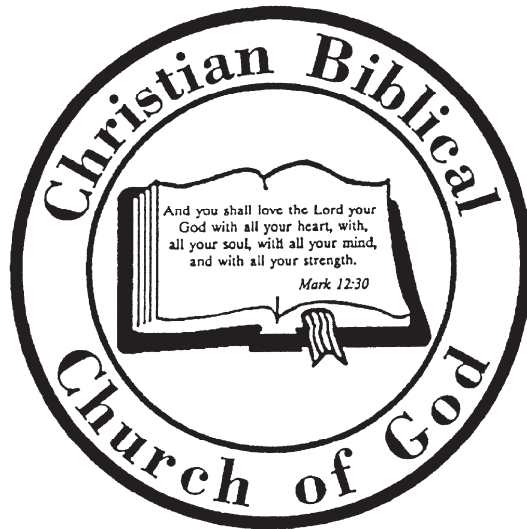


Did Paul Bring A Better Gospel than Jesus?



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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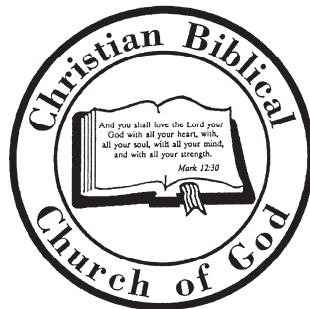
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Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus?

Series of 4 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

- ☐ Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus? I Date completed _____
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- ☐ Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus? III Date completed _____
- ☐ Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus? IV Date completed _____

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Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus?

Foreword

This booklet is composed of transcripts from four sermons that were given by a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty-years, Mr. Fred R. Coulter. Mr. Coulter has completed a thorough in-depth study of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Gospel preached by the Apostle Paul. The reader, upon completing these four transcripts will have an in-depth knowledge of the Gospel as revealed in the pages of the Bible.

The first sermon transcript, “Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel than Jesus? I,” details how the Protestants create their own form of the Gospel and thereby deny the true Gospel that was preached by Jesus Christ and His apostles. Other points covered are:

- The Jews separating themselves from keeping company with Gentiles is not taught by the Bible.
- The most effective way to get people disconnected from the true reality of the Bible is to involve them in a nicey-nicey lawless religion which ends with God cursing them for their disobedience.
- Protestants refuse to accept that with God there is law and obedience as part of His grace. Protestants are hostile to the teaching that God requires law and obedience.
- The Jews added many traditions that they created and that the Jewish society practices. However, these traditions are not part of God’s Laws, and too often are against the laws of God.
- True doctrine divides the people of God from the world and Satan and true doctrine keeps the people of God with God.
- People in the world are not taught to think in a systematic way. Rather they are taught to view things through emotions.
- A Christian must have a personal relationship with God the Father and with Jesus Christ so that they do what is pleasing to God. They must not be doing what those in Satan’s world do.
- Being strong in the faith and strong in the Truth of God is not the same as being stubborn and holding to your own ideas.
- The writings of the Apostle Paul are not the writings of a man who followed his own ideas. His writings are full of references to the Father and the Son.

The second transcript, “Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? II,” is a continuation of the first transcript. But this transcript teaches more about the Apostle Paul and his teachings. Other points covered are:

- People who claim that they are apostles of Jesus Christ, and who have not been taught by Christ, are not apostles appointed by Jesus Christ. These men appointed themselves.

- Paul did not receive a better or superior gospel than Jesus taught. Paul repeatedly mentions Jesus Christ in his writings.
- The way of Cain is the bringing of an offering to God according to one's own devising and not after the commandment of God. A person adding to the Word of God or subtracting from the Word of God is in the way of Cain.

The third transcript, "Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? III," focuses upon the conditions regarding God's blessings and how not fulfilling the conditions cause curses to come upon one. It is noted how much GOD uses the word 'IF' in His dealings with mankind. Other points covered are:

- Deceivers in their promotion of lies use parts of the Bible that agree with them. They never use all the Bible.
- People naturally want to be politically correct with the society they live in—even if what they do is not acceptable to God.
- May rely upon Strong's Concordance in proving doctrine. It is very good in nouns and adjectives, but it is worthless when it comes to verbs. When looking up a word you only come up with the root word—not shown is the person, tense, or condition.
- False ministers teach things that people accept, that their superiors accept, and they simply do not regard the preaching of things that God expects to be preached as important.

The fourth transcript, "Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? IV" does a review of the important items covered in the previous transcripts. Other points covered are:

- False spirits come along with false prophets.
- Demons believe that there is a God, but they are in fear, because they will not obey God.
- To be acceptable to God you need an on-going continuous belief in Him.
- Choices are before one all the time. Everything that you do is a decision. Everything that you think of is a choice. Everything that you allow into your mind is a choice.
- If a person is a true minister, true elder, or a true teacher they never tell God what to do. They not only know this, but they understand this.
- A person of God should always claim the promises of God.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie and Prentice Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? I

Fred R. Coulter

How is it that nominal Christianity in the world accepts that the only thing—and this is becoming the predominate Protestant message—is ‘by grace you are saved’ and Paul brought ‘a superior gospel’? *A special revelation to him!* How was the groundwork set up for that for people to believe it? *It was set up, first of all, on the Jewish side* by Judaism claiming that everyone from Adam, including Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the twelve tribes of Israel, were Jews. In other words, any religious practice in the Old Testament was Jewish. Therefore, when Christ came with the New Covenant ‘We don’t have to keep any of the commandments from the Old Testament.’ The question you really need to ask people like this is:

- Do you believe that we live in a society in the United States of America that is supposed to be run by the rule of law? *Yes!*
- Do you believe people should obey the law? *Yes!*
- What does obeying the law bring to the community? the nation? the city? wherever you’re living? *It brings peace and lack of crime!*
- Why would you insist that Jesus was only a minister to the circumcision?
- Therefore, not only do we have to avoid the Old Testament because it’s either been fulfilled or it’s under the Old Covenant, and we don’t have to have anything to do with it at all?

What you’re really suggesting is, in a comparable thing in the world, is that we don’t need any laws in the city. So, you have complete lawlessness and you break down into a lawless society, as exemplified today.

When Protestants come along, and they have not only done away with the Old Testament, now they have done away with the Gospels: ‘We don’t have to because what Jesus taught was only for the Jews.’ Now they’ve done away with the General Epistles because they were written by Jewish apostles, and ‘Paul was given a special revelation and he has a superior gospel.’ This is how Protestantism is being taken down and destroyed.

We can read some things in the Old Testament and New Testament, but let’s look at couple of Scriptures that they use. As I asked Deborah when I was on a radio program, ‘Where did you get this kind of thing?’ She says, ‘From the Bible.’ I said, ‘You’re going through a ‘well worn’ path while you’re neglecting most of the Scriptures. What you’re doing is, you’re creating *your own form* of the Gospel.’

One of the greatest errors that is done is that people do not read in context. What they do is pick out a verse that they like, and because they have been so programmed by such irresponsible preachers on Sunday that they say, ‘My text for today is...’ They read one Scripture! Then they give whatever their sermon will be on based on that Scripture. When it’s all over and done, it’s not really based on that Scripture. It’s what they want to preach in the first place.

What I might suggest is that you review the Fourteen Rules for Bible Study, Appendix A, found in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*. One of the Fourteen Rules of Bible Study is *understand the context*.

Romans 15:1: “Now, we who *are* strong in the faith are obligated to support the ones who are weak, and not to please ourselves.... [the teachings of Jesus] ...Accordingly, let each one of us please his neighbor for good, unto edification; for even Christ did not please Himself...” (vs 1-3). We’re talking about Christ, here. Did Paul have a different gospel?

“...rather, as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who are reproaching You have fallen upon Me.’ For all the things that were written before were written for our instruction...” (vs 3-4). That quote is taken from the Old Testament (Psa. 69).

- Why would we want to have that Scripture if the Old Testament is all fulfilled and we don’t need it?

‘Oh, but Christ fulfilled it.’

- Did He stop fulfilling it?

or:

- Is it continuously being fulfilled?

“...so that through patient endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures...” (v 4). What were the Scriptures at the time when Paul was writing? *The Old Testament!* Of course, it did include those that were already counted as Scriptures from the New Testament.

“...we might have hope. Now may the God of patience and encouragement grant you to be likeminded toward one another according to Christ Jesus” (vs 4-5),

- How are you going to know what Christ Jesus taught unless you read the Gospels?

If the Gospels were only for the Jews and Paul mitigated all the teachings of the Gospels by his new revelation and gospel:

- Why would he write “...according to Christ Jesus?”

Verse 6: “So that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, according as Christ has also received us, to *the* glory of God” (vs 6-7). How are you going to know how Christ received us unless you study the Gospels?

Verse 8: “Now I tell *you*...” Here is the Scripture that they use to do away with the Gospels, because ‘everything that was taught in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John was only for the Jews.’

“...*that* Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for *the* Truth of God, so that He might confirm the promises *given* to the fathers” (v 8). ‘There! Only to the circumcision, you got it right there in Scriptures.’

Verse 9: “And *that* the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, exactly as it is written... [Where? *In the Old Testament!*] ...‘For this cause I will confess You among *the* Gentiles, and I will praise Your name.... [Psa. 18:49] ...And again it says, ‘Rejoice, *all* you Gentiles, **with** His people’... [including] ...And again, ‘Praise the Lord, *all* you Gentiles; and praise Him, *all* you peoples.’ And again, Isaiah says, ‘There shall be a root of Jesse, and He that arises shall rule *the* Gentiles: in Him shall *all the* Gentiles hope.’” (vs 9-12).

That is only a beginning fulfillment with the conversion of the Jews into the Church during this time, but that will not be fulfilled until the completion of everything, including the Millennium and the second resurrection.

When all else fails, ***read the context*** and you will also understand where they get off base. Here’s the ‘the ‘*progressive revelation*’ that Paul had the ‘finality of the gospel, and the *finality of the gospel* that we find in the book of Galatians is the doing away of the Law.’

I want you to read in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix R: What Is Meant by “the Works of the Law”?

When you go to the book of Galatians, ***Gal. 2 had absolutely nothing to do with a Law of God!*** It had to do with the laws of justification by *Judaism*, that you separate from keeping company with Gentiles. That was never in the Bible—the Old Testament or New Testament—anywhere.

Eph. 3 is where they get the doctrine that Paul had a ‘progressive revelation’ and that now the only thing that we need to do is live by the Scriptures that talk about *the grace of God*. ‘Once you’re under the grace of God, you don’t need law,’ say preachers of lawlessness.

Deborah (on the radio program) accused me of saying that I believe in teaching salvation by works, rather than by grace. ***No! That’s not true!*** If you don’t understand about it, we have a whole series on grace (***truthofgod.org***):

- Grace of God
- Grace Upon Grace
- God’s Grace and Commandment-Keeping

I’ll read in just a little bit, what we have here under Appendix M: Beliefs and Doctrines of the New Testament Church, found in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*. As you understand how the Bible is laid out, in addition to the original order and the seven divisions and all of the things that that brings to light, I also have in the in the Commentaries and in the Appendices all the things necessary to combat all of this Protestant nonsense that is taking Christianity down.

I just might say that not only are those the subversive agents of Satan that are doing it, but I also think that if you carefully read Appendix N: Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants. You will see that Cardinal Gibbons said to the Protestants, ‘Because you don’t keep the Sabbath and you follow the Catholic edict of Sunday that the Roman Catholic Church will rise in all of it’s arrogance against you in a time and way that you least suspect.’

- Could it be that some of these doctrines emanate from the subversion being constantly carried out by the Catholics against the Protestants?
- Why would you think of that?
- Why would I not?
- Why should you not?
- What is the doctrine of Baalim? *Get people to sin by doing things that appear to be good!*

The best way to get to get people disconnected from anything to do with the true reality of the Bible is to let them have their glorious ‘lovey-lovey, gracie-gracie, nicey-nicey’ *lawless religion*, and God will have to curse them.

- Has there been subversion in the past? *Yes!*
- Didn’t Peter say that false teachers will come in ‘stealthily and bring damnable heresies’? *Yes, indeed!*

Ephesians 3:1: “For this cause I, Paul, *am* the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles, if indeed you have heard of the ministry of the grace of God that was given to me for you” (vs 1-2).

A special revelation from God to Paul because Paul was taught by Christ in the Arabian mountain regions of the wilderness. However, please

understand that the whole climate and ecosystem at that time, was entirely different than today. So, it's not out in the middle of the sand. It was probably in a mountainous region that had grass and things like that. Paul was taught for three years directly by Christ. 'He got this *special* teaching.'

- Who were the 12 apostles taught by? *Jesus Christ!*
- What does it say about Jesus in Heb. 13? *He's the same yesterday, today and forever!*
- How is it that Christ taught one gospel to the Jews, and gave Paul another gospel for the Gentiles?

I also have in Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? I have these appendices for these very specific reasons of these kinds of nonsense that come around.

Verse 3: "How He made known to me by revelation the mystery... [a special revelation] ... (even as I wrote briefly before... [that sounds very credible] ... so that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ)" (vs 3-4)—a new dispensation?

By the way, Scofield was the one who came out with dispensations. He was really a Catholic plant. Most people don't know that. If you have a Scofield Bible, be very careful of the interpretations that are there.

Verse 5: "Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to **His Holy apostles and prophets...**" The whole Church—Jewish and Gentile—had this revelation. It wasn't only to Paul.

"...by the Spirit; that the Gentiles might be **joint heirs**, and a joint body, and joint partakers of His promise in Christ through the Gospel" (vs 5-6). What does *joint heirs* mean? *A joint body, and joint partakers of His promise in Christ through the Gospel!* The Gentiles joined with whom? When all else fails, **read the context before and after** and also during.

Ephesians 2:11: "Therefore, remember that you were once Gentiles in *the* flesh, who are called uncircumcision by those who are called circumcision in *the* flesh made by hands; *and* that you were without Christ at that time, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the **covenants of promise...**" (vs 11-12). Not just the New Covenant, because the New Covenant is based upon the covenant given to Abraham.

"...having no hope, and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus... [not by Paul's revelation] ... you who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace,

Who has made both one... [Who? *Jews and Gentiles!*] ... and has broken down the middle wall of partition, having annulled in His flesh the enmity, the law of commandments **contained in the decrees of men...**" (vs 12-15). That is the correct translation.

Those Protestants, what we might say 'la-la land Protestants' who believe in endless grace with no law and obedience, they read this as saying that Jesus did away with the commandments of God. That's not what the Greek says.

- What did Jesus say about the decrees and traditions of men? *Read Mark 7 and Matthew 15!*
- What did He tell the Jews? *That, 'full well you reject the commandments of God so that you can keep your own traditions' or they make null the commandments of God so that they can enforce their own ways!*

This is what Christ broke down!

I will tell you again: If you have not read *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman E. Goldin you do not have a clue in understanding what Orthodox Judaism is. They claim that today, Orthodox Judaism is the same as Pharisaism during the days of Christ. If you've never read it, you do not understand the problems concerning law from the prospective of Judaism.

They had this during Jesus' day, too: *If you keep the Law you are justified.* They don't even understand what that means. There were laws for justification to make them justified to the temple on earth, then *the Jews added many traditions* so that they would be justified without going to the temple by keeping this law, that law, or the other law. This has nothing to do with nullifying the commandments of God.

"...so that in Himself He might create both into one new man, making peace" (v 15). That's why Paul says *joint heirs, joint body, joint partakers.*

Verse 16: "And *that* He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. Now when He came, He preached the Gospel—..." (vs 16-17). Jesus preached the Gospel to the Jews? **No!**

"...He preached the Gospel—peace to you who *were* far off and to those who *were* near. For through Him we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but *you are* fellow citizens with the saints, and *are* of the household of God. You are being built up on the foundation of..." (vs 17-20)—Paul's new revelation. **NO!** It says:

Verse 20: **"You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone in**

Whom all the building, being conjointly fitted together, is increasing into a Holy temple in *the* Lord; in Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in *the* Spirit” (vs 20-22). What do we see all the way through here?

- we see references to the Gospel that Jesus taught
- we see references to the Old Testament
- we see references to the problem with the Jews and their laws
- we see that the revelation concerning the sonship of the children of God—to become the very sons and daughters of God—was revealed not just to Paul, but to the Holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit

Let’s look at some of the Jewish apostles’ writings. You can say that John was a Jewish apostle. He was even more than that. He also had Aaronic blood and we have commentary on that in front of Bible. He was the one who done the final canonization of the New Testament. {Chapter 10: John’s Final Canonization of the New Testament} *If* there was a greater revelation given to all the apostles that we didn’t need anything concerning the preachings of Jesus to the Jews, he would have excluded them, don’t you think? 1-John 3 shows that all the apostles got it. We know that John did.

1-John 3:1: “Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God...” (vs 1-2)—not yet born into the Kingdom of God. Just like the new infant in the womb is a child, we have to grow and develop, and our second birth is going to be at the resurrection.

“...and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is” (v 2).

- Is that not the advanced revelation of becoming the son or daughter of God that Paul wrote of?
- Does this not verify that God revealed it to all the apostles and not just the Apostle Paul alone?

This kind of theology falls flat on its face.

2-Peter 1:1: “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours...” He was undoubtedly writing to Gentiles and he’s saying that they “...obtained *the* same precious faith as ours...” Who does ‘ours’ include? *The apostles and the Jews they preached to originally!* It would have to be.

“...by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him [Christ] Who called us by *His* own glory and virtue” (vs 1-3). How are you going to know what He taught unless you read the Gospels and realize that they apply to your life?

Verse 4: “Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, that through these you may become partakers of *the* **Divine nature**... [that has to do with the finality of it at the resurrection] ...having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust.” Then Peter goes on and gives a step-by-step way to grow and build the character of God.

Let’s take a look at other things that are very important. Did Paul advocate the use of the Old Testament? *Of course*, but let’s read it so that we know and understand what’s going on here.

2-Timothy 3:9: “But they...” Those false teachers of Jannes and Jambres, those who withstood Moses. By saying that in v 8, he’s upholding what Moses did.

“...will proceed no further, because their folly will become clearly evident to everyone, just as theirs also was. But you... [Timothy a minister of God] ...have closely followed my doctrine...” (vs 9-10). So, there it is. ‘It’s Paul’s teaching!’ *No*, we’ll see where he got his teaching.

“...conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions *and* sufferings—such as happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, *and* in Lystra. *You know* what sort of persecutions I endured; and the Lord delivered me out of them all. And indeed, everyone who desires to live Godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted. But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, deceiving *others* and being deceived *themselves*” (vs 10-13).

