

THE HUMAN APOSTLE

Part 9 Romans Chapter Six

Romans 6:19-23

I speak in human terms [humanly] because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, ~~and of lawlessness~~ leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness [sanctification].

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What **fruit** did you have then in **the things of which you are now ashamed**? For the end of those things is death. ²² **But now** having been set free from sin, and **having become** slaves of God, **you have your fruit** to holiness [sanctification], and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MOST OF THE TIME PAUL TAUGHT DIRECTLY FROM THE LORD ...

As we read in Romans 1:1 he was specifically separated unto and into the good news of God – to reveal what God in Christ had done at the cross and how it benefited us – changed us – redeemed us – justified us – forgave us – re-established us in Christ – seated us with Christ – **ALL DIRECTLY FROM GOD HIMSELF.**

Galatians 1:11-12

*I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is **not according to man** (anthrōpon). ¹² For I neither received it **from man** (anthrōpou), nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (See also Ephesians 3:2-3 and 1 Corinthians 11:23)*

BUT HERE IN OUR TEXT (verse 19), PAUL SPEAKS AS A MAN & NOT DIRECTLY FROM GOD. I SPEAK HUMANLY (Anthrōpinon - From anthropos; 'human', especially in contrast to God)

INTERESTINGLY, THE SAME ROOT WORD Anthropos 'HUMAN' IS USED IN BOTH PASSAGES.

SLIDE

Anthropology = the scientific study of humans and human behaviour.

PAUL OFTEN DID THIS / TEACHING ON MARRIAGE

1 Cor. 7:10-12 **"The rest is from me, not from the Lord ..."**

1 Cor. 7:25 "... I have no commandment from the Lord, **but I give my own opinion ..."**

REACTING TO THE CORINTHIANS

2 Cor. 11:17 **"What I am going to say now is not prompted by the Lord but from a fit of folly ..."** (2 Cor. 8:8-10). **"... I give my advice ..."**

So we see, Paul made a distinction between when he spoke as a man and as a mouthpiece from God and was wise and humble enough **to tell us when he did it ... unlike some people today who prophesy their will and call it God's will saying, 'THUS SAITH THE LORD ...'**

Like one guy who always prophesied every Sunday during the praise time but arrived this particular Sunday just as the praise time finished. However, this did not stop him. As soon as he arrived he spoke out and said, 'Yay, I can see you have been enjoying My presence, says the Lord, and I would have been too if I'd been here on time!'

**PAUL WAS QUALIFIED TO INSTRUCT AS A MAN. HE TELLS US HIS QUALIFICATIONS
HE WAS A MAN WHOSE MORTAL BODY WAS A SLAVE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Romans 1:1

*Paul a **bondservant (slave)** of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle ...*

*This wasn't just some whim or fancy – some fleshly reaction – **He was a man filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit – WHEN HE SPOKE AS A HUMAN HE WAS INSTEP WITH GOD.***

SO WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

PAUL 'SPEAKING HUMANLY' WAS THIS 'GOD-MAN' EMERGING FROM UNDERNEATH HIS CLOAK OF TEACHER AND WISE MASTER BUILDER. Here he takes off the cloak of the didactic teacher and gets down from the pulpit to sit amongst the people. He says, 'I'm not just a channel of doctrine ... I'm not a detached master-builder ... I'm not an unaffected leader ... I'M A HUMAN LIKE YOU, FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU. I ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT THIS MYSELF, NOT JUST BECAUSE GOD HAS PUT IT ON MY HEART. PAUL IS BEING HUMAN.

Unlike that phrase that some Christians used to use; 'I love you with the love of the Lord' which actually excludes them from personally loving that person.

PAUL WAS PERSONALLY MOTIVATED BY LOVE FOR THE ROMAN CHURCH.

**LOOK AT HOW MUCH HE PERSONALLY LOVED THEM (He was a Roman)
He calls them 'Beloved of God'**

Romans 1:7

*To all who are in Rome, **beloved of God**, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

NB: Nowhere else did Paul address other churches in such affectionate terms.

Romans 15:23

*... Having **a great desire** these many years to come to you.*

Paul was writing to the Romans from Corinth during his 3rd missionary Journey. Paul had never been to Rome but earnestly wanted to go, being himself a Roman and a Jew.

This was nearing THE END of Paul's life and ministry and you can hear his longing human desire (yet Godly desire) for a people he desperately loved and longed to see move into all God had given them ... **FOR THEM TO BECOME WHO GOD HAD ALREADY MADE THEM ...**

Paul would get to Rome in chains in the next 4 years but would only live a few years after that when the Romans beheaded him.

It's as if he's saying in this one phrase: 'I'm a pastor who lies down with his sheep – a father who cares for his children ... a martyr who will eventually give his life for you.'

PAUL SPOKE HUMANLY BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN WHO THEY WERE IN CHRIST.

IN THIS HUMANNESS, PAUL BECOMES SOMEWHAT OF A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.

It's like he's saying, Can't you see there is so much more you have been given that you are not receiving or embracing.

He says, '... **Just as** you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness ... **so now** present your members as slaves of righteousness ...' (Romans 6:19)

(Paraphrased) '**With the same dedication** you manifested sin in your flesh ...

So now have the same dedication to see righteousness manifest in your flesh ... TO SEE REAL FRUIT MANIFEST IN YOUR LIFE.'

PAUL'S DESIRE WAS TO SEE THESE BELIEVER'S GIFTED AND ESTABLISHED

Romans 1:11 **SLIDE**

*For I long to see you that **I might impart to you some spiritual gift**, so that you may be established.*

He says, 'I want to see you embrace all God has given you and become all God has already made you – to see you come out shining like a light in the darkness ... to see you fulfil your destiny ... **THIS IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR SALVATION.'**

SO WHAT HAS BROUGHT THIS HUMAN EXPRESSION ON?

