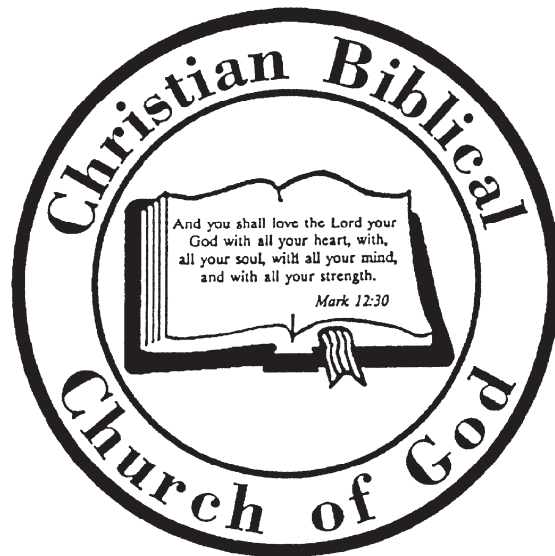


# Mystery of Protestantism



**Transcript Book**

By Fred R. Coulter

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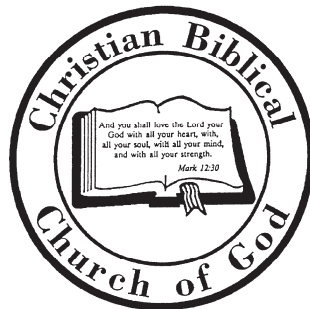
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## Mystery of Protestantism

Series of 7 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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# **Mystery of Protestantism**

## ***Foreword***

This sermon transcript book is focused upon Protestants and their beliefs – beliefs that are compared to what the Bible teaches. This study was done by a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty years, Mr. Fred R. Coulter. After reading the seven transcripts the reader will understand that there are serious shortcomings in Protestantism. Protestants do a lot of reading from the Bible but they, as you study these transcripts, will see that they fall short of doing the full Will of God.

The first transcript, “The Mystery of Protestantism,” discusses the fundamental tenets of Protestants. How Protestants read and quote the Bible extensively, starting with the Crucifixion of Christ, and then going no farther than speaking extensively about God forgives your sin. What is avoided is what the Bible says about what God requires for the forgiveness of sin, the obeying of His law. Some important points mentioned are:

- If you believe the Truth when you come across it and you hold fast to it and you continue to study the Word of God, it will be revealed from the Word of God to you!
- Belief and sincerity are not the test of Truth!
- Protestantism is self-righteous.
  - About the seventh-day Sabbath
  - In religion you will find that “feelings” occur to people. Most people know that demons are evil, destructive, and enemies of God’s Will. They are in opposition to God, and this is generally understood. But what most people do not know is that there are demons that bring good feelings to people who participate in false religions—who are going away from God without them even knowing. These types of demons are evil in that they also, like the openly hostile demons, are set upon the destruction of mankind by working to separate people from God.
  - What is important to God is not how you feel, rather it is what you do.
  - Spiritual knowledge in the human mind needs to be replenished—therefore the Sabbath is so important.

The second transcript, “The Mystery of Protestantism II,” focuses upon the truth that people must choose between obeying God or practicing the traditions of men. The law of righteousness is covered in depth. An insight is given into how mistranslations in the King James Bible have allowed error to be promoted. Some important points mentioned are:

- Through the ages God has insured that there were honest scholars so that His Word would not be lost.
- The entire western world is based upon the philosophies of the Greeks.

- Spiritual problems cannot be resolved using political means or secular means.
- When people seek God, keeping His commandments, that is not people doing their works of law, rather it is God's work of law in them through His Spirit that is working. It is not acceptable to God to justify people who practice a law of righteousness, not His law of righteousness, but man's law of righteousness.
- In places where there is a massive presence of idols, such as in religious worship centers, people say that they have feelings when they are in such idolatrous surroundings. These are not the feelings coming from God but from the demons associated with the idols.

The third transcript, "The Mystery of Protestantism III," identifies and compares the Law of God with the works of the Jews and the works of the Gentiles. Some important points mentioned are:

- Jews have their own works of the law in their religion and the Gentiles have their own works of the law in their religions. These laws are the laws of men and not the Law of God.
- Because mankind rejects the Word of God, God allows wars, killings, lootings, drugs, adultery, namely all the evil that men do unto men.
- God has set in place in society law enforcement to take care of crime.

The fourth transcript, "The Mystery of Protestantism IV – Covenant Law," explains how to understand and fulfill a spiritual covenant with God. Testament law and covenant law are explained. Some important points mentioned are:

- Eternal life requires being in covenant with God.
- In the Bible a reference is made to "the Scroll of the book". This scroll is the Scripture of the Truth in heaven. There is a covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ, and it is written down, in this book.
- Both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant hinge on the covenant that God made with Abraham.
- A person in covenant with God needs to not only obey but also to believe – which is faith.
- People need to realize that in any covenant with God there are always laws to be kept.
- The Protestants claim that they are under the New Covenant, but they are not.
- The Hebrew roots and Messianic Jew movements are no better than the Protestants because they keep to their own traditions.
- It is an abominable thing to try to tell God what to do.



The fifth transcript, “The Mystery of Protestantism V,” explains how all human beings, rather in a relationship with Christ or not in a relationship with Christ, are under the Law of God. This condition and the three ways that people are judged are explained. It also summarizes that Protestantism is wrapped up in assumptions, bad translations, misinterpretation, and disobedience. Some important points mentioned are:

- All sins have not been forgiven, but the means to forgive sin now individually, is available.
- Enslavement by Satan results in things like drug addiction, Satan worship, and destructive behaviors like that.
- Grace is a direct connection to God the Father and Jesus Christ.
- Protestants call the Law a curse, but people are never delivered from the Law, rather they are delivered from sin—which is the penalty of sin.
- God wants people to understand the deep profound evil of sin before He gives them eternal life as a spirit being. They need to understand that sin never pays.
- The Apostle Paul did not ever say that people in this life were going to be without sin, but that people should not let sin rule in their lives.

The sixth transcript, “The Mystery of Protestantism VI,” teaches what the Bible is speaking of in Colossians, chapter 2. It gives the background of the issue covered and gives understanding of the wrong teaching of the Protestants about Colossians, chapter 2. Some important points mentioned are:

- In all discussions regarding God’s teachings one needs to remember that Christ did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but that He came to fulfill the Law.
- In reading the New Testament it should be noted that in the Greek New Testament manuscript that “handwriting of ordinances” is *chriographon tois dogmasin* which literally means “Handwriting in decrees or dogmas.” In the New Testament dogma always refers to ‘decrees’ written by men. Nowhere in the Bible does dogma, “decrees”, refer to any part of the Law of God.
- The prize for all those in Christ is the resurrection. The Apostle Paul warns that getting involved in philosophies and things of the world and

traditions of men can lead to losing salvation. False worship, worship not directed towards God, is worship of Satan and the demons.

- God is never to be found where there are idols. Places that are filled with idols are not places that the true worship of God the Father and Jesus Christ occur. Godliness and idolatry have no agreement.

The seventh transcript, “The Mystery of Protestantism VII,” sums up what Protestantism is all about. A review of the major false doctrines of Protestantism is the focus of this transcript. Some important points mentioned here are:

- If people believe that there is a God, that is fine. But it is better to believe what God says.
- Things that appear good may not be good: such things lead to sin.
- When the fifth commandment is broken of honoring father and mother the society becomes a criminal society.
- Many religions have leaders who misuse Ephesians 4:11. Jesus was called teacher, in the Greek it is ‘didaskalos,’ and as Jesus instructed the people so too should ministers instruct the people. It is not written to give ministers authority over brethren and to make right the smashing down of brethren.
- The law, any law, cannot make people do anything. It is a choice people make when they become aware of law to obey the law or to disobey the law.

# The Mystery of Protestantism I

*Belief and sincerity is not the test of Truth; find the cure to Protestantism*

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath services! How many watched the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, put on by the First Baptist Church of Dallas with Robert Jeffress the pastor? Very impressive, very good, very inspiring; it really was. The music was great. Even Jeffress' speech was good, very good.

I do believe he's right that God raised up Donald Trump at this time, since God raises up kings and puts them down. I think God put down Hillary, because nobody expected it. With all the troubles that we're looking at now, we can say we're glad she's not there.

Then they had Donald Trump come in and give a speech. It was a great speech, one of his best. What they had, he covered many different topics in it and how we need to do right, and what needs to be done in Washington, D.C., and what he needs to do, and so forth.

Then right toward the end of it was very interesting. He brought up God several times. He said, ***'And we are all made by the one Almighty God!'*** I thought, yes, that's good. Everything in the speech was good up to that time. Then he said, 'By the way, we're all going to say *Merry Christmas* again.' The prayers were good, the music was good. I was sitting there thinking, 'I wonder how many people think that all of this conforms to what God wants.' That gave the inspiration for today's sermon: **What is the mystery of Protestantism?**

I switched to TBN {Trinity Broadcasting Network). There was David Jeremiah talking about what heaven was like and how we're all going to get there. Then after that came on Charles Stanley. Charles Stanley is one of the better Protestant ministers. He gave a very good explanation about Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. His theme was the consequences of sin.

I'm sitting there thinking about that. Every sermon that he has, is a half hour and it's all about the crucifixion of Christ and forgiveness of sin. Everything in Protestantism seems to *start and stop* with that. There are a few variations on the theme. I thought, just looking at the people, they panned the audience and they're all with him, and everything, I thought how many people there are really searching for the Truth. One thing he didn't say is what sin was. They're all there, listening to these good words. I thought of Jer. 23.

When you stop and think about it, God even made Baalim speak the Truth. The Protestants do a lot of reading from the Bible, but if you pay careful

attention to what they do, they come up to certain points and they go no further.

Jeremiah 23:11: "'For both prophet and priest are ungodly; yea, in My house... [the very temple of God] ...I have found their evil,' says the LORD. 'So their way shall be to them as slippery ways in the darkness; they shall be driven on, and fall in *their way*; for I will bring evil on them, **even the year of their judgment**,' says the LORD" (vs 11-12).

There's *a year of judgment* coming. There was the year of judgment coming for all the priests and things during the days of Jeremiah.

Verse 13: "And I have seen repulsive things in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied by Baal and caused My people Israel to go astray." Think of this for a minute:

- In causing them to go astray did they believe they were doing right?
- Because if all you have to do is believe, can you be sincere in that belief? *Yes!*
- Do people sincerely believe things that are absolutely untrue and varying degrees of Truth in between? *Yes!*

So, these people *think* they're doing good, just like here.

Verse 14: "I have also seen in the prophets of Jerusalem a horrible thing; they commit adultery and walk in lies. They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that none returns from his evil; they are all of them like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah."

What is the land filled with today because of the failures of Protestantism, and add in there Catholicism? They already have books on Catholicism, such as *Babylon Mystery Babylon* by Ralph Woodrow.

Sidebar on Robert Jeffress: I saw him on TBN and he was speaking about—his church is the Trinity Baptist Church of Dallas—hell, either doomed to go to hell or you go to heaven, the choice is yours. So, everyone sitting there believed that! He believes it! He preaches it!

Isn't it interesting that there are some places in the Bible you can misinterpret to make it look like that's true, but it's not.

Verse 15: "Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I will feed them wormwood, and make them drink poisonous water; for from the prophets of Jerusalem

ungodliness has gone forth into all the land”—even if they read some Scriptures.

Verse 16: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you vain; they speak a vision from their own heart, not out of the mouth of the LORD.’” How do you speak out of the mouth of the Lord? *By the Word of God!*

Verse 17: “‘They still say to those who despise Me.’ The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace!’”

‘God’s love is unconditional,’ that’s one of the big things of Protestantism. Doesn’t matter what you do, God loves you. They mistakenly associate that with love unto salvation.

“...And they say to everyone who walks after the imagination of his own heart, ‘No evil shall come upon you!’ For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD to see and hear His Word? Who has attended to His Word and heard *it*? Behold, the tempest of the LORD has gone forth in fury, a whirling tempest. It shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked” (vs 17-19).

Now then, we’ll come again here to the prophets of Baal. Remember Baalism was always the day of worship of the ten tribes of Israel—*Sunday*.

Could you apply this to old Worldwide Church of God? *Yes, especially Ezek. 34!* Here’s a key concerning Truth: ***If you believe the Truth when you come across it and you hold fast to it and you continue to study the Word of God, it will be revealed from the Word of God to you!*** That’s God teaching you. It says, ‘All will be taught of God.’ That’s how He teaches you. That’s pretty fantastic individually. Then He sends His Holy Spirit. It will lead you to more Truth and more Truth.

Verse 20: “The anger of the LORD shall not return, until He has executed and until He has performed the purposes of His heart; in the latter days you shall understand it perfectly. **‘I have not sent these prophets...’**” (vs 20-21).

What was the first thing Jesus said about the times of the end? ***‘Beware that no one deceive you.’***

**“...yet they ran; I have not spoken to them, yet, they prophesied.** But if they had stood in My counsel and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings” (vs 21-22).

How much Truth do they have? For a person out in the world who knows nothing, how are they going to know? *They read from the Bible, that is the*

*Word of God, which is Truth, and they read some of the words!*

I’m going to tell you the story of two ruby-red grapefruits. This will demonstrate the point. I couldn’t get to the store, so I had someone buy for me some ruby-red grapefruit juice. This is what I got back: Ocean Spray Ruby Red Grapefruit, no high fructose corn syrup. Original. In the small print: ruby red grapefruit juice *drink*. It’s like Dolores always says that when I go to store—because she knows I’ll grab the first things, so it’s finally sinking in my head—‘read the labels, read the dates’. This one is best before 25 Oct, 17.

First of all I had a glass of it. It was so sweet I couldn’t stand it. I fix juice for Dolores every day, so I fix it, put some of that in, brought it down. She took one taste and almost spit it out on me it was so sweet. I look over here on this other label. You always have to read your enemy’s books, too. Right here in small print on the side:

contains 30% juice. Ingredients: filtered water, ruby red grapefruit juice, water and ruby red grapefruit juice concentrate, sugar.

that’s why they said no corn syrup

grapefruit juice pulp, citric acid, vegetable concentrate for color, natural flavor,

that can be the monosodium glutamate, a little bit

...sodium citrate, ascorbic acid, vitamin C, beta keratin for color.

I would have never been able to live this down if I bought it, but I didn’t. The tale of two cartons:

{showing another carton} Ruby Red Grapefruit Juice. They add a little calcium in there. It says: non-GMO. The date on this is July 26, 17, that is if it’s refrigerated. This other one doesn’t have to be. On the side it says: *100% grapefruit juice*. Then it lists the ingredients: 100% grapefruit juice and then the calcium that they add to it because this is one that has calcium added.

- Which tasted the best? *The 100% juice*
- Which was the best for you? *The 100% juice*

The comparison is this:

How much Truth can the Protestants preach and still sound authentic? *They sound very authentic*. Charles Stanley was very convincing. Pastor Jeffress, it showed his congregation out there. They were all transfixed on what he is saying. They believe it.

- **What is the mystery of Protestantism?**
- How much error is necessary for you to be rejected by God? *Read about the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3!*

- How much error does God put up with? *Not very much!*

2-Thessalonians 2:7: “For the mystery of lawlessness... [How much lawlessness is necessary to remove you from God?] ...is already working; only *there is* One Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the* midst. And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming); *even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing **because they did not receive the love of the Truth**, so that they might be saved” (vs 7-10).

- What is the Truth? *Jesus said, ‘Your Word is the Truth!’*
- How much of God’s Word is the Truth? *All of God’s Word!*

If you could put it in a comparable carton, it would be **100% God’s Word with no traditions!**

Notice God is involved in the whole thing. I’ll just throw another little one in here. While I’m recuperating with my hip, I’ve been watching a little more TV. I watched several episodes of *I Almost Got Away With It*. When they do wrong and they escape from jail and are on the run, they believe that they are going to succeed. ***Belief and sincerity is not the test of Truth!*** The test of Truth is the Word of God and what are we do with everything with the Word of God? *Prove all things!*

You can listen to these wonderful sermons and they speak well, they do ‘good.’ They preach out of the Bible. But what greater deception can there be than to have just enough Truth in whatever denomination, varying degrees of Truth for people to believe.

- Do most of the Seventh Day Adventists believe they’re right? *Yes!*
- Do the Catholics believe they’re right? *Yes!*

You can turn on to the Catholic channel and watch that nonsense.

Verse 11: “And for this cause God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the lie*.”

- How many people get conned out of their money?
- Did they believe that the person was sincere?

Have you ever seen the ad where they have this financial adviser, all dressed up, real nice looking. He’s talking to a couple of people about

their investments. He asks them, ‘Do you believe me?’ One woman said, ‘Yes, I trust you.’ Then he revealed his true identity. He was a rock star and had long hair. He was there to prove a point.

The point is being sincere and sounding nice and giving plausible sounding words, does not necessarily mean it’s true. Is Protestantism salvational? ***or*** Self-righteous? *Self-righteous!*

Then you have the Sabbath/Sunday. Someone sent me a sermon of a Sunday-keeping minister. He said, ‘We need to keep the Ten Commandments, except the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment, all the rest of these are moral commandments.’ Except the Sabbath. How can that be unmoral and the other nine be moral?

- Do people believe the lie that the Law has been done away? *Yes!*
- Do they read the Bible and still say that? *Yes!*
- Do they profess that they believe in Jesus? *Yes!*
- How much of the Truth is God satisfied with?
  - it is true that if you do keep some of the commandments of God in the letter of the Law you’ll receive certain blessings
  - it is true that you will be considered a good person
  - it is true that many people may like you
- But is that salvational? *Not quite!*

Like with Trump’s speech. He speaks of God in a way that he must have some relationship with God.

- Is it salvational?

Is it better for people who have not been called to have a society that has some of God’s laws, rather than living totally satanically in total lawlessness? *Yes!*

- Is that salvational?

Protestants have it, ‘You all come to church.’ If your heart is touched and you stand up and say, ‘I believe in Jesus.’ They say, ‘Your sins are forgiven; you are saved.’ Is that eternal salvation? Or maybe temporary sorrow because of sin?

Do people feel bad when they’ve done bad things? Especially when they get caught. Before they get caught they think they’re going to get away with it.

Let’s compare the 10-20-30-40-50-60%. You read the seven Churches of God, they all got in trouble because they didn’t stay with God the way that they should. So, God told them to repent.

How much of God's Word do you really need for salvation? Because there are a lot of people out there who have Christian moral values, but are not called to salvation. Christ is talking salvation here:

Matthew 4:4: "But He answered *and* said... [to the devil] ... 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."'" ***All of the Word of God!***

What did Paul say about all Scripture? 2-Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture... [each and every one]... *is* God-breathed..."

They have the same Bible in their pews for those attending church, on their laps or on their tables. How many Protestant ministers read this:

Matthew 5:17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill."

How do they get around that? *By saying it's fulfilled: 'the Old Testament is all fulfilled and therefore, since it's been fulfilled, and the Sabbath is for the Jews, Sunday is just fine for us.'* I don't think they have told any of those in their congregations to read *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants* {Note: Appendix N, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*}.

How do we know? If I filled this bottle full of water, it's half full right now, if I fill it to full do I do away with it? *No!* It's better, it's got twice as much water. If He fulfills the Law and the Prophets He makes it better. The Law then becomes spiritual.

Now then, we'll just jump ahead here a little bit. Since God doesn't want to make any mistakes on those that He calls to salvation, Who draws them? *The Father!* He brings them to Christ. **What another mystery of Protestantism?** *If you have Jesus, you have everything.* 1-John 2 shows you've got to have both.

I wonder how they get away with not reading v 18: "For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled."

We're going to send this out along with this sermon: **A Comparison between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant** {Note Appendix I in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*} There are 14 points. I'll just cover a few:

- Old Covenant: Physical covenant with physical promises of physical life
- New Covenant: Spiritual covenant based on spiritual promises and eternal life

*The fulfillment is greater than the letter.*

- Old Covenant: Circumcision. That was done on all males the 8<sup>th</sup> day

How much did that affect their life in the way that they live? *Not very much!*

- New Covenant you have repentance and circumcision of the heart through baptism

I want you to study it, look up all the Scriptures when you get it. Let's go over a couple more of these here I've written down here.

- Holy Days vs Holidays

If you have 80% of the Word of God and you reject the Sabbath and the Holy Days and keep Halloween, Christmas, Easter, New Years, Lent, all of that... What did God say about His Sabbaths? *They are a sign, 'My Sabbaths—plural—are a sign between Me and My people'!*

The keeping of the Sabbath is a ***perpetual*** covenant. The Sabbath is within the Ten Commandments, but then Sabbath-keeping is a ***perpetual covenant***, running through all people, all times. How did God like it when Aaron said, 'Let's make a golden calf'? They had a good time.

- Lord's Supper vs Passover

Or with the Catholic Sacrifice of the Mass. Yet, the book of Hebrews says, 'Is Christ sacrificed over and over again?' *No!*

- Faith only and no works

'Except the works we want you to do. One of the first ones would be to 'support this ministry' and come to church. ***We have conversion and faith led by God's Spirit***, and God has set before us good works, ordained that we walk in them.

- Doctrine

Once you accept the sacrifice of Christ it is finished; there's nothing else you need to do. We'll cover that and show that Jesus says there are four things to be finished.

- God's love

Love and emotion. God's love to you is unconditional. Very seldom do you hear them say you must love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your being.

Let's see a verse we all know. How do they get away with not using all of the Bible? *Because nobody's really converted and they're all carnal so they accept what they are told!*

They all know the Sabbath is Saturday. 'You don't need to keep the Sabbath.' People think, 'That would be pretty hard for me to keep the Sabbath, my job, shopping, sports events for my children on

Friday night, night clubbing, all of this. No, we don't need that Sabbath thing. I can sober up Sunday.' ***Their love is God to them and very seldom it is your love back to God!***

1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments."

- How can you say the Law is done away and know the Lord?
- Which Lord do you know?

Let's make another little one. In thinking about this I watched the Catholic channel, too. They've got it on two channels. It showed a pontifical mass and how they have the attendants with folded hands, do all of these rituals that is supposed to make everything work better. You bow down and you kiss the prayer book. People think it's the Bible, it's not; it's their prayer book, missal.

Are there demons that are sweet, self-righteous, yet, evil, but bringing good feelings to people who keep the mass and who keep those things of Catholicism?

The world thinks of Satan like he's a totally evil, fire-breathing dragon. That is true! So, they wouldn't be able to tell the difference if there's a sweet-sounding demon. Remember the one I did on the gentleness of Satan with Copeland and the pope. We ought put that back up online again up front.

To some people that was magnificent, wonderful, uplifting and spiritually inspiring. I imagine that those in the audience had tingles going up and down their spine, ***but it wasn't from God!*** Did they believe it? *Yes*, especially 'seeing is believing.' That's why God says *it's not how you feel*, that's secondary, *it's what you do* is primary.

There is a big difference between Protestants and Catholics, that's true, depending on how much Truth they have. Depending on how much Scripture they have.

"...***if*** we keep His commandments....[then that becomes obvious] ...The one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him." (vs 3-4).

- Can he still be convincing? *Yes!*
- Can he still be sincere? *But of course!*

Verse 5: "On the other hand, ***if*** anyone is keeping His Word... [totally different story] ...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected...."

The work isn't finished when you have your sins forgiven. Your work just begins when you have your sins forgiven.

"...By this *means* 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).

Those verses destroy the mysteries of Protestantism, but you look at it and it's good. You look at some of these programs and they have great choirs singing, very inspiring and wonderful.

After saying keep praying. Luke 18:8: "I tell you that He [God] will execute vengeance for them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, shall He find the ***true*** faith on the earth?" In the Greek it is ***the*** faith. So, to clarify it in English we put the word *true*. The true faith is based upon:

- God's Word
- God's Spirit
- God's laws
- God's commandments

How about ***born again?***

(go to the next track)

2-Corinthians 1:18: "But God *is* faithful, so that our word to you was not yes and no. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who was preached by us among you (by me and Silvanus and Timothy), was not *first* yes and *then* no, but in Him has *always* been yes. For whatever promises of God *there are*, in Him *is* the yes, and in Him the Amen, with glory to God by us" (vs 18-20).

In other words, ***all of God's Word, all of the Truth, all of the Gospel*** comes from God.

Verse 21: "But He Who establishes us with you in Christ, and Who has anointed us, *is* God, Who has also sealed us and has given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (vs 21-22).

For those who are baptized, received the Holy Spirit, you have been sealed. Therefore, no one currently having the Holy Spirit of God can be considered one of the 144,000 or later the great innumerable multitude.

Verse 23: "But I call upon God to bear witness of my intentions, that in order to spare you I did not yet come to Corinth; not that we exercise lordship over your faith..." (vs 23-24).

That's very important. Remember what God said of Pergamos, what He would do to them because they had the hierarchy, He would fight against them *with the sword of His mouth*.