That’s exactly what has happened to Protestantism, because the leaven of Sunday-keeping sowed their destruction as well described by Cardinal Gibbon in Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants. Now they’re deceived to the point that all we have to do is follow Paul’s writings—not necessarily all of them—but all that have to do with grace and loving God and having salvation. We don’t have to keep any commandments.

When I asked Deborah concerning the Sabbath and I told her that ‘the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.’ She says, ‘Well, every day is Holy.’ I forgot to ask her: When do you work? Every day is not Holy. That would be mass confusion, which is what they are in. One day

is Holy, *designated by God*, the seventh-day Sabbath.

Verse 14: “But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*; and that from a child...” (vs 14-15). That’s before Paul came on the scene. Remember, Timothy’s mother was a Jew.

“...you have known the Holy Writings... [the Old Testament] ...which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus” (v 15).

You can come to understand salvation from the Scriptures in the Old Testament, in particularly the Psalms, “...**through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.**” That means you must have the teachings of Jesus. How can you know what the faith is that Jesus taught unless you follow the teachings of Jesus? You can’t get salvation out of the Old Testament without Jesus. That’s what the Jews fail to understand.

Today there’s such a wide variety of things that Jews believe in, even in spite of the fact that they like to try and make everyone believe that every Jew believes everything the same. They don’t! There are:

- ultra-Orthodox
- Orthodox
- conservative
- liberal
- secular
- atheist
- Messianic Jews, Sunday-keeping
- Messianic Jews, Sabbath-keeping

All of those are just talking about the major things that we know that the Jews have. The Jews are not monolithic in their belief. They are not monolithic in anything except that they claim to be Jews.

Verse 16: “All Scripture... [we know today that that includes from Gen. to Rev.] ...*is* God-breathed...” If it is, and the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are God-breathed, are we obligated to follow them? *Yes!*

You can’t take that one Scripture in Romans 15:8 and say, ‘Jesus was a minister to the circumcision and Paul was a minister to the Gentiles and we are Gentiles. Therefore, we don’t have to follow anything that Jesus taught, including baptism.’ What does that do? *That excludes real repentance and that excludes baptism, which means that you’re not in covenant with God!* You have nothing to do with God. You are a fake and a false Christian.

Some people get all upset, ‘But I’m so good.’ I’m learning one thing about people in the world, which is that if they are not gross overt

citizens they are ‘good and saved.’ God expects everyone, whether called to salvation or not, to be good and upstanding citizens and keep the Ten Commandments in the letter of the Law.

Verse 16: “All Scripture *is* God-breathed...” Which one’s can you exclude? *None!* ‘All’ meaning *each and every Scripture* is God-breathed. What about those boring genealogies that I can hardly pronounce? *Yes, they’re God-breathed and necessary to give a legal legitimacy from Adam to Christ!* That’s why they’re there.

“...and *is* profitable **for doctrine**... [teaching; every teaching of the Bible is a doctrine] ...**for conviction**...” (v 16). Because you know and understand that it is the Word of Truth. As Jesus said, ‘The words that I speak to you, **they are Spirit and they are Life.**’

- Why would you want to exclude them from your brand of Christianity?
- Are you not excluding true spiritual understanding?
- Are you not excluding how to have eternal life through Jesus Christ? *Yes!*

“...**for correction**...” (v 16). That’s what most people don’t want. No one wants to be told they’re wrong. If you keep the first day of the week, Sunday, the Bible says that you are wrong. So does Cardinal Gibbons in Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants.

“...**for instruction in righteousness**...” (v 16). You see how this follows along. Just follow these things. These are step-by-step:

“...profitable for doctrine...” or teaching—the true teaching gives you **conviction**, because you know it is true. When you know it is true, you see that as a sinful individual you need correction. The easiest correction is when you read it in the Bible and you see you’re doing wrong, then you repent to God. The toughest correction is what we’re witnessing in the world today. When the world is rejecting God, God must judge them and we see trouble, war, famine and pestilence. *All this sort of thing in the world is correction.*

Which would you rather have? The simple correction by reading and studying the Word of God and you repent and change and God forgives you? **OR** The heavy hand of God’s correction because you reject Him and now He must punish you severely physically in the hope that you repent as you go down the pit of more and more and heavier and heavier destruction?

A lot of people don’t like Michael Savage because they think he’s a radical, but sometimes he really hits it ‘right on.’ He says that with this nation, the only thing that we can do to save ourselves is to

repent and live by God's way beginning with each one in your homes. I say right on! *and* shame to the Churches of God that we did not do this when we had the 100s of millions of dollars and the people behind it to do it!

Verse 17: "So that the man of God... [the teacher of God's way, or it can be anyone who belongs to God] ...may be complete..." In other words, you can't be complete without knowing and understanding the Old and New Testament:

- Do you want to be deficient?
- Do you want to be partial?
- Do you want to be half a Christian?

It kind of sounds like a little Laodiceanism!

"...**fully equipped for every good work**" (v 17). There is that dirty, dirty word, '*work*.' We're going to see a little later:

- How are we going to be rewarded?
- Because we have good thoughts?

or

- Because we have good works?

2-Tim. 4—what a minister is supposed to do whether people like it or not. Any minister who doesn't do this is political.

2-Timothy 4:1: "I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God..." You can't have any other higher command leveled against you. Everyone who is an elder, minister or teacher, listen up.

"...even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom" (v 1): Which is constantly on-going also today, because Peter wrote that the 'judgment must begin with the house of God.'

Verse 2: "Preach the Word!..." What is the Word? He described it: The Holy Writings, the Old Testament and all Scripture, which includes the New Testament.

"...Be urgent in season and out of season..." (v 2). Never be dull, boring or wasted out. What does "...in season and out of season..." reflect? *Sabbath and Holy Day keeping!* 'Well, it's not written in the New Testament like it is in the Old.' It doesn't have to be because it's already in the Old Testament and it's still the Word of God.

"...**convict**..." (v 2). Help people to see their sins:

- so they can change and repent
- so they can have more faith
- so they can have strength of mind when difficulties come along

"...**rebuke**... [severe corrections when it's necessary] ...**encourage**... [always because we need

encouragement all the time] ...with all **patience** and **doctrine**' (v 2). That also means that it has to be done repeatedly over a long period of time and as long as you live, teach and preach, that's what you're to do.

Verse 3—we're seeing the fullness of this in our time. They saw it back then. The Gnostic Jesus of old has reared its head again in what we have today in this kind of nonsense—'*Paul's theology only and only that which pertains to grace will we accept.*' You don't believe the Word of God at all and you're no more Christian than a fly flying around in your bedroom.

(go to the next track)

If you read 2-Tim. 3:16, which we've just gone through and explained, that should end all arguments concerning how much of the Bible you should use. However, when people have a lawless mind—which means that they don't want to keep the commandments of God—that does not in every case mean that they are hateful, evil or practicing adulterers, or murderers, or any of that. It means that they will not accept the Word of God as God has given it; they want to add to it or take away from it. I think if you read Rev. 22, it says that they're going to be excluded from the Kingdom of God.

Today people are not taught how to critically think in a systematic way. Rather, they are taught on how to view things through emotions and how you feel about it. I suppose there are some people right now who are not feeling too good about what I'm saying, if they don't believe in keeping the laws of God or what's in the Bible. Nevertheless, when it comes to the point of not being able to think critically, and there's another subdivision of this that is in there, which is: you only believe what the preacher tells you. This is the whole premise of the Roman Catholic Church, only the pope can tell you. Or you're so critically dependant on someone else that you are afraid to have a personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ so you can stand on your own two feet, regardless of what anyone around you or the world around you does.

Here is how it begins, 2-Timothy 4:3: "For there shall come a time..." This also runs in cycles, which means that there will be times when there are more people thinking this way and at other times, less people thinking this way.

"...when they will not tolerate sound doctrine..." (v 3). The first step toward that is that *doctrine divides, love unites*—first step to world religion. Even some people in the Church of God believe that. Let me explain it.

Doctrine, indeed, does divide from the world and Satan and puts you on God's side. What did Jesus say of His teachings? *Don't think that I have*

come to bring peace, I have not come to bring peace but a sword; to set a man a variance against his father and the daughter against the mother and the daughter-in-law against the mother-in-law, etc.; the foes will be those of your own household!

When that happens, you're confronted with a choice: Will you cave in to that kind of pressure because of feelings and emotions? Will you compromise? Remember that once you start down the road of compromise, ask yourself: Where does it stop?

Look at our political system in the world today. If you think it's bad in America, if you saw the news clip of what happened in the legislature in Mexico, they had a near riot with the legislators fighting and hitting each other. Most of them are 'on the take' and the 'dole.' If you think that we have corruption and if you think that Chicago is notorious for 'pay and play,' look at the other nations of the world.

When you start down the course of compromise, where does it end? This is not to be stubborn and hold to your own ideas. ***This is to be strong in the faith and strong in the Truth of God!*** That's what I'm talking about, here.

Verse 3: "For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves a great number of teachers, having ears itching to hear what satisfies their cravings."

What happens when that takes hold? Remember what we learn during the Days of Unleavened Bread: ***A little leaven leavens the whole lump!***

It's just like this: When a person first takes cocaine they justify in his or her mind, 'I'm just going to try it, I won't get hooked. I won't be an addict.' Someone is there saying, 'This is good. This is fine. Try it; it'll make you happy and joyful and all that sort of thing.' So, they cave in and try it. As I've talked to former cocaine addicts, ***you're hooked*** with the first snort. You always have to fight the feeling the rest of your life; the same way with heroine. ***Likewise with the Truth of God!*** Here's what happens:

Verse 4: "And **they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth**..." Just let that sink in for a minute.

- I don't like it so hard and harsh, but is it true?
- What does the Truth say?
- Do you believe it?

"...and they shall be turned aside unto myths" (v 4). Something nice and pleasant come along, *myths*.

A prime example, we're living right in the middle of it today, the so-called Christmas season. Everything about it is portrayed as wonderful, nice, beautiful, family, uplifting and Satan has got lots of wonderful tunes—which by the way are still in your head and mine—that you readily find out when you go shopping to buy some groceries in the store. What do they have? *Jingle Bells, Silent Night, all of that sort of thing to make it so good and wonderful!* They get the best singers and they get the best music; they have concerts with it. They have big papal displays and ceremonies, this has all got to be so good. 'This is so good that it's got to be right. What's wrong with it? It makes me feel good. It's fun.' ***It's all based on multiple lies!*** What you really do is, you believe in lies, not the Truth, because you turn your ear away from the Truth.

Jesus was not born anywhere near Christmas. *'That doesn't make any difference. We'll put Christ back in Christmas anyway. It's such a good time and we do such good things.'* Why don't you do them the rest of the year?

People are given over to emotions and stayed thinking what they have been told from the pulpit, ***"and they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths."*** The thing is that ***you either believe the Truth or you believe a myth!***

We're talking about a myth. ***The myth is that Paul had a superior gospel than even that of Christ,*** which sounds very appealing because now people don't have to be obedient. They can just believe in grace. If you believe in grace and have good thoughts and you're a wonderful person and you believe in Jesus, you're saved! ***That's a myth!*** Then if you go to church on Sunday you're really right with the Lord. However, you're there on the wrong day. Notice what Paul wrote to Timothy that he had to do.

Verse 5: "But *as for* you, be vigilant in all things... [never slack up on the Truth] ...endure hardships... [it's not going to be easy] ...do *the* work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry." That's something!

Let's carry this a little bit further. Let's come back here and see some things since we're in 2-Tim. There's an awful lot here. The reason that I'm concentrating on 2-Tim. at this particular point is because this is one of the last epistles that Paul wrote. So, we would have the sum of his whole 'special gospel' included here. What did his gospel include? *The Old Testament, the New Testament!*

You know the old story: When all else fails, *read the book or read the instructions.* I guarantee you, if you follow along and believe that Paul had a special gospel and you have your nice little penknife

where you can cut out all of those Scriptures even in the Apostle Paul's writings that you don't like, you're going to end up with a deficient instruction book and you're going to fail.

Think how many times that you bought something from the hardware store, department store or whatever, you had to assemble it and you thought you knew how to do it without reading the instructions. How did it go? I've done that several times myself. I was assured, reading the first part of the instructions that it only takes 20 minutes to do it. I looked at the pictures and I figured in my own mind, 'I know how to assemble this wagon.' I put it together and an hour and a half later, I realized that I put the sides on backwards. It took me another half hour to undo it. Delores kept coming down and she said, 'Fred. It's only supposed to take 20 minutes.' Finally, after about an hour and a half, she said, 'Did you read the instructions?' *No!*

Is not Christ going to ask you at the resurrection, 'Did you read the instructions?' We can learn a lot just by reading 2-Tim.

2-Timothy 1:1: "Paul, *an* apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God... [not his own separate apostle] ...according to *the* promise of life which *is* in Christ Jesus." What did Jesus say? ***I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!*** If you do away with the Gospels, you do away with those Scriptures.

Verse 2: "To Timothy, *my* beloved son: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God *the* Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul used Jesus Christ twice in the first verse; God referring to the Father in the first verse; then he refers to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you want a really good study to find out how Paul followed the teachings of Jesus Christ, just go through and look up everywhere it says Jesus, Christ and our Lord, in a concordance, and notice that that will probably include about 25% of the writings of the Apostle Paul, just the Scriptures that has those words in it alone.

Verse 3: "I am grateful to God—Whom I have been serving from *the days of my* forefathers with a pure conscience—because I never fail to remember you in my supplications night and day. As I recall your tears, *I am* longing to see you..." (vs 3-4). Remember. He's in bonds in prison when he's writing this so this is quite a letter with a great deal of emotion in it.

"...so that I may be filled with joy; when I remember the unfeigned faith *that is* in you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice—and I am convinced that *it dwells* in you also. For this reason, I admonish you to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands" (vs 4-6). Showing that we all have to

continually stir it up. You might ask yourself: Do you need to do a little bit or a lot of stirring in your life? I'll let you think about that.

Verse 7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness. Therefore, you should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."

- What is 'the testimony of our Lord?' *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John!*
- Were they not witnesses to testify of what Jesus said?
- How would you know the testimony of the Lord if you didn't have Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?

'But He gave that to the Jews only. We don't need that.' Oh, really?

"...nor of me His prisoner; but jointly suffer with *me for the sake of* the Gospel, according to *the* power of God, Who has saved us and called *us* with a Holy calling—not according to our works..." (vs 8-9).

We never teach that it's according to works, but *works are necessary in order to demonstrate your faith*. Good works are necessary *in order to walk in the way of God* and those ways are defined by the commandments of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles.

"...but according to His own purpose and grace, which *was* given us in Christ Jesus before the ages of time" (v 9). What are you going to do with that? The whole purpose of God was all set out before the "...ages of time..." of this earth. Here's the verse they like.

Verse 10: "But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who has annulled death, and has brought to light *eternal* life and incorruptibility through the Gospel." There we go! How many times did Paul mention Christ?

2-Timothy 2:1: "Therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that *is* in Christ Jesus." What did Paul write about grace?

Let's look at grace. You go back and read it in Appendix M: Beliefs and Doctrines of the New Testament Church. What is the grace of God? *The grace of God is His unmerited blessing, favor, promise, which is the first extension of His love!* It includes:

- the forgiveness of sin
- the receiving of the Holy Spirit
- walking in the good works of God

The truth is, ***you cannot keep the commandments of God unless you have faith***—faith in believing that you need to do them and God has commanded them.

These are the things that are going to keep us walking in the ways of God.

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified **by faith...**” That’s where they confuse it. *Justification is by grace*: God’s free forgiveness of your sins and putting you in right standing with Him. **No work you can do, no commandment-keeping you can do, can make God forgive you your sins!** That is an operation of faith through repentance, baptism and the receipt of the Holy Spirit. All of that is the operation of grace. That’s how you have been justified by faith.

“...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access **by faith...**” (vs 1-2). That faith is living faith—not just a profession, not just a feeling. But **active, living, believing faith**.

“...into this grace in which we stand...” (v 2). The grace of God is more than an act that God does toward us. It is the status of our relationship with Him on a daily basis. *By grace*, we can pray to God the Father in heaven above, and *by faith* know that we have our prayers answered; all of that. *By grace*, God gives us His Spirit and understanding if we study and do the things that we need to do. *Grace and works go hand-in-hand and work together!*

“...and we ourselves boast in *the* hope of the glory of God. And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations, realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance, and endurance *brings forth* character...” (vs 2-4)—because *through conviction, faith, hope* and all of those things, *you stand firm*.

“...and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us” (vs 4-5). That is a tremendous section of Scripture, brethren.

2-Timothy 2:1, Paul is telling Timothy, “Therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that *is* in Christ Jesus.” This is not excluding commandment-keeping. For all of those of you who believe in Sunday-keeping:

- Do you believe Jesus enough?
- Do you believe the Bible enough?
- Do you have enough faith and trust in the grace of God?
- Do you have enough faith that you will keep the seventh day weekly Sabbath as God has commanded?

What is sin? *Sin is the transgression of the Law!* A literal translation means, sin is lawlessness. Lawlessness is defined by the absence of law or by changing the laws of God to suit your own feelings, meaning adding to or taking from.

There are many, many lawless people in the world who do not believe that they are lawless. I submit to you that the reason the United States of America is becoming so lawless now is because fundamentally the deterioration of the teachings of the Protestants, who never, never accepted the weekly Sabbath. Except for those few like Seventh Day Adventists and Churches of God. Today there are approximately 13-million people in the world that keep the Sabbath. When you compare that with the number of people who keep other days or other religions that is a paltry few and agrees with the Scriptures where Jesus said, ‘Straight is the way and narrow is the gate that leads to life and **few** there be that find it. But broad is the gate and wide is the way that leads to destruction’ and **many** go in that gate. You need to think about it.

If you think that any place in the Bible justifies Sunday-keeping, you know nothing about your Bible. You know nothing about God. You have information about the Bible. You have knowledge of some of the things of God, *but you don’t know God*.

