

Genesis part 5- R.U.L.E.S. regarding Sin -Genesis 50:15-21

Intro – This is the last message in our brief survey of Genesis....we are going to end with a survey of sin. Sin is breaking God's rules (omit or commit). The events in Genesis happened before any written rules yet, in this foundational book, we can learn much about the subject of sin. We know it but we love it, God sees it and condemns it..... but He even uses it for His own good purposes. Today we are going to use the acrostic R.U.L.E.S. for some important lessons on the subject of sin.

R - RESTRAINED

1. Sin is universal in our existence but it restrained. Sin reigns in world but it is restrained in world
 - a. Gen. 20 Abraham says his wife Sara is his sister so she is taken into Abimelek's harem. This is right after God promised them a son by the next year (? who's the daddy issue?)
 - b. Gen. 20:3 God tells Abimelek that he is toast. Abimelek pleads innocence in intent
 - c. Gen. 20:6-7 God kept Abimelek from sin Wickedness was withheld
2. Restraining grace is an often overlooked grace of God
 - a. We/things are not as bad as we could be or would (want) be..... without Gods bridle
 - b. Gods bridle makes things less bad & more bearable...thank God for His restraining grace!
3. God will eventually "give people/society over to sin" (Rom 1:24,26,28)
 - a. The punishment for sin is often more sin.
 - i. When God no longer restrains depravity runs rampant
 - b. The Man of Sin is being restrained now but one day no holding back (2 Thess. 2:6-7)

U – UNDERSTOOD AND UNCHANGING

- Sin is understood (mankind not ignorant). God has an unchanging attitude toward sin
 - Gods view of sin is unalterable and humanities awareness of sin is undeniable
- Genesis is before the 10 commandments but knowledge of good and evil prevailed. TREE
 - Upset over murder immodesty and decency, respect for parents
 - Sinners hid (Garden) and don't want to be judged (Sodomites to Lot)
 - Pharaoh and Abimelek were mad over being lied to and almost violating a marriage
 - Esau mad over being deceived. Laban over being stolen from. Jacob mad over cheated
 - Josephs brothers hated, envied and sold brother into slavery - felt guilty years later
- All mankind knows - even before the 10 Commandment there was the conscience
 - We all have access to God's rules in one form or another. Rom. 2:12-15
 - The conscience, though marred by sin, is still aware of sin
- God has an unchanging attitude toward sin
 - He condemns it and judges it the way He always has. 10 commandments not suggestions
 - Mankind is uneven/hypocritical in their judgments of what is deemed wrong- condemn some and celebrate others for same wrong. God is just. No respecter of persons

L – LONG SUFFERING

1. God does not budge on sin, and will judge sin but He is very patient with sin/sinner.
 - a. He doesn't have to be, is not required to be, but He is very patient
 - b. Day you eat you will die.. did die spiritually but 930 yrs until physical death
 - c. Going to judge world. 100 yrs of building ark. 100 yr warning/lead up/patience
 - d. Gen. 15:13-16 - sin of the Amorites not yet full. God's judgment of inhabitants of land is often questioned/attackedbut God gave them 400-500 yrs. to repent!
2. God is longsuffering toward sin and sinners
 - a. All sin is primarily against God Ps. 51:4. He is the offended party for every sin- Gen. 20:6
 - b. God's patience and longsuffering leaves room for salvation 2 Peter 3:15
 - c. Aren't you glad God is patient and longsuffering with sinners (you/me)? Exodus 34:6-7

E- ENTREATY

- Because God is longsuffering He listens to entreaties for mercy.
 - Account of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Genesis 13:13 Gen. 18:20-21 Gen. 19:5 Gen. 19:11 (unrestrained sin)
 - Abraham pleads/intercedes and makes an entreaty for Sodom
 - He tries to strike a bargain with God - 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10
 - God listened and agreed. "for the sake of 10 I will not destroy it" Gen. 18:32
 - Would God have gone to 1? Jer. 5:1 Rom. 5:19 (that is the gospel!)
- The church should intercede for sinners - God will listen
 - Are we like Abraham and make entreaty for an evil society?

S – SOVEREIGNTY

1. Sin did not ruin God's plan...it was part of God's plan.
 - a. God is not the author of sin but He uses sin to bring about an ultimate good
 - b. If God is not in control of "sin things" then He isn't in control of anything (sinful world)
2. Account of Joseph.
 - a. Father favored him. Brothers hated him. Special coat. Brothers envied him, sold him, falsely accused of rape, forgotten in prison....a lot of sin against Joseph and God
3. Gen. 50:20 "you meant evil against me but God meant it for good" NKJV
 - a. God used the sin and evil of men as the means to bring about good to men
 - b. Men are responsible for their sin & God is not conquered by sin but uses sin for good
 - i. Rom. 8:28 sin/evil are not good but God is sovereign over sin for good
4. The most evil event in history was planned by God
 - a. The murder of the only innocent human being...the Son of the Living God
 - b. The betrayal, lies, kangaroo court, hatred, envy, murder - (all evil and responsible for)
 - c. God planned and used the evil of mankind to bring about the salvation of mankind

RULES - Restrains Understood/Unchanging Longsuffering Entreaty Sovereignty