do you promise to do for God? (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:20-21)