Verse 8: “Remember *that* Jesus Christ, of *the* seed of David, *was* raised from among *the* dead according to my Gospel.” He wasn’t the first one to preach it. Did not the twelve apostles preach it? *Yes, they did!* Paul was called in 33_{A.D.}

Verse 9: “For which I am suffering hardship, *even* to the point of being imprisoned like a criminal; but the Word of God has not been chained. Because of this, I endure all things for the sake of the elect in order that they may obtain *the* salvation that *is* in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. This is a faithful saying: If we have **died together** with *Him...*” (vs 9-11). How do you *die together* with Christ? *In the watery death of baptism!*

Yet, a lot of people today say, ‘Paul’s new revelation is you don’t have to be baptized.’ **Nonsense!** There’s one Scripture where Paul says, that Christ didn’t send him to baptize. ‘So baptism isn’t required.’ **That’s a false interpretation of it!** Christ didn’t send him primarily to baptize. He did baptize, but who else were with him? *Timothy, Luke, Titus and all of the rest of them!* They’re the ones who did the baptizing.

Just like it says in John 4 that Jesus baptized more disciples than John, but it was not Jesus Himself Who personally baptized them, it was His disciples. That doesn’t mean that He didn’t baptize. To *die together with Him* is in *baptism*, ‘You are baptized into His death’ (Rom. 6). That’s how you die. ‘By faith we have access to this grace’ (Rom. 5); meaning:

- we have access to forgiveness
- we have access to God’s blessing
- we have access to God hearing our prayers

Not faith to ‘stand in the grace’ to believe that you don’t have to keep the commandments of God. ***If you don’t keep the commandments of God, you are a sinner. Unless you repent of that, God will not hear you!***

“...we shall also live together with *Him*” (v 11). When will that take place? *The resurrection!* Nobody goes to heaven. If you believe that all good Christians go to heaven, you’re not a Christian and you don’t have a clue what the Bible says. It doesn’t matter what your preacher in your church may say, but you believe a doctrine that’s not in the Bible.

Verse 12: “If we endure, we shall also reign together with *Him*; if we deny *Him*, He will also deny us.”

Let’s read something very important to understand. You’ve got to believe this in what Jesus said.

Matthew 7:13: “Enter in through the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it; for narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it. But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing... [with lots of flattering words] ...for within *they* are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits...” (vs 13-16). What are their fruits? *They reject parts of the Bible! They reject the Gospels!*

“...They do not gather grapes from thorns...” (v 16). If you read of thorns and thistles you will see that is talking about apostasy and the ways of the world, even including the deceitfulness of riches.

“...or figs from thistles, do they?... [no, they don’t] ...In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit” (vs 16-18).

The same way with a car, you buy a ‘lemon,’ it’s still a ‘lemon,’ even if it’s new or used. You still have a bad engine even if they put in crankcase grease in it so the knocks won’t be heard.

Verse 20: “Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits.” You have to see what someone does and preaches, and compare that with the Word of God. What are they producing?

Verse 21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’...” They don’t think that they’re denying Him. How do they deny Him?, *through evil works! (Titus 1)*. What are evil works? *Sin and transgression, going against the laws of God!*

“...shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who is in heaven” (v 21).

- Did Jesus teach His own Gospel?
- Did He teach what He was supposed to?
- Did He not teach those words that came from God the Father?
- *Yes, indeed!*
- What do you have here?
- If you don’t believe in keeping the Gospels, that they are part of the salvation of God, are you going to be doing the will of the Father in heaven?
- Would you know what it is if you throw away three-quarters of the Bible and say, ‘Oh! We have these precious Scriptures on grace and love? Let’s do those’?

You’re not going to do it unless you’re “...doing the will of My Father Who is in heaven.” Here are:

- all the well-intentioned people
- all of the Sunday keeping preachers
- all of the do-gooders
- all of those who in religion and using the name of Jesus preaching on Christmas, Easter and every Sunday

If you think that is a wide swath at condemnation and that it’s not true, then you better read your Bible.

Verse 22: “Many will say to Me in that day... [at the resurrection] ...‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?... [they use the name of Jesus] ...And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name?...’” That’s a lot of power—right? But it wasn’t them, it was the name of Jesus and Christ is the One Who did it, not them.

“...And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?...” (vs 22). Whatever you can add to that. Then Jesus said, ‘I embrace you, welcome. You did such a good job. You were well-intentioned; you had a good heart.’ ***NO!***

Verse 23: “**And then I will confess to them, I never knew you...**”

- What were you doing taking My name in vain?
- What were you doing standing in the pulpit saying that I abolished the law when right in the Bible you were preaching from, it is recorded that I said, ‘I did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets’?

Just like with everything else, when you least expect it, the hammer falls.

Just like someone who goes along and says, ‘I need to get new tires, *I need to get new tires, I need to get new tires.*’ Then all of a sudden he’s on a long trip and all four go flat at once. He says to himself, ‘I should have gotten tires.’ Now, there you are on the freeway and everybody’s passing you by

and you have four flat tires. What are you going to do? That's not half as bad, not even a degree as bad as what it's going to be at the resurrection when you're resurrected and you have been a professed teacher of the Word of God, and you've stood in the pulpit on the wrong day of the week proclaiming a Jesus that is a fiction of Protestant theology. You're resurrected and you think, 'I'm in for a good reward.' And Jesus says, '***I never knew you!***' How about everyone who comes in every Sunday and sits there and listens to these words:

- you sit there and you take it
- you sit there and you believe it
- you get all the lies from the pulpit

You think, 'I'm a good Christian. God has got to save me. Hey, I'm right on that 'fast shoot' to heaven so when I die it's going to be like coming down that great slide with a hook at the end. It's going to throw me right up into heaven. I'll be welcomed into the bosom of the Father.' ***It's not going to happen!***

Verse 23: "And then I will confess to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.'" What are you going to be judged on?

Verse 24: "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and practices them, I will compare him to a wise man..."

- Are you wise?

or

- Are you foolish?
- Do you practice the Words of Jesus?

How can you practice the Words of Jesus if you have a gospel that has circumscribed the New Testament to the point of reducing it to near nothing and you don't even recognize the Words of Christ because these were for the Jews only?

"...who built his house upon the Rock.... [that is Christ] ...And the rain came down... [symbolic of troubles, trials and difficulties we go through] ...and the floods came ... [severe trials] ...and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; but it did not fall, for it was founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and **does not** practice them..." (vs 24-26)—which includes everyone who *excludes* the Old Testament, the Gospels, the General Epistles and half the writings of Paul so you can have a nice, wonderful, favorable, just pleasant gospel to live by. But:

"...everyone who hears these words of Mine and **does not** practice them shall be compared to a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand; and the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it" (vs 26-27).

A lot of people figured, 'I build my house above the 100-year flood level.' Fine, maybe in your

lifetime you'll avoid it, but what's going to happen because there's also a 500-year flood level that has to be concerned about?

I think that shows that those ***people who believe that, have no clue as to what the Bible teaches and what they should believe!***

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 15:1-12
- 2) Ephesians 3:1-6
- 3) Ephesians 2:11-22
- 4) 1-John 3:1-2
- 5) 2-Peter 1:1-4
- 6) 2-Timothy 3:9-17
- 7) 2-Timothy 4:1-5
- 8) 2-Timothy 1:1-10
- 9) 2-Timothy 2:1
- 10) Romans 5:1-5
- 11) 2-Timothy 2:1, 8-12
- 12) Matthew 7:13-18, 20-27

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 69; 18:49
- Galatians 2
- Hebrews 13
- Mark 7
- Matthew 15
- Revelation 22
- John 4
- Romans 6
- Titus 1

Also referenced:

Book: *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman G. Goldin

From *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix A: Fourteen Rules for Bible Study
- Appendix R: What is Meant by "the Words of the Law?"
- Appendix M: Beliefs and Doctrines of the New Testament Church
- Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants
- Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
- Chapter 10: John's Final Canonization of the New Testament

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Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? II

Fred R. Coulter

A lot of people believe that you don't have to keep anything in the Old Testament because that's all fulfilled, and that even the Gospels you don't have to believe anything there because Jesus only preached to the Jews and it's not for anybody else.

They say, 'We have a gospel of grace and love that we get out of the Epistles of Paul. What they do is that they 'slice and dice' the New Testament even more than before. This is really one of the doctrines of Protestantism that is going to throw it into the 'death throws.' Here's one of the Scriptures they use.

Romans 15:8: "Now, I tell *you that* Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for *the* Truth of God, so that He might confirm the promises *given* to the fathers." There it is; 'anything He said was only to the Jews,' including repentance and baptism. Therefore, you don't have to do it. But if you read the next verse:

Verse 9: "And *that* the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, exactly as it is written..." We've already covered that. This is just in review so we can set the stage for what we're going to cover today. Here's one that they read, Eph. 3. It's going to really be something when we read this. Here is a perfect example of tunnel vision. You read what you want to read, you pick out what you want to pick out and you leave all of the rest.

They don't believe everything that Paul wrote. Things that have to do with the commandments, and so forth. No, they just take the things concerning grace, love and mercy. Like this woman said, 'Every day is Holy. We don't have to keep the Sabbath.' I forgot to ask her: When do you work? If someone says, 'Every day is Holy.' Your first answer ought to be, 'Oh, really, when do you work?'

Ephesians 3:3^[transcriber's correction]: "How He [God] made known to me [Paul] by revelation the mystery (even as I wrote briefly before..." WOW! God let this mystery be known to Paul! 'He has a superior gospel.'

Verse 4: "So that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ)." They stop right there. Like I said in the first message: *always read the context*, because that will tell you what you need to know.

Verse 5: "Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets by *the* Spirit." So, God revealed it to all the living apostles at that time and the prophets. Who are the prophets? *Those are the ones who gave inspired*

speaking! Not a foretelling of the future, but a forth-telling of the Word of God. It wasn't just to Paul.

Then we reviewed 1-John 3:1 and 2-Pet. 1. Paul had a special education from Christ in Arabia for three years. He didn't learn it from any man. Where did the original twelve apostles learn it from? *From Jesus Christ!* Equal footing.

If Paul would have shown up in Jerusalem, and would have said, 'I had a vision; I've seen the light,' after he persecuted and caused to be killed many of the Christians, he would never have been accepted. He would have been run out of town. If they had a one rail system at that time, they would have put him on it and gotten rid of him, because he was considered by the Jews and even the Jews within the Church... Let's see how Paul was called.

- yes, he did go to Arabia
- yes, he did learn those things
- yes, it was three years

Let's see the background of his calling and his baptism right here in Acts 9. This is after he was knocked to the ground. That's rather startling. He's walking up to Damascus. He has his party with him and all of a sudden, BAM! There's a great light. He's flattened on the ground. Then he hears a voice:

Acts 9:4: "And after falling to the ground, he heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. *It is hard* for you to kick against *the* pricks'" (vs 4-5).

Have you ever seen that thorn vine that is weaved into a crown of thorns? *That's what it's talking about, or something very similar to that!* That's very hard to do. You do it once and you're wasted.

Verse 6: "Then, trembling and astonished, he said, 'Lord, what will You have me to do?'...." Complete change of attitude, you talk about instant repentance!

"...And the Lord *said* to him, 'Get up and go into the city, and you shall be told what you must do.' Now, the men who were traveling with him stood speechless; *for* they indeed heard the voice, but they saw no one. Then Saul arose from the ground; but when he opened his eyes, he saw no one. And they led him by the hand and brought *him* to Damascus. But *for* three days he was not *able* to see, and he did not eat or drink" (vs 6-9). Three days of thinking it over.

Does instant repentance mean that he didn't repent further? *Of course he repented further!* That's

why the three days that he wasn't able to see and didn't eat or drink. What do you suppose that he was doing at that time? *Probably praying an awful lot!*

Verse 10: "Now, there was in Damascus a certain disciple named Ananias. And the Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Behold, *I am here*, Lord.' And the Lord *said* to him, 'Arise *and* go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in *the* house of Judas for *one* named Saul from Tarsus; for behold, he is praying,... [that's what he was doing] ...And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming and putting *his* hands on him, so that he may receive sight'" (vs 10-12).

Notice the reaction. This is why God dealt with him the way that He did and taught Paul separately. You had to be taught by Christ to be an apostle. All self-appointed apostles out there, listen up. *You're not!*

Verse 13: "Then Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many *people* about this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And *even* in this place he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for this *man* is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before *the* Gentiles, and kings, and *the* children of Israel'" (vs 13-15).

If the Gospel that Jesus brought was for Israel and the Jews, and we no longer need that because it was for them, why did Paul get this commission to also go to the children of Israel? Wherever he went, where did he go first? *Into a synagogue of the Jews!*

Verse 17: "Then Ananias went away and came into the house; and after laying *his* hands on him, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, *even* Jesus, Who appeared to you on the road in which you came, so that you might receive sight and be filled with *the* Holy Spirit.' And it was as *if* scales immediately fell from his eyes, and he instantly received sight; and he arose *and* was baptized" (vs 17-18).

Remember that baptism is *dying together with Christ*. When Paul says, 'We died together in Christ,' that means *baptism*.

Oh, they love Gal., because it looks like it does away with the laws of God. After all, that's what they want. We'll examine a little bit of that. Not too much of it, but just a little bit of it. {note sermon series: *Epistle to the Galatians*. We also have, in the second edition of *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* Paul's difficult to understand Scriptures explained.

Galatians 1:1: "Paul, *an* apostle, not *sent* from men nor *made* by man, but by Jesus Christ and

God *the* Father, Who raised Him from *the* dead." As we go through here, I want you to ask:

- If Paul received a better or superior gospel than Jesus taught, why does he mention Jesus Christ and the Lord Jesus so many times?
- Why don't you do a real in-depth study and go through all the Epistles of Paul?

You can do a computer search or a concordance search and look up every place where it says:

- Jesus
- Jesus Christ
- our Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus our Savior

Look all of those up and see how many times that Paul writes of that and ask yourself: If Paul had a better or superior gospel than Jesus had, why does Paul mention Him all the time? We're going to see something very important in Gal. 1. This is why this is a key chapter.

Verse 2: "And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father..." (vs 2-3)—But not Jesus Christ our Lord, because 'I have a better gospel.' **NO!** It says:

"...**and our Lord Jesus Christ**, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father; to Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen" (vs 3-5).

What we're going to find in the book of Galatians is one of the heresies that came along. One of the things that men have always wanted to do, beginning with Cain, of which Jude, the brother of Jesus, wrote just before the collapse of Jerusalem, that people were following the 'way of Cain.'

The 'way of Cain' is exemplified in what Cain did when he brought an offering to God; he brought an offering of his own devising and not after the commandment of God. Here is the principle: ***If you add anything to the Word of God or subtract anything from the Word of God, you are in the 'way of Cain'!*** Everyone who says, 'Jesus came and abolished the Law' ***are in the 'way of Cain.'*** If they say as they do with this latest watered down gospel, even less than the New Testament, that only the Epistles of Paul bring the gospel, ***you're in the 'way of Cain.'*** You are coming to God and saying, 'God, I did this out of the goodness of my heart and You must accept it because I'm sincere.'

That's the direct attitude of Sunday-keeping. All you Sunday-keepers out there, listen up. You better check it out. If you keep Sunday regularly, you're trying to impose upon God a day that He

never made Holy. ***You are in the ‘way of Cain’!*** You have taken away the seventh day Sabbath that God made Holy. Not every day is Holy, as some people claim.

Let’s see what Paul did; v 6: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ” (vs 6-7). The ***‘way of Cain’!***

I have yet to find more than one Jew—there may be some more out there—who believes in Jesus Christ and God the Father, who has forsaken every single Jewish tradition. I’ve yet to find anyone else. I wish I could. All the traditions that the Jews added—if you don’t have the *Code of Jewish Law* you will never understand Galatians—all of those are in the ***‘way of Cain’!*** They are adding to it to improve the Word of God. The sum of the matter is this: ***Any changes to the Word of God, God must make, not man!***

Once you really take a closer look at the Bible you will see how it was put together for the very purpose of helping to clarify many of these things with the Protestants. That’s why we have in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? You have to understand what He did. Only Jesus could do that because He is the One Who gave the laws and commandments to Israel.

We also have a little outline study in Appendix I: A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants, so that you can see going right down the line the same general things are there. For example:

1. they had a tabernacle, or temple, *we have a temple in heaven*

You still have to go to the temple. Now we don’t have to journey to Jerusalem, we can pray on our knees, wherever we are.

2. they have sacrifices, *we have a sacrifice: Jesus Christ, the perfect sin offering!*

3. they had circumcision of the flesh, *the New Covenant has circumcision of the heart*

Every element in the New Testament has the same elements of the Old Testament, only they’re *raised to a spiritual level*. We are not only to keep the commandments of God in the letter, we have to do that, but also *go beyond in the spirit*. That’s what Jesus brought.

All of those things are a perversion of the Gospel, a perversion of the Word of God. As I’ve

mentioned before, I’ll mention again: Everyone who doesn’t believe in tithing, and any ministers who do away with the commands of tithing *have to set in another system which is separate from God’s way!* Notice how serious that this becomes:

Verse 8: “But if **we...**” Who are ‘we’? *You could say that it’s all the brethren that were with Paul*, but who is Paul including? *He’s including the apostles!* We’ll see that he talks about them. So, he’s talking about apostles.

“...or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED!** (v 8).

We’re dealing with pretty severe penalties. Accursed means that you don’t have any salvation. If someone comes along and preaches a gospel, saying that Paul brought a better gospel than did Jesus, and Jesus was only for the Jews and we don’t have to follow it....

Could you not view the same thing with the pope that whatever he says is God inspired? *No, because the truth is when you read about what you ‘bind on earth shall have already been bound in heaven,’ anything that is ‘bound or loosed’ is only a judgment on already existing laws and commandments of God, not what you think or desire!* The Catholics thought it would be good to initiate the Inquisition and the pope signed it so, ‘it’s the will of God.’ ***It was evil and wretched!***

All of you who are professed, good Catholics out there—I know you’re probably sincere—but have you ever read the Bible? I mean even the Douay Version of the Bible, the Catholic approved Bible, with the imprint of the pope. Have you ever read it to find out what it really says? If you read the second commandment, it says, ‘You shall not make unto yourself any graven image of any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, that is on the earth beneath or that is in the waters beneath the earth, and you shall not bow down to them’—which includes genuflecting—or worship them. For I, your God, am a jealous God, visiting upon the children to the third and fourth generation the iniquities of their fathers and to thousands of generations, blessings to those who love Me and keep My commandments.’

The whole basis of the Roman Catholic Church is idolatry, beginning with worship of the pope. You’re worshipping a man. He does not sit in the seat of Jesus Christ. Peter never went to Rome. The whole substance of what you believe is based on a lie and God is not a liar, but Satan is the father of it. God is going to hold you responsible for determining, ***Who*** you worship. You can’t say, ‘I’ve been a good Catholic. My parents have been good Catholics and their parents have been good Catholics.’ ***They’ve been deceived!***

- Do you want to remain deceived?
- What are you going to do?

