

Restoration

IT IS NOT EASY

Contents

- Look at challenges to restoration
- Time is an issue
- Some concepts are difficult
- Culture is an issue
- We are an issue
- Temptation to define who is righteous

2 Peter 3:14-16

- ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:13-16

- ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

It is hard

- Some things hard to understand
 - What does this imply
 - Have to work at understanding what was it that God wanted
- Mindset is important (thinking)
 - Spiritual thinking is required
 - Worldly thinking → it is foolishness

Time

- Why is time an issue?
- Long time between us and them
 - Do not speak N.T. Greek
 - Rely on translations

- Literal
 - NKJV, ASV



Interpretative

Message, Living

Translations

- Literal
 - Word for word translation
 - Issues Love in Greek is 4 words, English its one
 - OKJV 1611 NKJV 1982
- Interpretative
 - Give the meaning, what the verse is trying to say
 - Lose options if not clear
- Use multiple translations.

Summary

- Some things hard to understand
 - Need spiritual mindset (thinking)
 - Multiple translations

Society/Christendom redefines word meanings

- Transliterate not translate
 - Baptise - βαπτίζω - baptizō (Transliteration)
- Why is Transliteration an issue?
 - Because you invent a new word
 - Does not carry over the original meaning
 - E.g. baptise
 - a ceremony or occasion at which baptism takes place

Baptise

- English online dictionary
 - administer baptism to (someone); christen.
 - admit (someone) into a specified Church by baptism.
 - give a name or nickname to.
- Greek NT dictionary
 - to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
 - to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
 - to overwhelm

Love

- Philia
 - friendship
 - love of man for his fellow
- Agape
 - Seeking someone's highest good
 - 1 John 4:9-11 - Used exclusively
 - Luke 10:25-37 - good Samaritan
- usplanknos
 - Pertaining to being affectionate and compassionate
 - Eph 4:32 - Tenderhearted
 - 1 Pet 3:8 - Tenderhearted
- Philostorgos
 - Very loving, warmly devoted to, very affectionate
 - Rom 12:10 - kindly affectionate

How do we deal

- Need to go back to the original language
- Greek dictionaries
 - E.g. Vines – simple level
 - More intense ones also
- Transliterated words
 - Go back to the original
 - Do not use the English dictionary

2 Tim 2:14-19

- ¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

It takes work on our side

- Exhortation to Timothy
 - Be diligent (to exert one's self)
 - Rightly dividing the word of truth
- Got to work at it
- Joshua 1:8
 - This book of the Law must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in all you do.
- Psalm 1:2
 - but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Summary

- Some things hard to understand
 - Need spiritual mindset (thinking)
 - Multiple translations
- Deal with languages differences (Translations)
 - Need to be diligent in our study

Example of Peter – Gal 2:11-16

- ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Example of Peter – Gal 2:11-16

- ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? ¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Pharisees - Traditions

- Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ² Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. ³ For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴ *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.
- ⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

Our own background or culture

- Pharisees in Mark 7:1-5
 - Set of traditions based around eating
 - Not necessarily wrong to wash hands
 - Wanted to take their traditions and bind them on others
 - Not in the scripture
- Jewish Christians in Gal 2
 - Wanting Non-Jewish Christians to conform to Jewish Laws
 - Not recognizing the significance of what saying

World wants us to conform

- God says don't be conformed
 - Be transformed
 - Conflict in our society between Religious freedom and Discrimination
 - Example comment on Tasmania's genderless option of birth certificates
 - Get the sack for not being tolerant
 - He publicly called them to repentance
- Not the first time
 - Rome – Christians lived in hiding because of persecution

Acts 4:18-22

- ¹⁸ So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” ²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Summary

- Some things hard to understand
 - Need spiritual mindset (thinking)
 - Multiple translations
- Deal with languages differences (Translations)
 - Need to be diligent in our study
- Out culture or society try to dictate rules
 - Obedience to God

Rule based

- Hard to let go of human rules and expectations
 - Want to reduce Christianity to a set of rules
 - I need to know if I am living righteously
- Fall into pharisee trap
 - Rules to define what righteousness is
 - Defined how far can go on sabbath before it is “work”
 - Bible does not give a list of activities prohibited on sabbath
 - Ex 34:21 - field labour (even in plowing and harvesting time)
 - Neh 13:15-18 - treading in a wine press, loading animals with burdens
 - Etc
 - Human response
 - In the Mishnah, the Rabbis enumerated 39 major categories (with hundreds of subcategories) of labor that were forbidden.