"...but because we are working with you to *increase* your joy. For you stand by faith" (v 24).

Then he said that he was resolved to come and he would get there. Then he mentioned about the

man that they had to put out of the Church who had repented.

2-Corinthians 2:4: “For out of much distress and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears—not that you might be sorrowful, but that you might know the overflowing love which I have for you. But if anyone has caused sorrow, he has not grieved me, but you all, *at least* in part (in order that I may not overcharge *him*). To such a one this punishment, which *was inflicted* by the majority of *you*, is sufficient” (vs 4-6).

In other words, when there’s repentance, then they come back. That’s why we find in Rev. 2 and 3 all the churches have to repent, with the exception of Pergamos and Philadelphia.

Verse 7: “So that on the contrary, you should rather forgive and encourage *him*, lest such a one be swallowed up with overwhelming sorrow. For this reason, I exhort you to confirm *your* love toward him” (vs 7-8).

What happens, the whole thing here is very important. What happens if you insist in staying with things that are not right? Notice what he says here.

Verse 10: “But to whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*; and if I also have forgiven anything, to whomever I have forgiven *it*, for your sakes *I forgave it* in the person of Christ; so that we may not be outwitted by Satan...” (vs 10-11).

Satan is always there. He doesn’t have to worry about keeping the Protestants or Catholics involved in lies. He’s already got them. This is why we started with ‘when Christ returns will He find faith in the earth.’

Think what it would be if you quit keeping the Sabbath. How soon would your mind be filled with the world? Satan wouldn’t have to do anything, because spiritual knowledge must be replenished in your mind all the time.

That’s one of the scheming or cunning things of Satan the devil. He doesn’t come and say, ‘Here’s evil; I want you to do it.’ He comes and says, ‘I have a better way. What do you think about this?’

How did the Seventh Day Adventists ever come to the conclusion that they should keep the Lord’s Supper, and many of the Protestants do the same, the first Sabbath of each quarter? *Four times a yea!*

- How did they come to that conclusion? *Because they got away from the Word of God!*
- What did they not keep? *The Passover and the Holy Days!*

- conversion
- God’s Spirit
- Sabbath
- Passover
- Holy Days

Those are the mainframe, the ribs, the girders of God’s way. Everything else is attached to that, one way or the other.

Satan likes to come along and say, ‘Why don’t you do this?’ The truth of the matter is that once you start leaving the Word of God, what does Satan do? What do you do? *or* Anybody does? Not you, because you’re all here. He brings along other things to keep the mind occupied.

I see this quite often in the e-mails that I get. I got an e-mail from a man who says he’s doing this, and remembers me in the college, so forth and so on. He’s studying the Greek and doing this. So, he sent me an outline of what he was doing. He was injecting the sacred names into the Greek text.

How do you answer that question? Because the sacred names are in the Old Testament, aren’t they? *Yes, they are!* How do you answer that question? *Jesus said, ‘I have revealed, Father, Your name to them’ (John 17)!*

If it were anything other than the Father, it would have been put there. The only sacred names in the New Testament are: ***the Father***, Who is *our* Father. Jesus revealed that when right in the Sermon on the Mount, when He said, ‘When you pray, say, ***Our Father*** Who is in heaven.’

The only other sacred name is—and it was revealed by Gabriel to Mary—‘*and you shall call His name Jesus.*’ Since He’s the Anointed one, ***the Christ***. Those are the sacred names of the New Testament.

I e-mailed him back and said, ‘I don’t understand what you’re doing. There are not sacred names in the New Testament. And what authority do you have to in the Greek text interject Hebrew names, when the New Testament was written in Greek, not Hebrew?’ I haven’t heard back from him.

But that’s one of the schemes. ‘I have an idea.’ Where did that idea come from? Dolores has a good answer: ***all ideas are not good ideas, and some ideas are very bad ideas!*** That was helping me define some things.

Verse 11: “So that we may not be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

- How does he come? *Notice it started immediately!*
- What’s the first false minister in the book of Acts? *Simon Magus!*



- Did he repent? *No!*

He had the name of Jesus and that was a good thing.

There were those people who were casting out demons in the name of Christ that weren't with the group of the apostles and disciples. James and John came and said, 'Lord, we forbid them from casting out demons.' He said, '*Don't forbid them. The one who is on our part is not against us.*' Then He said, '*the ones who are not for us are against us*' (Matt. 12).

There is that area in between where people are beginning to learn. That's why I have said, some Protestants are for Jesus and some are against. Concerning the Protestants: All the different translations of the Bible. Lo, there are many! The NIV has *65,000 fewer words*, excised out.

2-Corinthians 11:1: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. 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... [with his schemes] ...deceived Eve by his craftiness... [*the serpent was more cunning than any other*] ...so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ. For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus ..." (vs 1-4).

That's what it is, because it must be *Jesus Christ and God the Father*, that's how you can tell the difference. The Jews are perfectly content for the Protestants to believe that the Old Testament has been fulfilled and it's not needed. It's for the Jews only. The Jews are perfectly content to reject the New Testament, though that's what they need more than anything else. Why? *Because the spiritual blinding comes!*

Spiritual blinding can be all the way from pitch-blackness to fuzzy figures. Those who have some understanding of some of the Truth, or those who see certain things, they can see certain of the commandments that are necessary. But if they're told you don't need to keep the Sabbath, that is a cunning argument to take you away from God. The Sabbath is the day that puts you in connection with God. All of these things, the mystery of Protestantism is really something.

When we heard the choir on that tribute on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it was actually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, beautiful choir, nice band. They sang the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, plus some others. That one, it was so good, it brought tears to your eyes.

So, they can do great and wonderful things, but if they don't have the Father, they're missing 50%. Just the tale of two grapefruit juices, 30% juice

with all the things that men have invented to add to it to make more money.

By the way, \$8.64 for the juice drink; 100% juice, no GMO, they did put calcium in it, but they said so, \$3.99. Will those who believe in the false thing pay a higher price? *Absolutely!* I thought of that after Dolores rejected her juice drink that was so sweet. It was awful! For someone with a sweet tooth they might like it. If you know no difference, what is your base of comparison?

Likewise, Satan can get a scheme upon us, outwit us, if we don't stick with the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The thing is, you look at some of these presentations, and you think: How can all of these people not get it?

I wonder what kind of reaction you would get if you asked Robert Jeffress a question: 'You're a pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church?' *Yes, I am.* 'Did you know the Bible doesn't teach about the trinity?' Do you think he'd be willing to accept that? Look at all he'd have to stand down to accept that:

- his pastorship
- his church
- all the deacons
- all the people that have taught it
- all those who believe it

How could he go before his congregation and say—it would be a miracle if he did—I'm coming to you to repent and to tell you that the New Testament does not teach the doctrine of the trinity.' I wonder if the deacons would take him off the stage.

Once you get to the point that you believe and you accept and it's entrenched and it's part of the establishment of what you do, how hard is that? But it comes very craftily, just like with the translations. I know the Greek plenty well enough to know that it cannot come from the New Testament, or John 14-16. That I know for sure.

Let me give you a little clue. How much Greek does it take to know that? *Probably just the first nine months!* How many have had years of Greek, going to theological schools and things like this? Another Jesus! Isn't it interesting, they always have pictures of long-haired Jesus? That's another Jesus. I've got a whole series on **churchathome.org** on *Who is the True Jesus?*

2-Corinthians 11:4: "...another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something good*."

Then he says, v 13: "For such *are* false apostles—deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And *it is* no

marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light” (vs 13-14).

Let’s talk about *belief*. This is at the temple. The Pharisees and Sadducees come after Him, and the priests as well because He healed a man on the Sabbath and told him to pick up his bed roll and walk. The *King James Version* says, ‘And Jesus broke the Sabbath.’ *No*, the word is *loosed*! Is a sleeping bag a burden to carry on the Sabbath? *No*! So, they came after Him. He told them about John the Baptist, and they didn’t believe Him, even though some bathed in his light for a while.

John 5:36: “But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works that the Father gave Me to complete... [finish] ...the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.... [He didn’t come of Himself] ...And the Father Himself, Who sent Me, has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice nor seen His form at any time” (vs 36-37). That applies to *anyone*; ***no one has seen the Father!***

Verse 38: “And you do not have His Word dwelling in you, for you do not believe Him Whom He has sent. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think that you have eternal life; and they are the ones that testify of Me. But you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life” (vs 38-40). That also includes coming to the Father.

The same thing is true with the Protestants and Catholics. They think they have eternal life with what they believe. Look at the Jews here, were they wrong? *Yes!* Did they know they were wrong? *Who knows!* Jesus told them they were.

Verse 41: “I do not receive glory from men; but I have known you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.... [very profound statement] ...I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me...” (vs 41-43).

Did they not have all the Law and all the Prophets, and everything, to know? When asked by Herod where was the Messiah to be born? *Bethlehem!* They knew that!

“...*but* if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How are you able to believe, you who receive glory from one another, and do not seek the glory that *comes* from the only God?” (vs 43-44).

The next verses are very important. We can apply this to the Protestants, Catholics, anybody, because the Word of God is one complete unit here.

Verse 45: “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is *one* who accuses you, *even* Moses, in whom you have hope.”

What does this tell us? That’s present tense in the Greek, by the way. ***The Word of God is living! The Word of God stands!*** There are nearly 1500 years removed from Moses and it still convicts them.

Verse 46: “But if you believed Moses, you would have believed Me; for he wrote about Me.” That’s a powerful statement there of itself. Think about that for a minute.

Why don’t the Protestants really believe in the true Jesus and the true God the Father? I had one Protestant tell me in the church he went to they said, ‘If you have Jesus, you have everything and you don’t need anything else.’ ***No! You need the Father!***

Verse 47: “And if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My words?”

Let’s see that many people can believe superficially, but it is not salvational. That’s what happens with Protestantism. They’re sincere. ‘You know the Lord Jesus?’ *Yes, I do, I know the Lord.* Blah, blah, all the things that they have.

John 8:23: “And He said to them, ‘You are from beneath; I am from above.... [Jesus told them where He came from] ...You are of this world; I am not of this world.’”

*Protestantism is of this world*, though they have more Truth than Catholicism, more Truth than the Jews. But they haven’t shed all of their Catholic garments yet.

Verse 24: “That is why I said to you that you shall die in your sins; for if you do not believe **that I AM**, you shall die in your sins.” They knew the phrase *I AM* referred to God. They understood that.

Verse 25: “Then they said to Him, ‘Who are You?’.... [that made them stop and think] ...And Jesus said to them, ‘The One that I said to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you; but He Who sent Me is true, and what I have heard from Him, these things I speak to the world’” (vs 25-26). In other words, ‘You want your lies. You don’t want the Truth of God.’

Verse 27: “*But* they did not know that He was speaking to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you yourselves shall know that I AM... [that is if you read the Bible] ...and *that* I do nothing of Myself. But as the Father taught Me, these things I speak. And He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone because I always do the things that please Him.’ As He spoke these things, many believed in Him” (vs 27-30). How long did that belief last?

Verse 31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And **you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free**” (vs 31-32).

Were they willing? Just like with the Protestants today. If you tell them, ‘Read the whole Bible, really understand the General Epistles, read them, especially 1-John. What does it say? And the Gospel of John?’ Some Protestants hardly ever even do anything with the Gospel of John. No wonder they don’t know anything.

Verse 32: “And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free.” Did they accept that and say, ‘Oh, yeah, we want to know the Truth. Tell us the Truth.’

- you’re not going to be saved believing the way that you believe
- you must believe Moses
- you must believe Me [Jesus]
- you must believe the Father
- you must repent of your sins and believe the Gospel

How did they answer?

Verse 33: “They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. What do You mean by saying, “You shall become free”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin**” (vs 33-34). Very important to understand.

How many things do the Protestants have that are sin?

- Sunday
- holidays
- going to heaven
- burning in hell
- born again
- Easter resurrection

Luke 6:46: “And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’... [Isn’t that what they do?] ...but *you* do not practice what I say?... [which is the same as saying, **Obey My voice!**] ...Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and practices them, I will show you what he is like” (vs 46-47).

Then it talks about the foundation and the storm and everything that comes. The one who doesn’t practice them is the one who builds his house on the sand.

- What did they do? *They built a house!*
- Do the Protestants have a doctrinal house? *Yes!*
- What foundation is that on? *Sand!*

John 8:36: “Therefore, if the Son shall set you free, you shall truly be free. I know that you are Abraham’s seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because My words do not enter into your *minds*” (vs 36-37).

They believed in Jesus, but they wanted to get rid of Him. What a paradox that is. Is that much different than Catholicism, taking the name of Jesus but saying, ‘We don’t even need the Bible to preach Catholicism’? *Yes!*

Verse 38: “I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.”

What I want to get across here is those who are ‘religious’ and are in ‘religious systems of Satan the devil,’ do they know they’re worshiping Satan? *No!* What do we have right here? We have Jews in Jerusalem at the temple who had the Word of God. We know from Jeremiah that the people thought if they get to the temple, then everything’s fine. So, here they were. Those who then believed in Him, they wanted to kill Him. Look at the paradoxes there.

Verse 39: “They answered and said to Him, ‘Our father is Abraham... [notice, *not* God] ...Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children...’” Notice the difference: *seed* and *children*. Were Ishmael and Esau of the seed of Abraham? *Yes, indeed!* Were they the children? *No!*

Likewise, there are a lot of those out there who profess Christianity, but are unwilling to do what God says the way it needs to be done. But do they believe they’re right? *Yes!* Just like the Jews here at the temple.

“...If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me... [He said that three times] ...a Man who has spoken the Truth to you, which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this” (vs 39-40).

Now notice, as plain as can be! Do you suppose you would get out of a Catholic cathedral alive if you said these following words that we’re going to read? You might get out of a Protestant church alive, but thrown out bodily:

Verse 41: “‘You are doing the works of your father.’ Then they said to Him, ‘We have not been born of fornication... [They knew of Jesus and the circumstances of His birth] ...We have one Father, *and that is God.*’ Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don’t you understand My speech? Because you cannot *bear* to hear My words.’.... [Why?] ...**You are of your father the devil**...” (vs 41-44).

Yet, they believed they were of God. ‘Here we are in God’s temple, God’s chosen people. God chose Abraham. We’re his descendants and who is this man telling us this?’

Think what it would be like to approach Catholics with this kind of thing. Approach Protestants with it. Wonder what would happen if at Pastor Jeffress’ First Baptist Church they invited a guest speaker to speak, and he unloaded on them like this right here. Or try any other Protestant church. Try Charles Stanley, one of the best Protestant preachers. ‘You condemn sin perfectly. You laid it out just right, but did you know you’re living in sin by keeping Sunday? You’re living in sin because you keep all of the holidays of this world?’

You wouldn’t last very long, would you? But what is the Truth? *They preach from the Word of God and have blinded their minds to the Truth because of their own personal doctrines and the denominational things that they believe!* This is why, though it looks like there are many, many Christians out there, Jesus said, ‘When I come, will the Son of man find faith in the earth?’ **No!**

The Bible we have, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, gives the answer to all the problems of Protestantism and Catholicism. All you have to do is read the commentaries and the appendices. That’s why they’re in the book. That’s why they’re in the Bible.

We have in there, first one starts out: Come to the That’s just go quickly through the commentaries. All of these are the answers to the Protestants. If a Protestant is listening to this and you think I’ve lost my marbles, well, I haven’t. Maybe you ought to find out how many you have.

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*answers all the things with sacred name.*

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Want to know what the Truth is? the doctrines? *Go right there, all of them!*

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*In this Bible is the cure to Protestantism*

I did call and they’re sending me the DVD of the celebration. It’s worth watching. It’s very good, very inspiring.

- Are there some good things that people do out there? *Yes!*
- Are they sincere in it? *Yes!*
- Will God bless them if they obey to a certain point and do certain things? *Yes!*

***But it is not salvational, it is a special calling to have eternal salvation!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 23:11-22
- 2) 2-Thessalonians 2:7-10
- 3) Matthew 4:4
- 4) 2-Timothy 3:16
- 5) Matthew 5:17-18
- 6) 1-John 2:3-6
- 7) Luke 18:8
- 8) 2-Corinthians 1:18-24
- 9) 2-Corinthians 2:4-8, 10-11
- 10) 2-Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-14
- 11) John 5:36-47
- 12) John 8:23-34
- 13) Luke 6:46-47
- 14) John 8:36-44

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ezekiel 34
- Revelation 2; 3
- 1-John 2
- John 17
- Matthew 12
- John 14-16

Also referenced:

Book: *Babylon Mystery Babylon* by Ralph Woodrow

From *The Holy Bible in its Original Order*:

- Appendix N: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants
- Appendix I: A Comparison between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant

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## The Mystery of Protestantism II

### Will you love and obey God or the traditions and laws of men?

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

How come Protestantism looks so good, sounds so good, millions belong to it, and that's not counting the Catholics. Even the Catholics read some parts of Scripture, but Protestants read quite a bit. It sounds very authentic, because when they read the Scriptures, if they read it correctly, it's correct.

- Why does it look so good?
- How can they be so wrong?

Last week it was brought up about the translations. Translations are key important things. How many times have we heard that the *King James Version* is the best translation, the most accurate translation of all? *In key areas it is the worst*, but most people don't know it. When theologians do things, they have a denominational theology that they must keep.

Sidebar: You'll read in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, Appendix L:<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup> A Summary of Proofs That God Is Not a Trinity, how it's not a person. I quote from Daniel B. Wallace and he is the leading Greek expert and professor. I've got three of his books and I've got one grammar and it's really good.

God has always kept honest scholars so that the Word would not be lost. Wallace argues very clearly—and you can read it there in the appendix—that *there is no Biblical grounds whatsoever to give personality to the Holy Spirit*. You can't find it in the Greek and that is true. He was on the translating committee for the *English Standard Version*, one of the newest ones to come out. **He could not persuade them to not make it a person!** So, when you read Appendix L, you will see that he laments that the only grounds for a personality of the Holy Spirit is theological, meaning a denominational doctrine that is not found in the Greek. He couldn't persuade them.

Today we're going to examine another one that's very important to understand. We're going to refer to a little bit of Greek. We all know what Jesus said about the Law and the Prophets: 'He didn't come to abolish, He came to fulfill.' Fulfill means *to complete or make whole*. Doesn't mean to fulfill to do away. All of the priestly laws were elevated and are now in the person of Christ.

The priestly laws continue now with the higher level of fulfillment and use than it was when they had the priests in Jerusalem. Now you can reach your High Priest and God the Father anywhere you

are on the earth, at any time you need to by getting on your knees and praying to them.

Why do they say that the Law has been done away? You know they don't believe that 100%, because they still don't want you dishonoring parents, murder, committing adultery or things like this.

- Why do they say that?
- Where in the Scriptures does it look like that is so?

Understand that the whole western world is based upon the philosophies of the Greeks. The writings of those philosophers, especially Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, they have two or three copies of those books in the Greek. Guess how many they have of the New Testament that they can refer to? *Over 5,000!* You can make some comparisons.

- What did Jesus say concerning the Law?
- How long was it to last? *Until heaven and earth pass away!*
- How can they say that the Law is done away with the heaven and earth still being here and they living on here?
- What else does it say about the Law? *The Law is perfect* (Psa. 19)!

If it's perfect, you can't improve on it or take away from it. If anything is changed, who must change it? *God must!*

Let me just tell you this. If you have a copy of *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, second edition, it has Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God—which covers all of Paul's difficult Scriptures to understand. Some are hard to understand.

What did Peter say? *That those who are unlearned twist and distort the Scriptures that Paul wrote (2-Peter 3) and there are things hard to understand!*

Rom. 10—I'm going to read to you from the *King James Version* a verse that looks like on the surface a declarative statement that sure enough the Law has been done away. You won't find it in the Greek and we'll explain it to you in Greek here in just a little bit.

Romans 10:4 (KJV): "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes". **The** end of **the** law! *The end* comes from the Greek 'telos,' which means *the end*. So, they turn there and say, 'See, the Law has been done away.

Paul wrote that Christ is the end of *the Law* and Paul has the most progressive revelation of all the apostles. So therefore, you don't have to keep them.'

Read the Bible, and all of 1-John, keeping the commandments, *keeping the commandments*, *keeping the commandments*, and so forth.

- How does that square with this?
- Did John have an inferior one?
- How do they explain it?

'Well, that's for the Jews because John was a Jewish apostle, so that's for the Jews, but that's not for Christians.' That's still down to this day.

Even one of the most noted Messianic ministers—Jonathan Cahn—says that the Sabbath is for the Jews and the first day of the week for Gentiles. So, you go to all the experts.

Rom. 3:31—here's an inherent contradiction, right within the Scriptures if it says that Jesus is the 'end of the Law.' Sure enough 'telos' means *end*; no dispute.

Romans 3:31 (KJV): "Do we then make void the Law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the Law."

How can you establish it and at the same time end it? terminate it? That's like I brought out about the way the Protestants approach salvation: 'Believe in the Lord, you're saved. Everything's finished. You're just on a rocket plane going to heaven.'

- Wouldn't you say that's a contradiction?
- Wouldn't you say Paul was wrong?
- How could he write one and in the same book the other?

Romans 6:1 (KJV): "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (vs 1-2).

What is he talking about? Let's begin to answer it this way, Mal. 2. {note our book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*} First thing you need to do is understand about Judaism. Judaism is not the keeping of the laws of the Old Testament.

Here is what they have always done. Let's see what happened. Remember what happened with Aaron, while Moses was up on the mountain and the people wanted to make gods, and they made the golden calf. Right when God was giving the commands, and He said that there is a separate covenant, which is the '*keeping of My Sabbaths is a perpetual covenant*.'

If you don't read the Old Testament, you won't know anything about it. If you think the whole Old Testament has been fulfilled, or it's all for the Jews, it's not for the Christians, you're not bothered with it so you accept a mistranslation as true.

Malachi 2:5: "My covenant with him... [that is Levi] ...was *one* of life and peace, and I gave them to him *for* fear; that he might fear Me, and he was in awe before My name. The Law of Truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and turned away many from iniquity, for the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and *the people* should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have departed out of the way; you have **caused many to stumble at the Law**.... [isn't that what people do] ...You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,' says the LORD of hosts. Therefore, I have also made you contemptible and base before all the people, just as you have not kept My ways but have been partial in the Law'" (vs 5-9).

What was it that they accepted for sacrifice? *The blind and the maim (Mal. 1)!* If you're partial in the Law, or use part of the Law, or show partiality to some people concerning the Law and not other people, or if you take privileges to yourself that God didn't give you, then you're partial in the Law.

Let's see how they partial and what does it do. That's why, if you don't have the book on Judaism, get it, we'll send it to you. There's a CD with it.

This had to do with hand-washing. Protestants read this that He declared all meats clean, so therefore, we can eat pork. But that's not what it says. We'll cover clean and unclean meats and cover that Scripture in Mark 7 later. Scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, 'Look here, Your disciples don't wash their hands when they eat. They have defiled hands. If you don't wash your hands before you eat, you're unclean.'

- Can you find that in the Old Testament?
  - Is that a Law of God?
- or**
- Is that one of their traditions?

Mark 7:6: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites...' You'll see all the wonderful, sweet relationships that Jesus had with the Pharisees (Matt. 23). I say that in jest, because He called them fools and hypocrites in every verse.

"...as it is written, "This people honors Me with their lips... [that's what we see today with a lot of people] ...but their hearts are far away from Me. But **in vain do they worship Me, teaching for**

**doctrine the commandments of men**” For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men, *such as* the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.’ Then He said to them, ‘Full well do **you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your own tradition**’” (vs 6-9).

They had quite a good one here. People like money. They had a special one called ‘corban’: money that you could help your parents with, you can call ‘corban’ and give it to us and you’re released from helping your parents. That’s why they had the social security office back in the days of Jesus. I say that in jest.

What happens? You teach the commandments of men for your righteousness and you reject the commandments of God to keep them.

Romans 9:30: “What then shall we say?... [he’s talking about how God punished Israel and now the word came to the Gentiles] ...That the Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, have attained righteousness, even *the* righteousness that is by faith.” We’ll explain that a little bit later.

What does it say in Psalms 119:172? *All Your commandments are righteousness!*

Verse 31: “But Israel, although they followed after a law of righteousness... [not *the* law] ...did not attain to a law of righteousness.”

Verse 30 (KJV): “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness, which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after **the law** of righteousness...”

Not in the Greek. *No definite article!* The law of righteousness sounds like you’re referring to the commandments in the Old Testament. It is properly translated in the *Faithful Version*:

Verse 31: “But Israel, although they followed after a law of righteousness... [not *the* law of righteousness] ...did not attain to a law of righteousness.” What law was their righteousness? God’s? or Theirs?

Let’s see what Jesus says about *their law of righteousness*. When you have commandments that go against God’s, what do you have? *Rejecting the commandments of God!* If all of God’s commandments are righteousness, *the* law of righteousness has to be God’s. But that’s not what the Greek actually says.

There is no definite article. That’s critical in Greek. If there is no definite article, you don’t put it there unless you put it in italics and you know that that is referring to something that needs a *the*. This

is the thing that the *King James Version* has done all the way through.