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again....”—this shows that it has to be the apostles from the point of view that the brethren weren’t preaching it as official preachers.

“...If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” (v 9).

Verse 10 is a direct verse against politics. We’re going to see when we get to Gal. 2, that it was Judaism’s religious politics and not a commandment of God. Furthermore, let’s just clarify one thing here: ***No one who keeps the commandments of Jesus Christ counts on those in place of grace for justification!*** We keep the commandments of God because God requires them, and if we don’t keep the commandments of God we are continuing to live in sin. If we continue to live in sin, then we have no forgiveness of our former sins. So, you’re not under grace. That’s why it says, ‘The *doers* of the Law shall be justified,’ because:

1. there needs to be repentance, *first*
2. are starting to keep the commandments of God, *second*
3. then repentance and baptism, *third*

so you can have your sins buried under the blood of Jesus Christ. That puts you in a justified standing before God, through grace.

Verse 10: “Now then, am I striving to please men, or God?....” Every minister needs to ask himself these questions:

- What are you trying to do?
- Who are you trying to please?
- Am I motivated to please men?

If someone out there comes up and says, ‘Pastor wouldn’t it be nice if we had a lovely Christmas tree in the church? It would just brighten it up for the winter. We could put these wonderful, beautiful lights on it and all of these ornaments. It would just be wonderful!’ What are you going to tell them? *Wrong!* Jer. 10 says, ‘Don’t do the customs of the people.’ Besides, the star on top is not symbolic of Christ ***but the fallen star of Satan, the devil!*** Most of the ornaments on there are sex ornaments. The nice tinsel that you wrap around it, you step back and look at it and you’re looking at a serpent around the tree—are you not?

- What should you do if you’re a minister? *We don’t do that in this Church! That is pagan and going against God!*
- What if she was a real big donor; maybe she gives \$100,000 a year to your church?

- Now what are you going to do?

If you tell her *no*, you’re going to lose \$100,000 and you won’t have any salary. It should not be a big decision because God could replace that with five widows who would give \$100,000 a piece, if necessary.

“...Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ” (v 10). That doesn’t mean that every minister has to make himself nasty, but it means that he better tell the truth. He better preach the Truth and he better preach Christ the way it ought to be. This is what Paul is saying.

Verse 11: “But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me **is not according to man.**” The gospel preached in the Roman Catholic Church, they have even claimed that ‘we can preach the gospel of the Roman Catholic Church without the Bible,’ and *it is a gospel of a man*, whoever the pope is.

Verse 12: “Because neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught *it by man*; rather, *it was by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” What does it say of Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” If Paul was taught by revelation of Jesus Christ, would He bring Paul a different gospel than He taught the twelve? If He did, then Christ’s not “...the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Paul explains what happened; Galatians 1:13: “For you heard of my former conduct when I was in Judaism, how I was excessively persecuting the Church of God and was destroying it; and I was advancing in Judaism *far* beyond many of my contemporaries in my *own* nation, being more abundantly zealous for *the* traditions of my fathers” (vs 13-14). *Political climbing!* Doing works to be recognized by the chief priest and the counsel of priests.

Verse 15: “But when it pleased God, Who selected me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by His grace.” So, Paul was called from the time he was born.

Verse 16: “**To reveal His own Son in me, in order that I might preach Him as the Gospel among the Gentiles...**” Would that be any different than what Jesus taught the original twelve? *Of course not!*

“...I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Peter, and I remained with him

fifteen days. But I did not see *any* of the other apostles, except James the brother of the Lord. (Now the things that I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.) Then I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. But I was unknown by face to the churches in Judea which *are* in Christ; they only heard, ‘The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the Gospel—the faith which he once destroyed.’ And they glorified God in me” (vs 16-24).

They had a problem because there were Pharisees coming down from Jerusalem. The circumcision party of Pharisees coming down and disrupting the Gentile churches by saying that all the Gentiles had to be circumcised as all proselytes to the synagogue in order to be saved. We’re going to see that Peter was the big fault here in this dispute in Gal. 2.

Who did God send first to open the door to the Gentiles? *Peter! He sent him to Cornelius!* Peter went there with a special vision and Cornelius sent for Peter with a special message from an angel. When Peter came, Cornelius bowed down to worship him and Peter said, ‘See that you don’t do that. I’m a man like you and God has shown me that I should call no man common or unclean. You know that it is not lawful for one who is a Jew to come into company with a Gentile.’ That’s not in the Bible. ***That was a law of Judaism!*** Peter knew better.

After he was getting close to finishing his message and speaking to the whole household of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit came on them and everyone was shocked and amazed. How could God do this? *They’re uncircumcised!* Then Peter said, ‘Who can deny them baptism,’ so, they took them out and baptized them. Why did God do it this way? *To show to Peter that they did not have to be circumcised, and He was going to give the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles exactly as He gave it to them! Same Gospel!*

When we come to Gal. 2, we see that Peter was the one at fault. What happened here is that he went up, because there were those coming down preaching that they had to circumcise all the Gentiles. This is heart and core to the central issue:

- Did Paul bring a better gospel than Jesus Christ?
- *If he did, then he is greater than Christ!*
- Would that not be true?
- *If he’s greater than Christ, then he’s closer to God the Father than any other human being!*
- How could that be, because the Father’s in heaven?

Galatians 2:1: “Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking

Titus with *me* also.... [there’s a reason for bringing Titus] ...And I went up according to revelation, and laid before them the Gospel that I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those of repute... [Peter, James and John.] ...lest by any means I should be running, or had run in vain. (But indeed, Titus, who *was* with me, being a Greek, was not compelled to be circumcised.)” (vs 1-3)—by order of those apostles, because it was a Pharisaic thing.

After the conference they had there in Acts 15, where they said that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised, you never read of the Pharisees again within the Church of God. They couldn’t stand it! They wanted to *add* to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make them be circumcised or they cannot be saved, when ***salvation is of the heart and the mind*** and not of the flesh.

Verse 4: “Now, *this meeting was private* because of false brethren brought in secretly, who came in by stealth to spy out our freedom, which we have in Christ Jesus, in order that they might bring us into bondage.” *Bondage to a physical thing!* What were they doing? This has to be latrine inspection: Are you? or Are you not?

Verse 5: “To whom we did not yield in subjection, *not* even for one hour, so that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with you. But *the Gospel that I preach did not come* from those reputed to be something. (Whatever they were does not make any difference to me; God does not accept *the person of a man*.)...” (vs 5-6). Think of that for a minute. If you come along and:

- re-devise the Gospel
- slice and dice
- cut here and there
- include this that you like
- throw out that that you don’t like

What are you doing? *You’re asking God to accept you as a person because of who you are and what you’re doing, rather than you come to God repentant, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God on God’s terms!* If you do that, you’re making yourself better than Christ. You know better than Christ. Why was it fourteen years? *Because he was out there preaching for fourteen years!*

“...For those who are of repute conferred nothing upon me. But on the contrary, after seeing that I had been entrusted with the Gospel of the uncircumcision, exactly as Peter *had been entrusted with the Gospel* of the circumcision; (for He Who wrought in Peter for *the* apostleship of the circumcision wrought in me also toward the Gentiles); and after recognizing the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas [Peter] and John—those reputed to be pillars—gave to me and Barnabas *the* right hands of fellowship, *affirming*

that we *should go* to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision” (vs 6-9).

It does not mean that it was a different gospel. It means that God commissioned them to do it this way.

Verse 10: “*Their only request was that we remember the poor, which very thing I was also diligent to do.*”

Here comes the confrontation. Again, with the background that I explained about Acts 10 and Cornelius, let’s understand here, what happened. This is fourteen years into it. Remember, though James was the apostle in Jerusalem, not everyone under him did what they necessarily should. It became a political thing. A lot of the Jews in Jerusalem wanted to hold on to all of the rituals, circumcision and everything like this. They also clung to the custom that it was not proper for a Jew to eat with a Gentile.

- During the days of segregation in America, what did they have? *White bathrooms, black bathrooms, white fountains, black fountains to drink water!*
- What did you have in the synagogue? *Jews on this side, women on the other side, Gentiles in the back! You couldn’t even enter the synagogue unless you had been circumcised in the flesh!*

Under the Old Covenant, that would be true. Now there’s a greater circumcision: *circumcision of the heart and mind!* So, the physical circumcision was no longer required, because if you kept company with someone uncircumcised, you committed a great sin. You became unclean.

Acts 11 is after Peter baptized Cornelius and the whole group there and after he had remained with them a number days. Not only did Peter go in there and eat with them, he preached to them, he baptized them and he stayed there a number of days. We don’t know how many days that is; that’s got to be probably more than a week.

Acts 11.1: “Now, the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God; and when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of *the* circumcision disputed with him, saying, ‘You went in to men who were uncircumcised and did eat with them!’” (vs 1-3). Great sin! The reason I’m bringing this out is because this bears on what happened in Gal. 2 some years later.

Verse 4: “But Peter related *the event* from the beginning and expounded *everything* in order to them, saying,” Then, telling exactly what it was.

After they received the Holy Spirit, Peter said, v 16: “Then I remembered the Word of *the* Lord, how He had said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit.’ Therefore, if God also gave them the same gift that *was given* to us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I *to dissent*? Do I have the power to forbid God?” (vs 16-17). Of course not! No one has the power to:

- tell God anything
- forbid God
- modify His Word
- or change it

Who changed it? *Jesus Christ!* Not an arbitrary decision by men by saying, ‘Just think how many people we can get in the Church if we just go down and baptize all the Gentiles without having them be circumcised. Just think how many tithes and offerings we can get and how much they can send up here to Jerusalem. Won’t that be wonderful?’ That’s not the way it happened, but that’s the way human beings think.

(go to the next track)

Verse 18: “And after hearing these things, they were silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also has God indeed granted repentance unto life!’”—same status, same thing. Now it’s the *circumcision of the heart* rather than of the flesh.

Let’s see why Peter was so much at fault; Galatians 2:11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned.” We’ll see that Peter and the other Jews did this publicly. This had to be done publicly and not privately, because it affected all of the Jews and the Gentiles.

Verse 12: “For before certain *ones* came from James...”

I also want to bring up something that is very important that I touched on. The Jews had such an absolutely hateful attitude toward Gentiles. They considered them to be as animals and dogs. They had a superior attitude, and that even carried unto the Church, though these were converted. They come down with a superior attitude, which the Jews still have today. Jews come into a Christian organization and they seek to set it right with their traditions even to this day. Rather than:

- humble themselves
- learn from Christ the way they ought to learn
- get rid of the traditions
- repent like all the Gentiles have to repent
- come to God

So, here comes this entourage from Jerusalem.

Verse 12: “For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles. However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles...*” Here’s the politics. Here’s Peter, the apostle to the circumcision, probably on a journey, and he stopped by Antioch. He was there probably during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Here comes an entourage from Jerusalem and Peter didn’t want to get in bad politically, with the ones in Jerusalem. This was a political decision on his part, because he knew better. That’s why Paul wrote in Gal. 1, ‘If I yet seek to please men, I would not be the minister of God.’ So, Peter thought to please the circumcision party from Jerusalem to show, ‘I’m still a good Jew and I’m apostle to the circumcision.’ He forgot all about what was recorded there later in Acts 11, that he was at fault in this instance, grossly at fault.

“...being afraid of those of *the* circumcision party.... [politics] ...And the rest of *the* Jews... [there were Jews and Gentiles in Antioch] ...joined him in *this* hypocritical act... [a division right down the middle of the congregation] ...insomuch that even Barnabas... [who was formerly a Levite and then was made an apostle] ...was carried away with their hypocrisy” (vs 12-13). Paul walks in and he sees this and he says, ‘What’s this!’

Verse 14: “But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel...”—which he received from Jesus Christ, which also Peter received from Jesus Christ, the Truth that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised. You could stay with them, live with them, eat with them and not be condemned by God. Here it is years later, Peter fell into a political gaffe.

“...I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles... [eating with anyone] ...and not according to Judaism...’” (v 14). This was *a law of Judaism* and not a Law of God. That’s where all of the Protestants don’t understand this. They are totally ignorant of the truth of this matter.

“...why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize?” (v 14)—by making them separate.

‘Hey, kids, you’ve been in the bus, now’s the time to go back of the bus. We Jews who are important are here and we can’t be bothered with your dirty, unclean presence.’ That’s virtually what that said. *Peter knew better!* It’s not a Law of God. Where in the Old Testament do you read that? *You don’t read it any place!* This is a *tradition and law of the Jews*.

Verse 15: “We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles, knowing that a man

is not justified by **works of law...**” (vs 15-16). You need to read in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix R: What Is Meant By ‘the Works of the Law?’ It’s not as it is in the *King James*, ‘the works of the law.’ In the Greek, there is no definite article before *works* or before *law*. This is ‘works of law’ of any kind, **not from the laws of God**. That’s why they come up with such inane doctrines that, ‘Paul had a better gospel than Jesus Christ.’

Verse 16: “Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law...”

- What forgives sin? *Repentance!*
- How is that forgiven? *By God in heaven above through the sacrifice of Christ!*

All of that is of the heart and the action of God to bring forgiveness and put you in right standing with Him. *That is the beginning of grace!* No law can do that. Law was never, **never**, **never** designed to justify anyone before God the Father in heaven above. The rituals that they had at the temple only justified them to the temple. That was it! They weren’t called to salvation. They didn’t have the Holy Spirit.

Now we’re dealing with a really terrible situation here. If Paul did not take his stand right here, against the circumcision party, against Peter, against Barnabas and all of those who were there from James—and they all knew better because they knew of what was recorded in Acts 10 and 11—the Church would be saddled with traditions of Jews. God did not want that! That’s why this is such a key thing. ***God does not want the traditions of men in His Church at all, anywhere, by Jew or Gentile—period!***

- Was Paul conversant with the Old Testament? *Yes!*
- Did he know Hebrew? *Yes! He spoke it and wrote it!*

He wrote the New Testament in Greek. He used the words:

- ‘Kurios’ for *Lord*
- ‘Theos’ for *God*
- ‘Rios’ for *Son*
- ‘Jesus Christos’ for *Jesus Christ*
- ‘Pater’ for *Father*

If Hebrew sacred names were required in the New Testament, ***he would have written it!***

All of you sacred namers are trying to impose upon the Church a teaching originating from a man who thinks he can improve the Word of God by changing it and putting in Hebrew sacred names when the New Testament does not have them. If you are in a Hebrew-speaking church, then however the Hebrew names are pronounced would be perfectly fine. That does not mean that it follows through into every language.

It's like one man who really is an advocate of sacred names, he's in Texas with a thick Texas accent, and it's 'Yaw-way.' We are told that if you don't pronounce it exactly correct God won't hear you. What are you going to do with an accent like that? If it was such a thing that they go to heaven, he'd get up there at the pearly gates and Peter would be there and he'd say, 'Who are you?' 'I'm a Yaw-way preacher.' 'What?'

Verse 16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law..." That term, 'works of law,' means *any work of any law*, including Sabbath-keeping, Holy Day-keeping, and all the laws of God. All the laws of God are for us to keep, because God commands it and it shows our obedience to God. We keep them in the Spirit of the Law through the grace of God. ***No law anywhere was ever designed to replace repentance, baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit through the mercy and grace of God!*** That's what they were trying to do with this by saying, 'We are better and in better standing with God if we don't eat with the Gentiles.'

That didn't make them in better standing with God. That made them sinners and hypocrites and Peter knew better. Most Protestants read that and they read it in the 'idolized' *King James Version*. The only version they have is the 1611 *King James Version*. The 1611 *King James Version*, for you're information, is not sacred language. It was originally written in Greek. God intends it to be in every generation to have a proper and good translation for that generation. The 1611 was good for them.

"...but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ... [Christ's faith in us] ...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ..." (v 16)—which is what He did, because He loved us, the faith that He gives us because we believe in Him *and not by 'works of law.'*

Let's just set up a quick law here for trial. What if it was required that in order to get into the Kingdom of God you had to keep a minimum of 1,000 Sabbaths and it had to be 1,000? It couldn't be any less. It could be more, but not less. What if you were going to church on that very day and you were to have your 1,000th Sabbath and it was going to be a celebration. You had it absolutely made to be in the Kingdom of God.

BAM! There's a car wreck and you're killed. At the resurrection, Christ says, 'Huh; I see here on the record that you didn't meet the minimum requirement. You missed it by one. Sorry about that, go to the Lake of Fire.' That shows the absurdity and the impossibility of any law replacing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and being put in right standing with God through His grace.

What Paul's saying here, by using the phrase 'works of law,' is that he's making it clear that ***no law***, how great or how small, can do away with the sacrifice of Christ to justify you and put you in right standing with God. A lot of people say, 'Oh well, that being the case, I don't have to keep any law.' ***No***, that's not the case. The purpose of law is not to justify. The purpose of law and commandment-keeping is to keep you from sinning, to have you walking in the 'way of the Lord.'

"...and not by works of law; because by works of law shall no flesh be justified" (v 16). ***God never used law as a means of spiritual justification unto salvation!***

Verse 17: "Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ... [through His sacrifice and blood] ...*and* we ourselves are found to be sinners..."—by reverting back to:

- traditional laws of Judaism
- traditional laws of Catholicism
- traditional laws concerning anything
- add-ons or takeaways that men would do

Those are all counted as sin!

What Paul was saying here is that what you're doing is sinning. You're missing the whole principle that those things can't make you right with God. You're trying to usurp the operation of God through Christ, His sacrifice, mercy, forgiveness, baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit, and replace it with a law of Judaism. That's why they were sinners.

"...is Christ then *the* minister of sin?..." (v 17). All you Protestants listen up. If you, by tradition, follow the Roman Catholic Church, and if you don't have Rome's Challenge to the Protestants—found in Appendix N of *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, and is in several of our other publications—where they tell you very flatly that you Protestants in keeping Sunday are following the Roman Catholic Church because they instituted it. Guess what? If you accept it and follow it as a tradition of men manufactured by Constantine, a pagan Roman emperor, and you accept that, you're a sinner.

You go to church every Sunday and the minister assures you that 'by grace you are saved.' 'Hallelujah! We're here. You can do anything you want. Christ did away with the Law. Paul has a greater gospel than that of Christ.' You're out there, 'Oh wonderful. Oh lovely, nice!' Christ is going to say, 'How dare you do that? How dare you change My Holy Sabbath and make the weak excuse and say, 'Every day is Holy.' God never made every day Holy—or:

- Christmas

- Easter
- New Years
- Halloween
- all of those things that men have added to it

They are not ministers of Christ and Christ is not the minister of sin Who is going to endorse it! Those who do it are sinning. They need to have it that plain.

