

What is the Hidden Secret of the Gospel?

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As with the terrible apostasy of the Israelites in Christ's time, so it is with the terrible apostasy of Christianity and Christians today. With this fact in view Paul wrote to the Romans regarding Israel's apostasy, saying

“As it is written, God gives them a spirit of stupor, eyes not to be observing, and ears not to be hearing, until this very day.” (Romans 11:8)

The Israelites had no understanding of the “Hidden Secret” of the Gospel. It is the same today with Christians Worldwide, and Christianity Worldwide, their “eyes do not see” and their “ears do not hear.” Christians today have no understanding of the “Hidden Secret” of the Gospel.

And again,

“For I am not willing for you to be ignorant of this secret, brethren, lest you may be wise in your own conceits, that blindness (literal: callousness) in part, has happened to Israel (and to Christianity, today), until the fullness of the unbelievers (the “unsaved”) has come to pass.” Romans 11:25,26

The “kingdom on earth” of the Israelites was concerned with the *throne of David*. But the Gospel of God reverts still further back to the faith of *Abraham*. But the grace of God we are considering now, in the fifth chapter of Romans, leads our thoughts back even further and deals with *Adam* and his one offense.

It is this secret of the Gospel, that has been hushed (kept silent) which “was kept silent since the world began” (literal = “in times *eonian*” Romans 16:25,26) that now is unfolded.

“Now to Him who is of power to establish you according to my Gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the secret, which was kept secret since the world began.

“But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting (*eonian*) God, made known to all nations (unbelievers) for the obedience of faith.” Romans 16:25,26

Now the type and its dark shadow need to be clearly in view before we can consider their resemblances and contrasts.

The key to the whole matter lies in the word **one** that is repeated a dozen times in this short passage (Romans 5:12-19). All depends upon one act of one man. And the emphasis is laid upon that lamentable aspect of sin that we call an *offense*. It was this that led to the estrangement between Adam and God.

Fellowship with God

The most beautiful of the Garden of Eden's scenes was not the lovely garden with its pleasant trees, nor the meek subjection of the living creatures to Adam's gentle rule, nor even in the loving companionship of Adam and Eve. Everything was innocently perfect and delightful to behold. But the most amazing vision of all was the companionship of Adam and Eve with God when he "walked with them in the cool of the day."

What great honor and joy it must have been for Adam to be able to communicate face to face with His Creator. Furthermore, God did not leave Adam alone in this wonderful garden, but watched over him to anticipate his every need. When the trees and the creatures were inadequate to fill a lack in Adam's heart, God made the woman to satisfy Adam's affection. In all this, God showed His love for Adam.

Satan's insinuation - - Adam's sin

But in an evil hour, the serpent insinuated that God was not really desirous of their good, but jealous, lest they became as He, knowing good and evil. Satan's criticism was not aimed at God's power or His wisdom alone, it was aimed at God's heart – God's affections. Thus, God's loving kindness was trampled underfoot.

There are various aspects to Adam's sin.

It questioned the wisdom of God and destroyed His works.

It questioned His justice and assailed His character.

It questioned God's love and wounded His affections.

It refused the authority of God.

It was a sin: it was a transgression; it was an offense; it was disobedience.

As a sin, it threw the proverbial monkey-wrench into the grand machinery of the universe, throwing it out of gear so that it grinds itself to pieces. And with it comes ruin, sorrow, groaning, and turns all to corruption.

As a transgression, it brought down the curse of a righteous God.

But worse than sin, and more serious than transgression, was the offense that caused the aching in God's heart, the separation between Himself and the creature upon whom God has so freely lavished his affection.

Yet the aspect of disobedience is the most comprehensive of all, for it was a revolt against loving, as well as righteous authority. Assuming independence ("freewill"), the subject denies the Subjector (God). In disobedience we see sin linked to transgression, offering offense to God. It denied both the righteousness and the love of God.

God's Provision

God provides a covering for Adam's sin. The first blood shed on earth in the paradise of the Garden of Eden, was the slaying, by God Himself, of an inoffensive beast to provide a covering for the guilty pair. This is a picture of the blood of the holy Lamb, Jesus Christ, that does not merely cover sin and transgression, but puts it away!

But the Breach Remains

God provided a cover for Adam and Eve, but the breach was not healed. Confidence was not restored. Adam was still estranged. To prevent sin from taking root completely, Adam was driven from the garden and cherubim were stationed at the gate with flaming swords, to keep them away from the tree of Life.

Does this look like reconciliation? Obviously not! And in Adam's descendants, except for a very few, the breach became wider and wider, until they were destroyed by the flood. Noah and his family alone came through that judgment. Then Noah's descendants widened the gulf even more.

Finally, Abraham finds favor with God, and in his descendants, God chooses a nation for Himself. But, this again was not a reconciliation with mankind, for the partiality shown to one nation only widened the breach between God and the rest of mankind. And though God did dwell with Israel, it was behind thick curtains, with access limited and dangerous. His very dwelling, that God had them make for Him, was full of proofs that He was a distant Deity.

But their sins and transgressions become unbearable, so the Glory leaves the temple without a tenant. And now, the “God of the heavens” becomes His name.

God sends His Son to Israel

Yet once more God approaches man, this time in His only Son. However, He is not sent to all mankind but first to Israel’s seed. Remember that the Israelites were Christians because they were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Israelites were NOT “Jews” because Judaism did not begin until more than 300 years after Christ, after the Temple was destroyed, and after the Pharisees wrote down their hideous traditions that Jesus rebuked so strongly, saying that they “made the word of God of none effect.” (Mark 7:13)

The traditions of the Pharisees were the antithesis of what Christ taught. The Pharisees had set up their own **counterfeit** religion in the synagogues, at the same time that God’s presence was in the Temple. When the Pharisees called for the execution of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, the Temple curtain was rent in two, from top to bottom. Thus, one could see into the Most Holy Place and realize that God’s presence was GONE!

