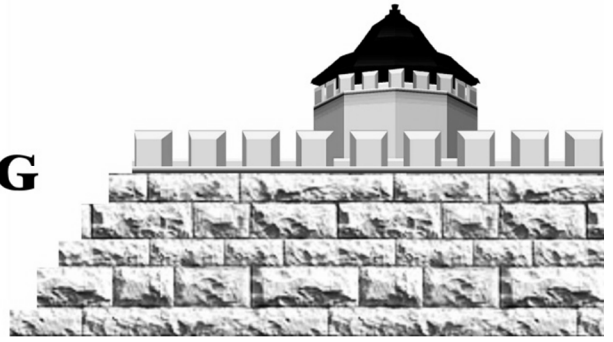


STANDING IN THE GAP



"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land..." (Ezekiel 22:30).

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NESBIT CHURCH OF
CHRIST

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Preacher

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Tim Wilkes, II—NetCasters

Schedule of Services

Sundays

Morning Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesdays

Bible Class 7:00 P.M.

NESBIT CHURCH OF
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The Biblical View of Salvation by Grace

(Part 4)

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

The problem of Judaism being bound on those in the Lord's church goes way back, preceding the events of Acts 15, when a council met to discuss this problem. Some of the language from Acts 15 sounds very similar to Ephesians 2:8-9:

And **put no difference between us and them [between Jews and Gentiles, cf. Ephesians 2:14-ff, JPH], purifying their hearts by faith [Ephesians 2:8; by obedient faith—Acts 10:6, 34-35, 48, JPH].** Now therefore why tempt ye God, **to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? [referring to the Law of Moses, contrasted with faith (v9) and grace (v11); see Ephesians 2:8-9, JPH]** But we believe that **through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved**, even as they (Acts 15:9-11).

Problems with Judaism persisted for years in the Lord's church, necessitating the need for several inspired epistles to address this doctrinal matter, such as Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews. Several other epistles from Paul were at least partially devoted to refuting Judaism, including three of his four "prison epistles" (Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians). When Paul wrote to the Philippians and Colossians, he addressed Judaism in language similar to Ephesians 2 (Philippians 3:2-9; cf. Colossians 2:11-14). Compare what Paul wrote in Romans 3 with Ephesians 2:

For **all** have sinned [**whether Jews or Gentiles; see verse 9; Ephesians 2:2-3, JPH**], and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his **grace [Ephesians 2:8-9, JPH]** through the redemption

that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his **blood [Ephesians 2:13, JPH]**, to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins [Acts 2:38, a "work" of obedience—Acts 10:35, 48, JPH]** that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. **Where is boasting then? [Notice boasting in this context of grace and works of the Law of Moses; cf. Ephesians 2:8-ff; Romans 2:17-23; 11:18, JPH]. It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith [Works of the Law of Moses and faith are being contrasted here, as in Acts 15, Ephesians 2:8-ff, and Galatians 2:15-19, JPH].** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified **by faith without the deeds of the law [without the deeds (works) of the Law of Moses; cf. Ephesians 2:9, JPH].** Is he the God of the **Jews** only? is he not also of the **Gentiles**? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall **justify** the circumcision **by faith**, and uncircumcision **through faith [Ephesians 2:8-9, JPH]** (Romans 3:24-30, emphasis JPH).

The reader should see many parallels between Romans 3 and Ephesians 2. Even though Paul spent a lot of time refuting works of the Law of Moses when writing to the Romans, he also repeatedly emphasized the necessity of "obedience to the faith" to be "made free from sin" (Romans 1:5; 2:5-13; 6:3-5, 16-18; 10:16; 16:26, etc.).

