



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

July 18, 2021

Church Worship & Office Location

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Worship Service Times

Sunday 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Church Mailing Address:

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Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

July 28, 2021 6:30 p.m.

In Word – The Abolition

In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, we read a passage this week that explains how Jesus has brought the Gentiles salvation by creating a new hybrid entity of both Jew and Gentile, reconciling both groups to God through his sacrifice for their sins.

As Christians we miss the importance of his statement here, instead focusing on a statement in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, in order to reinforce our desire to hold on to certain rules we like, while declaring others as obsolete (ceremonial).

Let's look at Paul's statement in Ephesians (directed to a Gentile audience) first:

Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our

*peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility¹⁵ by **abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might **create in himself one new man in place of the two**, so making peace,¹⁶ and might **reconcile us both to God in one body** through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. — Ephesians 2:11–16 (ESV)*

The Hebrews were set apart from the rest of the world by God, so that the rest of the world would see that he alone was the supernatural being who controls all things. Their special diet, clothing, grooming, and behavior all contrasted with the rest of the world's. No other group had the sort of relationship with God that the Hebrews had. But they began to misinterpret that relationship. God didn't choose the Hebrews because they were special; they were special only because God chose them. Their purpose was to draw the rest of the world to God, as a lighthouse draws a ship away from destruction and toward safe harbor.

God brought salvation to the Gentiles through Jesus. He brought it to the Hebrews through Jesus as well, since the Law was meant to display what humanity was doing wrong, not to show how they could earn their way into Heaven.

According to Paul, Jesus abolished the law of the commandments expressed in ordinances (the Greek word for ordinance is *dogma*). But in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus seems to say the opposite.

*“Do not think that I have come to **abolish the Law** or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. — Matthew 5:17–18 (ESV)*

Jewish teachers in biblical times taught that one “abolished” the law by disobeying it in a high-handed manner, rejecting its authority. Jesus came to fulfill the law by being the only person ever to obey it fully. The law became, through Jesus' fulfillment by obedience, a foundation upon which his new covenant would grow. In a sense, when Jesus finished all that he planned to accomplish, the law was then destroyed.

The *Bible Exposition Commentary* provides an image that should help. Suppose you have an acorn. You can “destroy” it in two ways: You can put it on a rock and crush it with a hammer or you can plant it in the ground and “*let it fulfill itself*” by growing into an oak tree.

As Paul describes in his next phrase, Jesus abolished the law *that he might **create in himself one new man in place of the two**, so making peace (with God)*. Jesus through his righteous life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection made something new. Not just a

mixture of a second group with the first, which is really only combining two separate things (like oil and vinegar, which becomes salad dressing when shaken, but returns to its separate substances when settled), but rather a permanent change for each. Think about hydrogen and oxygen. Both are gases that can be combined under pressure and used as fuel when ignited. When the pressure is removed, the gases will separate again. However, if the hydrogen and oxygen are exposed to a spark (fire or electrical) their atomic structure changes in the explosion and water is formed (the Hindenburg explosion made a big fire and a lot of water). It is no longer individual atoms of hydrogen and water but has become inseparable molecules of water (H₂O).

The Old Covenant, and laws therein, provided the basis by which Jesus could fulfill his mission on earth. Like that acorn mentioned earlier, it was necessary for the mighty oak tree to form but does not still exist.

We know that Jesus accomplished everything he intended because he said so. In John's description of Jesus' last moments on the cross, we witness it.

*When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. —
John 19:30*

Something is finished only when it has been fully accomplished. Jesus didn't say, "I'm almost done" or "just a little more to left to do." He said, "It is finished."

So why do we still reach back into the Old Testament (Covenant) for certain rules, while seeming to arbitrarily ignore others? Perhaps it's because we like backing up our own authority with an admonition from God.

It's a more powerful incentive for childhood obedience if parents can say, "See? It's not just my rule. **God** says you have to obey me." And a lot of those Leviticus and Deuteronomy rules work well for creating orderly communities (do not murder, steal, or lie, etc.).

But in creating this new entity, Jesus has given us an internal guidance system, a moral compass that tells us if a behavior is sinful without us even knowing what the law was. And it's a more sensitive guide than the old law was. Lust and anger register with our conscience, where as, they were not written into the commandments.

So, Paul's statement to the church in Ephesus and Jesus' statement at the start of his ministry on the Mount of Olives don't contradict each other after all. They align perfectly once we understand how Jesus fulfilled the law, once and for all.

He has indeed made all things new.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin





Arizona Anglican Men's Retreat

This year's retreat will be at Emmanuel Pine Retreat Center in Prescott, Sept 10-12. The anticipated cost will be \$95 for the weekend and a few scholarships for people with hardships will be available. The retreat begins at 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 10 and continues until about noon Sunday. For more information, please contact Jeff Bisgrove (jeffmbisgrove@me.com, 602-653-9996) or Teke Sankey (Tekes2@hotmail.com, 303-884-3651).