That was the end of the Israelite nation. That was the end of the Israelites’ relationship to God: They had murdered God’s Son!

The Pharisees take over

That’s when the Pharisees, the enemies of Christ, took over. Their Satanic synagogues flourished and three hundred years AFTER Christ, they wrote down their evil traditions (that made the Scriptures of no effect), which became the Talmud. That was the beginning of Judaism – 300 years AFTER Christ!

The history of humanity rejecting God is long indeed; from the flood, the arrogance of Babel, the judgments of Egypt, the rebellion in the wilderness, the apostasy in the Promised land, all the way through to the crucifixion of God’s Son on the Cross. The Israelites murdered their own Savior!

Sin was Universal

Even a fleeting glance will show that sin’s reach was **Universal**; EVERY human being was affected by it.

So, is the Reconciliation **Universal** also? Will EVERY human being be affected by it?

The Comparison is Made

Let us look at Romans 5:18, that tells us of Adam's Act and Christ's Act. Let's look at that verse closely, and compare the two "Acts."

ADAM'S ACT

Consequently, then
as it was
through **one offense**
for **ALL mankind**
for condemnation

CHRIST'S ACT

thus also it is
through **one just award**
for **ALL mankind**
for life's justifying.

Everyone who is born on this earth is a sinner. There is no escape for anyone. It is not presented as a matter of choice. It is powerful and sovereign. The grand proof of this is death. Death entered through sin and claims every one of Adam's offspring. These **universal results** have come through a single **offense**.

Life's Justifying

For the present, at least, the acceptance of the Reconciliation is not universal. But Adam's offense **did NOT merely make it possible for men to sin** and merit condemnation, it **rather made it IMPOSSIBLE for them to do otherwise**.

How can we refuse to believe that the work of Christ is "THUS ALSO." (See verse above)

So, it is beyond denial that Christ's one righteous act is the basis upon which ALL humanity will be freed from every effect of Adam's offense.

Truly,

"God locks ALL up together in stubbornness, that He should be merciful to ALL." Rom 11:32

It did not take multiple offenses for Adam to bring Death to the entire human race, nor did it take similar offenses of Adam's posterity. It was a **single act**. And it had a **universal effect**.

Thus also with the work of Christ on the cross! It was a **single act**, (NOT His life-long services, but His death.) And its effects is not based upon a repetition of a similar act by each participant, but is as **Universal** in its effect of justification as was Adam's effect of bringing sin and death to ALL humanity.

Just as Adam's **one offense affects all mankind, so ALL mankind will share in the gracious benefits that Christ's death provides.**

Christians Believe in Adam's "offense" but NOT in Christ's Justification

It is strange indeed that Christians believe that Adam's offense affected ALL mankind – it brought sin to every person who has ever lived - but they discount the work of Christ, refusing to believe that His death on the cross, His one act, is enough to justify every sinner who has ever been born.

Christians believe in the work of "man" – but NOT Christ! They believe in "man" – but NOT God!

But it is even more distressing that Christians brand as "traitors to the Word of God," those who believe God's Biblical record concerning the perfection and omnipotence of that work.

The teachings of interminable sin, of irreconcilable estrangement between God and man, of endless torture by a vindictive God - - - flee like foul vapors when the true teachings of Christ are understood.

Christ's work has no limits, either in power or extent! It restores far more than sin has taken away! It vitally affects every human being who was mortally affected by Adam's sin.

We now compare the two beings: Adam and Christ as given in Romans 5:19:

ADAM

for even as,
through the disobedience
of the one man (Adam),
the many
were constituted
sinners,

CHRIST

thus also,
through the obedience
of the One (Christ),
the (SAME) many
shall be constituted
just.

The previous text compared the two "acts." This text compares the two human beings, Adam and Christ. One constitutes "the many" sinners, and the Other constitutes "the many" just.

“The Many”

The Greek, *hoi polloi*, is literally “the many.” To English ears this suggests the great part, or the majority. But that is not the thought conveyed by the phrase in the Greek. It is used of the body (Rom 12:5) and the bread (1 Cor 10:17). It is not a majority of the members that make up the body, but ALL the members. It is “the many” members that make up the ONE body. The contrast is not between ALL the members and many, but between “the many” and “one.”

“The many” are constituted sinners through the disobedience of the one man (Adam), and

“The many” will be constituted just through the obedience of One (Jesus Christ).

How Many?

We can easily test this conclusion. Adam’s disobedience constituted “the many” sinners. How many? Is there any human being (except Jesus Christ) who is NOT included in “the many”? ALL are constituted sinners! Is not this the clear testimony of the Scriptures?

“Not one is righteous, not even one.” Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:10

Through Adam, sin reached ALL.

Through Christ, righteousness will yet reach ALL.

If Adam alone is to blame for this, then Christ alone must be acclaimed for the future perfection of humanity.

The essence of Universal Restoration is found in this one text:

“Where sin abounds, grace doth much more abound.” Romans 5:20

It is **impossible** to “out-sin” grace!

What IS the “Hidden Secret” of the Gospel?

The “Hidden Secret” of the Gospel was revealed to Paul 2,000 years ago. He wrote about it repeatedly in his many epistles in the Bible. Yet, Christians are not only oblivious to that “Secret” but when it is revealed to them, they react in horror and anger.

The “**Hidden Secret**” of the **Gospel** is that God is going to restore ALL to righteousness, and save everyone He has ever created!

Universal Restoration!