Galatians 2 contains another passage similar to Ephesians 2 and Romans 3. The whole point of the epistle to the churches of Galatia was to show them that men are justified through obedient faith toward Christ, not through works of the Law of Moses (Galatians 5:3-6), and Paul used the same kind of language found in Acts 15, Romans 3, and Ephesians 2:8-ff. This is further evidence that Ephesians 2:8-9 was speaking against works of the Law of Moses, not works of faithful obedience to God's righteous commands under the New Covenant. Compare Paul's words to the Galatians with Ephesians 2:

We who are **Jews** by nature, and not sinners of the **Gentiles [Ephesians 2:11-ff, JPH]**, Knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law [Most often when Paul simply says "the law," it is the Law of Moses, JPH]**, but by **the faith of Jesus Christ [Ephesians 2:8-9, JPH]**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law [He is contrasting faith and works of the Law of Moses here, as in Acts 15, Ephesians 2, and Romans 3, JPH]: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.** But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For **if I build again the things which I destroyed [He is refuting those who wanted to "rebuild" the "wall" of Judaism, v11-ff; Ephesians 2:14-15, JPH]**, I make myself a transgressor. For **I through the law am dead to the law [of Moses, cf. Romans 6:14-18; 7:4-7, JPH]**, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the **grace** of God: for **if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain [This critical point is tied to all these related passages mentioned, including Ephesians 2:8-9, JPH]** (Galatians 2:15-21; cf. 3:2, 5, 10, 24-ff, emphasis JPH).

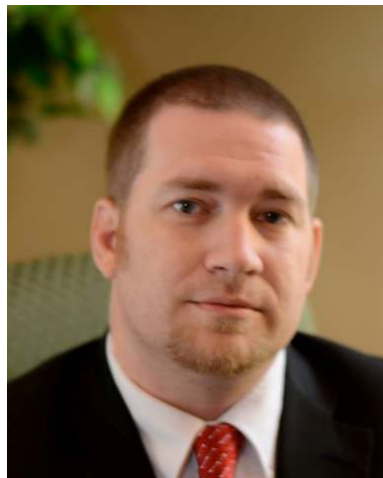
When studying the New Testament, one must remember that Judaism was the greatest obstacle to the spreading of the Gospel during most of the time the New Testament Scriptures were being written. When one considers the amount of inspired Text devoted to refuting Judaism, and how the Jews were constantly opposing and attacking Christians, it will help him have a greater understanding of the New Testament Scriptures. For example, when Paul uses the simple phrase "the law," he practically always means the Law of Moses (evidenced by the context); therefore, when he says men are not under "the law," he is not saying men are under no law today at all, as so many incorrectly conclude (cf. Romans 6:14-18; 7:4-7). Paul himself said that all men are "under the law to Christ" (I Corinthians 9:21; cf. Romans 3:27; Galatians 6:2; James 1:25; 2:12). Men must learn how to see the big picture of the New Testament and stop taking positions on passages that contradict other inspired passages. *To be continued...*

**The church of Christ at Nesbit
invites you to our
Fall Gospel Meeting!**

David Dixon
plans to preach the Gospel
October 9-12

We will have our normally scheduled service times on Sunday morning (9AM and 10AM), then have a lunch fellowship meal, and meet again Sunday night at 7:30.

Monday – Wednesday at 7:00PM



David Dixon currently works with the Wesconnett church of Christ in Jacksonville, FL. He is a 2011 graduate of MSOP, and he worked with us at Nesbit while he was in school. David has also received degrees from the University of South Alabama (2005) and Faulkner University (2000). He and his wife Rachel have 3 children—Micah (10); Sarah (4); and Asher (1).

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In Our Prayers

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK: **Jim Burton**—lumbar block on 9/29. **Flora Dugan**—home improving after double pneumonia. **Jamie Mercer**—fluid around heart; upcoming brain procedure for Parkinson's. **Carolyn Miller** (Nancy Pickett's sister-in-law)—Hospice care; not expected to live. **Ainslee Parker**—sick. **Nicole Stafford**—tests on Oct. 7; possibly Crohn's disease. **Janice Tipton**—cataract surgery recovery. **Bonnie Van Dyke**—sick recently.