I know some people won't like what I'm saying. As someone said when I got done bringing a few things to the woman who brought this up on the radio program, 'You were a little hard on her.' I said, 'No, not really.'

"...*is* Christ then *the* minister of sin?" (v 17). This harkens all the way back to Cain—does it not? What did God tell Cain with his offering because He didn't regard it? *God said, 'If you do well, you will be accepted. But if you do not well, sin lies at the door.'*

"...MAY IT NEVER BE! For if I build again those things that I destroyed..." (vs 17-18). All of those of you who used to be in the Church of God years ago and you've gone back out into the world—Christmas, Easter and all of those abominations, and you say, 'We're delivered to do this'—you are making yourself a transgressor. As Paul said:

"...I am making myself a transgressor" (v 18). Don't do God a disservice by putting His name on it. Put the right name that belongs on it—Bakas, or Baal, or Nimrod, or Tammuz. Then you'll please all the atheists.

Verse 19: "For I through law... ['the wages of sin is death'] ...died to *works of law* in order that I may live to God." That's kind of hard to figure out. That doesn't mean that law is not to be kept. This means that he died to law as a means of righteousness or justification:

- true righteousness comes from Christ!
- true righteousness comes from the Holy Spirit!
- true righteousness is within!

Everything that we do up to the point to where we repent, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit is following God, and He's leading you to a certain point and you have to come to that point that you're baptized.

Verse 20: "I have been crucified with Christ..." How was that? *Through baptism!* He wasn't on the cross with Christ.

"...yet, I live.... [because you're raised out of the watery grave] ...*Indeed*, it is no longer I..." (v 20). In other words, I now am not going to live

my life for me. Me, myself and I, and I give myself a big hug, I love me dearly. ***No!*** The Greek word for *I* is 'ego.'

"...but Christ lives in me.... [through the power of His Holy Spirit, as other Scriptures show.] ...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness... [justification, to be put in right standing with God] ...*is* through *works of law*, then Christ died in vain" (vs 20-21). Note sermon series:

- *Epistle to the Hebrews*
- *Epistle to the Romans*
- *Epistle to the Galatians*

They should be studied in that order. Most people like to jump right into the middle of Galatians, which some Scriptures are very hard to understand. It throws them for a complete loop, especially if they read the things about 'the law' when it was never intended to mean 'the Law of God.' You must understand Hebrews. Then go back and understand Romans. Then understand Galatians. Just remember this: ***No law can substitute for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!—period!*** Keeping the commandments of God are important; they are essential for salvation.

This shows us, since we are sinners and we still sin after the knowledge of the Truth and even after being baptized, that God has given the means through Christ alone for forgiveness, not through any works that we do. We must keep the commandments of God. No doubt about it!

1-John 1:5: "And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is Light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth" (vs 5-6).

Remember, even in the book *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* by Daniel G. Amen, M.D., Dr. Amen has understood this principle: *the human brain lies to itself!* That's how it creates its own fantasy reality to justify living in sin. That's why Paul says here, 'we are lying to ourselves.' If you're in a fantasy reality and living in sin, then the next phrase applies and "**...we are not practicing the Truth.**" What is the Truth?

- Your laws are Truth
- Your commandments are Truth
- Your Word is True from the beginning

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own

Son, cleanses us from all sin.” It’s a continuous thing.

That’s why in the model prayer, what does it say? *Part of it says, ‘Forgive us our sins as we forgive others!’* Every day we are to pray and ask God to forgive us for our sins, acknowledge our sins. God is working at cleaning up our minds with His Spirit internally. God wants us to come to the point that when we have a thought that is sin, which we all have, that we recognize it and put it away and repent of it.

The way Satan comes to tempt you is not with something that is outright evil. Just like with Christmas. ‘Oh, it’s a wonderful time of the year.’ Lovely songs, great hymns, people getting together, everyone is happy, until they get their bill on January 10th for all that they’ve spent.

Here’s how the operation works, v 8: “If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves...” This means that if we say that we do not sin or don’t have a sinful nature, ***we are deceiving ourselves!***

“...and the Truth is not in us.... [here’s what we do] ...If we confess our own sins...” (vs 8-9)—to the Roman Catholic priest. That’s how the Catholics read it. ***No!*** It doesn’t say that! “If we confess our own sins...” to *God the Father and Jesus Christ!*

“...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v 9). God wants ‘Truth in the inward parts,’ cleansing us of all sin (Psa. 51), and that’s a life-long project.

Verse 10: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

1-John 2:1: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And yet, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous; and He is ***the propitiation*** for our sins...” (vs 1-2)—continual atoning; that’s the operation of grace. Going back to God and asking forgiveness all the time, and He doesn’t charge you a thing for it.

You go to a Catholic priest and you go in the confessional booth, are you really going to tell them everything that you have done? I always ask former Catholics, ‘When you went to confession, did you tell the priest everything?’ *Oh, no!* But they had works of justification: 200 hail Marys, 400 our fathers, and so much community work; ‘bless you, my son, your sins are forgiven.’ One man got tired of that and he went into the confessional booth and the priest said, ‘My son, would you like to confess your sins?’ Of course, he couldn’t see the priest

because they have that all secret. So, the man said, ‘father, let’s begin with yours.’ He could ask, ‘How many kids have you pedophile’d this week?’

Following right on that, v 3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.” You can have your sins forgiven, but if you don’t keep His commandments, you’ll never know God; it’s that simple.

Verse 4: “The one who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.” I guess that’s where the radio host thought that I was a little hard on this woman who called in, because I read this Scripture. I should have gone on and read vs 5 and 6.

- What does this say about those who say that the commandments have been done away when Jesus said they weren’t?
- What does this say about those who say that we’re under grace and don’t have to keep any laws or commandments?
- ***It says that they are liars and the Truth is not in them!***

They may say this very nicely. They may be a very kindly type people, but that’s how Satan deceives. He sends in wolves in sheep’s clothing. They look good outwardly. He doesn’t send in a flaming dragon.

Verse 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected....” Because now you have not only the Word, you have the commandments *and* the Word. That’s how we are to think. That’s how we are to act that could build the character of God: love, joy, peace, faith and all the works of the Spirit—fruits of the Spirit—being perfected. ***You can’t be perfected spiritually without keeping the Word of God, which means His commandments!***

“...By this *means* we know that we are in Him” (v 5). Just like in the Sabbath Day. Many people do not understand this because they don’t keep the Sabbath or they don’t keep it rightly. ***If*** you keep the Sabbath correctly, this is very important for anyone who is teaching. ***If you do not:***

- honor the Sabbath
- teach the Word of God
- inspire the brethren to do so

you will never be perfecting them in the Truth! God has designed the Sabbath this way: *Wherever those are who are gathered in His name on the Sabbath Day He puts His presence there and it becomes part of the fellowship:*

- between the brethren and God
 - between the brethren and the teacher
 - between God the Father with all of us
- it is***
- a day of spiritual fellowship

- a day to be taught of God
- a day to learn of His way
- a day to learn about eternal life is a whole life-long process of learning and growing

That's how the love of God is perfected in us and "...we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked" (vs 5-6).

- How did Jesus walk?
- Did He keep the commandments?
- Did He keep the Sabbath?

If someone says, 'Oh, you're a Christian. What day do you keep?' You just answer back and say, 'The same day Jesus did? What day do you keep?' 'Well, everybody goes to church on Sunday.' *Yeah, that's what's wrong!*

- Was Jesus kind? *Yes!*
- Did Jesus love His neighbor? *Yes!*
- Did He follow all the commandments of God? *Yes!*
- Did He worship God? *Yes!*
- Did He pray to Him? *Yes!*
- Did He know the Word of God? *Of course! He's the One Who inspired it!*

He has given us the Word of God. I think in this age, at this time, as we look down the road, we don't have to look to far, very dangerous times are on the horizon.

- What are you going to do since you have the whole of the Word of God and you don't use it all?

You 'slice and dice' it and say, 'Oh, Paul had a better gospel, a superior gospel than what Jesus did!'

- Where do you think that puts you?

No! It was the same Gospel!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 15:8-9
- 2) Ephesians 3:3-5
- 3) Acts 9:4-15, 17-18
- 4) Galatians 1:1-12
- 5) Hebrews 13:8
- 6) Galatians 1:13-24
- 7) Galatians 2:1-10
- 8) Acts 11:1-4, 16-18
- 9) Galatians 2:11-21
- 10) 1-John 1:5-10
- 11) 1-John 2:1-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 3:1
- 2-Peter 1
- Jeremiah 10
- Acts 15; 10
- Psalm 51

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman E Goldin
- *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* by Daniel G. Amen, M.D.

Sermon Series:

- *Epistle to the Galatians*
- *Epistle to the Hebrews*
- *Epistle to the Romans*

From: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
- Appendix I: A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants
- Appendix R: What is Meant By "the Works of the Law"?
- Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants

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Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? III

Fred R. Coulter

How many have heard of an early church leader around the beginning of the second century A.D. whose name was Marcion? Marcion invented *his own version* of the New Testament, which is almost identical to the Pauline theory today, that Paul brought a superior gospel than that of Jesus Christ.

What he did is take the writing of the Apostle Paul and those of Mark and he created a *grace New Testament*. He left out all the other Scriptures. He didn't believe in the Old Testament. All of those Scriptures where Paul talks about the Law, keeping the commandments and things like that, he just took them out.

This reminds me of what Solomon said, *'There's nothing new under the sun. That which has been is that which shall be.'* That's what we have with this doctrine. Part of the doctrine that they have, is what they refer to as 'eternal security.' That's very akin to 'universal salvation.'

Universal salvation is a doctrine, which is supposed to be Christian, that God will ultimately save all human beings; no one will be left out. That's also seen in the final trilogy of Star Wars, where even Darth Vader was converted. There are some who say that even Satan will be converted.

All of this stems from the doctrine that there are no laws to keep. It stems from the doctrine that once you believe in Jesus, you can't sin anymore. Once you believe in Jesus, then you have 'eternal security,' which means that *even though you sin*, regardless of what your life-style is—we understand about the prodigal son where there is repentance, and we understand that people can go astray and backslide, that is true, and God has made provision for that, but this goes beyond: *it doesn't matter what your behavior is as long as you believe Jesus, accept Him in your heart and are 'born again'!* That's what they call *born again* and everything is just fine.

Let's look at a couple of Scriptures that tends to indicate this. Let's come to John 5. Of course, those who believe in these kinds of doctrines *turn to the favorite Scriptures that prove their point and never look at other Scriptures that disprove what they are saying!* The truth is that you have to have all the Scriptures, all the Word of God, not just what you want of it.

John 5:24: "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who hears My Word, and believes Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life and does not come into judgment; for he has passed from death into life."

You take that Scripture alone and you don't understand what it says, then it creates some

problems. On the surface it looks like all you have to do is believe, but notice the phrase before that: "...the one who hears My Word..."

The difference in the translation between 'word' and 'words' is that word, in the sense of a message, means *all that Jesus has said, not just a word or a saying, but everything that Jesus said!*

"...and believes Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life and does not come into judgment, for he has passed from death into life" (v 24).

Here's another very interesting Scripture that they like to turn to, to say that there's no need to even be baptized, that if you *believe* you receive the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:12: "...who first trusted in the Christ; in Whom you also trusted after hearing the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, after believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (vs 12-13).

Those who don't believe in baptism say that you don't have to be baptized. All you have to do is believe, because baptism was just for the Jews. They never ask: Why do we find Gentiles being baptized? Then they quote the Scripture in 1-Cor., where Paul says, 'God did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel. So therefore, baptism is not necessary.' Paul had Titus and Timothy to do the baptizing. Just like it says, 'And Jesus baptized more than John [the Baptist] did.' Not Jesus, but the disciples did the baptizing.

John 6:37: "All whom the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out." No conditions! Just because it doesn't mention repentance here has nothing to do with the fact that repentance is no longer required. Just because it doesn't mention baptism here has nothing to do with claiming that baptism is not required.

What did Jesus say in Luke 13? *'What do you think about those who died under the tower in Siloam? Were they sinners above all others? No they weren't; unless you repent, you shall likewise die!'* That's part of Jesus' message: ***Here's My Word.***

How about those who Herod killed and mingled their blood with their sacrifices on the altar? Were they sinners above all people in Jerusalem? *No! He said, 'Unless you repent you shall in nowise...' There has to be repentance!*

What did He say in the last part of the book of Acts? *Go into all the world and preach repentance and remission of sins!* Let's keep that in mind as we're reading here in John 6:

Verse 35: “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the Bread of Life; the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time. But *as* I said to you, you also have seen Me, yet, you do not believe. **All whom the Father gives Me** shall come to Me...” (vs 35-37). What does that require? *First of all*:

- answering the call
- repenting
- being baptized

You don’t belong to Christ unless you have the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God is not given unless there is baptism.

Verse 38: “For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me: that *of* all whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day” (vs 38-39). ‘Eternal security’? Once saved, always saved’?

Verse 40: “And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Now you have a problem with this verse. Since Jesus is in heaven, how are you going to see Him today? He was talking to the Jews there.

Verse 63: “It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing...” They interpret this to mean that you don’t have to keep the commandments because that doesn’t profit anything. Jesus said, ‘If you will enter into life, keep the commandments.’

“...The words that I speak to you, *they* are spirit and *they* are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from *the* beginning who were the ones that did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, ‘For this reason, I have said to you, no one can come to Me unless it has been given to him from My Father’” (vs 63-65).

What does that mean? *That means, the Father has to draw them, the Father has to grant them repentance, and subsequently they can be baptized!* There you have it!

Let’s look at some other Scriptures that contradict some of this. If it is so easy to be saved and God wants everyone to be saved, which we find in one Scripture, and He wants all to come to repentance, which we find in another Scripture, why do we have this verse? If we have passed from death to life, and we do not have judgment upon us, why do we have this Scripture?

1-Peter 4:16: “Yet, if anyone *is* suffering as a Christian, he should not be ashamed; but let him glorify God because of this.”

Here’s a verse that goes totally contrary to the easy salvation of *just believe* and you’re going to make it into heaven:

Verse 17: “For the time *has come* for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those **who do not obey** the Gospel of God?”

I can see why they wouldn’t want to have this, because the word *obedience* is there. ‘You don’t want to have that. There’s nothing you ought to obey.’

Verse 18: “And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the* sinner?”

Just like we read in John 6:39, that Jesus said, “...I should not lose any...” This means there’s no such thing as the unpardonable sin? That’s why they explain the *second death* as separation from God—‘won’t lose any.’

We know from Heb. 6 and 10, that there is the *unpardonable* sin. Jesus also gives the warning. We’re going to see that salvation, while it is assured, it is not guaranteed if you remain living in sin.

Matthew 11:25: “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*’” (vs 25-27).

That says a lot, too. That ties in with the other Scriptures about being drawn, and so forth. It is a dual operation. The Father draws us, Christ works with us, etc.

Verse 28: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden *is* light” (vs 28-30).

Therefore, there are no commandments to keep, but most of those people who believe in this doctrine, believe that in the land that they live in, it has to operate on the rule of law. There’s a great contradiction in their thinking.

What we’re going to do—because these Scriptures look like they conflict with one another and they don’t—is to look at something that’s very important for us to realize. Salvation has conditions. Conditions are defined by the **if** clauses in the Bible. There are 1,332, **if** clauses in the Bible. {Note sermon series: *If Statements in the Bible*}

First of all, we will look at some in the Old Testament. There are two words that are used in the Old Testament for *if*. The first one is **‘im.’** which is conditional and also having to do with choices. People will say, ‘If it’s conditional, aren’t you earning your salvation?’ *No, because salvation is the result of the beginning of it with the forgiveness of sin and being put in right standing with God! The conditions are* that we love God, obey Him and keep His commandments.

Let’s look at the heart of people in talking about God. Here they just heard the Ten Commandments given to them. This is the generation ready to go into the ‘promised land.’ Moses is reiterating a lot of the things to them.

Deuteronomy 5:22: “The LORD spoke these words to all your assembly... [the Ten Commandments.] ...in the mountain out of the midst of the fire of the cloud and of the thick darkness with a great voice. And He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and delivered them to me. And it came to pass when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, for the mountain burned with fire, you came near me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders, and you said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has revealed His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire. We have seen today that God talks with man yet he *still* lives. Now, therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die” (vs 22-25).

That’s how people approach the commandments of God today: ‘We don’t want to hear that.’

Verse 26: “For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived?” There’s an **‘if** right there: ‘If we continue to hear, we’re going to die.’ Notice God’s answer when they told Him:

Verse 27: ““You go near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say. And you speak to us all that the LORD our God shall speak to you, and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.’ And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken. Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!’” (vs 27-29). It was for their good. Right after that, what does He say?

Deuteronomy 6:1: “Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you

so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it, That you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son’s son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and **be diligent to observe it, so that it may be well with you...**” (vs 1-3).

Part of the doctrine that they have of *Paul* gave a superior gospel, is that the Law is a curse! If you try and keep any of the Law, you’re cursed! **God says that you’re blessed!**

“...and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall *love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day shall be in your heart*” (vs 3-6).

That’s where God wants them. That’s called *conversion* in the New Testament. They didn’t have the Spirit of God because He said, ‘O that there were such a heart in them that they would keep My commandments.’

‘If becomes very important; this is the ‘im’—*conditional clause*. Someone is going to say, ‘There aren’t conditions in the New Testament.’ Hold on! We haven’t gotten there, yet. You will see that there are.

Deuteronomy 28:1: “And it shall come to pass, **if** you shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD your God to observe *and* to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you **if** you will obey the voice of the LORD your God” (vs 1-2).

We’ve gone through this many times. I suggest that if you want to know what’s happening in America and the world, you read the whole chapter of Deut. 28. You’re going to find out that, ‘Yes, that’s exactly what’s happening now.’

There are two **ifs** in v 15: one for good and one for evil, because what did God do? *He set before them, life and death, blessing and cursing, good and evil!* He commanded them to **choose life**.

Verse 15: “And it shall come to pass, if you **will not** hearken to the voice of the LORD your God to observe and to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”

No one wants the curses. Everyone wants the blessings regardless of how they live. You can read all of the cursings. Now let’s look at something someone is surely going to say, ‘You’re reading Old

Testament stuff.’ That’s true, but it’s *the Bible* stuff. For all of those of you who believe that Jesus’ message was just for the Jews and we don’t have to follow anything there, you’ve got another thought coming.