- **THEIR LACK OF FRUIT**

Romans 6:19 **SLIDE**

*I speak in human terms [humanly] **because of the weakness of your flesh ...***

What is this weakness?

(astheneian) 'feebleness'; by implication, **moral frailty** ... weakness ... **inability** ... ignorance ... lack of energy ... discouragement ... fear ...

PAUL IS COMING OUT FROM BEHIND HIS CALLING TO CONFRONT THESE ROMAN CHRISTIANS HEAD ON ABOUT THE WEAKNESS OF THEIR FLESH

HOW DID PAUL KNOW ABOUT THIS WEAKNESS?

BY 'TELL-A-SAINT'

LOOK AT ROMANS 1:8

*... I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is **spoken of throughout the whole world.***

But there was something else also that was spoken about ... the weakness of their flesh.

NOTE: ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY, AND NEITHER WAS THE BOOK OF ROMANS. IT COULD HAVE TAKEN MANY MONTHS TO WRITE THIS EPISTLE. (Written between A.D. 56-58) During the time of his writing, Paul had heard about their struggles.

THEY STARTED OUT WITH GREAT FAITH BUT OVER TIME, PAUL STARTED TO HEAR ABOUT

- **their insecurities ... their worldliness ... their discouragement.**

Like Peter after the crucifixion – 'I'm going back fishing'.

Like a young girl who was a drug addict who came to Christ and went to a seminar where she received a great revelation and started to come right. She was filled with the Holy Spirit ... she kicked the drug habit ... she got a job and a house ... she attended church where her life began to be transformed ... she started to witness for Jesus

HOWEVER, *a few weeks down the track she ran off with her old boyfriend ... she quits church and gets back into drugs (eg Whitney Houston). What do you do? You pray for her. You weep for her. But then you get stirred up and track her down and you confront her in love. It wasn't God that sent you around but it was the love of God in you that caused you to do it, regardless of what she might think of you.*

You say, 'I need to speak to you ... as a fellow believer who cares for you.

YOU'RE MISSING OUT! THERE IS SO MUCH MORE FOR YOU! YOU ARE THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY ... YOU GOTTA GET OUTTA THAT OLD LIFE AND GET INTO WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.' **THIS IS WHAT PAUL MEANS WHEN HE SPEAKS IN HUMAN TERMS'.**

WHAT WAS THEIR WEAKNESS ...

Look at what Paul writes -

Romans 6:21-22 **SLIDE**

For when you were *slaves of sin*, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹ ***What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?***

For the end of those things is *death*.

- YOU WERE SLAVES OF UNCLEANNES, AND OF LAWLESSNESS **SLIDE**
- YOU WERE BARREN AND FRUITLESS AND STILL ARE – '*What fruit did you have then?*'
- YOU STILL CARRY THE SHAME – '*... the things of which you are now ashamed ...*'
- YOU EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF THE SOUL – '*... For the end of those things is death.*'

THINK ABOUT 'THE FLESH' HERE AS NATURAL ABILITY

Ability to speak, to write, to organise, to think, to serve, to cook, to make, to understand others, to lead to inspire etc

THEIR FLESH ABILITY WAS STILL BOUND BY THE FETTERS OF FORMER SLAVERY

Their talents and abilities were still buried ... feeling not good enough ...

They were still ashamed of who they had been and didn't see who they were or what they had IN CHRIST.

SLIDE YOU WERE SLAVES OF UNCLEANNES AND LAWLESSNESS.

WHEN WE CAME TO CHRIST, WE CAME WITH A RETARDED FLESH NATURE.
Your personality was warped ... some of us hid and still hide in our insecurity.
You were held down and crushed with the weight of sin on your back.
You were shackled, thwarted, bound up by sin.
You weren't free to be who you were supposed to be.
Your human personality was lost, you became who others wanted you to be.
You became who you thought you were supposed to be.

THERE IS MUCH ABILITY IN OUR FLESH THAT HAS BEEN CRUSHED & BURIED.

IT'S TIME TO LET THAT FLESH OF YOURS REFLECT WHO YOU ARE.

Romans 6:22-23 **SLIDE**

*But now having been set free from sin, and **having become** slaves of God, **you have your fruit** to holiness [sanctification], and the end, everlasting [perpetual] life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

NB: NOW YOU ALREADY HAVE FRUIT

This is the aorist tense again – the completed perfection.

YOU ALREADY HAVE FRUIT ... AND SANCTIFICATION, but what good is having fruit in heaven if it's not manifesting on the earth? **SLIDE**

I had a revelation yesterday. **FRUIT HAS TO HAVE SOMETHING TO HANG ON.**
FRUIT HANGS ON A TREE.

This tree is from the earth, just as our human flesh is from the earth. The fruit is from our inner life but it needs to hang upon OUR TREE. Our Tree is our flesh ... **WE ARE TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Isaiah 61)**

If you allow yourself to become who you're supposed to be ... fruit will appear.

Romans 7:4

*Therefore, my brothers, you also died to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might **bear fruit to God.***

NOW PRESENT YOUR MEMBERS TO THE MASTER ... THE ONE WHOM YOU

SERVE.

*You'll hear your flesh say, 'Oh that's not me! Oh I'm not worthy!
... I don't have the energy ... I can't do that ... I can't be that!'*

But deep inside, friend, you can see the new you.

The new person clothed in righteousness ... shining like gold in the sun.

YOU ARE UNDER GRACE AND GRACE IS GOD'S ABILITY IN YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CANNOT DO. HE WILL DO IT IN YOU, THROUGH YOU AND FOR YOU.

It's time to step outta that old skin and bring that skin in to God's tannery.