Jean Butler—pain in knees; physical therapy. **Steve Dobson** (friend of Lisa England in KY)—cancer. **Bruce Dunaway**—improving after colon cancer surgery. **Tangie Elam** (Jeannette Gordon's sister-in-law)—cancer and needs hip replacement. **Josephine Gill**—physical therapy; dealing with pain. **Shelby Hollin** (Jane Cone's sister)—slightly improved; congestive heart failure and pneumonia; hospital in Savannah, TN. **Genella Holmes**—shoulder pain. **Lester Holmes**—kidney and back problems. **Michael Jernigan** (Mickey Anderson's friend)—health problems. **David A. Jones**—in pain after shoulder surgery. **Benita Kanins** (Michelle Hadaway's 90 yr. old grandmother)—not doing well. **Hallie Lester** (Trey Bledsoe's niece)—tests after seizure. **Belinda Mason** (David Stafford's mother)—rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia. **Joyce McCain** (friend of Beverly Dye)—liver cancer returned. **Raeleigh McCartha**—young toddler; cancer. **Sarah Helen Merritt** (Carrol Harris' sister-in-law)—recovering from broken hip. **Bobby Milo** (friend of Sandra Morris' sister)—cancer. **Sandra Morris**—may have more physical therapy. **Eric Nicks** (known by Larry Butler)—pneumonia; meningitis. **Carol Oglesby** (Carrol Harris' sister-in-law)—cancer treatments. **Lisa Parker**—about the same; bacterial infection in eye; may lose vision; vision problems in other eye also. **Beth Roberts** (friend of Bonnie Van Dyke)—in ICU in MO; possibly leukemia.

Also continue to remember...

Betty Anderson, Lucille Boling, Negial Brisco, Sue Brown, Serobia Chandler, Estie Ennis, Jeannette Gaines, Karie Hale, Martha Hopkins, Lori Howard, Elizabeth Johnson, Marjean Mercer, Elnora Moore, Sarah Morris, Patricia Pierce, Martha Pounders, Nell Shelly, Mary Telford, Rylie Tillman, Betty and Wiley Tuggle, Danella and Stephen Vaughn, Alyce Vincent, Janet Walker, Jean Webb.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bible Bowl practice and Pew Packers Sundays at 4:30 & 5:30
- Ladies Class on Tuesdays at 10AM
- Oct. 2.....Nesbit Youth Devo between AM and PM Worship
- Oct. 2.....Men's Meeting after PM Worship
- Oct. 2-5.....Gospel meeting at Hwy. 77 with Gary Colley, 7M-W
- Oct. 2-6.....Gospel meeting at Looxahoma with Mike Hixson, 7M-TH
- Oct. 7.....Area-Wide Singing at Southaven, 7-9PM
- Oct. 9.....Bible Bowl practice at 6PM b/c of Gospel meeting
- Oct. 9-12.....Gospel Meeting at Nesbit with David Dixon
- Oct. 14-15.....World Evangelism Seminar at MSOP (see flyer)
- Oct. 15.....Bible Bowl at Nesbit, 3PM, 1 Cor. 4-6
- Oct. 16-19.....Spiritual Sword Lectures at Getwell (see flyer)

Our Record

Wednesday Bible Class.....	76
Sunday Morning Bible Class.....	68
Sunday Morning Worship.....	75
Sunday Evening Worship.....	63
Contribution.....	\$2,565.00

Privileged to Serve on October 2nd

Announcements – Brandon Swanson
Scripture Reading – Hudson Byrd

The Lord's Table

Billy Byrd.....Ray Chamberlain
Brandon Swanson.....Hudson Byrd
Youth Assistant for PM this month—Braden Hilburn

Leading Prayer – A.M.

O – Trey Bledsoe.....C – Landon Chalmers

Leading Prayer – P.M.

O – Mitchell Arnold.....C – Cullen Moore

Those leading in worship are kindly asked to dress respectfully.

Hear the Gospel on TV, Radio, or the Internet!

Wednesdays

9:30 P.M. on WTWV 23.....Good News Today

Fridays - 11:00 A.M. on WTWV 23.....Good News Today

Sundays

6:00 A.M. on WGN.....In Search of the Lord's Way

6:30 A.M. on WTWV 23.....Good News Today

6:30 A.M. on Dish Network Ch. 267.....Good News Today

6:30 A.M. on DirecTV Ch. 376.....Good News Today

8:00 A.M. on AM Radio 560.....Gary Colley, The Truth in Love

8:30 A.M. on AM Radio 560.....Anchor of the Soul Radio Program

You can also go to www.gbntv.org for 24 / 7 teaching.

What Must We Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the Truth (John 6:45; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
3. Repent of sins (Acts 17:30).
4. Confess faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:37).
5. Be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:20-21).