John 12:37: “Although He had done so many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in Him, so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled who said, ‘Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of *the* Lord been revealed?’ For this *very* reason they could not believe because again Isaiah said” (vs 37-39).

They say they believe in God, *they want to believe in God*; they believe in Jesus, *the way they want to believe in Jesus*, but they don’t believe in God *the way God says* to believe in Him and *the way Jesus said* to believe in Him.

Verse 40: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so that they would not see with *their* eyes and understand with *their* hearts, and be converted, and I would heal them.”

That goes contrary, again, to other Protestant doctrines that we have to get out and convert everyone and those who do not hear the name of Jesus are doomed to eternal death. Oops! What about ‘universal salvation?’

Verse 41: “Isaiah said these things when he saw His glory and spoke concerning Him. But even so, many among the rulers believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God” (vs 41-43). *Politically correct!*

From here to the end of the chapter is a very important section of Scripture.

Verse 44: “Then Jesus called out and said, **‘The one who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me.’**” What did Jesus say to those false prophets who would come to Him in the Judgment Day and say, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we do this and didn’t we do that and didn’t we do the other thing?’ And He will say, ‘Depart from Me you who work lawlessness.’

Let’s read that again, v 44: “Then Jesus called out and said, ‘The **one** who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me.’” Jesus also said to take the Gospel and His words to the whole world. Furthermore, He said to those standing there:

Verse 45: “And the one who sees Me sees Him Who sent Me. I have come *as* a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. **But *if* anyone hears My words...**” How can you hear His words when you

reject them? We’ll talk about rejecting Jesus a little later.

“...and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world” (v 47). Oh, so there’s no judgment for not believing. Hold on!

Verse 48: “The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has one who judges him; the Word, which I have spoken...” Notice the difference between ‘words,’ that is what He is speaking there, and “...Word, that I have spoken...” That means the *entire message* of Christ, all of it.

“...that shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father, Who sent Me, gave Me commandment Himself, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. Therefore, whatever I speak, I speak exactly as the Father has told Me” (vs 48-50).

Think on this: If you think that in your *superior gospel* that Paul supposedly gave, if you worship the Father, you worship Christ, and yet, you do away with the Gospel, what we are talking about is almost an insane position of interpreting the Scriptures. It says, here, “...whatever I speak, I speak exactly at the Father has told me.”

So, *everything* that Jesus taught came from the Father. If you believe that this is only for the Jews and not for everyone, then you’re also rejecting the Father. If you reject Him, where are you on the scale of salvation?

- Have you reached the first rung?
- Have you even gotten to the ladder?

Psa. 66—we’re looking again, at an *if* clause. If you have a computer or if you’ve got e-Sword {e-sword.net} or anything like that. Go ahead and look up everything in the Bible where there is *if*. Even with that, you don’t pick up all the conditional things that are contained in the Word of God.

Psalms 66:16: “Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. **If** I regard iniquity in my heart... [sound a little bit like Matt. 5 & 6?] ...the LORD will not hear me” (vs 16-18).

There’s a condition for prayer. What did Jesus say in the ‘Lord’s prayer’ that we are to do everyday? *Ask God to forgive us our sins*, so that we can have our hearts and our minds cleansed and purified!

Verse 19: “Surely God has heard; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God

Who has not turned away my prayer, nor His **steadfast** love from me” (vs 19-20). Steadfast love could also be translated as *mercy*.

Let’s look at the other **if** clause in the Hebrew that comes from the word **‘kiy,’** which means this is a *causal relationship*. The first one we saw (‘im’) was a *conditional relationship*. Here is more of a causal relationship. This causal relationship can also be translated **when** as well as **if**.

Deuteronomy 13:1: “**If** a prophet rises among you... [it could also read **when** a prophet rises among you] ...or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder, which he foretold to you comes to pass, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them’” (vs 1-2). Anything to deviate to the right hand or to the left hand from what God has said to do.

Verse 3: “You shall not hearken to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams...” I think we could apply that to this prophet who comes along and says, ‘We don’t need to follow the Gospel. That was for the Jews. All we have to do is believe. We don’t have to be baptized. Universal security is there forever.’ Here’s the reason:

“...for the LORD your God *is* testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (v 3). That’s why these things come. That’s why it’s important when they come that we examine them for what they are. What did Jesus say, ‘Many shall come in My name saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and deceive many.’ How do they deceive many when they use the Bible? *They do so by using parts of it! They do so by picking the part that they agree with!*

Just like the children of Israel. ‘Oh, Moses. You tell us what God says. We’ll do it. We don’t want to hear God.’ Then Moses shows what they should do.

Let’s see the prayer of Solomon, 1-Kings 8:20: “And the LORD has performed His Word, which He spoke, and I have risen up instead of my father David. And I sit on the throne of Israel as the LORD promised. And I have built a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.... [this is the dedication ceremony of the temple] ...And *I have* set there a place for the Ark in which *is* the covenant of the LORD, which He made with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.’ And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel...” (vs 20-22). Just picture this:

The temple is there, beautiful. All the people are there, thousands and thousands of people. They actually put up extra altars all around so they could

have the burnt offerings, and so forth. They had all the priests working at that time. It must have been a beautiful setting. Here is Solomon up on a raised platform speaking this to all Israel.

“...and spread forth his hands toward the heavens. And he said, ‘LORD God of Israel, *there is* no god like You, in heaven above or on earth beneath, who keeps covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their heart, Who has kept with Your servant David my father what You promised him. You also spoke with Your mouth and have fulfilled with Your hand, as *it is* today. Therefore, now, LORD God of Israel, keep with Your servant David, my father, what You promised him, saying, ‘There shall not be cut off from you a man in My sight to sit on the throne of Israel—**if** your sons take heed to their way so that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me’” (vs 22-25)—conditional.

We’re going to see some other conditions, here. The whole prayer is really one of conditions. This is conditional and it could also be translated, *when*:

Verse 31: “**If** [when] any man sins against his neighbor, and **if** [when] an oath is laid upon him to cause him to swear, and **if** [when] the oath comes before Your altar in this house, then hear in heaven, and do, and judge Your servants...” (vs 31-32).

Verse 35: “When the heavens are restrained, and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, **if** [when] they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them, **then** hear in heaven...” (vs 35-36).

Here, we have **if/then**. Many of these, all through this whole prayer—the whole eighth chapter of 1-Kings—is **if/then**. There are the conditions and will see this also in the New Testament when we come back to it again.

“...and forgive the sin of Your servants, and of Your people Israel, for You shall teach them the good way in which they should walk, and give rain upon Your land which You have given to Your people for an inheritance. **If** there is famine in the land, **if** there is plague, blasting, mildew, locusts... [ties in with Deut. 28] ...**if** there are stripping locusts; **if** their enemy encircles them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness, any prayer, any supplication from any man of all Your people Israel, who shall each know the plague of his own heart... [in other words, beginning with your own heart with repentance] ...and shall spread forth his hands toward this house, **then** hear in heaven Your dwelling place and forgive...” (vs 36-39).

This is quite a prayer when you go through and see everything that is there. Notice how God has kept this with His descendents of Israel.

I remember the governor of Georgia got up and prayed and asked God to forgive the people of their sins because of the drought. They only had 21 days of water left. Shortly after that they had some rain. All that winter they had lots of rain. Because he was willing to confess the sins, God heard and answered that prayer. That doesn't mean that it's necessarily salvational, but it just means that God controls the physical thing and He controls the spiritual things. **If** those who are in need of things, physically pray to God and repent, He will hear them, too. That doesn't mean that they have salvation.

(go to the next track)

Verse 44: "**If** Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You shall send them..." That's also a very interesting thing. You don't go to war unless God tells you to go to war.

"...and shall pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name, **then** hear in heaven their prayer and their cry, and maintain their cause. **If**..." (vs 44-46). All of these are conditional and all of these **ifs** could be causal. These could be translated as **when**.

Verse 46: "**If** [when] they sin against You (for *there is* no man who does not sin)..." Here's a very good verse that shows that this *if* could also be translated **when** since there is no man who does not sin.

"...and **if** You are angry with them and have delivered them up before the enemy and they have been led away captive to the land of the enemy, far or near, yet, **if** they shall think within themselves in the land where they are carried captives, and repent, and pray to You in the land of their captors saying, 'We have sinned and have done perversely, we have done wickedly,' and *so* return to You with all their heart and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and **if** they pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, to the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name, **then** hear their prayer and their cry in heaven Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You..." (vs 46-50). *Quite a prayer!*

We can see that in action in Rev. 7 with the sealing with the 144,000 of the children of Israel who repent in captivity. We see how that this applies even in the New Testament. Does this not also apply to the Church? **If** the Church goes astray, which it can, and **if** they do things that they ought not, which they can, **if** they sin, which we all do, **then** when we repent and pray to God—and now the temple is not on earth, but in heaven above, with Christ as our High Priest at the right hand—**then** He will hear.

Let's look at something in the New Testament concerning **if**, the Greek word is 'ei. There are other aspects of it that we will also touch on a little bit later.

Romans 8:9: "However, you are not in *the* flesh... [in your standing before God, even though you still have a fleshly body] ...but in *the* Spirit, **if** *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you...." This ought to prompt us to ask:

- Since this is conditional, how does one receive the Holy Spirit?
- What did Peter say? '*Repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!*'

This is quite a verse because it goes right along with several of the **ifs** in vs 9-10.

"...But **if** anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (v 9). We have here, two conditional clauses. **If** you have the Spirit of God, and **if** you do not have the Spirit of God. In order to belong to Him, you have to have the Spirit of God. **If** you don't have the Spirit of God, all your profession of believing in Jesus does not qualify you for salvation.

For those of us who know about the second resurrection, it may qualify you for the second resurrection, but it does not qualify you for the first resurrection to eternal life. That's a whole other situation of conversion and God's Spirit. This is what it's talking about, here.

Verse 10: "But **if** Christ *be* within you..." Didn't Paul say that *Christ in you is the hope of glory*? (Col. 1:27). This also shows that **if** you don't have the Spirit of Christ, Christ is not in you.

"...the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness" (v 10). Because the Spirit, which we'll see in a little bit, will lead us in the way that we need to go.

Verse 11: "Now **if** the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead... [what comes from the Father which we've explained previously] ...is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken... [make alive] ...your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you." He didn't say *go to heaven*.

All the other false doctrines come and fall in line like dominoes when you have false doctrine. The major false doctrine that this is based upon is believing in going to heaven. As we go through Rom. 8, we're seeing a lot of **ifs**, conditional.

You take the conditional **if**, and if you don't meet the condition it means that you won't meet the qualification for it.

“...**If** the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you” (v 11). But **if** His Spirit is not dwelling in you, you will not be resurrected to eternal life. Very simple!

Verse 12: “So then, brethren, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to *the* flesh; because **if** you are living according to *the* flesh, you shall die; but **if** by *the* Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live (vs 12-13). This is the whole operation of overcoming. It’s a continual thing that we do:

- day in and day out
- week in and week out
- month in and month out
- year after year
- all of the Sabbaths
- all of the Holy Days

All of these things are all tied in with it.

Verse 14: “For as many as...” This is also conditional, but it’s not an **if** clause. There are many conditional clauses without an **if**.

“...are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God” (v 14)—which means to take the opposite when you read these verses; as many as do not have the Holy Spirit are not led by the Holy Spirit and are not the sons of God.

Verse 15: “Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now **if**... [conditional] ...*we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—**if** indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (vs 15-17). There we have it. We have the man **ifs** and quite a few conditional clauses.

I’ll just use one example of this: ‘ei per’ that means *if indeed, or if so, or if it be*. That is still conditional.

We’re going to see some conditional things that are in John 3, also. Let me explain something as simply as I can. *Strong’s Concordance* is generally very good and you can use it to help understand the Bible even more. It is very good in nouns and adjectives, but it is worthless when it comes to verbs. What happens when you look up the word in the dictionary part of *Strong’s Concordance*, you only come up with the root word. The root word does not tell you the person, tense, condition or any of those things. Please understand, this does not put down anyone who doesn’t know Greek, but you cannot assume because you don’t know Greek that if

you can work *Strong’s Concordance* that you understand the Greek or the Hebrew. It doesn’t work that way.

John 3 is an excellent example of that because we’re going to see what is called a subjunctive clause. A subjunctive clause means that it is conditional. When we come to a certain very popular verse in John 3, you are going to be shocked that it is in the subjunctive and must be translated not as a dogmatic fait accompli, but as a subjunctive where there is a condition to it.

John 3:1: “Now, there was a man of the Pharisees, Nicodemus by name, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher *Who* has come from God...’” (vs 1-2). Later he was converted. We’ll give Nicodemus some credit. Here, at this point, he was afraid to come in daylight. We, all of us Pharisees are now. Now you understand why Jesus was so hard on the Pharisees. Read Matt. 23, ‘hypocrites, liars.’

“...because no one is able to do the miracles that You are doing **unless** God is with him” (v 2). That’s a very interesting word. You could translate it this way: ‘No one can do the miracles You [Jesus] are doing **if** God is not with Him,’ meaning, God is with Him [Jesus]. That comes from the Greek ‘ean mee’ that means **if, or unless, or except**. We’ll understand it in the next verse.

Verse 3: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, **unless** anyone is born again...’” If someone is not born again—if you use it in the **if** sense—but, *unless or except*, ‘ean mee.’

“...he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (v 3). Let’s answer the question concerning the Kingdom of God.

The Catholics parse it this way: The Kingdom of Heaven is spoken of in the New Testament as the place where souls go when someone dies. The Kingdom of God is the Roman Catholic Church and its spiritual and temporal powers.

- Are those in the Roman Catholic Church composed of flesh and blood? *Yes!*
- Do they consider, especially the clergy, that they are in and run the Kingdom of God? *Yes!*
- Do they consider that they are the sole teachers of salvation through Christ? *Yes!*

1-Corinthians 15:50: “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God...” Therefore, the Roman Catholic Church cannot be the Kingdom of God on earth—**period!** When you understand the Truth of the Bible, the Roman Catholic Church has nothing to do with the Christianity of the Bible.

Let's read some things that will help us understand *born again*.

Verse 39: "*Likewise*, not all flesh *is* the same flesh. Rather, *there is* one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another of fish, and another of birds. And *there are* heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly *is* different, and the *glory* of the earthly *is* different. *There is* one glory of *the* sun, and another glory of *the* moon, and another glory of *the* stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory" (vs 39-41).

I wonder what Paul would write today if he would have been able to see the things that Hubble has revealed to us.

Verse 42: "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption." ***No souls go to heaven! That is a pagan doctrine!*** The more you study Catholicism and compare it with the Bible, and the more you study Protestantism and compare it with the Bible, you will see that they are still lock-step with each other, with the exception of the pope and many idols.

Verse 43: "It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (vs 43-44). We will see that this is exactly what Jesus is talking about in John 3.

Verse 46: "However, the spiritual *was* not first, but the natural—then the spiritual." Let's stop here and see that this one verse debunks all of Mormon religion, and all pagan religions, which believe the same thing, which is:

We all existed as a speck in the heavens. Adam and Eve had to sin so that they could have children. Whenever a child is born it is actually possessed by one of these specks of spirit that was in heaven, which is saying that the spiritual is first. The Bible says that the natural is first, then the spiritual. ***The truth of the matter is that no one, except Jesus Christ, has been 'born again'!*** Some will say, 'Oh! Being born again is only for sinners.' *Really?* We'll cover that here, in just a little bit.

Verse 47: "The first man *is* of the earth—made of dust. The second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly one, so also *are all* those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *One*" (vs 47-49). When? *At the resurrection!* That's what Paul's talking about here.

Verse 50: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God,

nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep... [die] ...but we shall all be changed, in an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (vs 50-52).

First of all, we will talk about Jesus when He was born in the flesh.

- What do you mean that Jesus was *born again*?
- Why was it that He had to be *born again* because He didn't sin?
- *That's because you don't understand what 'born again' means!*

Born again does not mean to have an experience in your heart and you accept Jesus as your Savior. You're not *born again*. You're probably not even changed, because 95% of those who go through the 'sawdust trail' to give their heart to the Lord, in Protestantism, end up a year later exactly the same as they were when they so-called accepted the Lord.

Matthew 1:25—speaking of Joseph: "But he did not have sexual relations *with* her until *after* she had given birth to her Son, the firstborn..." This is when Jesus was born of the flesh. That's His first birth. You only have one birth in the flesh. You can't have two.

What does it mean to be *born again*? Here's another verse that people don't understand because they don't read the verses that follow.

Colossians 1:15: "Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* firstborn of all creation." So, Jesus was not only born a man, but we're going to see that this refers to being 'firstborn' not as a man, *but from the resurrection of the dead*. "...of all creation..." doesn't mean that Christ was the first thing created, because how can He be 'firstborn' if He was the first One created?

When you get into these nonsensical doctrines, because they don't read the Scripture, it doesn't make sense because they don't think it through. It's like snake handlers, they say, 'Oh, you're to pick up snakes.' How many die from snakebites. 'It says you won't be hurt from them.' *No!* It means to 'cast down' serpents, not pick them up! I guess that's why they make a lot of moonshine back there in 'them there hills.' You gotta have moonshine, a pretty good 'swig' of it, to start dancing with snakes and picking them up.

Why is He called the 'firstborn of all creation?' *Because that's the 'firstborn' of all who are created through the process of the resurrection!*

Verse 16: "Because by Him were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones,

or lordships, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all, and by Him all things subsist.... [v 18 answers v 15] ...And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; Who is *the* beginning, **the firstborn from among the dead...**" (vs 16-18) Jesus was born twice. He was *born* once in the flesh and again at the resurrection.

Revelation 1:4: "John to the seven churches that *are* in Asia: Grace and peace *be* to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His throne; and from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness... [which could also be martyr] ...**the Firstborn from the dead...**" (vs 4-5).

When you are resurrected, you are *born again*. Jesus was born in the flesh and He was resurrected from the dead, therefore, He was *born again* from the dead.

Let's come back to John 3 and you will be able to understand it much more clearly. Sometimes it's better to look at the conclusion of the matter and then go back and look at the other verses leading up to it to understand it.

John 3:3 is where we have 'ean mee' that would be, *unless, except, or if not*. I translated it *unless*, because that is clearer.

