

ACTS - Church On Mission
Part 62 - Grace VS. Karma

Acts 28:1-10- "After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire & welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain & was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks & put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat & fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire & suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time & saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds & said that he was a god. Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us & entertained us hospitably for three days. It happened that the father of Publius lay sick w/ fever & dysentery. And Paul visited him & prayed, & putting his hands on him healed him. And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came & were cured. They also honored us greatly, & when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed."

1. Karma Leads To Superstition; The Gospel Leads To Confidence

2. Karma Lives In Assumptions; The Gospel Lives In Reality

- 2 Corinthians 10:12- "Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves w/ some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another & compare themselves w/ one another, they are w/out understanding."
- Acts 17:30-31- "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; & of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

- Job 40:1-9- “And the Lord said to Job: "Shall a faultfinder contend w/ the Almighty? He who argues w/ God, let him answer it." Then Job answered the Lord & said: "Behold, I am of small
- Deuteronomy 32:4- “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness & w/out iniquity, just & upright is he.”
- Genesis 18:25- “Far be it from you to do such a thing...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”
- Psalms 19:8- “the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure,
- Psalms 33:5- “He loves righteousness & justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.”
- Psalms 50:6- “The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah
- Isaiah 45:19- “I the Lord speak truth; I declare what’s right.”

3. Karma Cripples; The Gospel Enables Us Past Our Weaknesses

- Matthew 5:38-39- ““You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye & a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”
- Now that is easy to say & it sounds nice...but to fulfill it...
- Colossians 2:13-15 – “And you, who were dead in your trespasses & the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us w/ its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

4. Karma Is Fueled By Fear; The Gospel Is Fueled By Faith

- Revelation 19:11- “Then I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war”

5. Karma Hopes In Reincarnation; The Gospel Hopes In Rebirth

- Romans 6:1-4- “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore w/ him by baptism into death, in order that, just