Let’s read what Jesus said, after He said, Matthew 5:18: “...until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled.” Has everything been fulfilled? *No!*

Verse 19: “Therefore, whoever... [man or woman] ...shall break one of these least commandments... [of God] ...and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

How do you reconcile that with Romans 10:4? *Impossible!* It’s almost like saying, ‘Here’s a hunk of lead. It floats real well on the water.’

Verse 20: “For I say to you...” Who was Jesus? *The Lawgiver! The One Who gave the Ten Commandments to ancient Israel!* What is He doing here in Matt. 5, 6, 7? *He’s showing the spiritual application of the law.* Is He not doing that? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 20: “For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees...” What was their righteousness? *Their traditions—Judaism!* That’s important to understand. Is that salvational or not?

“...there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven” (v 20)—if you don’t have a righteousness that exceeds the scribes and the Pharisees, showing that their righteousness that they had meant nothing. Let’s see how righteous they were. Let’s see some of the things that they said:

Matthew 23:12: “And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled; and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...” (vs 12-13). He didn’t say for everybody pay attention to how righteous they are.

“...For you devour widows’ houses, and as a pretext you offer prayers of great length. Because of this, you shall receive *the* greater judgment. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven before men...” (vs 13-14).

Stop and think about it now. If you follow Messianic Jews, how close to the Kingdom do you really get? *They still bring in their traditions!* You have to do this; you have to do that.

Verse 16: “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever shall swear by the temple, it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is obligated *to fulfill* his oath.’ *You* fools and blind!...” (vs 16-17). We’re talking about a law



of righteousness that is real sought after. How does Jesus describe it?

“...For which is greater, the gold, or the temple, which sanctifies the gold? And *you say*, ‘Whoever shall swear by the altar, it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gift that *is* upon it, he is obligated *to fulfill* his oath’” (vs 17-18).

Where does it say in the Bible, in the Law, that you swear by an offering, that you swear by the gold? *Nowhere!*

Verse 19: “*You* fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift, or the altar, which sanctifies the gift? Therefore, the one who swears by the altar swears by it, and by all things that *are* upon it. And the one who swears by the temple swears by it, and by Him Who dwells in it. And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God, and by Him Who sits upon it” (vs 19-22).

Then He goes on with other woes to the scribes and Pharisees. If you don’t know what kind of righteousness that Israel was seeking after—that applies to the Jews, but He talks of Israel. You read about the history of Israel. What were they always doing? *Going after Baal and Ashtoreth!* They thought that was their righteousness.

Romans 9:30: “What then shall we say? That *the* Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, have attained righteousness, even *the* righteousness that *is* by faith. But Israel, although they followed after a law of righteousness... [their own] ...did not attain to a law of righteousness” (vs 30-31).

Because true righteousness means *you are in right standing with God!* Did Jesus tell the scribes and Pharisees how wonderful they were and right standing with God? *No!*

Verse 32 (KJV): “Wherefore? Because *they sought* it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.”

There’s a double mistake, because the Greek does not have two definite articles there. There is no definite article before *works* and no definite article before *law*. It is ‘*by works of law*.’ That is a broad phrase, which means *any law or any work that is not God’s*.

The only *works of law* that could apply to anything God had was as long as the temple stood, and they had the sacrifices, when they sinned they were to bring a sacrifice. When the sacrifice was done properly, according to the instructions of God, they were justified to the temple.

Nothing in the Old Testament with the sacrificial system of the priesthood had to do with eternal life. Everything just came to the temple.

Then once a year on the Day of Atonement, God wiped the slate clean.

Now let’s read it correctly, v 31: “But Israel, although they followed after a law of righteousness, did not attain to a law of righteousness. Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but **by works of law**...” (vs 31-32).

Let’s see *a work of law* in Gal. 2. Where Peter got caught up in the laws of Judaism again, he forgot that God sent him to Cornelius (Acts 10), an uncircumcised Gentile. The Jews had a law that you shall not associate with one of another nation or be with them because they’re uncircumcised. That was *a law of the Jews*. Gal. 2 is very important; let’s see what it is. This was so important that Paul had to correct Peter. That also proves he wasn’t the first pope.

Galatians 2:11: “But when Peter came to Antioch... [that’s where there was the greatest number of Gentile believers] ...I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned; for before certain *ones* came from James...” (vs 11-12).

In Jerusalem they still had the temple and the sacrifices so they still held to some of the laws of Judaism, which they should not have done (Acts 20).

Also, in Acts 20 when James said, ‘Look at the thousands that believe. Now, Paul, you tell people they don’t have to circumcise their children and you don’t believe in the sacrificial laws. Why don’t you do this: There are four men that we have that are finishing off their vows. Why don’t you go with them and pay for it?’ Paul made a mistake. He should have said, ‘No, that’s a political solution.’ ***Political solutions never work!***

(go to the next track)

The real key is that—you’ll find this in Appendix Z—all of the Scriptures are listed where they insert *the* before law and works. If they italicized it you would know they inserted it, but they do not italicize it. Works of law is a general category of works; it’s not the works of God.

Galatians 2:12: “For before certain *ones* came from James...” Good lesson here. ***Politics have no place in the Church!***

Sidebar: ***You cannot solve spiritual problems by political means or by secular means, either one!*** You solve spiritual problems by spiritual means. If the law is spiritual, which it is, and repentance is spiritual, which it is, then you have deep spiritual repentance and you adhere to the Law spiritually.

Verse 12: “For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles... [against Judaism] ...However, when they came, he

drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*... [‘We can’t eat with those dirty Gentiles. We might get contaminated’] ...being afraid of those of the circumcision party.”

Word might get back that Peter is acting like a Gentile, when he was the first one God sent to the Gentiles. You talk about hypocritical.

Verse 13: “And the rest of *the* Jews... [it was Gentiles and Jews there] ...joined him in *this* hypocritical act... [‘Maybe the rabbis are right; maybe we shouldn’t eat with them.’] ...insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”

- What is doing human tradition in place of obeying God called? *Hypocrisy!*
- Didn’t Jesus call the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites?
- Why would He call them hypocrites if they were keeping the Laws of God? *Wouldn’t do it!*

Verse 14: “But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles, and not according to Judaism... [that’s the translation it should be; that’s what it is in the Greek] ... why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize? We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—knowing that a man is not justified **by works of law**...” (vs 14-16).

Why would they separate themselves from the Gentiles? *Because they thought they would be in better standing with God if they didn’t eat with them!* ‘We’re better than they are.’ To this very day they still have that very attitude.

Sidebar: The special vow on Atonement, you take vow which releases you from all of your sinful transactions against Gentiles in the future year. Hypocritical! ‘Oh, we’re righteous, we’re God’s chosen people.’

Verse 16: “Knowing that a **man is not justified by works of law**, but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” That is *the*, because it is in the possessive or accusative tense.

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...” (v 16). He died, gave Himself, and He died in faith for the sins of the whole world. Now what are we to practice once we do that? *The will of the Father, the commandments of God!*

“...and not **by works of law**; because by works of law shall no flesh be justified” (v 16).

Any other way of being justified before God will not work, be it Catholic, Jewish, Protestantism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or be it anything else.

We all have to come to God *God’s way*. God is the One Who does the calling (John 6:44). The Father draws us. We answer the call. Then we go through Jesus Christ. No one can come to the Father except through Him. So, all of these other things men do.

Sidebar: Have you ever watched *American Pickers*? Sometimes that’s more entertaining and more informative than the news. That’s on the History Channel.

They see some very unusual things. They saw this one particular motorcycle that this one man made. It was what they called a chopper. A chopper is taking the original manufacturing of the company who made it, and you make it stylized to what you want. He put in a small Volkswagen engine in this motorcycle. He stylized it the way he wanted. That’s what human beings do with everything. Don’t you do that with everything? You adjust it; you make it the way you want it.

***God’s laws and commandments are not that way.*** That’s why I said to read through all of Psa. 119:

- the laws
- the commandments
- the statutes
- the judgments
- the thoughts
- the way
- everything

Twenty-two sections, according to the Hebrew alphabet of eight verses per section. If after reading that and studying that—preferably on your knees a couple sections each day when you begin your prayers—if you can say that the Laws of God are done away and you don’t have to keep them or you can adjust them and improve on them, how can you improve on something that is perfect, that has come from a perfect God? *You can’t!* Anymore than you can claim this motorcycle with a Volkswagen engine it is direct from the factory. It’s not!

Rom, 9—we’re going to see this is talking about *works of law*. They had a law of righteousness, not God’s law of righteousness, but a law.

Romans 9:32: “Why? Because *they did not seek* it by faith...” Faith is the noun for the verb *to believe*. If you believe God, and you believe His commandments, if you seek it by faith, doing the things that please God in keeping His

commandments, then that is not your work of law, **but God's work of law in you through His Spirit!**

"...but by works of law..." (v 32). 'There are the Gentiles; I can't eat with them. I can't go into their home. They have plates to eat on, but they have meat and they put dairy products on the same plates. You can't eat them.'

When you read the *Code of Jewish Law* in the *Judaism* book, you will see there's a special prayer there. When you see a certain animal, you're to say a certain prayer. When you see a hunchback man you say a certain prayer, and so forth. You get our book on *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*

Ken reminded me we send the CD with the sermon series *Scripturalism vs Judaism*. That's why having series that you go through, and you actually study the Bible, then you learn something.

"...but by works of law: for they stumbled at the Stone of Stumbling... [that's Christ] ... exactly as it is written: 'Behold, I place in Sion a Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of offense, but everyone who believes in Him shall not be ashamed'" (vs 32-33).

Romans 10:1: "Brethren, the earnest desire of my heart and my supplication to God for Israel is for salvation. For I testify of them that they have a zeal for God... [and they do. The Israelites and the Jews have a zeal for God] ...but not according to knowledge" (vs 1-2). That means not according to God's knowledge.

The Jews have a zeal for God for their own traditions. Look it, they're doing everything they can to build that temple in Jerusalem. When that temple is built, 'the Messiah is going to come, and we're going to rule the world.' They're going to be really disappointed. Guess who is going to dedicate that? *The beast!* He's going to go and sit in the Holy of Holies and defy *their* god, **because that's not the temple of the real God**. That's the temple of the Jews and their version of God.

He's going to let them build it. He's going to let them learn the final lesson forever: **you have to trust in God, not what you can do!**

Verse 3: "For they, being ignorant of the righteous *that* comes from God..."

- through Christ
- through repentance
- through keeping the laws and commandments of God in the Spirit

"...and seeking to establish their own righteousness... [through works of law] ...have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of works of law..." (vs 3-4).

Why did I translate it that way? Because all the way through works of law, *works of law*, **works of law**. The way that it is written is in ellipsis. So, the word 'nomu,' which means *of law* is referring back to *their* law.

Verse 4: "For Christ *is* the end of works of law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Cannot be doing away with the laws of God, because they endure forever. They are perfect. That can only mean works of law.

Verse 5 becomes another little problem verse, too: "For Moses wrote *concerning* the righteousness that *comes through* **the Law**... ['ho nomos'] ... 'The man who has practiced those things shall live by them.'"

- Was that not the righteousness that God required?
- Isn't that what Moses wrote? *Yes!*
- What did God say?

*All letter of the Law!*

Is the society better off with the letter of the Law than anarchy? *Yes!* That's why with even a majority of the Laws of God, is that society better than an anarchy society? I'm talking just letter of the Law. *Yes!*

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..."—that you shall become a curse, that you shall be rejected and hated and that God will kill every one of you.

That's what the Protestants imply, but it doesn't say that. Moses said you shall live by all the law. So that shows in Rom. 10:5 that Paul was not talking about the Law of Moses, but *their* traditions, their works of law.

Deuteronomy 28:1: "...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). There it is twice within two verses: **obey the voice of God!**

Verse 3: "Blessed *shall* you *be* in the city, and blessed *shall* you *be* in the field. Blessed *shall* be the fruit of your body..." (vs 3-4).

In every one of these things today, because we've rejected God, they're mostly curses.

"...and the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, the increase of your cattle, and the flocks of your sheep. Blessed *shall be* your basket and your store. Blessed *shall* you *be* when you come

in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (vs 4-6).

Look at the society today. Jesus said that today many will be led into sin (Matt. 24), because they’re not taught the Laws of God. Is that true? *Yes!*

I feel sorry for all of those college students graduating with empty heads and just programmed into hate. Terrible! I’ll let you finish reading that yourself.

Romans 10:5: “For Moses wrote *concerning* the righteousness that *comes through* the Law, ‘The man who has practiced those things shall live by them.’”

Christ coming, is that an improvement in the righteousness of God? Where are the laws and commandments to be written? *In our hearts and in our minds (Heb. 10:16)!* If they are there, is that better than on your wrist? *or* A plaque on the wall? You can have them there. One woman was talking about the commandments of God to her granddaughter and she said, ‘What’s that?’ *Doesn’t even know!*

Verse 6: “But the righteousness *that comes* through faith speaks after this manner...” Then it says it’s not going to be by works.

Rom. 3 has to do with the coming of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. That was planned before the foundation of the world and was sure from the foundation of the world: ‘*The Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.*’ This is a prophecy of what would happen to Him.

Everything that God has done is based upon *His righteousness, His goodness, and Christ coming to die for the sins of mankind!* Everything, planned before the foundation of the world.

Then we have the re-creation of the earth by God (Gen. 1), creating of Adam and Eve. God put them in the Garden of Eden. He made Eve from a rib of Adam, brought her to Adam, married them, put them in the garden, a beautiful setting, No Satan, no traditions, no rabbis, no popes.

God had one simple thing. It’s like we read in Deut. 28—*obey My voice*. What was it He said? ‘Of all the trees in the garden you may freely eat except the one, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You shall not eat of that one, for in the day that you do, in dying you shall surely die.’ That’s how God deals.

What did God say to the children of Israel after they finally got to Mount Sinai? He said, ‘*If you will obey My voice*, I will make you a nation of priests.’ That’s before anything else was done.

When God makes a proposition, there’s a whole lot more coming. But He wants to know the one thing: *will you love Him and obey Him!* Because they didn’t obey Him and obeyed Satan, what was the first thing that God said? *He gave the prophecy of His death!*

With that established, could we not say that *nothing can replace the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God manifested in the flesh, Who voluntarily laid His life down for the forgiveness of sin?* Can anything replace that? *No, because He was the Creator of the earth!* There’s nothing on the earth; there’s nothing in man that he has that he didn’t receive from God. He can’t go to God and say, ‘I’ve got a better way than Yours, God.’ Can the created say to the creator, ‘What are you making?’ *No!*

Righteousness of God also is figured in the forgiveness of sin. Righteousness of God means *right standing with God*. Paul was saying there to Peter and the rest, ‘You’re not in better standing with God because you hate the Gentiles and you go across the aisle of the room and set up over here.’

Romans 3:19: “Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law... [Who is under the law? *Every person in the world!*] ...so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

There’s no other way to forgive sin. Micah 6 says, ‘What shall I do to come before God? Shall I have 10,000 lambs, rivers of oil?’ *No, you approach God humbly with a repentant heart!* That’s what God wants.

Verses 20 and 21 I did not understand fully until I really understood the Greek. What do you do for years and years that there’s a verse or two, or maybe more, that you read, that you don’t understand? And it sounds like a contradiction. In the church we’re told to keep the commandments, keep the commandments. That’s true, but what is more important? *Loving God!*

If you love God, have His Spirit, you will keep the commandments. So, when I read this in Romans 3:30, especially when I first read it. I really didn’t understand this. I started taking Greek in 1974, maybe late 1973. One of the first things we were taught by Dr. Dorothy was to never forget the definite article. I couldn’t understand that until this.

Verse 20 (KJV): “Therefore by **the** deeds of **the** law...” You read that, that sounds like you’re to keep the commandments. You think that’s the commandments of God. *The deeds, the law*. You don’t know how delighted I was when I found out in the Greek *those two definite articles are not there*.

That opened the understanding to read the way it's translated in the *Faithful Version*.

Verse 20 (KJV): "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight... [What on earth am I doing trying to keep the commandments of God?] ...for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God... [remember all My commandments are righteousness] ...without the law *is* manifested..." (vs 20-21). How can that be?

The Protestants read that and say, 'See, you don't need the Law. You have the righteousness of God without the Law. What can that be?'

Then I go back and read 1-John and know that I'm going to keep the commandments. But I didn't understand that and I was baptized in 1960, graduated from Ambassador College in 1964, married in 1965, ordained in 1965, January and May. We went over and were pastoring in Boise. All the way through, all that time, all during the 60s, clear to the middle of the 70s I couldn't understand that, because I didn't know the Greek.

So you can see what a bad translation does. In doing the translation, when I finally got around to translating, I said to myself that *God is Truth, His Word is Truth*, and there isn't going to be anything that isn't going to agree with the Word of God and the Truth of God that's going to be in the English. It *must* agree with the Greek.

Let's read those two verses again in *Faithful Version*, v 20: "Therefore, by **works of law**..."—of Judaism. This clears up what that means:

Romans 2:13: "Because the hearers of the law *are* not just before God... [justified] ...but the doers... [those who *practice* the Law] ...shall be justified." Quite an interesting verse.

So, what does this tell you? Here's someone out there, doesn't know anything about God. He starts finding something about God and starts obeying some of the Word of God. God then begins to lead him.

- What has to happen before baptism?
- What's one of the questions that you were probably asked for baptism?
- Have you started keeping the Sabbath? *No, I've been going to church every Sunday.*

Well, you can't be baptized!

I was asked, because I was keeping the Sabbath by that time, 'Do you still eat unclean meats?' *I said yes, I do!* I was a cook at Sandy's Kitchen. When I would go down I'd make myself a sandwich before I even started working and I had my own righteous way of doing bacon. I fried it

very, very crisp. I made bacon and tomato sandwiches with crisp, tasty bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, mayonnaise and lots of bacon.

They said, 'Well, you can't be baptized.' So, I went back, I gave up bacon. I quit burping through the shift I was working on, because I would eat the pork and I would burp. I didn't know. That's an example of the *doers* of the Law—once you know about a law you are to do it.

The doers of the Law shall be justified. Now even after we understanding keeping the Law, do we still sin? *Yes, we do!* Do we need to be justified? *Yes, we do!* That comes through the sacrifice of Christ, but we have to repent. That's the simplicity of Christ.

Romans 3:20: "Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him..."

So, everything the Jews do, everything the Catholics do, everything the Protestants do that are contrary to the Word of God, but they think are righteousness to them, *doesn't make them right with God!*

"...for through *the Law is the knowledge* of sin. But now *the righteousness of God that is* separate from law..." (vs 20-21).

Verse 21 (KJV): "But now the righteousness of God without the law..." That's different, isn't it? *Without* means the *absence of*. So, there again it looks like the Law is done away. It's separate from.

Dolores and I are married. God says we're to be one flesh, but we're still two separate people. Separate from does not mean the absence of law, or no law. That means it's *a different operation than Law-keeping*. Is the sacrifice of Christ a different operation than Law-keeping? *Yes, indeed!* That's what it means: separate from.

Verse 21 (FV): "But now, *the righteousness of God*..." Righteousness here means the righteousness that comes through the sacrifice of Christ, by the forgiveness of sins and His shed blood. Wipes away all your sins. Now you are essentially righteous because you don't have sin imputed to you. But then you must begin walking in the way of Truth.

Everything clear up to this point? If you have any questions, raise your hands because this is very complicated. I'm trying to make it simple. Remember, it took me 14 years to come to understand these verses.

Verse 21: "But now *the righteousness of God that is* separate from law has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets." That's another thing.

- How can it be without law, no law at all, if it's witnessed to by the Law and the Prophets?
- How can that be?
- Where is it in the Bible that the Law witnesses itself that it's going to go away?  
*No place!*

So, the *King James Version* can be a mighty misleading version.

Verse 22: "Even *the* righteousness of God *that is* through *the* faith of Jesus Christ, toward all and upon all those who believe... [and repent. Isn't that what he talks about in chapter two, repentance?] ...for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *but* are being justified freely by His grace..." (vs 22-24).

In other words, *the work of repentance is an act of grace, given to you by God.* He gives repentance.

"...by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (v 24).

- not in the *Code of Jewish Law*
- not in the catechism of the Roman Catholic Church
- not in the teachings of the Protestants that are contrary to the Bible
- not in Islam
- not in Buddhism
- not in Hinduism
- not in any other religion

*but Jesus Christ, Who was slain before the foundation of the world* and was prophesied at the first sin with Adam and Eve, came in His due time at the set time He came (Rom. 5:7).

Verse 24: "*But* are being justified... [put in right standing with God. You're no longer hostile to God. You love God; you're put in right standing with Him] ...**freely**..." He didn't say, 'Run down to the slot machine and put in \$40.' Freely!

"...by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God has openly manifested *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood..." (vs 24-25). Is there any work greater than the blood of Christ? any animal? any work? *NO!*

"...in order to demonstrate His righteousness... [justification] ...in respect to the remission of sins that are past" (v 25).

Here's something we need to also remember. You don't go to God and say, 'God, now I saw this ad on Las Vegas and they say everything you do here stays here. I'm going to go there and I want you to forgive me ahead of time, because I know that I'm going to get involved. I don't know

what it will be, but I want You to forgive me ahead of time and all that I do in Las Vegas let it remain in Las Vegas.'

But it won't, because it will be written in your heart and mind. The popes do that with indulgences. You make a pilgrimage to Rome to go to St. Peter's Basilica, *Satan's den of idolatry and demonism*. Yes, you do get a feeling walking through St. Peter's Basilica. I've never been there but people say you really feel it. ***Those are not the feelings coming from God!*** Wherever there is a massive influx of idols, there are demons everywhere.

Sins that are past; all sin is past. How can that be this way? You do something that is wrong that's a sin, the next instant it's already past. You can't say, 'God, I'm going down to the grocery store and I'm going to buy this. I know this stupid clerk is always bad, so I'm going to cuss him out. Forgive me before I go.' ***No!***

Whenever you sin, it's immediately past. That's why God wants you to begin controlling your mind so that you're not involved in sinning; that's why. ***A pure heart, a pure mind by God's Spirit!***

All of it God gives freely, because He loves you and you love Him. How many times a day is a person to be forgiven? *Seven times seventy!* In other words, you're going to live longer than 490 days, so you're going to need more forgiveness than 490.

Verse 25: "Whom God has openly manifested... [He made it known, prophesied, well known and put it in a time of history that all of the historical things can be verified. That's important] ...through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness... [justification] ...in respect to the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; *yes*, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time, that He might be just, and the One Who justifies the one who *is* of *the* faith of Jesus" (vs 25-26).

***You repent to God, only God can forgive. It's only through Jesus Christ!***

The Protestants like to take these sections and apply them, but they misuse them because they don't keep the Sabbath. They don't keep the Holy Days. They keep Sunday; they keep the holidays; they believe in going to heaven or believe in going to hell. All of that's part of *the mystery of Protestantism* that's a little lower level than the mystery of Babylon the Great, but still part of it.

Verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting?..." What did the Jews do with their phylacteries? Like the Boy Scouts and their little merit badges.

I remember when I joined the Scouts, I forget what age it was, that was really something. I got all the way up to scout first class, third level. When I got older I found out they have the same thing with Masons. You become a Mason, in order for you to continue on, you have to make the first three levels. So it's patterned after the Masons.

"...It is excluded. Through what law? *The law of works?* By no means! Rather, *it is* through a law of faith" (v 27). What is that law of faith? *Repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit!*

Verse 28: "Consequently, we reckon that a man is justified by faith, **separate from works of law.**"

Remember Rom. 2:13, you have to be practicing. You can't go to God and say, 'God, I've been keeping the Sabbath all My life and you have to forgive me.' *No! You have to repent!* It doesn't matter if you kept the Sabbath all your life. God expects that.

Bill Cosby before he got all caught up in everything, remember his record on Noah? Here he's working away and hears, 'Noah!' *Who's that?* 'It's the Lord.' *I've been good!*

Verse 29: "*Is He* the God of the Jews only?...." Peter (Gal 2), that's what that separatism means.

"...*Is He* not also *the God of the Gentiles?* YES! *He is* also God of *the Gentiles* since *it is* indeed one God Who will justify *the* circumcision by faith, and *the* uncircumcision through faith. Are we, then, abolishing *the Law* through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the Law*" (vs 29-31).

Because through ***repentance and forgiveness and the desire to love and obey God, you keep it and God writes it in your mind!***

Isn't it amazing, they have all of this in the Bible and they can't figure it out. Why? ***Because they don't keep the commandments of God!***

Psalms 111:10: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...."