Verse 3: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly I say to you...' Actually, He's saying, 'In Truth, I'm telling you the Truth, in Truth.' So, what He's saying is true.

"...**unless** anyone is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (v 3). Those who claim to be 'born again' by a religious conversion experience, are they still flesh and blood? *Yes!* They are not *born again*. They totally misconstrue the meaning of 'born again.' That's why in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix P: What Does It Mean to Be "Born Again"? and Appendix Q: What Does It Mean to Be "Born of God"?

Verse 4: "Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man who is old be born? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?'" This was really showing that Nicodemus didn't understand the resurrection at all.

All of those who claim to be *born again* are not in the Kingdom of God now, especially when they believe that you go to heaven. They're here on earth. Jesus clarifies it, here.

Verse 5: Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly I say to you, **unless...** ['ean mee'] ...anyone has been born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.'" A lot of people think that "...born of water..." means baptism. If it means

baptism, then, how can you be *born again* by believing in Jesus and not having to be baptized?

- What does it mean to be "...born of water and of Spirit...?"
- What did we read that comes first? *The natural body then the spiritual body!*

Here, Jesus answers the question.

Verse 6: "That which has been born of the flesh is flesh..." When you're born of the flesh, you're born of water. It's called embryonic fluid. You couldn't come out of your mother's womb without the water and without the 'grease' on you from head to toe, which also protects you in the womb so you don't come out looking like a shriveled prune.

Have you ever had your hands in water so long that they just all shrivel up like a shriveled prune? Just think what a baby's body would be like in the womb if it were not covered with that protective, white, grease that is on them. It should be left on them to protect them from germs and viruses, coming into the environment in the world. It will gradually be absorbed into the system and help build their immune system. All newborn babies should be nursed on their mother's breasts and not in Similac bottles, especially if the Similac comes from China. You might be ingesting plastic melamine into them.

The world does not know what breasts are made for. That's what they are made for and that's what's wrong with most babies today. However, I have to say that more and more women are breast-feeding and understanding the necessity for it. They have learned a lot of lessons and have come a long way.

So, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." That's what it means to be *born of water*. There's a parallel.

- v 5: "...unless anyone has been born of water..."
- v 6: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh..."

That defines the birth by water, not baptism. It's not talking about baptism.

- v 5: "...and of spirit..."
- v 6: "...and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit"

Composed of spirit! Just like Jesus was born in the flesh, raised from the dead and received back His spiritual body. Though He could appear in physical form, did He not walk through the walls, walk through the doors and appear suddenly to them? As a spirit being, He could.

Verse 7: "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'It is necessary for you to be born again.'" That is to receive salvation. All of you who claim to be *born again*:

Verse 8: “The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know *the place* from which it comes and *the place* to which it goes; so *also* is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.” Disappear for me and walk through a wall, if you’re *born again*. Nicodemus didn’t understand this:

Verse 9: “Nicodemus answered and said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’... [How could it be?] ...Jesus answered and said to him, ‘You are a teacher of Israel, and you do not know these things?’” (vs 9-10).

Just like the ministers today. They don’t know anything. They have their well-worn little tract of Scriptures, the path through the Bible that they walk through to teach their own little doctrines. They don’t understand the Word of God because they don’t study it and they don’t apply themselves to it. They have to be politically correct with their superiors and with the people that are following them to the point that they *must* teach the things that they will accept, rather than teach the things that God expects them to preach and teach, whether they will accept them or not.

This is a perfect place to end this because the next part also becomes important. Let me just project forward. This is the correct translation because this is in the subjunctive.

A friend of mine, back in the state of Maryland, has been studying Greek and he did a translation of John 3:16 and was telling me how the professor was talking about it being in the subjunctive, which means *conditional*.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” That is fait accompli; that is done. There is no subjunctiveness about this. God has:

- proven His love
- proven His Scriptures
- proven the Truth
- proven the prophecies

“...so that everyone who believes in Him **may not perish**... [not *should not*] ...but **may have** everlasting life” (v 16).

What are some of those conditions? That is interesting because this flies directly in the face of the ‘once saved, always saved; universal salvation.’ ‘Slice and dice’ the New Testament and pick out those things we like and create our own doctrine and we can blame it all on the Jews! People like to say that this was only for the Jews.

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 5:24
- 2) Ephesians 1:12-13
- 3) John 6:37, 35-40, 63-65
- 4) 1-Peter 4:16-18
- 5) John 6:39
- 6) Matthew 11:25-30
- 7) Deuteronomy 5:22-29
- 8) Deuteronomy 6:1-6
- 9) Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15
- 10) John 12:37-50
- 11) Psalm 66:16-20
- 12) Deuteronomy 13:1-3
- 13) 1-Kings 8:20-25, 31-32, 35-39, 44-50
- 14) Romans 8:9-17
- 15) John 3:1-3
- 16) 1-Corinthians 15:50, 39-44, 46-52
- 17) Matthew 1:25
- 18) Colossians 1:15-18
- 19) Revelation 1:4-5
- 20) John 3:3-10, 16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Luke 13
- Hebrews 6; 10
- Matthew 5; 6
- Colossians 1:27
- Revelation 7
- Matthew 23

Also referenced:

- Sermon Series: *If Statements in the Bible*
- Book: *Strong’s Concordance*
- From: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:
 - ✓ Appendix P: What Does It Mean to Be “Born Again”?
 - ✓ Appendix Q: What Does It Mean to Be “Born of God”?

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Did Paul Bring a Better Gospel Than Jesus? IV

Fred R. Coulter

Last time we finished in John 3; let's review there just a bit. What we have done is, we have covered many of the places in the Bible where the *if* word is used. We saw that in the Bible *if* is used 1,332 times, and in 1-Kings 8 Solomon prayed: *if, then*:

- *if* your people repent, *then* hear from heaven
- *if* they pray to You, *then* hear from heaven
- *if* a man sins against someone and repents, *then* hear from heaven

What we are looking at are the conditional things that we find in the Bible in relationship to God. Also, this is important because the so called 'superior gospel'...

There was a man named Marcion who had almost an identical gospel to the 'superior gospel' that is preached today from Paul. He took the Epistles of Paul and, as it were and took a razor knife and composed his own New Testament which consisted of the Gospel of Luke^[transcriber's correction], minus all the commandment-keeping stuff and the Epistles of Paul, minus all the things related to commandment-keeping, so that he would have pure grace to present. These modern day false prophets are going back and they are doing the same thing that Marcion did.

I think it's interesting, because when we get to the various Scriptures, what we have is how these teachers come along and people listen to them and they think that it's marvelous. They don't do what the Bible says: 'Prove all things.' If you go through the Bible, how many times has it warned you to 'beware lest someone deceive you'?

Here is what Paul is talking about concerning some of the false apostles. I think it is well put this way:

2-Corinthians 11:1: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me.... [Isn't it true that that kind of doctrine is nonsense?] ...For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness... [subtleness] ...so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ" (vs 1-3).

When you get to false doctrines, when they read these verses, they always come in with their own interpretation of the simplicity of Christ. The simplicity of Christ is what you find in the Bible, not the simplicity of Christ where you eliminate everything that you don't like.

Verse 4: "Or indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus..."—which is what they do *if you reject all the Gospels*, because that was for the Jews and not for everybody else, when Jesus said, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation, *then you have another Jesus*.

"...whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit..." (v 4). That is very interesting because false spirits come along with false prophets. 1-John 4 says, 'Beloved try the spirits for many false prophets have gone out into the world.' What is the spiritual power and inspiration behind those false prophets but demonic spirits?

"...which you did not receive, or a different Gospel... [sliced and diced] ...which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something good*" (v 4). 'This is interesting. This is nice. Your opinion is good. Oh, your opinion is good.' The truth is, we need to take all of our opinions and let them be judged by the Word of God, not take our opinions and judge the Word of God. That's the wrong way to do it. So, they put up with it as something good.

One of the things we've covered was in John 3: What does it mean to be *born again*? and how that it is a conditional statement. Today we're going to continue looking at some of the conditional statements. Then we're going to look at a verse in John 3 that will really, when you understand it, knock the foundation off some of the things that the Protestants have.

John 3:3—speaking to Nicodemus: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly I say to you... [He's telling the truth] ...*unless*... [Greek, 'ean mee,' which means that if someone *is not* 'born again']: ...he cannot see the Kingdom of God.'"

We covered how that 'flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.' This is conditional. You're not going to see the Kingdom of God unless you are *born again*. We went through the Scriptures to show that you have your first birth by water, which is your physical birth, and 'born of water' has nothing to do with baptism. The second birth comes at the resurrection. We have the Scriptures that say that Jesus, when He was born, was Mary's firstborn, and that when He was raised from the dead, He was the 'Firstborn from the dead.' This is what Jesus is talking about here.

Verse 4: "Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man who is old be born? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?'... [it was completely mystifying to him] ...Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly I say to you, unless anyone has been born of water... [the first birth of the flesh] ...and of

Spirit...” (vs 4-5)—from the dead, and Christ is the only One Who has been ‘born again’ from the dead.

“...he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which has been born of the flesh is flesh...” (vs 5-6). The natural body, or the fleshly body, comes first. Then the spiritual body at the resurrection (1-Cor. 15).

Verse 7: “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘It is **necessary** for you to be born again.’” It is absolutely incumbent; you cannot enter in the Kingdom of God any other way than being *born again*, which is born from the dead.

Here’s the test for all of those who claim that they have been *born again*. Let me just rehearse a little bit how they come to the thing of *born again*.

1. they believe that when you die your soul goes to heaven
So, they eliminate the resurrection!
2. some believe in baptism, that it’s when you’re baptized
3. others who don’t believe in baptism say that it’s when you believe in Jesus and accept Him into your heart
 - Do you believe Jesus is Savior? *Yes*
 - Do you believe that He died for your sins? *Yes*
 - Do you accept Him as your personal Savior? *Yes*
 - Do you open your heart to Him? *Yes*
 - you have been *born again*

It eliminates baptism and real repentance. That’s the kind of *worldly* repentance because everyone wants to escape the penalty of sin. That’s not true repentance unto a covenant death of baptism so that you can enter into a covenant with Christ. It is absolutely necessary for you to be born again.’

If someone says, ‘I’m *born again*. Oh, that’s wonderful! So, you’ve been *born again*?’ *Oh yes. I’ve been born again.*

You read them John 3:7: “...‘**It is necessary for you to be born again.**’ The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know *the place* from which it comes and *the place* to which it goes; so *also* is everyone who has been born of the Spirit” (vs 7-8).

- Can you disappear in front of me?
- Can you walk through walls?
- Can you walk through doors?
- Can you ascend?
- *No!*

Then you’re not *born again*. Very simple!

Verse 9: “Nicodemus answered and said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘You are a teacher of Israel, and you do

not know these things? Truly, truly I say to you, We speak that which We know, and We testify of that which We have seen; but you do not receive Our testimony. **If** I have told you earthly things, and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?’” (vs 9-12).

Here’s a parenthetical statement (v 13) inserted by John in 95_{A.D.}, because they were already having the doctrine of people when they die going to heaven. Jesus did not say this. This was written in by John.

Verse 13: “And no one has ascended into heaven, **except** He Who came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man, **Who is in heaven.**”

Jesus wouldn’t be standing there talking to Nicodemus and say that ‘no one has ascended into heaven, only He Who came down from heaven, even the Son of man, Who is in heaven.’ When John inserted this parenthetical statement, where was Jesus? *In heaven!* You can’t be on earth and in heaven at the same time.

Let’s read vs 14-16 because this becomes very critical. First of all I’ll read it in the *King James*:

Verse 14: (KJV) “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must** the Son of Man be lifted up.... [the force of *obligatory*] ...That whosoever believeth in Him **should not perish** but have eternal life” (vs 14-15). That is an incorrect translation. This gives you a dogmatic statement that you won’t perish.

Verse 16: (KJV) “For God so loved the world... [God has done His part] ...that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him **should not perish** but have everlasting life.”

- v 15: “...should not perish, but have eternal life”
- v 16: “...should not perish, but have everlasting life”

Recently, a friend of mine—Gary Stazak who contributed to some of the commentaries in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*—took a New Testament Greek course. After going through everything we did, he wanted to take the Greek. He was amazed that his Greek teacher actually understood the proper translation, like we have in the *Faithful Version*.

Verse 14 (FV): “And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the same way it is **ordained**... [as close to obligatory as you can get] ...that the Son of man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him **may not perish**...” (vs 14-15).

- “...may not perish...” is in the subjunctive tense

- “...should not perish...” is in the indicative tense.

There’s a vast difference!

Subjunctive means that there are conditions to be met: “...may not perish...” It doesn’t say *shall not perish*, or *should not perish*. That’s why we have the account in Heb. 6 and 10 concerning the unpardonable sin. That’s why we have the incorrigible wicked who are going to be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20).

Let’s understand something about **belief**. It is *a belief* and a continuing, growing belief that you are to have in God the Father and Jesus Christ.

James 2:19: “Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. **Even the demons believe**—and tremble *in fear*.” To say that you believe in Jesus, but not believe the way that the Bible means *in belief*, which is that ***you believe with your whole heart and with your whole mind!*** It is an on-going, continuous belief.

James goes on to make a very clear example, v 20: “But are you willing to understand, O foolish man, that **faith**...” In the Greek:

- *believe* is the verb—‘pistos’
- *faith* is the noun—‘pistis’

So, when you believe, you are ‘faithizing’ *to God, in God or into God*.

“...that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar? Do you not see that faith was working together **with** his works, and **by** works *his* faith was perfected?” (vs 20-22). This tells us a few things:

- **if** you say you believe
- **if** you say that you have faith in this new ‘super gospel’ that Paul supposedly brought
- **if** you say that there are no commandments to keep
- **if** you say that every day is Holy

What are you saying? *That you really don’t believe God!* You believe *your version* of what you force upon the Scriptures! You say you don’t need to keep the commandments and there are no works that are unnecessary. What you really have is:

1. a very shallow faith
2. a faith that cannot be perfected *because you really don’t believe*
 - ✓ you don’t believe in Christ
 - ✓ you believe in another Jesus
 - ✓ you have another gospel
 - ✓ you don’t understand the Truth

His faith was perfected! How many people have faith that they are not perfecting because they’re not loving God and obeying? *Lots of people!*

Verse 23: “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Now, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness’; and he was called a friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (vs 23-24). ***You perfect your faith by what you do in carrying out your belief!***

We’re going to see some other Scriptures that show some of the conditions to receive salvation.

Let’s read John 3:16 properly: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes **in** Him...”—Greek is ‘eis.’ It can actually have the force of *into*. In other words, *your belief goes between you and Christ*. Paul wrote that the ‘just shall live by faith’: ***from faith to faith, your faith to God, God’s faith back to you***, and it’s a continuing belief in God and God giving you faith from Him and His Spirit to believe even more and stronger. This is the kind of belief that we have.

“...**may** not perish, but **may** have everlasting life” (v 16)—subjunctive—meaning that there are conditions, and **if** the conditions are not met you will perish and you will not have everlasting life. That’s why we have the parables of the ten virgins and the parable of the talents: one was given five, one was given two, one was given one. You can go all the way through the Scriptures and see many conditions.

Verse 17: “For God sent not His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” This does not mean that Jesus is not going to judge. Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes, ‘I have many things to judge of you.’ This means that He didn’t come at that time to judge the world, but He came to bring salvation.

Verse 18: “The one who believes in Him is not judged...”—unto condemnation. Do you really believe? Belief means that *you have faith to obey*. Note Heb. 11:

- by faith Abraham
- by faith Noah
- by faith Enoch
- by faith Abel
- by faith Isaac
- by faith Jacob

They did, and every place in Heb. 11 where it says, ‘by faith,’ they acted upon that faith and did what they should do. This is what Christ is talking about.

“...but the one who does not believe has already been judged because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (v 18). If you don’t believe, what happens?

Verse 19: “And this is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the Light... [they don’t like to be told by God and His Word what to do] ...and does not come to the Light...” (vs 19-20). Just like the children of Israel when they heard the voice of God, ‘Oh, get away from us; we can’t stand it.’

“...so that his works may not be exposed; but the one who **practices the Truth...**” (v 20-21) Here’s part of the conditional clause—‘may receive eternal life or everlasting life.’ How?

Verse 21: “But the one who practices the Truth comes to the Light...” You’re always going to God. You’re always coming to the Light to have your life *cleansed, healed and strengthened* day-by-day.

“...so that his works may be manifested... [after he believed] ...that they have been accomplished by *the power of God*” (v 21). That tells us an awful lot here.

We’re going to see some other *if* clauses as we go along. Then we will ask: ‘How secure is salvation once you believe?’

Revelation 22:14: “Blessed *are* those who keep His commandments, that they may have the right to *eat of* the Tree of Life...”—conditional. Take the opposite: **If** you don’t keep His commandments, you’re not going to have the right to the Tree of Life. All of these things show conditions. **If** you have faith, you will have works.

For example: If someone says, ‘Come and work for me and I’ll pay you \$20.00 an hour. You believe that he’s going to pay you \$20.00 an hour. You have faith that he’s going to pay you \$20.00 an hour, so you work, and he pays you \$20.00 an hour. If he says, ‘Come and work for me and I’ll pay you \$20.00 an hour, and you don’t show up, you don’t work, but on payday you go say, ‘Pay me.’ He’ll tell you, ‘You didn’t even show up! I’m not going to pay you anything!’ That’s another way of looking at it here. **If** you work all week, you will be paid. **If** you take the negative of that, and you do not work all week, you will not be paid.

John 6:47: “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me has eternal life. I AM the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone **may eat** of it and not die” (vs 47-50)—there are conditions for eating it: that’s called the Passover, on the Passover Day at the

set time.

Verse 51: “I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven; **if** anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever... [there are conditions] ...and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” Of course, we find that in the Passover ceremony where Jesus took the bread and broke it and He gave it to them and He said, ‘This is My body, which is broken for you.’

Verse 52: “Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, ‘How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?’” I imagine they were arguing back and forth:

We know we’re not to eat unclean meat and we know that human flesh is unclean. We’re told we’re not to drink any blood, but He says, ‘Drink My blood.’ How is He going to do that? What is He talking about? You can imagine the argument.

