

"THE TRIUMPHANT CHRIST"**Introduction**

1. Two ways of destroying the gospel: by addition e.g. Sacramentalism
2. By subtraction: e.g. Liberalism
3. It is the former Paul argues against here
DOCTRINE: The gospel is perfect as it is –

1. THE FIRST BLESSING: FORGIVENESS OF ALL OUR SINS:
v.13

- 1) This is what only the gospel can give us:
 - (i) knowledge can make us clever
 - (ii) Ceremonies can make us devout
 - (iii) But the gospel brings forgiveness of sins
APPLICATION: You have nothing till you have this
- 2) See how, God does this:
 - (i) He finds us spiritually dead
 - (ii) He "quickens us" = new life to our soul
 - (iii) The renewed soul believes in Jesus
APPLICATION: This is all you need: faith in Christ
- 3) The result is this: all sins are forgiven.
APPLICATION: Don't make it difficult!

2. THE SECOND BLESSING: REMOVAL OF LAWS THAT CONDEMN: v.14

- 1) "Ordinances": removed from us. Which?
 - (i) The ceremonies: Christ has fulfilled them
ILLUSTRATION: animal sacrifices / incense / washings...
APPLICATION: Christ is the BODY – they were SHADOWS.
 - (ii) The Moral Law as armed with a curse, and as having power to condemn us: "Cursed is everyone..."
DOCTRINE: By his death our Saviour removed all such

ordinances out of the way

- 2) The Moral Law is our Rule of Life, but not a Covenant of Life.
ILLUSTRATION: no longer our jailer – just our teacher.
- 3) The Moral Law is man's enemy till we come to believe in Jesus – then we benefit from Christ's death like this:
 - (i) everything that condemns is "blotted out"
ILLUSTRATION: a criminal facing charges – but they are now all blotted out – the case is dropped.
 - (ii) the documents which once condemned us all now somewhere else – where? "Nailed" to Christ's cross! "It is finished!"
APPLICATION: Breathe easy believer, you are fully and eternally pardoned!

3. THIRD BLESSING: CHRIST'S TRIUMPH OVER ENEMIES:
v.15

- 1) These enemies are named: "principalities and powers", i.e. Satan and all his followers.
- 2) Satan is the "accuser of the brethren" – he will condemn us if he can (Job 1; Zech. 3; Rev. 12:10) – but he cannot because of what Christ has done for us on the Cross.
- 3) See how these unseen enemies oppose:
 - (i) 1st they tempt us to some sin
 - (ii) then, they accuse us for this sin
 - (iii) and so, drag poor sinners into despair
- 4) But the Christian must realize that Christ has defeated them all:
 - (i) God has disarmed these evil spirits
 - (ii) Christ has triumphed over them all: The Temptations / Cast out the demons / Christ died for us – to remove the grounds of condemnation.
 - (iii) Christ is resurrected + ascended – with all power of sovereign might over them.
ILLUSTRATION: A Roman triumph.

CONCLUSION

O let us have peace in our hearts then!

PSALM

68: 1 – 5

68: 9 – 13

68: 18 – 20