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

#### Scriptures Referenced:

- 1) Romans 10:4
- 2) Romans 3:31
- 3) Romans 6:1-2
- 4) Malachi 2:5-9
- 5) Mark 7:6-9

- 6) Romans 9:30-31
- 7) Matthew 5:18-20
- 8) Matthew 23:12-14, 16-22
- 9) Romans 9:30-32
- 10) Galatians 2:11-16
- 11) Romans 9:32-33
- 12) Romans 10:1-5
- 13) Deuteronomy 28:1-6
- 14) Romans 10:5-6
- 15) Romans 3:19-21
- 16) Romans 2:13
- 17) Romans 3:20-31
- 18) Psalm 111:10

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 19
- 2-Peter 3
- Malachi 1
- Psalm 119:172
- Matthew 6; 7
- Acts 10, 20
- John 6:44
- Matthew 24
- Hebrews 10:16
- Genesis 1
- Micah 6
- Romans 5:7

#### Also referenced:

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:

- Appendix L: A Summary of Proofs That God is Not a Trinity
- Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God

#### Books:

- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin

#### Sermon Series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*

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## The Mystery of Protestantism III

### Understanding “works of law” vs “works of the Law”

Welcome to Sabbath services! Today we’re going to do a little background for what I’m going to do, not next Sabbath, but the Sabbath after.

We will cover perhaps the most difficult chapter of all of Paul’s writings—Rom. 7. But we need to have some preparation leading up to it so we understand what we’re doing.

All of you got the chart: A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants, the 14 points. {note that these can also be found in Appendix F of *The New Testament in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* at [truthofgod.org](http://truthofgod.org)} I’m going to give you some assignments that I want you to do:

1. go over that comparison; make sure you understand it
2. read Appendix R: What is Meant by “the Works of the Law”?, beginning on page 1343 in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*; that becomes absolutely essential

Before we get into Rom. 7, let’s ask: How did the average Jew look at Jesus and Christianity? Especially if you were a strict observant Jew and went to synagogue? You might have even had copies of the Law at home. They all knew the Ten Commandments. Even those who were Greek-speaking, I know that the *Septuagint* translation of the Law is good. The rest of the parts of the Old Testament are not so good.

The first thing they would come across is the first commandment: ***I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt; you shall have no other gods before Me!***

Coupled with that is ***if you worship other gods, you’re breaking the covenant!*** As we will see in Rom. 7, the covenant was a *marriage* covenant. We can see that reflected in John 10.

- Were the Jews looking for a man as a Messiah? *Yes!*
- Did some of them understand perhaps it may be God? *Yes!*

I’m going to emphasize this again. The only defense that you have against being deceived is:

1. the Spirit of God
2. the Word of God
3. your work in studying and praying regularly
4. going over and over the same Scriptures again

I learned that when I go back and re-study, even though I’ve written, even though I’ve done whatever

I’ve done. Doesn’t matter what I’ve done, because if we don’t progress in knowledge and understanding and be ready for times that we’re going to face, *there will be false prophets and false Christs to even deceive the elect!* That’s us!

Ken just brought me this National Geographic: *Messiah Complex*. Listing all the people in the world today who say, ‘I am the Christ. I am the second coming.’ Won’t they be surprised when Christ returns? Now you know why they’re going to fight against Him as aliens from outer space. They don’t understand what they’re dealing with at all.

I’m going to save this magazine for Church at Home, do a whole series: *False Christs, Could You Be Deceived?* {[churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org)}

Back to being to a Jew in Jesus’ time. If you’re looking for a man, Jesus would fit it, but the authorities expected Messiah to make a political allegiance with them. That’s what they expected.

That’s why in the temptation by Satan the devil, he took Him to the pinnacle of the temple and said, ‘Jump off here. God will spare You.’ Even quoted Scripture: ‘Angels will bear you up in his hands, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.’ The story would be, ‘I’ll make sure you land on your feet and all of the priests will come down and welcome you. You can rule the world under me as God.’ That was the proposition. So, they were expecting a man.

They knew where He was going to be born, Bethlehem. They knew that all of the pagans were absolutely horrific. They had all of their traditional laws not to associate with them, which was a central issue we’ve already covered in Acts 10. We’ll look at that again.

Why did they want to kill Jesus? According to the Law, *if it were not God Himself*, they would have been right! ‘You shall take that prophet out and you shall kill him’ (Deut. 13).

What I want us to do is understand how the Jews looked at it. That’s why when the Holy Spirit was sent, it was sent at the temple. That’s why there were miracles upon miracles. That’s why during His ministry Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the Mount of Transfiguration so they would know. Who did the three represent?

1. God
2. the prophets and Elijah
3. Moses and the Law



Sidebar on John 10:22—Dedication of the temple: If you read the Book of Maccabees (in the Apocrypha), it says nothing about the candles burning on only one candle. It says nothing about it; I read it. When was the temple really dedicated? This one here we don't know if this is the real dedication or if this is the traditional one of the Jews at Hanukkah. A lot of people in the Church of God were even told, 'You can keep Hanukkah.' Oh, hooray, I'll still look like I'm keeping Christmas to my neighbors.

The temple was dedicated in the month Adar, which is the twelfth month of the year, which is the last month of winter. Nisan is the first month of the year beginning spring. You can't tell what was going on there.

John 10:23: "And Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews encircled Him and said to Him..." (vs 23-24). That means they knew Him. They were watching Him. They had spies everywhere

"How long are You going to hold us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered them, 'I have told you, but you do not believe. The works that I am doing in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me'" (vs 24-25). Remember: He came to reveal the Father.

The Jews only knew one God and they didn't understand the Most High, thinking that applied to the one God, Who was the One Who became Jesus Christ. If we can put ourselves back in that mindset of the Jews, and then we'll cover some other Scriptures, we will be ready for Rom. 7.

Verse 26: "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one shall take them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one has the power to seize *them* from My Father's hand. I and the Father are one'" (vs 26-30).

You see these big mining dump trucks, 85-ton ones; that's like dumping the whole load on them right there.

Think of it as a Jew, only one God, no idols, not even being around any Gentiles. This guy is talking about the Father? What did they say? We read it in part 2, '*We have one Father and that is God.*' What did Jesus say? 'If God were your Father, you would hear Me. But you are of *your father the devil*' (John 8). Now you have two things working:

1. Truth mixed in with error
2. accepting Satan as your father instead of God and then believing Christ

Look at all of the odds. That's why so many Jews today don't believe. We'll talk about Messianic Jews again here in a little bit.

Verse 31: "Then the Jews again picked up stones so that they might stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have showed you from My Father. For which of them are you about to stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'We will not stone You for a good work, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, are making Yourself God'" (vs 31-33). If you say you're the Son of God, that's what you're doing.

I am the father of Jonathan and the rest of our children. He's greater than me; he's taller; in some ways smarter. Other ways is debatable, but he's equal to me.

Imagine how that sits with the Jews. 'You shall have no other gods before Me.' This will help answer the question concerning 'doubting Thomas,' too. He had to see it.

Verse 34: "Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your law...'" In other words, you claim the Law, but do you read it? do you study it?

Good lesson for us, too. If we are to know the times and the seasons now, we better know the Word of God. This goes clear back to Psalms. This is why studying and re-studying the Bible is absolutely essential on a continuous basis day-by-day.

What does Psalms 8 declare about man? How did God make us? *A little lower than God!* All of these things are in the Old Testament plain if you would believe; unknown if you never study or you reject it.

Psalms 82:1: "God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods. How long will you judge unjustly and respect the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; save them out of the hand of the wicked" (vs 1-4)—all the work of the Messiah. Also, all the work of the judges who were appointed by God.

Verse 5: "They do not know... [the wicked] ...neither do they understand; they walk on in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken out of course... [that's at the return of Christ] ...I have said, 'You are gods...'" (vs 5-6). When will that be fulfilled? It tells us—the return of Christ.

"...and all of you are sons of the Most High" (v 6)—the Father. 'I will be a Father to them. I will walk in them' (2-Cor 6).

"...But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.' Arise, O God, Judge the earth,

for You shall inherit all nations” (vs 6-8). *A clear projection of the Millennium!*

John 10:35: “If He called them gods, to whom the Word of God came...” Think about that one statement right there.

- Do we have the Word of God?
- How did it come to us? *God made sure there were Bibles!*
- How do we understand it? *God gave us His Spirit!*
- Who teaches us? *They shall all be taught of God (John 6:45)!*

We are to listen to the voice of God and obey His voice. What do we have? The Word of God written down, *His voice!*

“...(and the Scriptures cannot be broken)” (v 35). Think on that! That was quite a thing to tell them. The Scriptures cannot be broken. Remember that when you’re studying.

Some of the things we’re going to study, especially when we get to Rom. 7, like I explained with some of the other things in Romans, I didn’t understand for years and years, even though I was a minister. When I really studied the Greek and then began translating the understanding opened up.

If you read something you don’t understand, don’t get discouraged, don’t reject it, just file it in the back of your mind and come back at it again later, and maybe you’ll understand it. You may have to come back at it more than once in order to understand it.

Verse 36: “*Why do you say of Him Whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me*” (vs 36-37).

Did He have a lot of works? *Healings, yes! Preaching, yes!* I wonder how many of them being older at this point, eighteen years later, were sitting there when Jesus was in the temple with the priests and the elders discussing the Scriptures and they were amazed at His understanding?

Verse 38: “*But if I do... [the works] ... even if you do not believe Me, believe the works; so that you may perceive and may believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.*” Then they again sought to take Him; but He escaped out of their hands, and departed again beyond Jordan...” (vs 38-40). He had to get out of town real quick.

Let’s just mention this about not associating with Gentiles (Acts 10-11). Now let’s get closer to Rome. This is also is quite convincing that Peter was never there. If Peter were the apostle to Rome, then the Jews would have already been taught.

Remember: the book to the Romans was written ahead of time before Paul got there.

Acts 28:17: “Now, it came to pass *that* after three days, Paul called together those who were chief among the Jews. And when they had come together, he said to them, ‘Men *and* brethren, although I have done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered into the hands of the Romans *as* a prisoner from Jerusalem After examining me, they desired to let *me* go because there was not one cause of death in me’” (vs 17-18).

They wanted to kill him because he was preaching Jesus and also preaching circumcision of the heart, not circumcision of the flesh, and preaching to the Gentiles. You look at the problem they had in Antioch when Peter came.

Verse 19: ‘But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—not as though I had anything to charge against my nation. For this cause then, I have called for you, in order that I might see you and speak to *you*; because *it is* for the hope of Israel that I have this chain around *me*.’ Then they said to him, ‘We have neither received letters concerning you from Judea... [you’re not authorized] ...nor have any of the brethren...’” (vs 19-21)—Jews, not brethren in the Church.

Remember when Paul was standing before the Jews and some of the Pharisees were there. He said, ‘Brethren.’ There wasn’t one church member in sight. So, this is brethren *referring to the Jews*.

“...who have arrived reported anything or spoken evil of you. But we would like to hear from you *and to know* what you think, because we are indeed very aware that this sect is everywhere spoken against” (vs 21-22)—by the pagans.

Look at it from the pagan point of view. Jesus represented another god. Who was god to the Romans? *Caesar!* Both! I think Trump ought to read this section here if he feels kind of bad.

Verse 23: “And when they appointed a day *for him to speak*, many came into his lodging to *hear* him; *and* he expounded to them from morning until evening, fully testifying *of* the Kingdom of God and persuading them *of* the things concerning Jesus, both from the Law of Moses and *from* the prophets.”

Where do you find a phrase similar to that? *Luke 24, Jesus appeared to them, He ate, and then He opened their minds to understand the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings!* So, we have something similar here.

Verse 24: “And some were truly convinced of the things that were spoken, but some did not believe. And they departed in disagreement with one

another after Paul had spoken *these* words... [nice hugs and kisses] ...‘Well did the Holy Spirit speak by Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, “Go to this people and say, ‘In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, but in no way perceive. For the heart of this people has grown fat... [waxed fat] ...and their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”’.... [spiritual healing] ...‘Be it known to you, that the salvation of God has, therefore, been sent to the Gentiles; and they will hear’” (vs 24-28).

Notice how difficult that this really, really was. We’ve already covered a lot in Rom. 2. Paul has to get their attention.

Think about this: You are devout Jew, a synagogue-goer; you know the things that I’ve covered about not having other gods before you. No one can make himself a god, and here we have all the Messiahs in the National Geographic. We look at that and say they’re wrong. We will see why they are wrong.

After all of this with Jesus and the Church, and the miracles and everything, notice how Paul approaches them. He’s telling them he’s picking up from where he left off, that he’s going to the Gentiles and they will hear. Imagine what an insulting statement that is.

Romans 2:17: “Behold, you are called a Jew, and you yourself rest in the Law... [they profess the law] ...and boast in God, and know *His* will, and approve of the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law... [also their own traditions] ...and are persuaded *that* you yourself are a guide of *the* blind, a light for those in darkness, an instructor of *the* foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of the knowledge and of the Truth *contained* in the Law. You, then, who are teaching another, do you not teach yourself also?...” (vs 17-21).

Here’s a perfect example of people can’t understand the Word of God.

Remember Psalm 111:10: “...a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...”

How many Jews even today fit right in with this? “...You who preach, ‘Do not steal,’ are you stealing? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ are you committing adultery? You who abhor idols, are you committing sacrilege?... [you’re not going to understand it unless you’re obeying] ...You who boast in law, are you dishonoring God through your transgression of the Law?... [the Law, God’s Law]

...For through you the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles, exactly as it is written” (vs 21-24).

Then he goes right to the heart and the core of the covenant. What was the sign of the covenant? *Circumcision!*

Verse 25: “For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the* Law; on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the* Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” That is a powerful statement to a Jew, insulting above measure.

Heaping coals of fire on it, he says, v 26: “Therefore, if the uncircumcised is keeping the requirements of the Law. [all of those that the Jews hated and despised] ...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision?” By whom? *God!*

Verse 27: “And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law...”—‘ho nomos,’ *not observing their traditions, but keeping the Law.* What does this tell you? ***The Law was known!*** ...judge you... [‘We’re the chosen people, no one judges us’] ...who, with *the* letter and circumcision, are a transgressor of *the* Law?

How important is keeping the Law? Let’s see what Paul himself says, especially from someone who supposedly was doing away with the Law.

1-Corinthians 7:19: “*For* circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; rather, the keeping of God’s commandments *is essential.*”

What are all of the ‘do away with the Law’ believers going to say to that when they champion Paul? Paul does say in Rom. 7, ‘You have been cleared from the Law.’ Add that to what we covered in part 2. ‘Christ is the end of the Law.’ How do you reconcile this verse with those, if it means doing away with the Law of God? That’s why it’s important to study. That’s why it’s important to know.

Romans 2:28: “For he is not a Jew who *is* one outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision, which *is* external in *the* flesh.... [When it is done? *On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, an infant!*] ...Rather, he *is* a Jew who *is* one inwardly...” (vs 28-29).

When Jesus says salvation is of the Jews, that doesn’t mean the Messianic Jews today, I can tell you that. That means *one who has the Spirit of God, that comes from the Father and comes from Jesus*; inwardly you are a Jew, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

“...and circumcision *is* of *the* heart, in *the* spirit *and* not in *the* letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God” (v 29).

- Why do you need circumcision of the heart?
- Where does sin originate? *In the mind!*

The circumcision of the heart is circumcision of the heart and mind, because they're combined together.

Mark 7:20: "And He said, 'That which springs forth from *within* a man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the hearts of men go forth evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; **all these evils go forth from within, and these defile a man**'" (vs 20-23).

True Christianity is to give you the power, through God's Spirit and His Law and His Word, to correct that. That's important! No one, without the Spirit of God, it doesn't matter how good you are, *all your good cannot bring you eternal life!* That comes from the Spirit of God. Not that you should be a criminal; not that you should be lawless. But how many people are?

Let's see the verse that started all of this. Romans 2:13: "Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified." Showing there must be repentance of sin. Sin is the transgression of the Law. Sin is recognizing the evil within, as we read in Mark 7.

Notice v 14 just on a carnal level. This becomes profoundly important with the rest of the writings of Paul where 'works of law' is used:

Verse 14: "For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* Law, practice by nature the things contained in **the Law**... ['ho nomos'] ...these who do not have *the* Law are a law unto themselves."

In other words, if you are a Gentile and you did the things that are contained in the Law and you didn't have the Law, God would recognize that for the Gentile. *Not to salvation, but blessings in the flesh!*

Now here we go, v 15, mark this carefully: "Who show **the work**... ['tou ergon,' definite article there in the Greek] ...of **the Law**..."—"tou nomos," definite article for both.

Why is this important? Because this is the only place that Paul used the definite articles for "...**the work of the Law**..."

Verse 15: "Who show **the work of the Law** written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also as they accuse or defend one another."

When will most of the people receive salvation? However, you have to be judged worthy of the second resurrection. It says of those who are

Christ's, 'the spirits of just men made perfect.' So, there's a place when we die and our spirit with the Spirit of God goes back to God. He stores it.

How God does it, I don't know. I'll ask Jonathan, he's the expert on computers and he tells me about all the storage room they have now.

How God stores it, I don't know. If He has that, and if He's going to resurrect all the Gentiles, which He is, those whose minds were closed, who did some of the things contained in the Law, but were totally deceived, He's got to have a place to store *their spirit of man*. How's He going to resurrect them if He doesn't do that?

So, this means that those Gentiles who do some of the things that are associated with the Laws of God—God recognizes; yes, He does—but not unto eternal life, but unto a second physical life because He gave them over to Satan the devil and blinded them. He didn't send His Word to them.

(go to the next track)

One other Scripture we need to add in there is Col. 2:11-12; this shows that circumcision of the heart comes with baptism. That is important because Rom. 6 talks about baptism before we get into the things in Rom. 7.

This is in the only place, Rom. 2:15, "...the work of the Law..."—which then is a good thing. Let's go to page 1345 in *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, A Faithful Version*: Appendix R: What Is Meant by "the Works of the Law"? Let me explain. The things that are in the Bible answer the questions of the series we're doing: *Mystery of Protestantism*. How come it sounds so good, but it misses the mark?

Why is it important that in Rom. 2:15 this is the only place where the definite articles are used? Because it shows:

1. if Paul wanted to put it in the other places, he would have
2. by the way that Paul wrote it, it does not mean commandments and laws that we are to keep

What was it that he said of Israel and the Jews? *They had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge!* They sought justification, that is forgiveness of sin, which can only come through the shed blood of Christ, by works of law.

If you have a *King James Version*, you will never be able to understand this. *New King James Version*, you'll never be able to understand it. If you have never studied the Greek sufficiently to know how important the definite articles are, you will never understand it.

from: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*; bottom of page 1345

We're looking at all the places where 'works of law,' 'ergon nomos.'

1) Rom. 9:31-32: "But Israel, although they following after a law of righteousness... [their traditions] ...did not attain to a law of righteousness. Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but by **works of law**; for they stumbled at the Stone of stumbling."

Which tells you what they were doing was contrary to the Word of God, but they thought they were doing the will of God, exactly like you find with a devout Catholic today. So devout he goes to Mass every day. If he's not quite devout that way, he goes to Mass every Sunday. If he's a renegade Catholic, he goes on Christmas and Easter so that he can be sure and at least get into purgatory.

2-4) Galatians 2:14-16: "But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, 'If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles, and not according to Judaism...'"

That's the correct word in the Greek. Let's look at how people view these things today. The Protestants say all you need is the New Testament. They don't understand that if you have the New Testament and do not understand the Old Testament with it, that you'll soon get down to where they are today:

- all you need is Jesus
- all you need is to profess Jesus
- you don't even need to be baptized

The Jews are perfectly happy to let them do it. The Jews say, 'We have the Law of God,' meaning Torah. That word Torah means the first five books of Moses, plus the traditions that are a fence around the first five books. So, when they say Torah, that's what they're talking about.

The Jews are perfectly happy to let the Gentiles—as they view it—or Christianity keep Sunday, because Sabbath is for the Jews, not for the Gentiles. That is another whole problem that you have to study when you get into the Bible. Suffice to say, Paul taught the Gentiles to keep the Sabbath in order to stay in grace (Acts 13); complete opposite of what the Protestants believe.

"...why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize?... [it doesn't say keep the laws of God] ...We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of the Gentiles—knowing that

a man is not justified by **works of law**...."

**Not God's Law**, the works of the Jews. Can it be the works of the Gentiles, too, in their own religions? *Yes, sure!*

Sidebar: I was watching a special about Myanmar or Burma. I thought that this is better than the stupid news so I'll watch it for a while. I was amazed! They are more idolatrous than the Catholics. It just blew my mind. They know that they're seeking after demons, which they call 'gnat spirits.' They have this one pagoda that's on top of a mountain that comes up and they have a big pagoda up there that is overlaid, inside and out and on everything around there, with 20-tons of gold, filled with idols, statues.

This American who was going up there, he thought he would get up there and here would be all of the Buddhists up there chanting. He got up there and there's music, dancing, drinking and smoking. He thought, what is this? The monks are all austere. He said, those who come up here are seeking the gnats. They get around there and dance around there. It reminds me of what kids do today. Maybe that's also part of what's going on as well. They lose their minds so that the gnat will come into them. What do you suppose may happen with rock concerts, they're shaking their heads and doing all of this.

The Muslims have a sect called the Whirling Dervish. What do they do? They go around in circles and circles until they have a 'religious' experience. If you're so dizzy you don't know what's going on, a demon can just go on there, and say, 'That's like a pretty good place. I'll take over that.'

In watching that I thought, WOW, that land is filled with demons and wretchedness! No wonder they're the way that they are. Everywhere you go, you have to do a little ritual to a little shrine, or something. *That's their works of law!* But the American was absolutely flabbergasted.

Man is not justified by 'works of law.' Paul says it three times. The last time he says, "...by **works of law** shall no flesh be justified."

Justification must come with the shed blood of Jesus Christ upon repentance, so that there is going to be with the Spirit of God, a change working within—in your mind, in your heart. That's why it talks there about having the laws of God written in our heart and in our mind (Heb. 10). That's how you convert the mind.

5) Gal 3:2: "This only I desire to learn from you: did you receive the Spirit of God by **works of law**, or by *the hearing of faith*?"

*the hearing of faith led you to repentance*

6) Gal. 3:5: “Therefore *consider this*: He Who is supplying the Spirit to you, and Who is working deeds of power among you, *is He doing it* by **works of law** or by *the hearing of faith*?”

*by faith, by belief*

7) Gal. 3:10: “For as many as are relying on **works of law** are under a curse...”

Why? *Because they continue in sin!* Those works of law *of traditions* are sin. Why? Can you replace anything of the Laws of God we are to keep with something that a man devises and replaces the Law of God? *No!* Can you get an Apple (computer) part and put it in a Samsung? *No!*

Works of law; those are the seven places. Then you go ahead and read the whole thing. I want to cover something in Rom. 3 that we haven't covered so far.

Romans 3:1: “What then *is* the advantage of the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision?... [remember when he wrote this] ...Much in every way. Primarily in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God” (vs 1-2).

The Jews have preserved the Old Testament in spite of their sins. God gave it to them to do it. That's not *all* Jews, that's just certain ones who work with the Law to copy it, to preserve it, to pass it on.

Likewise the calendar; very important to understand. There are a lot of different calendar devices out there. We have the booklet about the calendar {Note: *Which Day is the Calendar of God?*}, the correct Hebrew calendar. If you don't have that, write in for it. If you really want to get into it so you know it, if you don't know it and someone comes along and says, ‘I've got a new scheme. Come over to my house and we'll look for the new moon. That's the first count to Sabbath.’

Did God give it to anyone to figure out themselves? *He gave the calculations to the priests and Levites within the Jewish community!* Outside of those two things, today the Jew has no advantage. So, if someone comes in and says, ‘I'm a Jew, you have to look up to me.’ Unless they're repented and have God's Holy Spirit, they have no advantage of anything.

Here's why, “...Primarily, in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God” (v 2)—the Law and the calendar, and also the Prophets and the Writings as well. *I'm speaking spiritually.*

The Jew may have advantage in the world by keeping some of the laws of God and some of their traditions keep them from getting involved with the extremes of the Gentiles. Who knows? Andrew

Zimmer, a Jew, goes out and eats every unclean thing under the sun, so he doesn't have any advantage.

Verse 3: “For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God?”

Key important thing, because a man sins and goes wrong and he's supposed to represent God, does that mean God is at fault? *No! That means the man or woman has sinned!* Can they repent? *Yes, they can repent!* But if they do not believe—and I suppose that among Jews there are more atheists than any other group in the world—does that nullify the faithfulness of God? *No!*

He says, v 4: “MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, let God be true but every man a liar, exactly as it is written... [here is the correct translation of this; it's not God judging men, *it's men judging God*] ...‘That You might be justified... [God might be justified] ...in Your words, and might overcome when You are being judged *by men*.’”

In the Greek this is passive. When You—God—are being judged by men, does everybody have a judgment on God one way or the other? *Yes!*

Verse 5: “But if our unrighteousness brings to reality God's righteousness, what shall we say? *Is God unrighteous to inflict His wrath?* (I am speaking according to man's view.)” This is for so hard for people to understand.