Verse 53: “Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, **unless...**’”—‘ean mee’—*except or unless*. Or you can put it this way: **if** you **do not** eat the flesh of the Son of man and **if** you **do not** drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. Here are the conditions. There are no conditions on God because God has fulfilled what He has said. God has promised and He cannot lie. The conditions are on us because we have to make the choices continually. That’s why it’s so true that everyday you have to make the choices:

- everything that you do is a decision
- everything that you think of is a choice
- everything that you allow into your mind is a choice

Let’s just put a little adjunct on here: God wants you to govern yourself with His laws and commandments and His Spirit in your mind *so that you develop the righteousness and character of God motivated by His Word and by His Spirit*. That’s how you are to control your life.

This is talking about the covenant, v 54: “The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day... [I imagine they were really bewildered at this point] ...for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him” (vs 54-56). Because you are in a covenant relationship with God you receive the Spirit of God, so Christ is dwelling in you (Rom. 8).

Here’s the answer to the question: What does He mean? Verse 57: “As the living Father has sent Me...” That means everything:

- He came not to do His own will

- He came not to speak His own words
- He came not to bring His own ideas, but whatever the Father commanded Him

“...and I live by the Father...” (v 57). How did He live by the Father? *With the power of:*

- God’s Spirit
- God’s Word
- God’s commandments
- God’s love
- God’s faith

“...so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me” (v 57). Which goes right back to what Jesus said in:

Matthew 4:4: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of *the* mouth of God.” Jesus was God in the flesh and every word that He said we are to live by. Just like Paul said as we read in #2 in this series, that if you don’t adhere to the sound Words of Jesus Christ you don’t understand a thing.

John 7:17: “**If** anyone desires to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it is from God, or *whether* I speak from My own self.”

Because in v 16: “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His Who sent Me.’”

How do you understand the Bible? *By doing the will of God!* Everybody starts out with the simple things. If there’s one thing that’s simple, that’s the Ten Commandments. There is nothing complicated about the Ten Commandments. Even those who don’t believe in God understand that certain things need to be done. If you want to know the doctrine of God, whether it’s true or not, you do the will of the Father. That’s how you do it.

Verse 18: “The one who speaks of himself is seeking his own glory; but He Who seeks the glory of Him Who sent Him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

John 8:30: “As He spoke these things, many believed in Him.” A lot of people believe, *but not to the point of obeying*. They’re the ones who believe, who don’t work, but come to payday and they ask to be paid. *Jesus says, ‘I never knew you!’* Here’s what Jesus did.

Verse 31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘**If**... [conditional] ...you continue in My Word... [His entire message.] ...you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free” (vs 31-32). Let’s look at it this way. Wherever there’s a condition, there is a positive outcome, which we just read, **if!**

Let’s look at it this way. Let’s read it with the word ‘not’ in it: ‘If you do **not** continue in My Word, you truly are **not** My disciples.’ How can you have a gospel that rejects the four Gospels of Jesus Christ and His Words and think that you’re obeying God? *It couldn’t happen!* ‘...and you shall **not** know the Truth and the Truth shall **not** set you free.’

Wherever there is the conditional **if**... Remember, there are 1,332 in the Bible, besides subjunctive verbs, which also give conditions.

Verse 36: “Therefore, **if** the Son shall set you free, you shall truly be free.... [Free from what? *Free from sin!*] ...I know that you are Abraham’s seed...” (vs 36-37).

This one really upset the Jews, v 51: “Truly, truly I say to you...” You could also paraphrase it this way: “In Truth, I tell you the Truth.”

“...**if** anyone keeps My words, he shall not see death forever” (v 51).

Verse 51: (KJV): “Verily, verily, I say to you, if a man keep My sayings, he shall never see death”—and we go to heaven. **NO!**

The Greek is: *shall not taste death forever*, which means you die in the faith, but you won’t remain dead forever. *Entirely different!* When you really start going through the *King James* and looking at it, in many, many key places they just do not translate it correctly. You can assume out of it doctrines that are not there.

Verse 52: “Then the Jews said to Him, ‘Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham and the prophets died; yet, You say, “If anyone keeps My words, he shall not taste of death forever.” Are You greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets, *who* died? Who do You make Yourself *to be*?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father Who glorifies Me, of Whom you say that He is your God. Yet, you have not known Him...’” (vs 52-55).

- Were these not scribes and Pharisees and disciples wanting to follow Jesus?
- Where was He teaching? *At the temple, and He tells them that they did not know God!*

If someone would walk into a Protestant or Catholic Church and say, ‘You do not know God’ right in their church. There would be a riot. There would be a stampede. If you ever say that, get close to a door so you can run fast. Don’t attempt to do it up on center stage because they’ll ‘cart you off.’

“...but I know Him. And if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar. like you... [He just explained to them that Satan was the father of lies] ...But I know Him. and keep His Word” (v 55).

- Did Jesus obey God? *Yes!*
- If we're to walk in His footsteps, what are we to do? *Obey God!*

There you go!

(go to the next track)

Since we're here in John 8, we overlooked one **if** clause.

John 8:36: "Therefore, **if** the Son shall set you free, you shall truly be free"—because He said that the one who is a servant of sin is in bondage.

Verse 37: "I know that you are Abraham's seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because My words do not enter into your *minds*. I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.' They answered and said to Him, 'Our father is Abraham.' Jesus said to them, '**If** you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham'" (vs 37-39).

If you believe God, What are you going to do? What does it say in Genesis 26:5? "Because Abraham **obeyed** My voice and **kept** My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." *Those are the works of Abraham!*

I know that some who may be argumentative might say, 'Which laws, statutes, commandments and judgments were those?' My answer is, 'The same ones that He gave to Israel, because Christ is 'the same yesterday, today and forever.' Would He give one set of laws to Abraham and another set of laws to Israel? *Of course not!*

John 12:26: "**If** anyone will serve Me, let him follow Me..." That means do exactly as He did.

- Did Jesus keep the Sabbath? *Yes!*
- What day should we keep? *The same day!*
- Did Jesus keep the Passover, Unleavened Bread and the other Holy Days of God? *Yes!*
- What should we do? *The same thing, follow God!*

"...and where I am, there shall My servant be also. And if anyone serves Me, him shall the Father honor" (v 26). That's something!

Verse 25: "The one who loves his life... [here's a comparison; this is a contrast that is conditional] ...shall lose it..." Or you could put it this way in an **if** clause: **if** you love your life, you're going to lose it.

"...and the one who hates his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life" (v 25). How many things in the Bible relating to salvation and being a Christian are really conditional? *Quite a few!*

John 13—there are quite a few **if** clauses here so let's go through some of them. This is the account of foot-washing. I am sure that there a few Sunday-keeping churches that do foot-washing, but they never ask: On what day did Jesus do the foot-washing? *If you're to follow Him, you're to do it on the same day that He did! It was the Passover Day!*

It think it's very interesting as I was going through reading a little bit in the book of Mark, Jesus told Peter, when Peter said, 'I'll never deny you. If I have to go to the death with You. I'll go to the death. I'll go to prison.' Jesus said, 'I tell you that *today*—remember it was in the night when He was talking to Peter, probably about what we would say 9:30 or 10:00 o'clock—in this very night...'

What Jesus did was to confirm that the day begins at sunset and the night is the first part of the whole cycle of the day. '*Today, in this very night, you're going to deny Me three times.*' Jesus came and He was ready to wash their feet.

John 13:6: "Then He came to Simon Peter; and he [Peter] said to Him, 'Lord, are You going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but you shall know after these things'" (vs 6-7). That is after He got done washing the feet.

Verse 8: "Peter said to Him, 'You shall not wash my feet, not ever.' Jesus answered him, '**If** I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'" He understood the condition that this was a conditional statement.

Verse 9: "Simon Peter said to Him, 'Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.'.... [he understood] ...Jesus said to him, 'The one who has been **washed**...' " (vs 9-10). That has to do with baptism in this particular case. You have to read *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* and *The Christian Passover*, we cover that in both of those.

"...does not need to wash *anything other* than the feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all.' For He knew the one who was betraying Him; this was the reason He said, 'Not all of you are clean.' Therefore, when He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, *and* had sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you speak rightly, because I am. Therefore, **if** I..." (vs 10-14). If you acknowledge Christ as:

- your Lord
- your Teacher
- your Master
- your High Priest in heaven above

Read this statement if you *do not* think that foot-washing is required.

Verse 14: “**Therefore, if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also are duty-bound to wash one another’s feet.**” There’s a great lesson in it. We’ll cover this again when we come down toward the Passover time.

Verse 15: “**For I have given you an example, to show that you also should do exactly as I have done to you.**” Remember, Jesus said, ‘**If** I don’t wash you, you do not have part with Me.’ So, how can anyone say that he or she is a true Christian if they belong to a church that:

- does not keep the commandments of God
- does not keep the Sabbath of God
- does not keep the Passover of God at the right time and in the right way
- does not wash one another’s feet

They are not of God regardless of how religious you may think. The pope washes feet, but does it ceremonially with twelve seminary students and he doesn’t even kneel down. He has them elevated on chairs and he’s got a golden vessel, it almost looks like a teapot, where he pours the water over their feet, and so forth. That is a perversion of what Jesus said. We’ll find out the whole lesson of foot-washing:

Verse 16: “Truly, truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his lord... [the apostles were the servants of Christ] ...nor a messenger greater than he who sent him. **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them**” (vs 16-17).

It’s a matter of not only knowing, you will always understand—if you are a minister, elder or a teacher—that you never, never tell God what to do. You don’t go through and create a nice, fuzzy, warm *gospel of grace* that everyone can agree to, because ‘we’re all good people.’ You will do exactly as Jesus said. When you go through the Gospels and read everything that Jesus taught, you really begin to understand how absolutely absurd it is to say that it was for the Jews only and not for everyone.

John 14:14: “**If** you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.” We find in other places that it has to be *according to His will*. We find in other places it has to be *in faith*. So, that modifies this.

Verse 15: “**If** you love Me...” [‘Oh, I love the Lord, but every day is Holy’] ...keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.” It is emphatic. When you understand that Jesus was the Lord God of the Old Testament, that carries a whole lot more weight. This adds to what Jesus said where He said, ‘Do not think that I’ve come to abolish the Law or the Prophets.’ *If you do, then Jesus is going to respond:*

Verse 16: “And... [because you love Me] ...I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the Truth...” (vs 16-17)—the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘**If anyone** loves Me, he will keep My Word...” It does not read, ‘If a Jew loves Me,’ because they claim that the Gospels were for the Jews only. It says, “If **anyone** loves Me...”

“...and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, Who sent Me” (vs 23-24).

What happens when you reject the words of Christ for the words of Paul that you like? **You don’t love Jesus!** It’s that simple. Too many people don’t think of it that way.

Since Jesus said that if you are Christ’s, no one can take you out of His hand, we will see that means no other man can, but who can?

John 15:1: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit...” (vs 1-2). Who takes it away? *God does!* Once we’re called and receive the Holy Spirit, we’re to bear fruit. If you don’t bear fruit, He takes it away.

“...but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit” (v 2). That’s why we have trials and difficulties so we grow in character.

Verse 3: “You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you. Dwell in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you *bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, *and you are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing. **If** anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned. **If** you dwell in Me, **and My words dwell in you**...” (vs 3-7).

Isn’t that something? Jesus said, ‘The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life.’ That’s why they have to be dwelling in us. How can you do away with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and say that Paul brought a superior gospel? *Not possible!*

“...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you. In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; **live in My love**” (vs 7-9). How do

you *live in His love* since He's in heaven and you're on earth?

Verse 10: “**If** you keep My commandments, **you shall live in My love**; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love.” Those are conditional things. We have choices to choose to do these things. Then beyond that we have the choices to choose to them in what manner:

- with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- a lackadaisical manner
- a put it off and do it later kind of attitude

We have choices with those conditional clauses, all the way through.

With all of these conditions, how sure is salvation? *It can be guaranteed, day-by-day!* Remember, if you sin and repent there's the story of the prodigal son; the son who asked to go to work in the field and said he wouldn't, but he repented and went. *There is always repentance!*

2-Timothy 2:11: “This is a faithful saying: **If** we have died together with *Him*, we shall also live together with *Him*.” How did you “...die together...” with Christ? *Through baptism!* We are baptized into His death. We “...died together with *Him*, we shall also live together with *Him*.”

Verse 12: “**If** we endure... [Which shows there are going to be difficulties, troubles and things, but we have to endure.] ...we shall also reign together with *Him*; **if** we deny *Him*, He will also deny us; **if** we are unfaithful, He remains faithful—He cannot deny Himself” (vs 12-13). Those are all some of the **if** clauses that we need to look at.

How sure is salvation? Let's see what Paul said; 2-Timothy 4:6: “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. From this time forward, a crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day—and not to me only, but also to all who love His appearing” (vs 6-8).

Paul knew late in his life that he endured and that he accomplished. In the middle of his ministry, let's see what he says, which shows what we need to do. How do you secure salvation? *Day-by-day! Every day!*

1-Corinthians 9:23: “Now, I do this for the sake of the Gospel, that I might be a fellow partaker with you. Don't you know that those who run a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? That is the way you *are to run*... [your spiritual life] ...in order that you may obtain *the prize*. For everyone who is striving *for mastery*... [in athletics] ...controls himself in all things. Of course, they *do this* so that

they may receive a corruptible crown; but we *are striving for* an incorruptible crown. I therefore, so run...” (vs 23-26). He didn't say walk. He didn't say crawl. He said run! That shows a certain amount of zeal.

“...not as one who is uncertain; so *also* I fight, not as beating *the* air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, after preaching to others, I myself might be rejected” (vs 26-27).

So that those who believe in Christ **may** receive everlasting life, not **shall**. Judgment begins at the house of God and **if** the righteous are saved with great difficulty, what will the end be for the sinners?

Salvation is secure everyday as you keep your relationship with God, as you love God, obey Him and keep His commandments. Paul said that he himself would be rejected if he didn't do that. How much assurance do we have that we're going to make it? *If you're:*

- yielding to God
- overcoming every day
- repenting of your sins as they come along, because we all sin

—as we saw, Solomon said that there's not a man who doesn't sin.

Philippians 1:1: “Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with *the* overseers and deacons: Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ” (vs 1-2).

Whenever he opens his epistles, he has a salutation—opening or greeting—very similar to this. This is also imparting a blessing to us: “Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ” So, every day when we go to God, we ask Him for:

- His grace
- His mercy
- His love
- His kindness
- His forgiveness

That doesn't mean that we become weak sycophants. Actually, it makes us strong.

Verse 3: “I thank my God on every remembrance of you, always making supplication with joy in my every prayer for you all. For your fellowship in the Gospel from *the* first day until now... [here's a verse you can claim as a promise]: ...being confident of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will complete *it* until *the* day of Jesus Christ” (vs 3-6). He will complete it! You can be guaranteed that He will! If you're constantly:

- seeking the will of God
- doing the will of God
- walking in the way of God
- loving God
- believing God
- keeping His commandments

There is no way that you are going to fail, no way that you're going to fall!

We will see the formula of spiritual growth that will **guarantee that we will make it**. Even though there are all of these conditions that come along, you have:

- the Spirit of God
- the love of God
- the mercy of God
- the forgiveness of God
- the desire of God to complete it in you
- the desire of God because He has called you

He will do it and complete it!

Notice how similar the opening is with Peter's Epistle.

2-Peter 1:1: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" (vs 1-2). Here are the promises. **Always claim the promises of God!**

Verse 3: "According as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue; through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises..." (vs 3-4).

The older we get, the more futile we see that human life really is, and the more frail we become, the more we see how frail that human life really is.

When we're young and strong and in our teens, twenties and thirties, 'Hey! We can do anything!' When you start pushing up some gray hair on top of the sod, you begin to understand that that's not so. That's why we cling to these promises. We don't cling bitterly to guns and Bibles and religion. We cling to the promises.

"...that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is in the* world through lust" (v 4).

We're going to be changed by the power of God at the resurrection when we are *born again*. Then, He gives what we need to do and shows how

we need to do it. We're going to see the guarantee of what God is going to do.

Verse 5: "And for this very reason also, having applied **all diligence...**" If there's any one thing that you need to have in your brain, it's diligence, *diligence*, **diligence** and:

- vigilance
- endurance
- love
- faith
- hope
- Truth

"...besides, **add to your faith, virtue...**" (v 5). Here's a step-by-step program on how to guarantee salvation. We have all of these conditions we have seen: **if** you kind of get in doubt and wonder how. Here's how:

"...and **to virtue, knowledge...**" (v 5). Virtue is just good living, by God's commandments Knowledge: Knowledge of Jesus Christ, knowledge of the Word of God.

Verse 6: "And **to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, Godliness...** [that your life and your mind become more Godly] ...And **to Godliness, brotherly love; and to brotherly love, the love of God**" (vs 6-7).

Verse 8: "For **if these things exist and abound in you...** [part of your heart, your mind, your life and everything that you are] ...they *will* cause *you to be* neither lacking effort nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.... [Peter gives a little warning]: ...But the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so short-sighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins. For this reason, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure**" (vs 8-10)—or guaranteed.

God has given His guarantee of what He is going to do. That's signed, sealed and delivered in the blood of Jesus Christ and through the forgiveness of our sins. Our part is to reciprocate and be faithful and to 'make our calling and election sure.'

"...because **if you are doing these things, you will never fall at any time**" (v 10)—**guaranteed!**

- God is there!
- He has given His Spirit!
- He's given His Word!

We have the whole Word of God that we can study, learn and know.

Verse 11: “For in this way, you will be richly granted an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” ***That’s how you will be guaranteed!***

Salvation is not ‘universal security’ that once you believe, that’s it, you’re saved forever and nothing can change it.

There are many conditions that have to be met, but ***you can meet every single one of them through the power and Spirit of Jesus Christ! Your calling and election will be sure and you will not fail!***

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Corinthians 11:1-4
- 2) John 3:3-16
- 3) James 2:19-24
- 4) John 3:16-21
- 5) Revelation 22:14
- 6) John 6:47-57
- 7) Matthew 4:4
- 8) John 7:17, 16, 18
- 9) John 8:30-32, 36-37, 51-55, 36-39
- 10) Genesis 26:5
- 11) John 12:26, 25
- 12) John 13:6-17
- 13) John 14:14-17, 23-24
- 14) John 15:1-10
- 15) 2-Timothy 2:11-13
- 16) 2-Timothy 4:6-8
- 17) 1-Corinthians 9:23-27
- 18) Philippians 1:1-6
- 19) 2: Peter 1:1-11

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- 1-Kings 8
- 1-John 4
- 1-Corinthinas 15
- Hebrews 6; 10
- Revelation 20
- Hebrews 11
- Romans 8

Also referenced: Books:

- *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

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