

C & C: The Power of Choice

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

Joshua 24:14-15

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

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.

The choice is yours! The Power of Choice is in your hands! “choose you this day whom ye will serve”. God will not force you to serve him. Will you serve the drugs and follow after the flesh? Or will you serve God and follow after the Spirit? The Power of Choice is in your hands! Will you pop another pill, snort another line, or shoot up again? Or will you choose to serve the Lord?

1 Samuel 15:22-23

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

It is better to obey “the voice of the LORD” the Word of God and keep the commandments of God then to find yourself in need of repentance! Though we are living under the New Testament and that of grace, it is still better to obey the commandments of God then to disobey God and find yourself in need of repentance, though we are thankful for grace, mercy, and repentance.

However, to find yourself in open defiance and rebellion against the Lord “is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”. “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve”. Is it the next party? The next shot of whiskey, rum, etc? What cocktail of drugs are you mixing up? Can your heart take it? Will your respiratory system make it? Just an OD away from eternity! God will not force you to serve him, but he will help you to recover from the life of sin that you now find yourself in! The choice is yours! “choose you this day whom ye will serve”.

You are not alone! God has not left you alone! God is full of love, compassion, grace, and mercy!

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Hebrews 13:5-7

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

God's grace is sufficient! The Power of Choice is yours! Adam and Eve chose to sin against God in the garden of Eden! God chose a way to redeem mankind from their sins!

Romans 5:14-21

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

The figure of him that was to come is speaking of Jesus Christ.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

The offence is the transgression or sin against God of disobeying him in the garden of Eden. The free gift is speaking of the free gift of righteousness. For if through the offence of one, this referring to Adam, many be dead, referring to all of mankind because we are all born in sin because of the offence of Adam, even as it said in the previous verse, "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression".

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

Hear this again very carefully! THE FREE GIFT IS OF MANY OFFENCES UNTO JUSTIFICATION! This means many, many mistakes will be made on our part and we will fall many, many times but God in his great grace, mercy, compassion, and love has made a way for us to be justified!! "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith." (Rm 3:21-27)

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

For if by one man's offence, this referring to Adam, death reigned by one, this also referring to Adam. Much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Here the free gift is identified to us as the gift of righteousness. This is the great love of God for us. By the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the abundance of grace given to us by God, and the free gift of righteousness, we will reign in life by one, Jesus Christ! If we are born again and repent of our sins when we do fall short of the glory of God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Therefore as by the offence of one, this referring to Adam, judgment came upon all men to condemnation. We were all condemned! Even so by the righteousness of one, this being Jesus Christ, the free gift, this referring to righteousness, came upon all men unto justification of life!

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

For as by one man's disobedience, this being Adam, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one, this being Jesus Christ, shall many be made righteous. If we are born again and repent of our sins when we fall short of the glory of God. Remember verse 16, "And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification." **THE FREE GIFT IS OF MANY OFFENCES UNTO JUSTIFICATION!** This does not mean we abuse the grace of God and sin willingly!

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve! The Power of Choice is yours!

Romans 6:1-2

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:16

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

The Power of Choice! If you are going to follow after the grace of God then you must be obedient to what the grace of God teaches us!!!! **“that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”**.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve”

“whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” The Power of Choice is yours!