Why does God allow all these wars, killings, lootings, drugs, adultery and everything? *Because they reject the Word of God!* He put those in there to function automatically if you break them. God gives a space of time when someone sins to repent or change or quit. If they don't, it gets worse and worse. You can name whatever you want to name, whatever sin. Take the Ten Commandments and go right down the line. So, He inflicts wrath. People can't understand that.

Verse 6: “MAY IT NEVER BE! Otherwise, how shall God judge the world?”

Here's the choice we have as human beings. You either understand that God judges, because when people break the Law, or go against the Law, there are automatic penalties. First of all is blinding. You think your way is right or it's okay or you can do it. For example, those who steal, they work out a plan where they think they can get away with it.

I remember watching one of the greatest counterfeiters in America made the best counterfeit hundred-dollar bills of anyone. The hundred-dollar bill, you give it to a clerk and they take a pen and they put a little mark on it. If it's counterfeit, it's supposed to turn black. He figured a way around that, a light spray of hair spray.

The secret service and the Feds were years and years trying to catch this guy. What happens? All law enforcement people know that he's going to make a mistake somewhere. So, they finally got him. It took stakeouts. He was operating in a house in a nice suburb, so they were in a house back there so they could see the alleyway back of his house.

They watched and recorded. They could hear things, and so forth. They were doing all that and building the case. You need to have the hard evidence right out of his hands to get this guy.

He got careless. We get careless sometimes just doing normal things. He threw some of the counterfeit bills that were still in the big sheets that he was making into the garbage without burning them. So they were looking out at their spy location and so now they had it. They called in the forces, surrounded the house. First thing they did was grab that garbage can in the garage and then they got him.

God has established the law enforcement to take care of those things. God has established laws that that's a sin to do that. Sooner or later it's always true, as the Bible says, 'be sure your sin will find you out.'

You have that choice. Dealing with other human beings that God has put in power to take care of evil in the society. If they get corrupt, then that's a corrupt thing. If you have a corrupt judge, that's a corrupt thing. They still have to come around and correct it.

I'm sure that President Trump is finding out that the 'swamp' is petrified, that is like petrified wood, and it's petrified that he's going to get rid of them.

You have the choice of men coming after you or how would you like a lightning bolt from God to strike you dead? *Because the wages of sin is death!* That's why God uses natural disasters, armies, policemen and whatever else that there is. But the first ones that you come in contact with, to help you, are your parents.

What happens to society when the parents don't do what they should do? *The children come along and they have children.* The children come along and they have children. Look what we have today: *lawlessness everywhere.* That's why God judges that way.

- Does He send drought? *Yes!*
- Does He send flood? *Yes!*
- Does He send upset weather? *Yes!*

All of those things because they've turned their back on God, or they're trying to come to God on their terms that God must accept them the way that they

come to Him, rather than coming to God on His terms.

From a religious point of view, you understand why Matt. 7 is here; Matthew 7:12: "Therefore, everything that you would have men do to you, so also do to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets." Love your neighbor as yourself.

That's why God says if you have someone you don't like, and his beast of burden has fallen on him, be it a horse or a donkey, you are to go help rescue him. You're not to sit back and say, 'You deserve that; I hate you.' Same thing!

This is for us; this is why there are few; v 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" (vs 13-14).

Then He tells how the broad way comes about. False prophets—that can be anybody. False teacher in school, false friend, false prophet, religious figure, even authority in law enforcement, whatever.

Verse 15: "But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. They do not gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles, do they? 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. Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire" (vs 15-19).

That also happens on a way of purging. That's why the Church periodically is scattered, because people come in who shouldn't be there bringing false doctrines, false teaching, wrong ideas, etc., *or* because those in authority within the Church are sinning. So you can expand that out yourself.

Verse 20: "Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven" (vs 20-21).

If you're doing the will of the Father in heaven, you're going to come to God His way. You're not going to come to God your way.

Look at this, I couldn't believe it when Ken gave me this National Geographic and it shows in there—how many, a half dozen—"I'm the Messiah, Jesus has already returned." People believe it. Why? *Because they don't do what it says in the Old Testament.* If they would read Isa. 7, they would know it says, 'To the Law and the Testimony. If

they speak not according to this Word, because there's no Light in them.' But if they say, 'The Law is done away. You can do anything you want. God loves you regardless of what you're doing'—**false doctrine, false teaching!**

Verse 22: "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?...'" How about some of these messiahs? 'Lord, Lord, I was the Lord.' Really? You want to see the true Lord?

"...And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?'.... [look at all that they're doing] ...And then I will confess to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness'" (vs 22-23).

In other words, you didn't come to God the way that He says. Anything that you do that's not what God says is lawlessness, even though in some cases it may appear to be good on the surface.

Verse 24: "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and practices them, I will compare him to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock; and the rain came down, and the floods came..." (vs 24-25). Shows life is going to be difficult, but you stood firm. Otherwise, it's all going to be washed away.

It doesn't matter what a person thinks or believes if they are not in line with what God says.

Astounding comment. There's a place in Croatia on top of a mountain where a woman supposedly heard the voice of Mary. You can call every day a number and you can get what Mary told her that day. I wonder how she gets her money. The message was, 'All religions are good.' What about cannibals. She said all religions are good. You could add, what do you do when you go to Mass?

The comment was made today you have to be careful because some people fake what they need in order to come and steal or bust into your house, or take your car, or whatever. Who was that serial killer up in Washington? He faked a broken leg and faked a broken arm. People would come and help him and then he would take them out and kill them. That's where you have to apply a little wisdom. Some people you have to say *no*.

Romans 4:15: "For the Law works out wrath... [if you transgress] ...because where no Law is, *there is no transgression.*"

*Mystery of Protestantism:* Why do you need to repent of sin 'if there is no Law there is no sin'? Need to think about that! What happened to even one of the largest Churches of God? *Got taken down because they didn't study, they didn't pray, they*

*didn't know the Word of God the way that they should!*

Romans 5:13: "For before *the Law...*"—the Law of God given to Israel. That's what it's talking about. There are those who look at this verse and say, 'There was no Law from the time of Adam and Eve until Moses.

"...sin was in *the* world. However, sin is not imputed when Law does not exist" (v 13). 'God judged the world before the Flood unjustly, because there was no Law.' ***And these are learned, supposed theologians!***

Paul clarifies it, v 14: "Nevertheless, death... [wages of sin are death] ...reigned from Adam until Moses..." He answers the question. Sometimes you wonder how do these people come up with these things when the Bible is so clear.

"...even upon those who had not sinned in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the *One Who was to come*" (v 14). ***They sinned right in the face of God from first person instruction!***

Rom. 6 is the *covenant baptism*. Covenants are always established over a sacrifice and death of animals in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament *the covenant is secured by the death of Christ*, His death. Instead of two parties showing animal sacrifices or shed blood, God shows our death in a different way, but it is a symbolic death and has great and profound meaning, which then is *the circumcision of the heart*.

This is important when we come to Rom. 7; this is why Paul wrote Rom. 6, to show to the Jew that there is a covenant sacrifice with Christ and a covenant sacrifice that the individual must make as well.

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound?"

Isn't that what Protestants do? There's no Law; that's *a mystery of Protestantism*. They say if you profess Jesus, repent of your sins, say, 'Jesus, I accept you; forgive my sins,' you're saved. The work is done forever, ***when it is hardly even a start!***

That's why I put 'me genoito,' that's what it is in the Greek here. Verse 2: "MAY IT NEVER BE!..." in caps, because it's that dogmatic.

Verse 2: "...We who died to sin..." How did you die to sin? Remember, Paul says, 'I died.' How could he write the epistle if he died? ***By baptism!***

"...how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?" (vs 2-3).



This becomes very profound, because when we receive the Spirit of God after baptism, we are conjoined to the death of Christ. In baptism by immersion, being put under the water, *signifies your willingness to die, if you do not carry out your part of the covenant!* What will that death be? *The second death!* Why does God have it this way? *Because:*

- we need to change, grow, and overcome
- we need to be transformed in our heart and in our mind

You can't do that if the minister held you under the water till you died. That's the closest thing you can come to in a symbolic death and yet live. You have to live to walk in newness of life.

Verse 4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him through **the baptism into the death...**" It's very interesting, and we'll cover this a little bit next time, then get into Rom. 7.

What does it say about Jesus being the Lamb of God? *John says the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!* Not sins, *the sin*. What was the sin? *First man and woman rejecting God and all human beings having a sinful nature after that! The sin!* Every sin that we do is a result of the sin! We'll see that it's called 'the law of sin' within us. *The death!* Can't be any greater death. No animal sacrifice, no 10,000 rivers of oil.

"...so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection" (vs 4-5).

Verse 6 tells us that we, after baptism, are to overcome. It's not instantaneous, as the Protestants say, and everything is wiped away and you have nothing to do. Furthermore, telling you that it doesn't matter what you do.

I know I saw this Joyce Meyers prancing back and forth across the stage there. She's this famous woman preacher. She said, 'God's love is unconditional; it doesn't matter what you do. God loves you. You're going to heaven.' If you're a sinning individual, that's a good proposition. Not what the Bible says.

Verse 6: "Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be destroyed... [the center of the body of sin, in the mind and in the heart] ...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin." That's what it is, in the grips of sin.

Verse 7: "Because the one who has died to sin has been justified from sin. Now if we died

together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him" (vs 7-8). *True!*

Every Catholic take heed, v 9: "Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him."

I'll say it again: Christ cannot put His blood into the wine, nor His flesh into the bread, because as a spirit being, He no longer has flesh and blood to give.

Verse 10: "For when He died, He died unto sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 10-11).

Here is the key. We do not become perfected and are without any sin at all. That's why some people get discouraged when they sin, because they think they shouldn't sin. It is true that you shouldn't sin! Why do you still sin? Here it is right here:

Verse 12: "Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof." We have a nature of the 'law of sin and death,' and you must not be ruled by sin. That's what it was before you're baptized. *You're ruled by sin!* The rule there is 'lorded over.'

Verse 13: "Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin..."—temptation, lust and so forth.

We will see that 2-Cor. 10, where we are to bring every thought into captivity to Christ, explains how this is done. It's not just the outward act, *it's the inward thought and the carrying it out of the inward thought!* How do you handle things when thoughts are not good?

- you pray
- use the power of God, His Spirit
- you ask God to forgive you
- you reject it
- you expel it

What happens if you have something come along like one man that I knew. He said that he had in his mind he would curse all the time. He said, 'How do I get rid of that?' I said, 'Pray,' and in that case because it was severe, 'you fast and ask God to help you overcome it with His Spirit.' *God wants us to put our thoughts, our efforts and everything that we do with His Spirit and His power to overcome sin!* That's how it's done.

"...rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall

not rule over you because you are not under law, but under grace” (vs 13-14).

That is you have direct access to God with the Holy Spirit.

We’ll pick it up there next time. Then we’ll be ready for Rom. 7, one of the most difficult, because Paul talks about law in many, many different ways. It’s really confusing if you don’t know other parts of the Bible to bring to bear on what he’s talking about.

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- 1) John 10:23-34
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- 7) Romans 2:21-27
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#### Also referenced:

- from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*: Appendix R: What is Meant by “the Works of the Law”? {also be found in Appendix F of *The New Testament in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* at [truthofgod.org](http://truthofgod.org)}
- Booklet: *Which Day is the Calendar of God*

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## The Mystery of Protestantism IV Covenant Law

*Obeying the voice of God and our spiritual covenant with Him*

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath services! One of the biggest mistakes that the Protestants make is that they do not understand *covenant law*.

We sent in you A Comparison between the Old and New Covenants {also found in: Appendix I in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*}. I want you to go through this yourself, in your own special Bible study. What I want to do today is cover the basis of covenants in the Bible. This becomes very important.

Dan. 10:21 is a very interesting Scripture. These words were spoken by Gabriel to Daniel. Let's see something concerning what God has done. I want you to recall Revelation 13:8, that Christ, "...the Lamb slain from *the* foundation of *the* world." God has a plan and purpose that He has all written out. This also adds to the understanding that God's plan is fantastic and important.

Dan. 10 talks about the prophetic things of Persia, Media and Babylon and how Michael had to have Gabriel come and help him fight against the forces of Satan, and so forth. Gabriel said to Daniel:

Daniel 10:20: "Then he said, 'Do you know why I come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia. And when I go forth, lo, the prince of Greece shall come.... [that was 300-years later] ... But I will show you that which is written in the **Scripture of Truth**....'" It could actually be translated **Scroll of Truth!**

Are there scrolls in heaven with some of the things that the plan of God are written on? *Yes!* What do we find in Rev. 5? *We found the book that was sealed with seven seals!* That book was not a book like we have today, but it was a scroll. So, these things are written down.

Psa. 40 is concerning Christ. Very interesting, indeed! This helps us understand that God doesn't do anything that is not in His plan. He's given free moral agency to us. He doesn't want us to become robots. He wants us by choice to choose:

- to love Him
- to obey Him
- to serve Him
- to do His will

Psalm 40:4: "Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust and does not respect the proud,

nor those who turn aside to lies." What did we just read about? The *Scroll or Scripture of Truth*.

Sidebar: One of the things you need to ask: How many lies do the Protestants believe? Some of them are very obvious, Sabbath and Holy Days, and there are many others. Protestantism looks so good and sounds so good. But if you listen to it carefully, if you watch it, if you study it, it is only *part* of the Truth, *part* of the way of God.

Eternal life requires that you are in covenant with God. Covenant with God is a fantastic thing. God's covenant with us is tremendous; it's unto eternal life. We're going to look at the elements of the covenant of God, but it starts with Christ.

So here's a prophecy of Christ, v 5: "O LORD my God, many things You have done, Your wonderful works and Your thoughts which are toward us; there is none to compare unto You... [keep that in mind. This is a prophecy of Jesus' prayer] ...if I could declare and speak of them, they would be more than can be told. Sacrifice and offering You did not desire... [from Christ] ...My ears You have opened... [but in the Septuagint it reads: *a body You have prepared for Me*] ...burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, 'Lo, I come; in **the Scroll of the Book** it is written of Me'" (vs 5-7).

What is that *Scroll of the Book*? *The Scripture of Truth in heaven!* So, there is no question that God the Father and Jesus Christ had a covenant between them, and it was written down. Why was it written down? I believe, so when we enter into the Kingdom of God, we will be able to read it and understand how far back in time, in the ages of eternity, that this was actually done.

Verse 7: "Then I said, 'Lo, I come; in **the Scroll of the Book** it is written of Me; I delight to do Your will, O My God; and **Your Law is within My heart**'" (vs 7-8). That's why I've said you need to study Psa. 119 very carefully, on your knees.

Verse 9: "I have preached righteousness in **the great congregation**; lo, I have not kept back my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not hidden Your loving kindness and Your Truth from **the great congregation**" (vs 9-10)—*the resurrected saints!* This ties in with Heb. 2.

Let me just say right here, if you do not have the in-depth study of the book of Hebrews—41 messages with the transcripts—you write for it; we'll send it to you. This will help you to understand covenant law even more, the purpose of the Old Covenant, purpose of the New Covenant. *Both of those hinge on the covenant that God made with Abraham!*

Verse 11: "Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; let Your loving kindness and Your Truth always preserve me." We find this back in Heb. 10. What do we find when we have this? *We find the unity of Scripture: Old Testament and New Testament!*

This talks about removing the Old Covenant and bringing in the New Covenant; that had to require the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That required one of Elohim to become the Son to be born by the virgin Mary, live a full physical life, and become the sacrifice for the sin of the world. The sin of the world goes clear back to Adam and Eve. The sin of the world is the 'law of sin and death' within each one of us because of Adam and Eve's sin.

Hebrews 10:5: "For this reason, when He comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me. You did not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin. Then said I, "Lo, I come (**as it is written of Me in the Scroll of the Book**) to do Your will, O God'" (vs 5-7).

*Every covenant* that is made has to do with the will of God and our choices. Go back to Adam and Eve. What is the will of God? **Obey My voice!** Wasn't that what Adam and Eve had to do? *And they failed; they sinned*, the whole world sinned before the Flood. Then God established His covenant with all creation that He would never again destroy the world with a Flood, and gave the rainbow as a sign of the covenant. **"...to do Your will, O God."** You have to do the will of God.

Verse 8: "In the saying above, *He said*, 'Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin (which are offered according to the *priestly law*) You did not desire nor delight in.' Then He said, 'Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant*; by Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (vs 8-10). Then he shows that animal sacrifices can never take away sin *spiritually*.

Here is the covenant, v 16: "'This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,' says the Lord, 'I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.'"

*Far from abolishing, doing away, fulfilling to get rid of!* Everything in the New Covenant has *superseded the physical things* of the covenant with Israel. You'll see that when you study it.

Verse 17: "'And their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again.' Now, where remission of these *is*, *it is* no longer *necessary* to offer sacrifices for sin" (vs 17-18).

Let's look at the covenant that God made with Abraham. That covenant, by the way, contained the basis for the covenant with Israel and the covenant with the Church.

Let's see some of the New Testament things that are required. What is the first thing that we need to do when we come to God? and answer the call of God?

- God has to call us
- the Father has to draw us
- we have to be taught by the Father
- we need the blood and sacrifice of Christ

What's the first thing that *we* need to do? *Count the cost for baptism!* **We are to not let anything get in the way of our relationship with God:** not father, mother, brother, sister, lands, even our own lives. What did God require of Abram before he became Abraham?

Genesis 12:1: "And the LORD said to Abram, '**Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house** into a land that I will show you. And I will make *of* you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed'" (vs 1-3).

This is the proposition of the covenant with Abraham. It also states the will of God. *He had to leave everything behind, counting the cost* (Luke 14). So, he did that.

Some ten years later, Genesis 15:1: "After these things the Word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Fear not, Abram, I *am* your shield and your exceedingly great reward.' And Abram said, 'Lord GOD, what will You give me since I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?'" (vs 1-2). At this time 85-years-old, it was a reasonable question.

Verse 3: "And Abram said, 'Behold, **You have given no seed to me**; and lo, one born in my house is my heir.' And behold, the Word of the LORD *came* to him saying, 'This man shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your

own loins shall be your heir” (vs 3-4). God was going to perform a miracle for him.

Notice the proposition here, v 5: “And He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward the heavens and number the stars—if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your seed be.’” We have two factors here:

1. *physical seed*, which came through Isaac
2. *spiritual seed*, as pictured by the stars of heaven

Which then is:

- the New Covenant
- the Millennial Covenant
- the Great White Throne Covenant

Verse 6: “And he believed in the LORD. And He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

Not only are we to obey, *we are to believe*; that’s called *faith*. Here we have sacrifice coming. There is always a sacrifice with a covenant.

Verse 7: “And He said to him, ‘I *am* the LORD that brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give you this land to inherit it.’ And he said, ‘Lord GOD, by what shall I know that I shall inherit it?’ And he said to him...” (vs 7-9).

Here’s the sacrifice, a special sacrifice. Not a burnt offering, not a sin offering, *a special covenant sacrifice by God*. Abraham’s part in it was to prepare it. We’ll see Abraham’s sacrifice for the physical covenant (Gen. 17). Abraham took part in this, only in that he prepared the sacrifices.

Verse 9: “And He said to him, ‘Take Me a heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ And he took all these to himself, and divided them in the middle... [from head, right down the spine] ...and laid each piece opposite the other... [there was a path to walk between them] ...but he did not divide the birds” (vs 9-10). He put one on one side and one on the other side.

Verse 11: “And when the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. And it came to pass, as the sun was going down...” (vs 11-12). We’re looking at a two-day period here. The first one was the night before. Now we have the day portion, sacrifices made, then we have toward the end of the day:

“...that a deep sleep fell upon Abram. And, behold, a horror of great darkness fell upon him!” (vs 11-12)—*a symbol of death!*

That was actually symbolic of Christ’s death, because the One Who was the Lord God of

the Old Testament became Jesus Christ of the New Testament, so this covers both covenants here. This becomes important to understand when we come to Rom. 7 and why Christ had to die.

Verse 13: “And He said to Abram, ‘You must surely know that your seed shall be sojourners in a land *that is* not theirs (and shall serve them *and they shall* afflict them) four hundred years. And also I will judge that nation whom they shall serve. And afterward they shall come out with great substance. And you shall go to your fathers in peace. You shall be buried in a good old age.... [how’s 175?] ...But in the fourth generation they shall come here again, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.’ And it came to pass—when the sun went down...” (vs 13-17)—starting the new day. This ties in with the Passover of Israel in Egypt and the night that they left, and so forth. We cover that during Unleavened Bread.

“...and it was dark—behold, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp passed between those pieces” (v 17). *That was God!*

What happened with the smoking furnace and the burning lamp? ***Burning lamp*** *was to light the way! **Smoking furnace** burned up the sacrifice that was laying on the ground!* When Abraham awoke, all there was left for him was ashes. This sacrifice confirmed God’s part in the covenant with Abraham, which had two parts:

1. the covenant with Israel
2. the covenant with the Church

Let’s see Abraham’s sacrifice for the physical descendants and the requirement. What you have with Abraham, you have everything combined: spiritual, physical, loving God, serving Him. God requires that in every covenant. So, here is the covenant, *the covenant of circumcision*—physical circumcision—Abraham’s sacrifice for the covenant that would come to Israel.

Here we have 15 years later, Genesis 17:1: “And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I *am* the Almighty God! Walk before Me and be perfect.’”

Matthew 5:48: “Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” So, we have New Covenant doctrine right here.

Genesis 17:2: “‘And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’ And Abram fell on his face. And God talked with him, saying, ‘As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham;

for I have made you a father of many nations. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations **for an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your seed after you. And I will give the land to you in which you are a sojourner, and to your seed after you, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession. And I will be their God.' And God said to Abraham, **'And you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you in their generations.** This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you. Every male child among you shall be circumcised'" (vs 2-10).

That is the sacrifice of Abraham and his blood of the covenant that went to Israel.

Verse 11: "And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. And it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. And a son of eight days shall be circumcised among you, every male child in your generations; he that is born in the house, or bought with silver of any foreigner who is not of your seed. He that is born in your house, and he that is bought with your silver, must be circumcised. And **My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant**" (vs 11-13).

He circumcised Ishmael, all the men that were there, all who were with him. He had many servants. He had a large caravan going with him all the time. Later on the 8<sup>th</sup> day Isaac was circumcised.

Gen. 26:5 becomes profoundly important in understanding about the covenants of God. *There are always laws to be kept!* What this comparison does, this comparison that you're going to study, shows that instead of abolishing, to do away with completely, that's a lie. It shows that everything is graduated from the physical to the spiritual.

- from circumcision of the flesh to *circumcision of the heart*
- from sacrifices for sin to *repentance and a broken heart*

What I want you to do is on #6 of the Comparison, I want you to add under the New Covenant: *Psa. 51. The whole Psalm, repentance and that the sacrifices of God that we produce in the New Covenant are a broken heart and a contrite spirit! That's repentance!*

God comes to Isaac and tells him why the covenant has been passed on to him, Genesis 26:2: "And the LORD appeared to him and said, 'Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land, which I shall tell you of. Stay in this land, and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your seed, I will

give all these lands; and I will establish the oath, which I swore to Abraham your father'" (vs 2-3).

Because the oath was a *covenant pledged by God's own death!* When the Lord God walked between those parts of the animals, He was pledging His faithfulness to fulfill the promises He gave to Abraham, and also His own future death. A covenant is so binding that it requires a person's death *if* they do not fulfill it.

Verse 4: "And I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and will give to your seed all these lands. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

Notice v 5, perhaps one of the most important verses in the entire Old Testament, because everything going to Israel hinges on this and everything coming down to Christ hinges on this. It goes back to Abraham. That's why in the New Testament we are told that if you are Christ's then are you Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. The promise was 'your seed shall be as the stars of heaven.' Yes, sand of the sea and the stars of heaven.

- sand of the sea is *physical Israel*
- stars of heaven is *spiritual Israel*, the descendants of Abraham through the covenant with Christ

Verse 5: "Because Abraham..."—not because Isaac did it. Isaac was faithful, he was obedient, no doubt about that, but the covenant was not passed to Isaac because he was faithful and obedient, which he had to be, but because of Abraham. We need to understand how great this covenant was with Abraham.

Verse 5: "Because Abraham ***obeyed My voice...***" ***If you will obey My voice*** (Exo. 19:5). The covenant with Israel started out with this: ***IF you will obey My voice, I will make you a nation or a kingdom of priests for Me!*** In other words, to bring the way of God through the Old Covenant to the whole world. But Israel failed.

- Did Adam and Eve obey the voice the voice of God? *No!*
- Did Cain obey the voice of God? *No!*
- Did the people before the Flood obey the voice of God? *No!*

***Abraham did!***

When we read what happened with Jeremiah, warning the children of Judah what was going to happen, everything was coming upon them because *they did not obey the voice of God.*

A little leap forward to the New Covenant. **Are we to obey the voice of God?** Yes, and we've

got it written for us. There is no mistaking it. We can't say, 'God, I never heard your voice.' Don't have to; it's written. What are you going to do with that?

