**“But Now” – Seven Years Later**

M Paulson – 6/22/2017 - (audio also available)

I have done this subject before so if you want the vim and vigor of my earlier sounding youth, then you can go back and find this same subject covered in 2010.

However, if you want an ‘older guy’ who has 7 years more experience behind this subject – and better understands the need, the importance and the value behind this particular subject now, here I R!

That is mostly what the newest website is about anyway, sermons from an aging person’s basket of experience – been there, done that, fought for that, lived through that, hoping that ‘maybe’ I can say a ‘little’ of what Paul says when he said… “***But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* II Timothy 4:5-7**

**BUT NOW**

In spite of all those things in our past, present and future – trials from family, friends, pastors, church folks, business, jobs, neighbors, the news and media, the morals crash, the perversions that prevail more and more, the evil is good and the good is evil, the women and children steering the ships, the personal and family shipwrecks, health challenges, financial frustrations, and the unnecessary but ‘real’ challenges we allow to ‘hurt’ us by following Paul and a KJB ONLY – such as loneliness… and… hmmm, and… ?????

Actually, these are great times FOR US because we KNOW what is in that KJB TO US. We know who to follow: PAUL. We know we not only believe that… “***Christ died for our sins according the the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures…and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; … After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.***

**AND** – *(it’s a big ‘****and’*** *[not ‘hard,’ just ‘big’])* – we study, learn and ‘try’ to follow those teachings of the now RISEN CHRIST, who taught Paul – face to face – and who was chosen / called… ***To reveal his Son in me*** (Paul), ***that I*** (he***) might preach the risen Christ among the heathen*** – (us – Gentiles)…**Galatians 1:16**

**Here we go – “But now…**

**We still have Paul available to us today! We SEE and UNDERSTAND!**

**Romans 15:20-23**

*Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand. For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.* ***But now*** *having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;*

**And of course it is NOT all about Paul – it is about the risen Saviour, however, Paul is still our apostle – and those are still the only books TO US, as inspired and preserved to this day!**

**II Corinthians 12:6**

*For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth:* ***but now*** *I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.*

**The ‘knowledge of the truth’ to us is still made available for us today!**

**Colossioans 1:26**

*Even the mystery (****Ephesians 3:1-6****) which hath been hid from ages and from generations,* ***but now*** *is made manifest to his saints:*

**Romans 16:25,26**

*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, 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 God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

**Romans 3:21**

***But now*** *the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

**NOW WE ARE…**

**Romans 7:6:**

***But now*** *we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

**Ephesians 2:13**

***But now*** *in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

**Romans 6:22**

***But now*** *being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

**I Corinthians 12:18,20**

***But now*** *hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. But now are they many members, yet but one body.* (more on this one later- ‘the church’ – but just know that we are OK with not belonging to a ‘local church’ – WE are the church.)

**Galatians 2:20**

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,* ***but*** *Christ liveth in me: and the life which I* ***now*** *live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Ah yes, that manner of life that so many ‘Paul Pastors’ ignore in their preaching – citing grace as the only important thing from Paul – AND when the church began, etc.**

**Ephesians 5:8**

*For ye were sometimes darkness,* ***but now*** *are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

**I Corinthians 5:10-11**

*I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.* ***But now*** *I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

**Philippians 2:12** *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only,* ***but now*** *much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

**Colossians 3:8**

***But now*** *ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

**Contrary to those preachers who preach God loves everyone… we still should have a decent testimony – based on Paul, at least among those that are following the risen Saviour through Paul, etc. We are to mark each other, remember!** (**Philippians 3:17** *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.)*

**I Thessalonians 3:6**

***But now*** *when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:*

**His words TO US to continue on, in spite of all that had gone on, is going on and will continue to go on to us!**

**II Timothy 1:7**

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,* ***But*** *is* ***now*** *made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.*

**P.S.**

**Galatians 4:9**

***But now****, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements,3 whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

**Great Question, eh! It still can happen to any of us… (there is another sermon on that one, too)**