The Whole Story

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INTRODUCTION

- Take the time to understand God's word for what it is, not for what we want it to be. Do you know the whole story?
- One great danger in approaching the Bible is if we put blinders on and see only certain parts that we want to see.

1 Sinners Need Salvation, God's Grace Provides

Ephesians 2:8–9

- Sinners need salvation, and God's grace provides the answers that we need.
- For by grace have you been saved through faith, not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.
- So apparently people have to respond in a certain way of some kind in order to be saved.

2 The Saved Have Obeyed and Continue in Faith

1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3

- The saved are those who have obeyed, and they must continue in faith.
- If you want to get the whole story of salvation by grace through faith, you've got to include 1 Peter 1 22.
- Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.
- Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

3 God Cares About How We Worship

1 Corinthians 11

- God cares about how we worship. As we saw last week, he's not pleased with just any worship that we might send his way.
- Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- It must involve the right acts and the right attitudes.
- We thus need to serve him acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

4 God Cares About What We Believe

Galatians 3:1; 2 John 1:9–11

- It's not just the things we do, it's the things that we even espouse or believe.
- You can be severed from grace by simply believing the wrong things.
- Fornicators and adulterers, God will judge. And those who approve of such erroneous things.

- Where's your positive authority in the New Testament for such a practice? There's no mention of it anywhere.

5 God Cares About Our Attitudes, Not Just Our Actions

1 Thessalonians 5

- What Jesus did at Calvary was not just a sin fix, it was a life fix.
- God wants to mold and modify our attitudes after Jesus. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.
- Sobriety is an awareness that God is present and watching me, that there's a day of judgment that's coming, and I need to behave accordingly.
- Love is more than just warm sentiment and feelings of affection, it is an active goodwill toward all, demonstrated in a good response for evil done.

6 God Cares About My Growth, Not My Present Plateau

Ephesians 3

- If these qualities are yours, Peter says, and are increasing, they will render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- He who began a good work in you will complete it at the day of Christ.
- Reaching for higher ground unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's embrace the whole thing, not just chapters one and last, but all the chapters in between. Let's see the whole story and act on it in our lives and be blessed by having done so.

MY NOTES