Verse 5: “**Because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge...** [whatever He told him to do] **...My commandments...** [same ones you find with the Ten Commandments and all of those that God gave to Israel] **...My statutes...** [meaning that he was keeping the Holy Days] **...and My laws.**” (v 5). And the laws that govern his huge entourage that was always with him. Keep that in mind.

Same way with Jacob. The blessing came to him because God determined it was going to go to him, though it looked like he got it by lying and stealth. That was only to add a human factor in there, because Esau was prophesied to serve Jacob.

We've already covered several times that the proposition with Israel at Mount Sinai was to *obey the voice of God*, to become a nation of priests to God. Then the covenant was *confirmed by sacrifice and the sprinkling of the blood on the covenant documents*, which Moses wrote, and *the sprinkling of the blood on the people*, which Moses said was the blood of the covenant. The blood of the covenant becomes a very important thing.

Let's see one other covenant that was part of the overall covenant. We know about the Ten Commandments. We know about all the laws in making the Ark of the Covenant. We know all of that, so we're not going to cover that here.

Exo. 31 becomes very important, because God gave all the instructions to Moses, all the way down to chapter 31 about everything necessary for the Ark of the Covenant, for the tabernacle, for the altars, for the priesthood, and everything. All of that was done. God sums it all up and makes this declaration within that covenant. The covenant was this: **Will you obey My voice and My laws and commandments and everything that I tell you?** Everyone answered and said *yes*.

When you do that, God is going to hold you accountable for it. We're going to see with the New Covenant, when you are baptized, that is a profound covenant sacrifice that every one of us needs to keep and honor.

Here's one for all of Israel, all of the Church; Exodus 31:13: “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Truly... [in Truth] ...you shall keep My Sabbaths...’”

Very important. When it's plural that means the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days. They're all Sabbaths. This part of the covenant runs forever,

meaning that it becomes part of the requirements of the New Covenant as well.

“...for it... [that means not *it*, the Sabbath, singularly, but the keeping of the Sabbaths] ...*is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you” (v 13). That covenant is still in force because God kept it in force.

- Did Jesus keep the Sabbath?
- Did He keep the Holy Days?
- Did He keep the Laws of God? *Yes, He did spiritually!*
- What did He say? *‘I do the will of My Father, of Myself I can do nothing!’*

This covenant of Sabbath-keeping and Holy Day-keeping runs all the way through the rest of the Bible into the New Covenant. Through that God reveals His plan, through His Sabbath and His Holy Days.

“...a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it *is* Holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death, for whoever does *any* work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of rest, Holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath Day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath... [weekly Sabbath and annual Sabbaths] ...to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations **as a perpetual covenant**. It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed” (vs 13-17).

Special covenant, part of the covenant with Israel, part of the covenant that is with the Church.

(go to the next track)

There has to be a covenant death or a covenant sacrifice, which is symbolic of a person's future death if they break it.

God made the covenant with Israel. They said, ‘All that You said we will do and be faithful.’ If they sinned, they can repent and God would re-establish them. However, notice how God expresses it. The first part of Lev. 26 has to do with no idolatry, Sabbath-keeping, etc. etc.; all the things that they pledged that they would do.

Leviticus 26:11 “And I will set My tabernacle among you... [which He did and had Solomon build the temple] ...And My soul shall not

abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people” (vs 11-12).

Think about that today as it applies to the Church. Think about the warning that we’re told if trample underfoot the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10). So covenant law is very important. I can tell you right now, and you will see by time we’re done with this, ***the Protestants are not under the New Covenant!*** They claim they are. They are not.

Notice what breaks the covenant, v 14: “But if you will not hearken to Me...” What does it say about ***if we do not hearken unto Jesus?*** Who was Jesus? *The One Who was the Lord God of the Old Testament!* And ***if we do not do the will of the Father, Who is in heaven.***

***IF*** you don’t obey the voice of God, that’s where it all starts. “...will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments, and if you shall despise My statutes... [remember what we read about Abraham] ...or if your soul hates My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, so that you break My covenant” (vs 14-15)—because God says He will never break His covenant. He won’t do it!

Verse 16: “I will also do this to you; I will even appoint over you...” We’ve read those before, all of the plagues. Same way in Deut. 28.

Psa. 89 is a Psalm concerning David and giving David the kingship forever; that is having someone sit on the throne between now and the time of the resurrection.

Let’s see what God says concerning the covenant. Here it is, a lament by Ethan the Ezrahite. So, here’s the circumstances. The children of Israel sinned, they broke the covenant, as it says in Jer. 31. If they break the covenant, He removed them from the land and sent them into Babylon. There were no sons to come back to be king. The Persians did not allow them to have a king, only a governor. The throne of David was removed, but remember that Jeremiah took the daughters of the king. All the king’s sons were killed by Nebuchadnezzar.

The rest of the story is that Jeremiah took the daughters to Ireland and there the breach between Perez and Zarah was healed with the marriage of one of the daughters to one of the sons of Judah—Zarah—and that healed the breach. That’s another whole story; we won’t get into it.

But when they came back from Babylon, they couldn’t have a king. Ethan the Ezrahite is lamenting: ‘There’s no king, but, God, You promised.’ God never breaks His covenant. God never breaks His promises. Keep that in mind.

Psalm 89:26: “He shall cry to Me, ‘My Father, You are my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’ And I will make him My firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth” (vs 26-27). This is saying what He was going to do for David, which He did. He’s going to keep it.

Verse 28: “I will keep My steadfast love for him forever, and My covenant shall stand fast with him. Also, will I make his seed to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven” (vs 28-29). That’s a promise that was given to David.

Verse 30: “If his children forsake My Law and do not walk in My judgments, If they profane My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will visit their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. But I will not completely take My loving kindness from him... [David] ...nor will I allow My faithfulness to fail. I will not break My covenant, nor change the thing that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My Holiness, I will not lie to David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me” (vs 30-36).

Those were the promises. Ethan the Ezrahite didn’t know what happened to the daughters of Zedekiah, that Jeremiah took them. The breach between Perez and Zarah was healed and the throne of David continues and is found today in the British Isles. That’s the throne of David! Is there a queen sitting on it? *Yes, indeed!* God’s faithfulness is true.

What happens if you make a covenant? Here’s how a covenant is made. You make the agreement.

Indians used to cut either their thumbs and put them together and let the blood mingle. That was one of the ways that they did. They cut the inner part of their hand and held their hands together and that sealed it. That was the blood of the covenant, whatever they made with them. When that is done, you are signing your own death warrant *if* you don’t keep the covenant.

With the preaching of Jeremiah, there were some who had determined that they would repent and that they would let their slaves go, give them liberty. They hadn’t given them liberty. Let’s understand this.

Jeremiah 34:8: “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty to them.” The king made a covenant, proclaiming liberty to all of the slaves.

Verse 9: “That each man should let his male slave, and each man his female slave—if a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman—go free, that none should enslave a Jew, his brother among them. And all the



rulers obeyed, and all the people who had entered into the covenant allowed them to go free, each man his male slave, and each man his female slave, so that not any should be enslaved among them any more; and they obeyed and let *them* go” (vs 9-10).

Once you make a covenant sacrifice—now consider this with baptism—that is your covenant sacrifice. But what they had to do, they had to sacrifice a calf, just like Abraham did (Gen. 15). They all walked between the parts. When you walk between the parts, you are professing by your life, your very being, that you will be faithful and do what you have pledged to do. If not, you die like that sacrifice. That’s how important covenant law is.

Therefore, consider this. All the Protestants who claim they’re under the New Covenant are not, because they do not keep the Sabbath, they do not keep the Holy Days. Most of them no longer even baptize. We will see that baptism is our covenant pledge unto death that we will be faithful.

Verse 11: “But afterward they turned and took back the male slaves and the female slaves whom they had set free and enslaved them *again* as male slaves and female slaves. So, the Word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out from the land of Egypt...”’” (vs 11-13). They had the sacrifices (Exo. 24).

““...out of the house of slavery, saying, ‘At the end of seven years each man should let go *free* his brother, a Hebrew, who has been sold to him. And when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you.’ But your fathers did not hearken to Me, nor incline their ears”” (vs 13-14).

- obey His voice
- obey the voice of God

Verse 15: “And you had turned today, and had done right in My sight to call for liberty, each man to his neighbor. And you had made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name.” Think how important that is.

You come right to the temple of God. You say, ‘God, we’re going to make a covenant with you. We’re going to let our slaves go. We are going to have this sacrifice.’

The priest probably cut the sacrifice down the middle, spread the parts and all who pledged walked through it. That slaughtered animal with its guts hanging out and everything was a declaration of each one who walked through, that ‘if I do not keep this covenant sacrifice, this is how I’m going to die.’

Verse 16: “But you turned *back* and defiled My name, and each of you has taken back his male slave and his female slave whom you had set free to do as they pleased. But you forced them *again* to become your male and your female slaves.”

Think about that in relationship to the Protestants and the Sabbath and the Holy Days and the Passover more importantly. Though the Protestants can preach many parts of the Word of God over and over again, and sound so sincere, *they have no covenant with God for eternal life—period!*—because they’re doing like it is here.

- Are they going against the will of God in the New Testament? *Yes, indeed!*
- Are they keeping the holidays of this world, while claiming to keep the New Testament? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 17: “Thus says the LORD, ‘You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim liberty each man to his brother, and each man to his neighbor! Behold, I proclaim freedom for you,’ says the LORD, ‘to the sword, to the plague, and to the famine. And I will cause you to be a horror... [a horrific thing] ...to all the kingdoms of the earth. And I will give the men who have sinned against My covenant...”’ (vs 17-18).

You sin against the covenant of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ—you Protestants out there—when you say, ‘All you have to do is just say Lord, forgive me, and your sins are forgiven and everything is done. You’re saved and you’re going to heaven.’ Lie, lie, lie!

‘Oh, but they’re ever so sweet and nice.’ *Yes!* Remember, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil has good *and* evil. That which looks good, reading of the Word of God, turns out to be evil, because they do away with it. Think on that!

Verse 18: “And I will give the men who have sinned against My covenant, who have not done the words of the covenant, which they made before Me *when they* divided the calf in two and passed between its parts.”

Think about that when you’re baptized. Think about that because *you make a covenant pledge to God!* Only this time it’s not unto just physical death, it is eternal death, if you do not keep that covenant.

Verse 19: “The rulers of Judah, and the rulers of Jerusalem, the officials, and the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf; I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their dead bodies shall be for

food to the birds of heaven and to the beasts of the earth. And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah, and his rulers, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their lives, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, who has withdrawn from you" (vs 19-21).

Because when they let the slaves go free, God caused the armies of Nebuchadnezzar to withdraw their attack against Jerusalem. They went against that.

Verse 22: "Behold, I will command," says the LORD, 'and cause them to return to this city. And they shall fight against it and capture it, and burn it with fire. And I will make the cities of Judah a desert without a soul to live in it.'" Think on that. Is covenant law serious? *Yes! Eternal life or eternal death!*

Remember when the Lord walked through the parts (Gen. 15) for Abraham. He pledged His future death. We will see that's because the covenant was made and there were two choices to make for ending that covenant. Because the children of Israel—and that applies to all their descendants going on down through time—either all the children of Israel had to die to end that covenant or God had to die. That's why Christ came.

Not only is the sacrifice for the sin of the whole world under the New Covenant, but to end the covenant *with Israel*. You need to understand that. You also need to understand why *you need to be very, very on guard against Hebrew roots*, against Messianic Jews. Even though they believe in Christ, they are no better than the Protestants because *they keep to their own traditions*.

Let's understand one other thing that's important. That is the Passover. That's the day Christ died. The night before He said, 'Take this broken bread and eat, it's My body.' That's symbolic of it. He took the wine and said, 'Drink, this is My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of the sins of many.'

Jesus' death on that Passover Day was *God's covenant death to end the covenant with Israel*. That didn't do away with the promises given to Abraham; that's still in force. That's why the children of Israel have not been destroyed, but to fulfill the promises that He gave to Abraham. The covenant with Israel ended when Christ died. When Christ, on the cross, says, 'It's finished.' That had to do with:

1. ending the covenant
2. His death for God's sacrifice for the New Covenant

Then that was sealed with the resurrection three days later.

Heb. 9 becomes important now that you understand covenant law. In the *Faithful Version* there is a long footnote explanation about covenant law. I want to tell you this: The *King James Version* is absolutely wrong! The *Faithful Version* is one of the few, if not the only translation that correctly translates about covenant law in Heb. 9. The reason is because it is properly translated.

The *King James* translators did not properly translate it. The word for covenant in the New Testament is 'diatheke.' Every place in the New Testament it is properly translated 'diatheke.' However, in Heb. 9 we find that they change it to *testimony* or *testament*. The key thing to understand concerning covenant law is that—as we saw back there in Jer. 34—covenant is not in force until there is a sacrifice showing the symbolic death of those who are making the covenant.

That's why what happened back there in Jer. 34 is so important. They walked between the parts. They pledged to get rid of the slaves, *but they didn't do it, they turned from the covenant!* When you turn from the covenant and have had a pledge of covenant death, if you break it *you* are going to suffer the covenant death. Heb. 9:16 is where this translation is so wrong.

**Testamental law:** last will and testament, you can change the will any time after you have made it, until your death. **Covenant law:** you cannot change it and it is not binding until you have the sacrifice. When you have the sacrifice, if you break it you die. Testimony, the will is of no force until the person dies. Here, they made it testimony law, rather than covenant law. Let me read it in the *King James Version*:

Hebrews 9:15 (KJV): "And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator" (vs 15-16).

Christ was raised from the dead. His death ended the covenant with Israel. He pledged His death; He died that death.

Verse 17 (KJV): "For a testament *is* of force after men are dead... [wrong translation] ...otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator lives." *Wrong!*

Let's read the correct translation. Let's come up here and we'll follow along with the verses before.

Verse 13 (FV): “For if the blood of goats and bulls, and *the* ashes of a heifer sprinkled *on* those who are defiled, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh, to a far greater degree, the blood of Christ, Who through *the* eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, shall purify your conscience from dead works to serve *the* living God” (vs 13-14). But He had to be raised from the dead to do that.

Verse 15: “And for this reason He is *the* Mediator of *the* New Covenant: in order that through *His* death, *which* took place for the release of the transgressions *that were committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Now where *there is* a covenant... [not testimony] ...*it is* obligatory to bring forth *a symbolic sacrifice* to *represent* the death of the one who personally ratifies *the* covenant” (vs 15-16). Isn’t that what they did in Jer. 34? *Yes!*

Verse 17: “Because a covenant *is* ratified *only over the* dead *sacrificial* animals...” Otherwise, it’s not in force.

The agreement is bound at the beginning. You don’t have a beginning, like a will, ‘When I die you will get this, or you will get that.’ No, this is for eternal life. So, the covenant is made *first*. The covenant is made by God *first*. ***That’s why Christ died and rose from the dead!***

If He had not risen from the dead, there would be no New Covenant. His *death and resurrection* gives the eternal inheritance from God’s point of view and God’s part in the covenant. What about *our* part? *We’ll get to that!*

Verse 17: “Because a covenant *is* ratified *only over the* dead *sacrificial* animals ... [in the Greek it is *over the dead ones*, meaning animals] ...since there is no way that it is legally in force until the living ratifier *has symbolically represented his death*.”

- Did Christ do that in Gen. 15? *Yes!*
- Was that covenant binding? *Yes!*

*Two parts of it:*

1. as the sand of the sea to physical Israel
2. as the stars of heaven to spiritual Israel

When He died, He ended the covenant with Israel. Either that or He would have to have killed all of the descendants of Israel.

Remember: when the covenant with Israel was enacted, they all said, ‘We’ll do what God has said.’ They had the animal sacrifices, the sprinkling of the blood, and all the people said, ‘Yes, we’ll do it.’ What is our part? This becomes important,

because this lays the groundwork for Rom. 7, which we will cover next. We know the sacrifice that God has given, the death and resurrection of Christ. What is our part? *We have to bring a sacrifice to God!* There are two parts to that sacrifice: ***repentance and baptism!*** Sound familiar?

Acts 2:38: “...‘Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”—which is the begetting for the down payment of eternal life.

You can read the whole Psa. 51; this is understanding how we repent to the very depth and core of our being, because God wants to convert us and have Truth in the inward parts.

- loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- keeping His commandments spiritually
- loving Christ
- loving the brethren

After David had repented with the sin with Bathsheba, and so forth, he says here:

Psalm 51:16: “For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (vs 16-17).

So, *complete repentance* is what is necessary. That’s called the sacrifices of God that we bring to God. Once you have repented you are to be baptized.

We have to understand how that was accomplished with the death of Christ to end the Old Covenant. And how with the death and resurrection of Christ, that institutes the New Covenant and how we become a part of it. The sacrifice that we bring is deep and profound repentance and accepting of the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

That’s why there can be no salvation without baptism. The Protestants always look to Acts 10 when God gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles before baptism. That had to be done on the one-time basis to show Peter that God was not a respecter of persons and that the Gentiles, being uncircumcised, could receive the Holy Spirit of God. They were baptized after the fact, because of the act of God, a one-time event. You do not take a one-time event and make that the rule for everything.

All the Protestants better read Rom. 6, because they say, ‘We have the grace of God. We trust in the grace of God. Oh, come to church on Sunday and come to our Christmas and Easter. We have such a lovely time.’ ***Abomination to God!***

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin...?” Sin is the transgression of the law and sin is lawlessness. *Sin religiously*, with the Bible and the Word of God, *is going to God and telling Him what you will do and telling God what He will do! No way!* That’s not a broken heart, a broken spirit and a contrite heart as the sacrifice of God that you bring to God. No, you’re bringing your pride, your arrogance; *the most abominable thing you can do is tell God what to do!*

“...Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? MAY IT NEVER BE! We who died to sin...” (vs 1-2). How did you die to sin? *Your covenant sacrificial death, which is baptism!*

“...how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?” (vs 2-3)—covenant death. Greatest thing we can do. Greatest thing that God can do:

- to help us
- to change us
- to convert us
- to train us
- *that we become His children*

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death... [when you’re put under the water, you’re as good dead if you’re not raised out of it] ...so that just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness of His* resurrection” (vs 4-5).

We are brought out of the watery grave to walk in newness of life and overcome the sin within through conversion for the rest of our physical life.

“...together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness of His* resurrection.... [we covered that with Pentecost] ...Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him*...” (vs 5-6). Did He die being crucified? *Yes!* Now we have to put the death the sin of the old man, which then is the sin within. *That is conversion!*

“...in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin. Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (vs 6-8).

That’s why we are not to let sin rule in our mortal bodies. We are to overcome it. We are to change.

The long and short is that the covenant with Israel and our covenant with Christ is a marriage covenant. The marriage covenant is binding until death. This is what Paul is talking about in Rom. 7. He says, ‘I’m talking to those who know law.’ The Jews who were bound under the covenant that God gave through Moses to the children of Israel. If they were to go after Christ and they did consider it idolatry, they had to understand what happened with the death of Christ that it ended that covenant and that God now requires that you worship the Father and you worship Christ.

He is your Savior. He is your sacrifice. That marriage covenant with God under the covenant with Israel, with the death of Christ, ended that covenant.

*That’s the meaning of covenantal law. With this background we’ll be able to understand Rom. 7.*

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

#### Scriptures referenced:

- 1) Revelation 13:8
- 2) Daniel 10:20-21
- 3) Psalm 40:4-11
- 4) Hebrews 10:5-10, 16-18
- 5) Genesis 12:1-3
- 6) Genesis 15:1-17
- 7) Genesis 17:1
- 8) Matthew 5:48
- 9) Genesis 17:2-13
- 10) Genesis 26:2-5
- 11) Exodus 31:13-17
- 12) Leviticus 26:11-12, 14-16
- 13) Psalm 89:26-36
- 14) Jeremiah 34:8-22
- 15) Hebrews 9:15-17; 13-17
- 16) Acts 2:38
- 17) Psalm 51:16-17
- 18) Romans 6:1-8

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 5
- Psalm 119
- Hebrews 2
- Luke 14
- Romans 7
- Matthew 5:48
- Psalm 51
- Exodus 19:5
- Deuteronomy 28
- Jeremiah 31
- Acts 10

Also referenced:

- from: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix I: A Comparison of the Old and New Covenants ()
- Sermon Series: *Hebrews*

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## The Mystery of Protestantism V

*The Law rules over all mankind for as long as he lives*

As we're going along with this *Mystery of Protestantism*, let's just summarize: John 5 tells us you have to have:

- the Father
- the Son
- the Word of God
- the love of God dwelling in you

In Jeremiah 23 we'll understand perfectly this problem of the false prophets in the latter days. God says:

Jeremiah 23:22: "But if they had stood in My counsel and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings." They do this partly.

- Are there a lot of people out there trying to stop abortion? *Yes!*
- Are there a lot of people out there trying to stop drugs? *Yes!*
- Are there people out there saying, 'You need Jesus to help you so you can overcome'? *Yes!*

*All of those things fit right here. Salvation is:*

- a calling
- answering the call
- repentance
- baptism
- you enter into the covenant

The Protestants think they're under the New Covenant, but they are not. They can claim it. They can claim the grace of God, but even all of those things are not true, according to the Word of God.

Let's review just a little bit of covenants. What is the key covenant this side of the Flood, after Noah's? Noah's covenant was with every living thing on the earth, that God wouldn't flood it again. What was the key covenant after that? *Abraham!* That covered two very important things:

1. *physical* descendants, as the *sand of the sea*
2. *spiritual* descendants, as the *stars of heaven*

In order to guarantee that, Abraham prepared the offering, but God walked between that special covenant sacrifice. Walking between, He guaranteed His death. His death accomplished two major things when we come to the time that He died.

When Abraham was 99-years-old, there was the covenant of circumcision. That was Abraham's covenant sacrifice for the physical seed, *shed blood*.

He had to wait until Isaac was born. Then what did God ask him to do? *A New Covenant thing! You have to forsake everything for God!* Think about that.

'You take Isaac. You go over here to the mountains of Moriah and you offer him where I show you to offer him.' What would have happened if Isaac had been killed in that sacrifice? *God would have broken the covenant!* But God cannot, will not ever lie. When you read in the Old Testament, it's not God Who broke the covenant. It's the people who broke the covenant.

That's why there were always the conditions: ***IF*** you diligently do this, you do that, and you do the other thing, I'll bless you. Your enemies are My enemies and your foes are My foes. I'll fight for you, but if not, cursed shall you be in the city, store, everything you do.' Those are the terms of the covenant. All of the men had to be circumcised on the eighth day. Women did not participate in the circumcision until they were married.

This brings us all the way down to Christ. Remember, the Jews learned the lessons about idolatry and that's why when we come to Romans, there's a lot there that has to do with Judaism, but it also affects Protestantism as well. That's the important thing. Protestantism must have those five things that we mentioned:

1. the Father
2. the Son
3. the Word of God dwelling in them
4. love of God dwelling in them
5. believing in the teachings of Jesus

Let's come to the book of Romans and we'll just review a couple of things. Remember *covenant law*. Sometimes it's good to back off and just take an overview of everything, after you understand the details.

Rom. 1 shows what happens to any society, be it Israel or the Jews, or the Gentiles. They end up in debauchery and sin, and God has to carry them off.

Rom. 2—the way that you overcome sin in your personal life is by repentance and believing God. Repentance means to *stop sinning*—'sin is the transgression of the Law'—*turn around and go the other way*.

You cannot be forgiven until you repent. You can't be standing there with a machine gun and

say, 'Oh, God, forgive me for killing all these people.' You might say that's a ludicrous example. May be, but it's true.

Rom. 3 shows the sacrifice of Christ. The covenant that He established with Abraham carries over to the New Covenant.

Galatians 3:29: "And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to *the* promise."

When the Lord God walked between the sacrifice that Abraham prepared for Him, that was a symbol that His covenant—both for the physical seed and the spiritual seed—would happen.

A covenant is binding from the beginning of the agreement and the shedding of the blood. Not like a will and testimony.

Someone can have a will and testimony. It's all written out and 'I'm going to give so much to this one, and so much to that one, so much to the other one.' But one went off the deep end and went bad, so what can you do? You call up your attorney and say, 'I'm going to change my will.' That happens. Then when they're all gathered around—you've seen this on television—the one that was the worst thought he would get the most and got nothing.

A covenant is different. A covenant, your word must be true from the start all the way through. If you change it, you must die. That's why God walked between the parts:

1. to secure the covenant
2. to prophesy of His future death

Because in order to enact the spiritual covenant, He had to end the physical covenant. In ending the physical covenant with Israel, that did not end the promises that were given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob concerning the destiny of their children in history down through time. Those were secure. That's why God Himself had to come in the flesh and give Himself as a sacrifice to cover many things.

What is it that we all have inside of us? *The Law of sin and death!* How did that get there? *God put it there in Adam and Eve!* Then He prophesied that He was going to come and pay the price. Isn't that interesting? The very first prophecy in the Bible covers everything to the end of Rev. 20 and on into 21 & 22. Isn't that an amazing thing when you think about that?