Luke 14:1-6

- Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. ² And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”
- ⁴ But they kept silent. And He took *him* and healed him, and let him go. ⁵ Then He answered them, saying, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” ⁶ And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

It is more than do and do nots

- We are often tempted to convert God's instruction into a list of does and do nots
 - Jesus example shows not that simple
 - Mercy and Love modify
- When does it help and when does it hinder?
 - What does it look like
- James 2:13
 - ¹³For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
 - God has been very merciful to us

Matt 23:23-24

- ²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

It is more than do and do nots

- We are often tempted to convert God's instruction into a list of does and do nots
 - Jesus example shows not that simple
 - Mercy and Love modify
- Focus on getting it right
 - Can miss the weightier matters of God
 - Matt 23:23-24
 - Come up with “answers” and forget to study word
 - Let word challenge us
 - Its not about learning a set of answers to “important biblical questions”

Narrow focus

- Recent years religious world focus has become narrow
 - Religion is something for Sunday
 - Need to get Sunday morning “right”
 - Because it is “worship”
 - Need to get marriage and divorce “right”
 - Etc.
- Justify our own behavior?

Justification – I am righteous by my standard

- ²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading *of it?*” ²⁷ So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” ²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

Justification – I am righteous by my standard

- ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” ³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Define righteousness to Judge others

- Being “righteous”
 - Need to define it
 - Am I a man/woman after God’s own heart
 - Remember
 - Not saved by our works
- Danger – define righteousness
 - Answer has become the definition of a “Righteous church”
 - Why
 - So can decide who is in and who is out

Am I to be Judge?

- What is the problem?
 - We are getting into God's domain
 - Judging who is (more) righteous and who is not
- Too narrow a focus
 - How did God Summarize the law Luke 10:27-37
 - Love God with all heart etc.
 - Love one another as self
 - Note the response of the lawyer
 - Wanted to justify himself

So we cannot correct anyone? – Gal 6:1-5

- **6** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. **5** For each one shall bear his own load.

1 Cor 5:1-5

- It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. ³ For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Discernment is needed but correct to restore

- Gal 6
 - Restore someone caught up in sin
- 1 Cor 5
 - Rebuke unrepentant sinner (so they repent)
 - Do not tolerate sin
- But note:
 - Paul calls those in the Corinthian Church brethren
 - Then proceeds to rebuke them over a whole range of behaviours
 - Sin not my definition of “righteousness”

Rom 12:1-5

- beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Whole life – cannot just focus on certain things

- Christianity is a whole of life
 - Rom 12:1-2
 - Whole life is service to God
 - 2 Tim 2:1-7
 - Dedication to Christianity
- Humility is part of it

James 4:10-12

- ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

Summary

- Some things hard to understand
 - Need spiritual mindset (thinking)
 - Multiple translations
- Deal with languages differences (Translations)
 - Need to be diligent in our study
- Out culture or society try to dictate rules
- We like rules, want to tie it down
 - Want to get bits “right” – love and mercy
- Avoid temptation to become judges
 - Humility and live it

Questions

- Consider each of the topics spoken about today
 - Time gap, society & culture and our desire for rules
 - How can we as members of the Point Church guard against these?
- Discuss the difference between “correcting brethren” and “determining which Churches/people are righteous”
- Discuss how humility, mercy and recognition that we are saved by grace and not works impact on this?