
Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. ³⁰ I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.

Romans 2:4 The goodness of God is meant to lead you to repentance.

The power to break the power of the lie

*Hebrews 4:12 For **the word of God** is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

*John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “**If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”*

*John 8:34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**”*

Key: page 2: Reason

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The Power of THE Lie

Grace and Truth—part 8

June 4, 2023

What’s going on here?

*Acts 4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² **They were greatly disturbed** because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ **They seized Peter and John** and, because it was evening, **they put them in jail** until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*

⁵ *The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family.*

⁷ *They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”*

⁸ *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.*

¹¹ *Jesus is “‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’*

¹² *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”*

¹³ *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with*

Jesus.

¹⁴ **But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.**

¹⁵ So they **ordered** them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. **“Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.**

¹⁷ **But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”**

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and **commanded them** not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

²¹ After **further threats** they let them go. They could not decide **how to punish them**, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

“Blind _____”

Romans 1:18 ...against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since **what may be known about God is plain** to them, because **God has made it plain** to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, **so that people are without excuse.**

Romans 1:21 For **although they knew God**, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but **their thinking became futile** and **their foolish hearts were**

darkened. ²² Although **they claimed to be wise**, **they became fools** ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Argumentative theory strongly suggests that people use reason, not to discover truth but for defending and validating their already chosen perspective or narrative of life.

The Christian record

Matt. 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and honor your Father in heaven.

- The “Benevolent Empire”

Breaking the grip of The Lie

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this—that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
