

Gospel Meeting Austin TX - Lesson One - WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

Intro:

- A. The theme of this Gospel meeting is one of attitude - it is a personal examination of each individual Christian to make sure that our attitude is in harmony with God's Word.
 1. We all have been around people who have a bad attitude - it is an unpleasant thing.
 - a. Have you noticed how some people fold up and quit under hardship or disappointment while others seem to mellow and gain strength from the same ordeals?
 - (1) Job and His wife, for example suffered many losses in common, flock, herd, house, children.
 - (2) The wife said, "Curse God and Die!"
 - (3) Job, who suffered the even further bodily affliction, looked at the matter altogether differently. ---- "naked I came into this world and naked shall I return - blessed be the Name of God"
 - b. WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE???
 - (1) Attitudes of men play a very important part of the way we act, live, and worship in our daily lives.
 2. AS we were growing up - spankings were talked about as "attitude adjustments"
 - a. What we need to realize is that God's Word chastizes us - into the right attitude.
 - b. We need to be honest with ourselves - because we are not going to make it to heaven with a bad attitude.
- B. Our topic for study this evening is - What Is Your Attitude and the text is taken from - **Romans 12:1-21**
 1. By Definition Attitude is:
 - a. n 1: a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways;
 - b. position or arrangement of the body and its limbs;
 - c. A theatrical pose created for effect;
 - d. position of aircraft or spacecraft relative to a frame of reference (the horizon or direction of motion)
 2. "Posture: position assumed or studied to serve a purpose as, a threatening attitude. 2. Position or bearing as indicating an action, as a kindly attitude." Websters Coll. Dict.
 - a. Hence attitude is ---- "comparable to disposition, outlook or approach that one manifests to a subject or principle that confronts him."
- C. Attitudes of men are recognized by God and we ought to have a good attitude if we are to be accepted by Him.
 1. **I Kings 11:11**" So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates." (NIV)
 - a. Solomon's Attitude was one that was not acceptable to God:
 - b. Haughty ; Proud ; Disrespectful ; Disobedient etc.
 - c. See **Vrs. 9-10.**
 2. **Matt. 5:3-12** "The sermon on the Mount refers to the attitudes that children of the Kingdom of God have on a variety of subjects.
 - a. We could spend this entire meeting just looking at the attitudes here listed by Christ for the kingdom citizen.
- D. Attitudes of men are also recognized by other men: Sometimes we do not have to speak for our attitude to be noticed ---- sometimes our bodies betray us and others can see it clearly - mention the

rolling of eyes, the folded arms, the bored look ect.

1. **Gen. 31:2,5** " And Jacob saw the attitude of Laban and behold it was not friendly toward him as formerly: and said to them, I see your father's attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly, but the God of my Father has been with me." (NASV)
 2. **Daniel 3:19**" Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual." (NIV)
 3. **Philippians 2:5** "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:" (NIV)
 4. 1Peter 4:1"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin." (NIV)
- E. From our Text in Romans, we are going tonight to apply this definition in four different ways:
- a. Toward God? **(1,2)**
 - b. Toward Self? **(3-8)**
 - c. Toward Others? **(9-18)**
 - d. Toward Enemies? **(19-21)**
- F. We will investigate each of these in much deeper detail through out this weekend - but, this will be the springboard to set our minds and lives of the right attitude.

II. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD? Romans 12:1-2

- A. **Romans 12:1-2** (NKJV) ---- 1 I 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.
1. OUR attitude is a CHOSEN attitude
- B. We must present ourselves to God and live daily for Him
1. Note: that only Unblemished Sacrifices are Acceptable
- C. Our Living For God Is The ONLY Reasonable Course – (In relation to origin, design, purpose, & judgment)
1. We Are NOT To Allow The World To Form or Fashioned Our Thoughts & Behavior! (Values, morality, activities, dress, speech - etc.)
 2. Not To Be Amended Merely, But Entirely Renewed, (Μεταμορφωσθε) Metamorphosed, By Renewal of The Mind – (**Psa. 19:7; 119:97-104; Pro. 23:7; James 1:21-25**).
- a. **Psalm 19:7** (NKJV) ---- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
 - b. **Psalm 119:97-104** (NKJV) ---- 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
 - c. **Proverbs 23:7** (NKJV) ---- 7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.
 - d. **James 1:21-25** (NKJV) ---- 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he

observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

3. – i.e. To Test By Putting God’s Word Into Practical Application– Thereby Demonstrating Its Worth, Effectiveness & Completeness.

III. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF? - vrs 3-8

- A. **Romans 12:3-8** (NKJV) ---- 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. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- B. The Grace of God Instructs – (cf. **Titus 2:11-14**) & These Instructions Apply To All Christians – (3)
 1. **Titus 2:11-14** (NKJV) ---- 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- C. We Must Be Humble - Seeing Ourselves As God Sees Us - Using Our Talents Within His Guidelines - (3)
 1. We Must Have An Intellectual Humility – Accepting Our Role Within The Body – (4,5)
- D. We Must Use What We Have Been Given – Everyone’s Ability Is Needed - (6-8; Mat 25:14-30)
 1. **Matthew 25:14-30** (NKJV) ---- 14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer

darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

IV. **WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS? - vrs 9-16**

- A. **Romans 12:9-16** (NKJV) ---- 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
- B. **Vrs 9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good
1. Agape – Genuine good-will toward mankind — **James 2:15,16; Rom 2:7; Gal 6:9; 1 Pet 1:22**
 - a. **James 2:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,
 - (1) **James 2:16** (NKJV) ---- 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?
 - b. **Romans 2:7** (NKJV) ---- 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;
 - c. **Galatians 6:9** (NKJV) ---- 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
 - d. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) ---- 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
- C. **Vrs 10** Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
1. Philostorgos – cherishing one's kindred — **John 13:34,35; Gal 5:13; 1 Pet 1:22; 1 John 3:10-18**
 - a. **John 13:34** (NKJV) ---- 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
 - (1) **John 13:35** (NKJV) ---- 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - b. **Galatians 5:13** (NKJV) ---- 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
 - c. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) ---- 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
 - d. **1 John 3:10-18** (NKJV) ---- 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
- D. **Vrs 11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
1. Zeō – "to be hot, to boil" (akin to "zeal"), - **Acts 18:25; Heb 6:10,11; Titus 2:14**

- a. **Acts 18:25** (NKJV) ---- 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.
 - b. **Hebrews 6:10** (NKJV) ---- 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
 - (1) **Hebrews 6:11** (NKJV) ---- 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
 - c. **Titus 2:14** (NKJV) ---- 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- E. **Vrs 12** rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 1. How Faithful In Serving The Lord Will One Be Who Is NOT Joyful? Patient? Or Prayerful?
 - 1 Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-19**
 - a. **1 Peter 1:3-9** (NKJV) ---- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.
 - b. **1 Peter 4:12-19** (NKJV) ---- 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.
- F. **Vrs 13** distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- 1. Sharing with Christians in need - (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:32, 34-37**). - Lit. “pursuing friendliness to strangers” – (**Heb 13:2; 1 Pet 4:9**)
 - a. **Acts 2:44-45** (NKJV) ---- 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - b. **Acts 4:32** (NKJV) ---- 32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.
 - c. **Acts 4:34-37** (NKJV) ---- 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had

need. 36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- d. **Hebrews 13:2** (NKJV) ---- 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.
 - e. **1 Peter 4:9** (NKJV) ---- 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- G. **Vrs 14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
1. Like Jesus & Stephen (**Luke 23:34; Acts 7:59-60**)
 - a. **Luke 23:34** (NKJV) ---- 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.
 - b. **Acts 7:59-60** (NKJV) ---- 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
- H. **Vrs 15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
1. **1 Cor 12:26** (NKJV) 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- I. **Vrs 16** Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
1. Being in harmony with other Christians requires same Standard & humility - (**Rom. 12:3; 15:5; Phil. 2:2; 1 Peter 3:8**).
 - a. **Romans 12:3** (NKJV) ---- 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.
 - b. **Romans 15:5** (NKJV) ---- 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,
 - c. **Philippians 2:2** (NKJV) ---- 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
 - d. **1 Peter 3:8** (NKJV) ---- 8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

V. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENEMIES? Vrs 17-21

- A. **Romans 12:17-21** (NKJV) ---- 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- B. Christians Are NOT To Be Vengeful! Christians Are To Do GOOD! – **1 Thess. 5:15**
1. **1 Thessalonians 5:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
- C. Christ is our examples - **Hebrews 12:1-3**
1. **Hebrews 12:1-3** (NKJV) ---- 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. What is your attitude in these four areas of your life?
- B. Do we have the attitudes of the “Beatitudes”? - **Matthew 5:3-12**?
 - 1. **Matthew 5:3-12** (NKJV) ---- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- C. In our time together this weekend we are going to look at the proper attitudes we ought to have with regards to each one of these areas in greater detail.

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¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982