Season after Pentecost Sunday's Lessons

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6;
Psalm 23
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22
Gospel Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



Lord, we ask you to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in sickness, or any other adversity. Open the hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for Diane Manning, Dale, Corney, Scotty Haskell, Julie Corral, Bill and Judy Fletcher, Zachary Kircher, Ben Berkshire, Kenneth Holbert, Katy Mize, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Denise, Connie, Sue, Bishop Keith, Abbie Bundy, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, Dcn. Linda, Lorraine Chavez, Steve Chacon, Merle Shyne, Laura, Darlene O., Maddy, Lauren, Steven, Elena, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, Niki, Roni, Bob, Carol, and Kathy Watson.

To submit or update prayer requests for this newsletter, please contact the church office at 928-343-9551, or ctryuma@gmail.com

CTR Prayer Project

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews in the Bible does not identify himself, and some scholars believe that possibly it has more than one author. In my early teaching days, I thought it was Paul who wrote it, because he had a deep and profound understanding of Old Testament covenants, prophecies, and sacrifices. But the author also has a good grasp of the new covenant, as well, encouraging us to believe that Christ is better than the angels, the prophets, the high priests who preceded Him, and so many of the Old Testament pillars of faith. The epistle was written to the First Century Jewish Christians, who were being



Please note:
All items for the newsletter need to be in the office by Wednesday at 9 a.m.
Thank you.



Remember our Prayer And Praise Service, this Wednesday, July 21, at 5:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Alan and Jennifer Kircher will present: "The Miracle That Is Zack."



persecuted by their countrymen and who were tempted to return to the Jewish faith to escape their suffering. If anyone had told me when I was a teenager or even a young adult that Christians would be persecuted in my lifetime, I would have told them they were nuts. I grew up in a time when most of my friends and neighbors were Christians, and even if many of them worshiped in denominations different from my own, we still had much in common. In fact, during my high school years, I attended youth group meetings and worship services with my friends, and their services were not much different than what I experienced in my home church. Yet here we are today, being criticized, censored, and mocked. Today, Christians are being called racist, homophobic, hate mongers, and much more. Some still believe in Christ but are not attending worship services or actively involving themselves in a church community because they don't want to incur the criticism or belittling from their co-workers or friends. The Book of Hebrews aims at drawing us closer to Christ, reminding us that He is superior in every way to the old covenant, and that if we persevere to the end, we will reap the benefits of faithful believers who have gone before us. When we read the Book of Hebrews, we are reminded that Christ is God's Son, that God has made Him higher than the angels, that the Father has placed His Son on the eternal throne, and that the very same Son who made the heavens and the earth is the Son who has defeated the enemy, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, and who will lead us through times of persecution to maturity and victory. When we listen to the Son, we are listening to the Father, as well. When we worship the Son, we are worshiping the Father, as well. And when we believe in the Son, we are believing in the Father, as well. The same God who brought victory to the Israelites long ago is the same God who will bring us victory in America today. Just as the prophecies of old foretold God's plans for the future, we can read and glean encouragement from prophecies today. We just have to be willing to wait for fulfillment in order to verify they are truly from Christ.

Praying in One Accord-When we pray in accord with God's Word, we are able to persevere and find victory in the midst of persecution.

Accord Prayer-Lord Christ, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Your words to believers are as comforting today as they were centuries ago. Help us find solace and healing from the hurtful words of others by reading Your Word and persevering in our faith. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Loving Father, thank You for leaving us with the words of Christians long ago, who not only believed You and Your Son, but lived their lives in sacrifice and service to You. Amen.

Mark Your CALENDAR

Sunday, July 18

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, July 19

6:30 a.m. Bible Study (Acts)

6:30 p.m. Grief Share – CtR Library

Wednesday July 21

5:30 Prayer Praise and Worship

2 p.m. Bible Study (James)

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, July 25

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Jewish and Gentile Believers United in Christ (Eph 2:11–22)

M A D E M P T K B J E S U S U
 W H A V I N G R O U S T N R J
 N C J L A H M H O P E A C E T
 B C I T I Z E N S H I P I M O
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ALIENATED	APART	AWAY
BECOME	BLOOD	BOTH
BROKE	BUILT	CHRIST
CIRCUMCISION	CITIZENSHIP	COVENANTS
ENMITY	FLESH	FORMERLY
GENTILES	HANDS	HAVING
HOPE	ISRAEL	JESUS
MADE	ONCE	PEACE
PROMISE	REMEMBER	SO-CALLED
SPIRIT	STRANGERS	THEREFORE
TIME	TOGETHER	UNCIRCUMCISION