In order to become the sacrifice, the One Who gave 'the law of sin and death' in us had to die. He had to take 'the law of sin and death' within His flesh. If it was impossible for Him to ever sin, what good would His sacrifice have been to cover 'the law of sin and death'?

- God is just
- God is righteous
- God is fair

Therefore, Rom. 3 shows only with the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ does God forgive sin spiritually unto eternal life. That's what we're talking about here. Rom. 4 & 5 talk about Abraham. Here's how he covers that part of it:

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world..." It says Eve was deceived and was in transgression. A lot of people say, 'Eve is the problem.' No, Adam could have stopped it. ***He knew better!***

Verse 12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way death passed into all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned" (v 12). That's defined a little later as 'the law of sin and death.'

His sacrifice, as I pointed out, He was actually baptized in His own blood with the sacrifice that He did. It wasn't just that He had a spear pierced His side, He was beaten, He was scourged, everything, almost to the point of those animals of Gen. 15. Look at how comparable that was. Shed all of His blood, Creator God for all mankind. All sins have not been forgiven, but the means to forgive sin now individually is available. God is the One Who calls (John 6:44-45).

What sacrifice do we have today? There are two things to the sacrifice we have today:

1. repentance
2. baptism

*Then where we first started:*

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- the Word of God
- the love of God
- Moses

*See how all of that comes together?*

- What is our sacrifice?
- Your right hand?
- Your left foot?
- What's the closest thing you can come to death and yet not die?
- ***Baptism!***

That's why Rom. 6 is so important. This is how the circumcision of the heart takes place.

We're just about ready to get to Rom. 7. You'll understand why I'm taking this long route to get there, because Paul wrote some things very difficult to understand, especially if you're out in the world and the only thing you have known is Protestantism and you come and start reading the

Bible—especially Romans, Galatians and Hebrews—you think sure enough the law's been done away because of:

- mistranslation
- misinterpretation
- lack of obedience

Baptism, we've covered. You are conjoined to His death. His death was a covenant death. His death also, as we will see when we get to Rom. 7, nullified the covenant with Israel. You can't have both of the covenants running at the same time. So it nullified it.

The choice for God was that in order to end the covenant with Israel, He would have to kill all the Israelites and all the Jews for Himself. But God has greater plans for all of mankind. So, He has to have something for all of mankind. That's why the Creator of mankind came and did what He did, and died. He was beaten in the way that He was beaten, and crucified, and all of that.

Romans 6:4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death... [v 5]: For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness of His resurrection*. Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin **might be destroyed**..." (vs 4-6). That's the body of sin within us.

We're going to read a certain part in Rom. 8 that looks like when you're baptized God removes 'the law of sin and death.' ***But that's not true!*** Most of Rom. 7 must be applied spiritually, not just carnally, but spiritually.

"...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin" (v 6). What most people in the world don't know is they're enslaved to sin. Everything they do is right in their own eyes. Even if they do wrong, they think they're going to get away with it.

Every once in a while when the news is real boring, I turn to *I Almost Got Away With It*. Every single one of those who escaped from prison think they're going to get away with it. Even one man got away with murder for twenty years, but they caught him. They think they're right. 'If I can win a million dollars, I'll lie,' because getting the million dollars is the goal.

They may know right and wrong, and especially apply it to other people. 'He shouldn't have done that.' True, shouldn't have done it, but what have you done? 'Every way of a man is right or a woman is right in their own eyes.' That's the way it is. They have no consciousness of right and wrong in the way that we who have the Spirit of God are. That's a key to Rom. 7.

Now to show that it's not removed from you, v 9: "Knowing that Christ, having been raised from *the* dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all... [from the beginning to the ending] ...but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof" (vs 9-12).

What does this verse tell us? *Even after baptism, and the circumcision of the heart, you have 'the law of sin' still in you!* But now with the Holy Spirit, you don't have to let it **rule** you! You don't have to let it enslave you. What is the ultimate enslavement of a person? *Drug addiction, Satan worship, things like that!* They are addicted because they are enslaved. How do they get out of it? *They may need a lot of help!* Some people can stop cold turkey, others can't.

Likewise, when he says, 'Do not let sin **rule** in your moral body by obeying it in the lusts thereof.' Do we still have lust? *Yes!*

Verse 13: "Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God." If you do that—this is our part, we have to do that:

Verse 14: "For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law..." As we've covered, everybody in the world is under law. This has nothing to do with trying to earn salvation by commandment-keeping.

"...but under grace" (v 14). What is under grace?

Eph. 2 shows you what grace means. Grace is not just the forgiveness of sin. *Grace is your direct connection to God the Father and Jesus Christ!* Your fellowship between you and God the Father. That is the grace. Forgiveness is the first step of grace.

- What else do you need to do?
- What is the plan of God?
- What is He going to do with us?
- What is He working within us?
- What is the goal?
- Where are we going?
- What are we going to do?

Ephesians 2:18: "For through Him we both... [Jews and Gentiles] ...have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father."



How are we to pray? *Our Father!* That's the grace. The world does not have that. We are in a covenant relationship with God the Father, through Jesus Christ, to be His sons and daughters, born at the resurrection when Christ returns.

Under grace means you come to God to help you overcome the sin, to help you overcome the lust. That's what the rest of Rom. 6 is all about. Now we are ready for Rom. 7. So let's begin. As we do, we'll ask certain questions as we go along.

Romans 7:1: "Are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law)... [Who are the ones who knew law? *The Jews!*] ...**that the Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?**"

If the Law is over you, what's another way of describing that? *You are under law!* Every human being is. All human beings are being judged one of three ways:

1. those who have the Spirit of God unto eternal life
2. those in the world who do not commit the unpardonable sin, but are good people in society
3. those who commit the unpardonable sin

Everybody's in one of those three categories. We'll see what it is with us. It's entirely different for those who have the Spirit of God.

"...the Law rules..." This means rules. What does it say over here? *Don't let sin rule in your life!* What convicts people of sin their lives? *The law!* "...the Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live" (v 1).

Notice what he does, v 2: "For the woman who is married is bound by law to the husband..." Who is he referring to there, other than just a single marriage? Was not the covenant with Israel a marriage? Didn't God say, 'I'm your husband'? *Yes, indeed!* That covenant cannot be broken by God unless He dies. That's why He died. This is what he's talking about here.

"...as long as he is living; but if the husband should die... [Who died? *Jesus!* ...she is released from the law *that bound her to the husband.*"

With the Jews, as I explained last time, they wouldn't want to worship Jesus or God the Father. So, they have to know that that covenant has ended, been terminated by the death of the husband Jesus Christ.

Verse 3: "So then, if she should marry another man... [Who are we to marry? *The risen Christ!* That's why He was raised from the dead.] ...as long as the husband is living, she shall be called an adulteress..."

Isn't that what God calls Israel all the time? *Even Hosea had to marry an adulteress!* (Ezek. 16 and 23).

"...but if the husband should die, she is free from **the law that bound her to the husband...**" (v 3).

Here is an interpretive italic statement put there to clarify. Because in the *King James Version* it says that you are 'free from **the Law.**' Protestants read that and say, 'We are not bound to keep the commandments of God.'

Verse 6 (*KJV*): "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter."

Verse 4 (*KJV*): "Wherefore, my brethren, you also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ." So, if you accept Christ, you're dead to the law.

- What does he mean here *law*?
- The Ten Commandments?

"...by the body of Christ; that you should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (v 4).

He's talking about the covenant between God and Israel. Israel being the woman, the man being Christ. You were made dead to the marriage law—that's what we were talking about here. Were we talking about all the Law from Mount Sinai? *No! We're talking about the marriage law, covenant law!*

Verse 4 (*FV*): "In the same way, my brethren, you also were made dead to the *marriage law of the Old Covenant* by the Body of Christ in order for you to be married to another, Who was raised from *the* dead, that we should bring forth fruit to God. For as long as we were in the flesh... [unconverted] ...the passions of sins, which were through the Law... [because where there is no law, there is no sin] ...were working within our own members to bring forth fruit unto death" (vs 4-5).

Why? *Because the wages of sin is death!* Do the people in the world have any consciousness of this? *No!* Everything seems good to them. 'Every way of a man or woman is right in his own eyes.' The more you watch some of these criminal shows, the more you understand that is true.

Verse 6: "But now we have been released from the Law... [the covenant law] ...because we have died... [by baptism] ...*to that* in which we were held... [by being under law] ...so that we might serve in newness of *the* spirit, and not in *the* oldness of *the* letter."

Let's analyze this a little bit. Let's read that again, because this is the pivotal point, Verse 6: "But now we have been released from the Law..."—the covenant law.

As far as Jews are concerned, the Father would be a second God. You can only worship the one God. They really didn't comprehend Elohim, having more than one, as we read in John 10 and covered here recently.

You can't be released from the Laws of God, because if that's the case there would be no sin. You're released from that covenant law because:

(go to the next track)

1. the Lord God of the Old Testament died to end it
2. you have died with Him

"...because we have died *to that* in which we were held..." (v 6). If you were under the Old Covenant you were held under that Old Covenant.

"...so that we might serve in newness of the spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter" (v 6).

- Is this *new* teaching?
- Is this *new* from what Jesus taught?
- Did they have the righteousness of the Law? *Yes, indeed!*

Matthew 5:17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." That means to complete and make more binding. Doesn't mean to fulfill, to do away with.

Verse 18: "For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled."

- That's the Law in the Old Covenant.
- How about within the New Covenant?
- Are there jots and tittles to the Greek? *Yes!*
- Are they very important? *Yes!*

Verse 19: "Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, **and shall teach men so**, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven..."

- What is the least commandment that the Protestants think? *Sabbath and Holy Days!*
- Catholics? *Idols!*

"...and shall teach men so..."

- Is that what they teach?
- What's their standing in the Kingdom of Heaven? *The least!*

*Doesn't say they'll even be there!*

"...But whoever shall practice... [to habitually do; Greek: 'poieo'] ...and teach *them*..." (v 19).

Remember what we covered in Jer. 23, that if the prophets of Baal would teach the people God's Word, then He would turn them from their sins.

- Do Protestants do that to a good degree? *Yes!*
- Do they do good works? *Yes!*
- What kind of works are we to have?
  - ✓ works of loving God the Father
  - ✓ works of loving Jesus Christ
  - ✓ good works of God

Verse 20: "For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees..." They had all the laws of the Old Testament plus all of their traditions. Unless your righteousness is going to exceed that:

"...there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.... [Is that not in newness of Spirit?] ... You have heard that it was said to those *in ancient times*, 'You shall not commit murder...' (vs 20-21). There are varying degrees of killing someone: manslaughter, murder is premeditated, but you could hate someone in your heart.

"...but whoever commits murder shall be subject to judgment" (v 21). How is that judgment supposed to be carried out? They had safety cities where anyone who killed a man could run to and his life would be spared until they had set up a council and judgment to judge what he did.

If he committed murder, he was to be executed. If he committed manslaughter, he could be let off, such as if the head of an ax fell off an ax and killed someone you were working with, that was an accident. There's nothing to pay. If it was something that you had fault, and he died, like with manslaughter, then you would pay so much or you would do something else.

But notice, *newness of Spirit*, v 22. What Paul is teaching is nothing new from what Christ taught. "But I say to you, everyone who is angry with his brother without cause shall be subject to judgment. Now, *you have heard it said*, 'Whoever shall say to his brother, "Raca," shall be subject to *the judgment of the council.*' But *I say to you*, whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be subject to the fire of Gehenna."

Is that not newness of Spirit? *Yes, indeed!* Then He talks about adultery. He says, v 27: "You have heard that it was said to those *in ancient times*, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks upon a woman to lust after her

has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (vs 27-28)—same way with killing.

Here’s the ultimate goal of newness of Spirit, v 48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect...” What was it that God told Abraham? *Walk before Me and be perfect!*

“...you shall be perfect... [how?] ...as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect” (v 48). That is the goal, the purest standard of all.

There are many other Scriptures we could tie in with that. Let’s see how Rom. 7 applies; let’s see what it means. Do those people who keep the letter of the Law of God’s commandments, they are doing good as it appears. But what is in the mind? What’s in the heart? *Everything after Rom. 7:6 shifts from the letter of the Law to the spirit of the Law.* That’s what everyone misses at this point. It gets confusing otherwise if you don’t understand that.

Romans 7:7: “What then shall we say? *Is* the Law sin? MAY IT NEVER BE!...” The Protestants call the Law a curse. ‘We are delivered from the cursed Law.’ *No!* We are delivered from *the curse* of the Law. What is the *curse* of the Law? *The penalty for sin!*

You look out in society today. Are God’s laws active everywhere in the letter of the Law? *Yes, indeed!* You look at some of the most idolatrous countries in the world. They have the worst standard of living, the most pitiful. Look at India: 40,000 gods! They can never rise above because of that. So the letter of the Law is applied to all. They’re all under Law to God.

He did not comprehend the Ten Commandments. What was Paul before he became an apostle? *He was Saul the Pharisee!* Did he know the law? But now he’s confessing he didn’t understand the *spirit of the Law*. There’s a difference.

“...But I had not known sin except through the Law. Furthermore, I would not have been conscious of lust, except *that* the Law said, ‘You shall not covet’” (v 7). Even though many people know that, they don’t understand what covetousness is. Covetousness is *all the sin within*.

Verse 8: “But sin, having grasped an opportunity by the commandment... [because God made the Law] ...worked out within me every *kind* of lust because apart from law, sin *was* dead.”

He began to understand what it meant to covet, what it meant to sin within. Imagine that, here he was, a high official, directly connected with the Sanhedrin and the high priest.

What was Paul’s mission? *Go out and get all of those Christians and you bring them back to Jerusalem to be punished.* He consented to the death of Stephen. He thought he was doing good. ‘I was doing exactly what the high priest said.’ Didn’t the covenant say you shall obey the high priest? *These are all idolaters out here!* They’re worshipping *another* god! So, Paul didn’t understand it. He didn’t understand the law, which then is through the lust within.

Verse 9: “For I was once alive without Law...”—without the *spiritual* knowledge of the Law. He was never alive without law. He understood the Ten Commandments as a Pharisee.

“...but after the commandment came...”—spiritually understood the commandment. That’s what that means. That’s why these two verses are hard to understand.

Can you ever conceive of Paul being without Law? *No, not all!* Paul says in Phil. 3 concerning law in the flesh, blameless. So, this doesn’t mean he was a wanton criminal. This has to mean he didn’t have the *spiritual knowledge of what the Law spiritually meant*. That’s why that’s hard to understand.

“...but after the commandment came... [the true knowledge of the commandment came] ...sin revived... [Paul saw sin within himself, like he never understood it] ...and I died” (v 9). How did he die? Two ways:

1. he saw he was as good as dead when it came to his consciousness
2. when he was baptized

If he died, how could he have written this? Magic from the tomb, my hand came out. *Not so!* “...sin revived...”

Verse 10: “And the commandment, which *was meant to result in life...*”

Think about this. This refers to the Old Covenant. Isn’t that what God said? ‘If you keep these commandments, you will live long and I will bless you. Your children will be blessed.’

Meant to be the life, but spiritually—“...was found *to be* unto death for me” (v 10). You understand the depths of human nature. That’s what he’s talking about.

Verse 11: “Because sin, having taken opportunity by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.” He understood the spiritual ramification of lust and the other things of the flesh.

Notice how he explains it in v 12. If you don’t understand that he’s talking about the spiritual

application of the Law, you would have to say that Paul indeed is schizophrenic.

Verse 12: “Therefore, the Law *is* indeed Holy, and the commandment Holy and righteous and good.” In the letter of the Law, yes. In the spirit of the Law, magnified. Jesus came to magnify the Law and make it spiritual or honorable or glorious.

Where does God want obedience? *In the heart and mind!* But He did not take away ‘the law of sin and death.’ He gave us the power through His Spirit to overcome it. That’s the key. Why? Wouldn’t it be a whole lot nicer to have it totally removed? *Yes, probably would be!* But He would have to make us spirit beings instantly to do that.

So, why? *Because to live forever as a spirit being, we have to understand the deep profound evil of sin!* That’s why we still have to work hard to overcome.

Here he understood the Law for the first time, v 12: “Therefore, the Law *is* indeed Holy, and the commandment Holy and righteous and good.”

Verse 14: “For we know that the Law is spiritual...” He’s explaining the spiritual perspective of the Laws of God, the absolute antithesis of doing away with the Laws of God.

But if you would ask a Protestant, he would read that and say, ‘We’re good enough to keep Sunday. God doesn’t want that Sabbath anymore. We’re going to have our Sunday Easter ham dinner, love our pork chops and all of our lobsters, shrimp, crab, catfish. What a feast!’ Whatever else.

To carry this to an extreme, I’ve mentioned this several times before, I remember one time I was visiting with a woman. She wanted to know about baptism. She had her Baptist friend there. I was telling her about repentance and about keeping the law and everything like that.

Her Baptist friend butted in and said, ‘I don’t have to keep the Law at all.’ I looked at her and I said, ‘Do you believe in the rapture?’ She said, ‘Oh, yes, indeed.’ I said, ‘What if when the rapture came and you were in the act of committing adultery with a man, would you be taken in the rapture?’ She said, ‘Oh, yes, because I can’t sin.’ I had never heard anything like that in all my life!

Verse 13: “Now then, did that which *is* good become death to me? MAY IT NEVER BE!... [Why did that happen that way?] ...But sin, in order that it might truly be exposed as sin in me...”

To understand what sin really is—in me. Inner, we’re talking spiritual, mental and heart.

“...by that which *is* good... [spiritual aspect of the Law] ...was working out death; so that by

means of the commandment, sin might become exceedingly sinful” (v 13).

You understand the spiritual ramification of it. Now then, here is what we all go through. Sometimes more intensely than other times. That is, *fighting the sin within!*

Before you’re converted, you don’t even recognize it. There’s a song out there, *Watching All the Girls Go By*. They’re all lusting after all the girls going by.

Now then, the commandment comes and you understand that the thought of lusting after all of those girls is sin. *The wages of sin is death*. Then you had this is what it’s talking about here. You can apply any sin.

Verse 14: “For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, having been sold *as a slave* under sin.” That’s what we were before baptism.

What did Paul say there in Rom. 6? *Don’t let sin rule in your mortal body!* He didn’t say you’re going to be without sin. He said don’t let it *rule!*

Verse 15: “Because what I am working out myself... [apart from God, without the knowledge of the spiritual aspect of sin] ...I do not know.... [didn’t even comprehend what it was] ...For what I do not desire to do... [now fighting against sin. It still pops back and he says]: ...this I do; moreover, what I hate, this *is what* I do.”

- Why am I still sinning in my mind? *That’s the question!*
- What do you do? *That’s with prayer and study!*
- What do we have to have dwelling in us? *The love of God, with all our heart, mind, soul and being! And the Word of God as well.*

*The only way to overcome the sin within is through:*

- the Spirit of God
- the grace of God
- repentance
- prayer
- controlling your thoughts

Here’s what we are fighting. This is what Paul is talking about in Rom. 8 in a different manner, than he does in 2-Cor. 10.

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the flesh*... [yes, we’re still fleshly] ...we do not war according to *the flesh*.” We don’t become better people by ten points of how to be a successful person.

Verse 4: “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal...” No, it has to be with:

- the Spirit of God
- the Spirit of Christ in us
- the Word of God
- Truth
- loving God

*Those are all spiritual!*

“...but mighty through God to the overthrowing of strongholds” (v 4). Where are the strongholds still? ***This is why perfection will not come until the resurrection!*** But we have to understand how to:

- overcome sin
- fight evil
- cleanse our minds
- cleanse our thoughts
- overcome passions
- overcome lusts

Why? *Because this gives you the desire to love and serve God even more!* Here’s what we are to do. I’m sure you can relate to this very clearly.

Verse 5: “Casting down vain imaginations...” What goes on in the mind? *We’re all talking to ourselves all the time. I answer myself, too!*

“...and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...” (v 5). What exalts itself against the knowledge of God? *A little sin won’t hurt! A little lust is enjoyable!*

“...and bringing into captivity **every thought** into the obedience of Christ” (v 5). That’s the working of ‘the law of sin and death’ *within us* that we go along and we do things we don’t want to do and we didn’t desire to do it, but we did it. That’s what Paul is explaining in Rom. 7.

Verse 6: “And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled”—spiritually.

This is the inner battle. You really can’t understand Rom. 7 unless you understand the shift in v 6 from ‘in the letter of the Law,’ to the ‘spirit of the Law.’

Romans 7:18: “Because I fully understand that there is not dwelling within me—that is, within my fleshly being—*any good...*”

Even though you can do good, even though you intend good, in our heart and in our mind there is no good. You have to have the Spirit of God, the love of God, and the knowledge of God to be able to accept that and not collapse—as they would say in

the world—psychologically. That’s why all people say, ‘We’re good people.’

I imagine in Tennessee a lot of people asked, ‘Are you a good person?’ They would say, ‘Oh, yeah, I’m a good person.’ *What about this guy over there, what do you think about that?* ‘I hate him.’ No good dwelling within us inherently. All goodness must come from God.

“...For the desire to do good is present within me... [we all intend to do good] ...but how to work out that which is good, I do not find” (v 18).

Have you ever started out to do something really good and everything goes wrong? *I’ve done that!* How do you feel when that happens? *That devastation comes along, you need to bring every thought into the obedience of Christ!*

Verse 19: “For the good that I desire to do, I am not doing; but the evil that I do not desire to do, this I am doing. But if I do what I do not desire to do, I am no longer working it out myself, but sin *that is dwelling within me....* [the law of sin] ...Consequently, I find this law...” (vs 19-21). It’s a law of human beings. This is the stronghold that we are to overcome.

“...in my members, that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man” (vs 21-22). Spiritually that’s wonderful, great, good, marvelous.

Verse 23: “But I see another law within my own members...” This is what the overcoming is about. What does it say to all of the churches in Rev. 2 and 3? *To the one who overcomes...*

“...warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members. O *what a wretched man I am!....*” (vs 23-24).

Remember, he wrote this when he had been an apostle for about twenty years.

- How long have you been in the Church?
- How long have I been in the Church?
- Do we still have this battle going on? *Yes, because this is the battle of overcoming!*

*This is the battle of perfection!* We’re learning the lesson, eternally, forever, that sin never pays.

“...Who shall save me from the body of this death?” (v 24). This verse is a hard one to understand unless you understand the internal battle going on.

Verse 25: “I thank God *for His salvation* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this, on the one hand, I myself serve the Law of God with *my*

mind; but on the other hand, with the flesh, *I serve* the law of sin.”

That means that when he sins, it's not his intent to sin, but he still does it and it's because of the law of sin and death within him.

Romans 8:1: “Consequently...”—because there's this struggle going on, goes on every day, sometimes many times a day.

“...*there is* now no condemnation...” (v 1). If you're struggling and overcoming and repenting and drawing close to God, working toward that perfection that Christ talked about:

“...no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit” (v 1).

What is exposing that sin within? *The Spirit of God!* You wouldn't think anything of it if you didn't have the Spirit of God. That's all natural.

Verse 2: “Because **the law of the Spirit of Life** in Christ Jesus...” *The Spirit of God giving us the power to overcome the sin within!* It can only be done through:

- Christ
- the Spirit of God
- the Word of God
- the love of God

right where started at the beginning.

Verse 2: “Because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death.”

How does it deliver us? *By giving us the power to overcome!* As Paul said, don't let sin rule in your mortal body. You can't do that unless you have the Spirit of God. You'll just substitute one lust for another lust, one sin for another sin.

Verse 3: “For what *was* impossible for the Law to do... [because the Law can't make you do anything] ...in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

Likeness comes from the Greek ‘*homoiomati*,’ meaning *in the exact sameness that we have!*

How can Christ condemn sin in the flesh if He didn't have the law of sin and death within Him as well? That's how it was condemned in the body of Christ.

Verse 4: “In order that the righteousness of the Law... [spiritually] ...might be fulfilled in us... [Did Jesus say He came to fulfill the law? Is He doing it in each one of us with the Spirit of God?]”

...who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit.” *That's what we're doing!*

***If you're a Protestant and you know nothing about the Bible,*** and you start reading some of these verses, on the surface it looks like you're home free. No law, whoopee!

That's part of *the mystery of Protestantism*. We will see that it's all wrapped up in

- assumptions
- bad translations
- misinterpretation
- disobedience

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

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 23:22
- 2) Galatians 3:29
- 3) Romans 5:12
- 4) Romans 6:4-6, 9-14
- 5) Ephesians 2:18
- 6) Romans 7:1-3, 6, 4-6
- 7) Matthew 5:17-22, 27-28, 48
- 8) Romans 7:7-12, 14, 13, 14-15
- 9) 2-Corinthians 10:3-6
- 10) Romans 7:18-25
- 11) Romans 8:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 5
- Romans 1-3
- Revelation 20-22
- Romans 4
- Genesis 15
- John 6:44; 45
- Ezekiel 16; 23
- John 10
- Philippians 3
- Revelation 2; 3

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## The Mystery of Protestantism VI

### *Explaining and understanding Paul's message in Colossians Two*

Audio missing first 25 minutes beginning here:

Let's rehearse what we always need to remember when talking to Protestants.

1. Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. He came to fulfill, make complete.

The Old Testament was not complete without the New Testament. If you have a part of a car, don't you want it complete? When you have a complete car, are you going to say that it's done away? *or* Are you going to use it? *You're going to use it! You're going to drive it!*

2. The Epistles of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John—the one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments is a liar.

They may not know they're liars; some may. 'Hereby we know Him if we keep His commandments. And the one who says that he knows Him {Jesus Christ} is obligated to walk even as He walked.' Now the trap has been set.

- How did Jesus walk?
- Did He keep Sunday?
- Did He keep Christmas?
- Did He keep Halloween?
- Did He keep New Years?
- Did He keep Easter?
- *NO!*
- Did He love God with all His heart, mind, soul and being? *Yes!*

That said, there are couple of Scriptures that ask, 'Who can instruct God?' I'm going to give a sermon on Isa. 42 & 43, which is actually a prophecy of the whole New Testament. If people say that the church changed it from Sabbath to Sunday, say, 'Really?' and read them:

Isaiah 40:12: "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out the heavens with a span? And who has comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, and **who was His counselor that he might instruct Him?**" *No man!* No man can say:

God, I've got a better idea. Look at all of those pagans out there and they all worship Mithras and keep Sunday. They believe in **their** savior who was raised from the dead. Now then, think how many more we could get in the congregation and be in the church if we just changed the day of

worship from Sabbath to Sunday and get away from all those bad, nasty Jews.

That's a summary of a terrible part of history, but true. No one is going to instruct God!

Verse 13: "Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, and who was His counselor that he might instruct Him?" 'Oh, Uncle Joe, could you help Me solve the problem on how to make gravity?"

Verse 14: "With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and made known the way of understanding to Him?"

Then you say, 'Do you think King David is going to be resurrected?' *Yes, yes indeed!* 'Do you know what he's said about the Law of God?' *No, because they never read the Old Testament!* It says, 'The Law of God is perfect!'

Why would you want to changed something that is perfect? *Those who like motorcycles like to 'chop' them, making them their own way.*

Verse 15: "Behold, the nations *are* like a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the scales; behold, He takes up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts of it sufficient *for* a burnt offering. **All nations...**" (vs 15-17)—that's quite inclusive!

So, if anyone things that they're going to change what God has done try eliminating gravity and see what happens. *It will never happen!*

Verse 17: "All nations before Him *are* as nothing; and they are counted by Him as less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will you compare God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?" (vs 17-18).

Verse 23: "Who brings the rulers to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth as vanity."

Verse 25: "'To whom then will you compare Me, or who is My equal?' says the Holy One."

*A lot of powerful Scriptures back there in Isaiah.*

Today we're going to example part of Appendix Z {from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*} For those of you who do not have the it, there's going to be a printout coming with the monthly letter. Otherwise turn in the Bible to Appendix Z.

{Note: the *Faithful Version Bible* is found, with commentaries and appendices, at:

[afaithfulversion.org](http://afaithfulversion.org)]

I'm going through these because I know pretty much for sure, just talking to people, that not everyone who had *The Faithful Version Bible* has really studied the appendices. All of these appendices are geared to helping people understand the Bible, and answers Protestantism and Catholicism and their major doctrines.

This is why Appendix A—Fourteen Rules for Bible Study—so you know how to study the Bible. Isn't that the logic place to put it? The very first in the appendices? The fourteen rules are very simple. So, we're going apply all fourteen of the rules here in studying Col. 2.

(audio begins here—Track 11)

The Apostle Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were all of those people who were not of the 12 tribes of Israel. A lot of the Jews in the area of Palestine at that time mistakenly said—and they still do to this day—that the northern ten tribes were absorbed into the Gentiles and were counted as Gentiles. That being said, let's see what Paul says in Col. 1: *here's for any Protestant who believes in the trinity.*

Wouldn't you say what starts out the opening of a letter is a very important part of the letter? Here's how all Paul's epistles open, primarily first.

Colossians 1:1: "Paul, an apostle by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother." How is this the will of God? How was Saul called? *Knocked to the ground in a blaze of glory!* He was made blind for three days to teach him the lesson that God alone is going to do this. He was also told that he was going to suffer a lot of things, and he's going to take the Gospel message to the Gentiles.

Verse 2: "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colossi... [a city in Asia Minor [very close to Laodicea] ...Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ." The most important thing is that blessing from God.

Not only does it go to the brethren there, but this a blessing also on the whole book of Colossians, everything he's writing.

Verse 3: "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you continually since hearing of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love that *you have* toward all the saints; because of the hope that *is laid up for you in heaven...*" (vs 3-5)—not souls going *to* heaven. Then Paul talks about the Gospel.

Verse 6 is interesting. Here's a verse that an atheist could read it and say that it didn't happen.

"...which you heard before in the Word of

the Truth of the Gospel; which has come to you, even as *it also has* in all the world..." (vs 5-6). It didn't happen then, so how do you answer this? *This is a prophetic perfect, which is a prophecy that it will be!*

Where do we find that? *Matt. 24; Mark 13! This Gospel shall be proclaimed and it shall be published in all the world!* Has that progressively been done and still being done in a great, great way today? *Yes, indeed!*

"...and is bringing forth fruit, just as *it is* among you, from the day that you heard and knew the grace of God in Truth; even as you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ for you" (vs 6-7).

"...and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthily of the Lord... [v 11] Being strengthened with all power..." (vs 9-11).—in your spiritual life.

This is why we have the Sabbath every week. Just like you eat every day in order to keep the *physical* body going, we have the Sabbath every week to keep the *spiritual* knowledge and power, and Word of God, in us so we can grow in grace and knowledge.

Verse 12: "Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified... [v 13]: **Who has personally rescued us** from the power of darkness and **has transferred us unto the kingdom of the Son of His love.**"

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, so you can't be into the kingdom, yet; but unto it, because we're all under the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of God as Christ—Who is Head of the Church—and the Father, Who is the great Sovereign of the universe.

Verse 14: "In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* Firstborn of all creation" (vs 14-15).

There are those who do not believe that Jesus was manifested in the flesh. They turn to this verse and say that He was the '...Firstborn of all creation.' What does that mean?

- He was called the Firstborn of Mary
- He was called the Firstborn from among the dead

Is the resurrection from the dead the greatest creation of God? *Yes, indeed!* That's what it's talking about. We will see it explained here very clearly.

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” (vs 16-17)—because He upholds all things by the Word of His power (Heb. 1).

Verse 18: “And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; Who is *the* Beginning, *the* Firstborn from among the dead... [that’s how He is the Firstborn of all creation, born from the dead] ...so that in all things He Himself might hold the preeminence.”

We’re to be *grounded and steadfast* (v 23).

Verse 26: “*Even* the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints”—the plan of God!

What is God doing? *That’s what all the philosophers were wondering!* Some of them got close, but how many of them ever knew? *None of them!* Look at them today, and what’s happening today: transhumanism, transsexualism, hooking computers up to our brains. There’s an article out there that says if you hook your brain up to a computer you have no rest. “...**the mystery that has been hidden** from ages and from generations, **but has now been revealed to His saints.**”

Stop and think about how precious and fantastic is the knowledge of God that you have.

Verse 27: “To whom God did will to make known what *are* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- Christ in us by the power of God’s Spirit
- the Father in us by the power of the Spirit of God the Father
- we are then a temple of God
- we are His workmanship

The reason that Paul wrote all of this is because of Col. 2, which becomes very, very interesting.

Let’s describe how the Protestants pick and choose and come to the Scriptures with a precept thing in mind. What is the precept thing that they always have? *Jesus abolished the Law!*

There are some things that Paul wrote that are difficult to understand; Col. 2 is part of it, especially when it’s by the *King James Version*.

Sidebar on translating the New Testament: Remember that years ago you came to Sabbath services and hear a sermon and the minister says that the *King James Version* really doesn’t have it right, but here’s what it means... People would say, ‘Well, if that’s what it really means, then why don’t we

have a Bible with what it really means?

What that does, if it’s translated correctly, is take away the power of the minister to look superior, by saying, ‘The Greek says this’ when it’s translated wrong. Why would they use a Bible that’s translated wrong? The *King James*, when you get into it, has a great many vital errors.

We’re going to cover the whole first chapter of Colossians, but there are three key verses that are very difficult to understand in the *King James*. This is zeroing in on a verse separate by itself to make a full interpretation. What are the rules of Bible Study? *The verse before and the verse after! The verses before that verse and the verses after that verse, and sometimes the chapter before and the chapter after, and what other Scriptures say!*

When you take this translated this way in isolation, and then preach the Law has been nailed to the cross:

Colossians 2:14: “He has blotted out the note of debt against us... [they view the Law of God as being against them] ...*with* the decrees of our sins, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross.”

How did He do that when He was nailed to the cross? They never ask that question. We’ll answer that one as we go along here, we have the explanation right here

Reading from handout {also from Appendix Z: *Faithful Version Bible*, pg. 1380}

In the Greek, “handwriting of ordinances” is *chriographon tois dogmasin*—which literally means “Handwriting in decrees or dogmas.” In the New Testament, *dogma* always refers to ‘decrees’ written by men...

- Luke 2:1—the decree of Caesar Augustus
- Acts 16:4—the decree by the apostles
- Acts 17:7—the decrees of Caesar
- Eph. 2:15—the commandments in the decrees of men

Now a key thing to understand:

...Nowhere in the entirety of the Bible does *dogma*, “decrees,” refer to any part of the Law of God. Therefore, this phrase in Col. 2:14 has nothing to do with Biblical Law.

*So, what does it mean?*

...As we will see, the phrase refers to a *written account* of one’s sins called ‘a note of debt.’

In his epical book *The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop writes...

You need to read that book. Online at: [http://ldolphin.org/PDFs/The\\_Two\\_Babylons-Alexander\\_Hislop.pdf](http://ldolphin.org/PDFs/The_Two_Babylons-Alexander_Hislop.pdf) —proving that Catholicism is the worship of Nimrod and Semiramis.

...concerning the Greek religious practice, which the converts in Colossi had undoubtedly formerly practiced...

[Hislop writes]: “A work of some note on morals, called *Merits and Demerits Examined*, [described how] a man is directed to keep a [written] debtor and creditor account with himself of the acts of each day, and at the end of the year to wind it up [in summary]....

Those Gentiles in Colossi never new anything about keeping the Laws of God, the Old Testament or what the Jews were doing except by observation. They were never practicing any of those things.

Even to this day there are a lot of people who say you ought to keep a journal or diary. Well, if you want to that’s up to you. One thing that does is ***it never blots out your sins*** that you commit that you didn’t want to write down in your diary. Are people really honest with a diary? *No!* Another thing, ***it always brings to remembrance the things that you put down that are negative*** about what other people did to you and you can’t forgive them.

You can have a diary if you want to, but I don’t! I’m glad I don’t. There would be too many things in there against me.

...If the balance is in his favor, it serves as a the foundation of a stock of merits for the ensuing year...

*Oh, I’ve been good!*

...and if against him, it must be liquidated by future good deeds [justification by works]....

What’s the main thing we’ve found? *Works of law!* The Jews had them through their traditions.

...Various lists and comparative tables are given are given of both good and bad actions in the several relations of life; and benevolence is strongly inculcated in regard first to man, and, secondly, to the brute creation. To cause another’s death is reckoned at one hundred on the side of demerit; while a single act of charitable relief counts as one on the other side”

*Here is what the Greek actually means:*

Thus, the phrase in Colossians 2:14 should be translated as ‘note of debt against us *with* the decrees of our sins’—or a symbolic listing of our sins against God. Our sins and the *debt* of our sins were nailed to the cross when Jesus Christ was crucified and died.

What is sin? *The transgression of the Law!* The Law was not nailed to the cross because there is still sin! ‘Where there is no Law there’s no sin.’

Now, just think of someone wanting to know about God, going to a Protestant church and the minister says, ‘Now see, it says that the ‘blotting out of handwriting of ordinance was against us, contrary to us and taken out of the way, nailing it to the cross. Jesus had the Law nailed to the cross.’

One verse! How much knowledge does a new convert have? *None!* He wants to do good. Maybe he has some conviction of sin, but you read that and the carnal mind says ‘Hallelujah! I’m free!’ But that isn’t what it says.

Why did Christ have to die such a terrible death? *Because He took upon Him the sins of the whole world, for every human being on the earth that has ever been or will ever be!* Christ was Creator of mankind!

Upon repentance of sins to God the Father, Jesus Christ blots out the ‘note of debt’ through the remission of our sins. Jesus Christ, Who knew no sin, was made sin for us. He was nailed to the cross as a sin offering for the sins of the whole world. **The ‘note of debt’ of sins was symbolically nailed to the cross, NOT the commandments of God, which stand forever.**

Now let’s read the verse before, and that helps us have a clear understanding of v 14:

Colossians 2:13: “For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh...”

Knew nothing of the Laws of God. Maybe had some exposure to some of the traditions of the Jews, but weren’t practicing any of those.

“...He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses” (v 13).

- Where were they symbolically noted? ***In the note of debt!***
- Where also are all of your transgressions recorded in your life? ***In your mind! On the tablet of your mind!***

So, we need those blotted out—don’t we? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 14: "He has blotted out the note of debt against us *with* the decrees of *our sins*, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross."

Those two verses give us some real good sense of what Paul is talking about, and cannot be twisted and turned to an interpretation that the commandments have been nailed to the cross.

Verse 16 is another one they turn to when they say, 'What about the Holy Days?' What are we to remember in the context? *They were uncircumcised Gentiles!* The circumcision of the heart...

Verse 11: "In Whom you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism..." (vs 11-12). That's how circumcision of the heart takes place: baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

"...by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead" (v 12).

Verse 16: "Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking, or with regard to a Festival, or new moon, or *the Sabbaths*."

(KJV): "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (vs 16-17).

(NIV): "These are a shadow of the things that were to come..." (v 17).

What is the version that most of Protestantism uses today? *New International Version (NIV)*! Did Jesus come? *Yes!* 'You don't have to do these things because He came.' You see how that works. That's why the *mystery of Protestantism* is hard to figure. They use so much of the Bible, but they *misuse* it.

(go to the next track)

Jack reminded me of a very important verse, because he's had his run-ins with the Jehovah Witnesses. Every once in a while to entertain himself he invites them in. Here one verse that he quotes them. Keep this in mind. Why is that important? *Because this is a prophecy of the end-times!*

Revelation 14:12: "Here is *the* patience of the saints; here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

This Scripture proves that if you have faith, you will keep the commandments. They go together

like a nut and a bolt, you need both. You have to have faith.

Jack said that by the time he got done showing some other Scriptures, they say, 'Well, I've got another appointment to get to.' Or they just kind of stare at him and they finally leave.

Delores says that when she was talking about keeping the laws and commandments, her grandmother says, 'That's the old Law, you don't have to keep it.' Then when it got uncomfortable, she says, 'Are you calling your grandmother a liar?'

Keep this in mind: *The Colossians were predominately Gentile!* Knowing nothing of the Old Testament, knowing nothing of the Laws of God, and probably very little about Judaism. Most of that in the Roman Empire at that time was despicable hatred and virulent disgust with anything that the Jews did. The Romans went so far as to say that God gave the commandments to the Jews to show that they are the vilest people on earth. So, you think anti-Semitism is alive today; it was virulent back then.

Verse 16 (KJV): "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (vs 16-17).

They point to that and say that the body of Christ is the church and the church says that you don't need to keep those things. This shows that they shouldn't keep them, so they claim. What is that? *That is so deceived that you don't want to let the Truth in! That's the wrong kind of faith!*

Verse 17 (NIV): "These are a shadow of the things that were to come..."

Let's read it the way it should be translated; Verse 16 (FV): "Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking..."

The reason being is because there were two schools of philosophical religion: teetotalers and debauchers. What would they be judged for in eating? *If they were eating pork, shrimp, lobster and all the things that are unclean*, which the Gentiles ate, who would judge them for eating it? How would they be judged in eating. *Here was a new convert from Colossi going to visit some of their old friends and they have a ham on the table!* They announced that they didn't eat pork anymore. So, they judge you because you don't eat pork.

Would there be any judgment against you by them if you ate it with them? *No!* We're going to see that every one of these things that they were being judge for was because they were keeping them, not because this was a Scripture that says they're done

away.

“...or with regard to a Festival, or new moon... [singular, having to do with the calendar] ...or *the* Sabbaths... [every week] ...which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming... [present tense participle] ...but the Body of Christ” (vs 16-17).

How do we understand this? *In order to be judged negatively* by their former friends, or anyone in the community, eating or drinking, or with regard to the Festivals, new moon or Sabbath *means they were keeping them!* That does not mean doing away with them.

About 6 p.m. yesterday I got a call from a concrete man about doing some work on our driveway. I told him, ‘You probably can’t do the work if you want to do this on the weekend, because I can’t have you doing it on Saturday.’ He asked, ‘Why?’ *That’s our church day!* ‘Oh, really?’

How deep did that sink in? Then he said, ‘How about if I come over tomorrow and talk it over with you?’ *that’s our church day!* ‘Sunday?’ *Yeah, about 11 a.m. on Sunday!* He didn’t say, ‘That’s my church day.’ Interesting! I don’t know what he thinks about me, but you know for sure in his mind he’s made some kind of judgment concerning that.

That’s why we have the book: *God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days.*

An Analysis of Colossians 2:16-17  
(Faithful Version, pg 1381)

*I’ll let you read that!*

Colossians Two Divided into Elements A and B, beginning with verse One  
(Faithful Version, pg 1382)

This becomes important because it shows a contrast and it helps you categorize the thinking of Paul’s writing, the structure of it.

**A.** “Now I want you to understand what great concern I have for you, and *for* those in Laodicea...”

At the end of this epistle Paul says that he wants it read in the Church of the Laodiceans, too.

...and as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love unto all riches of **the full assurance of understanding**, unto *the knowledge of the mystery of God*...

This tells us that these things bring knowledge and understanding.

...and of the Father, and of Christ; **in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**’ (verses 1-3).

Why did Paul put this here? *Because of the philosophical arguments of the Greeks!* They thought that they were the most intelligent people on earth, and at that time they may have been.

**B.** “Now I say this so that **no one may deceive you by persuasive speech**” (verse 4).

- Can it be persuasive? *Yes!*
- Where was that speech to lead to?
- Where did it come from?

*This is comparing the Greek way with the way of God!*

**A.** “For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, **as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him...**

*Walking means obeying!*

**...being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught**, abounding in it with thanksgiving” (verses 4-7).

What were they taught? *Eating, drinking, new moon, festival, Sabbath days!* They didn’t have that knowledge before. Therefore, v 16—in judging them—shows they were doing it and Paul tells them “...exactly as you were taught...”

**B.** “Beware lest anyone takes you captive **through philosophy...**

Philosophy was the Greek religion! Greek: ‘philosophia’

**...and vain deceit**, according to **the traditions of men**, according to the **elements of the world**, and not according to Christ” (verse 8).

That’s quite a warning! When you’re done with this, I want you to read all the As altogether, and then read the Bs altogether. Then you will get a clear picture as to what this is really telling us.

**A.** “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily...”

*If Christ be in you, and God the Father in you!*

**...and you are complete in Him...**

All the philosophies of men are ‘good works to make you right with the great spirit.’ You don’t need

those philosophies of deceit, traditions of men, elements of the world.

...For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and **you are complete in Him...**

Whatever God has said, whatever Christ has said, "...you are complete..."

- you don't need anything from men
- you don't need anything from philosophy
- you don't need any of the false doctrines of the Protestants

*And lo, they sound so good!*

...Who is the Head of all principality and power...

Why does Paul say that? *Because they were looking to lesser gods*, so he's saying that Christ is greater than all of them. Who did they have? *Zeus, Apollos, Mars, Diana!*

...in Whom you have also been circumcised with the circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism...

*We've already covered that in Rom. 6.*

...by which you have also been raised with Him through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. For you, who were *once* dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh...

Can you think of a Scripture to add to that? *Remember the young man who came to Jesus and said*, 'O Lord, I'll follow You but have to go bury my father, first; let me go.' Jesus said, 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Spiritually speaking, those who don't have the Spirit of God are spiritually dead, regardless of the religion they have, regardless of how they may interpret the Bible.

- it's got to be in Truth
- it's got to be in faith
- it's got to be in Christ
- it's got to be in the Word of God
- it's got to be by the Word of God
- it's got to be through the Word of God

*Comparing and putting together!*

...He has now made alive with Him, **having forgiven all your trespasses....**

So, if Sabbath-keeping, eating and drinking and the Holy Days, and so forth, are sin, then if they were keeping them they were still in their sins. They're not, because all of their sins have been forgiven.

**...He has blotted out the note of debt against us with the decrees of our sins**, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross. **After stripping the principalities and the powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, and has triumphed over them in it [through His crucifixion and resurrection]" (verses 9-15).

What we need to understand is that on that Passover Day in 30<sub>A.D.</sub> everything was being controlled by God, Satan, the angels and demons—*everything!*

What was Satan busy doing? *Having Judas go to the high priest to betray Jesus!* Satan entered into Judas and he went to the high priest and said, 'I'll betray Jesus for you.' They gave Judas 30 pieces of silver, which is the price of dead slave.

Remember when they were coming toward Jerusalem and the apostles said, 'Lord, where are we going to keep the Passover?' Why didn't Jesus tell them where they were going to keep the Passover? Who was with them? *Judas!* He didn't tell them because it was all arranged. There was probably an angel leading the man carrying the pitcher of water and He said, 'Go follow him.' The man who preparing his upper room and no one was there, an angel was probably inspiring him to do it, get everything ready. That was all done because Jesus didn't want Judas to know where they were going to keep the Passover, because that would have been a convenient place to arrest Him.

Where was Judas when the Passover began? *With them!* So, when Judas left, he knew where they were going to go. Jesus wasn't arrested in that man's house. All the angels and demons were active and busy, and it was kind of like a huge umbrella covering all of Jerusalem *spiritually*, if you could keep that in mind.

Everything was coordinated by God; everything done was in accordance with all of the prophecies and Scriptures. Let's add one more verse to that.

Daniel 10:21: "But I will show you that which is **written in the Scripture of Truth....**"—which is in heaven.

Therefore, when they started writing the New Testament, these were the things that God wanted them to write about, and this is why we have the New Testament. Paul said, 'God-breathed!'

Let's see what they were going to substitute *if* they went along with them. Concerning philosophy, psychology is all based on philosophy and if people go to psychologists in the world

they're going to get the world's answer. There are certain parts of psychology I suppose are true if they agree with the Proverbs. But the truth is that we have everything we need in the Bible. That's why we have it; it's the greatest book in the world.

Let's see that what was mentioned in this comment could have happened to them if they hadn't followed what Paul said.

**B. "Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you..."**

*Don't let them do it!*

...in eating or in drinking, or with regard to a festival, or new moon, or the Sabbaths, which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming, but the body of Christ. **Do not allow anyone to defraud you of the prize...**

What is the prize? *The resurrection and reward!* This tells us that if you get involved in philosophies and things of the world and traditions of men, it can lead to loss of salvation; that's what Paul is saying. Also, into false worship, which is actually worship of Satan and the demons.

**...by doing his will in self-abasement...**

*Things that humiliate the body!* There are Catholics in the Philippines who are crucified every Easter, as if that's a good work. One of the practices of Catholicism is if you want to humble yourself, you beat yourself with special little whips, little chains, that you whip over your back until it breaks open the skin and you bleed.

- Does that make you righteous? *NO! It makes you bloody and it's painful!*

No righteousness comes of that.

- Is that beating greater than what Christ took?
- Is your blood greater than His blood?

*That's what people get into!*

**...and the worship of angels...**

That's demons! Who is the head one that wants to be worshipped? *Satan!* He wants to be thought of as 'God'!

Sidebar: If you believe in the trinity, you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as person, you accept Satan as sitting in the throne of God with Christ! He's always wanted to be God.

- Are there demon that are sweet? Nice? Persuasive? 'Holy'? Gentle? Compassionate?

*Yes, to deceive!*

- Are there nasty, mean, evil ones?

- Which evil is worse: the sweetness to deceive? *or* The horror to kill?

*They're both evil because it ends in spiritual death!*

When I see these men go around following the pope and things like that, I think: he's got all these men possessed by self-righteous demons thinking that they're going to show God that *their way* of salvation is better than God's way. *That's what Catholicism is all about! Satan's counterfeit!*

I suppose William Donahue will get mad at me one of these days, but so be it! Do you know who he is? *He's the head of the Catholic Anti-defamation League!*

**...intruding into things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his own carnal mind and not holding fast to the Head...** (verses 16-19).

*In other words, if you do these things you're leaving Christ!*

**A. "[T]he Head from Whom all the body, being supplied and knit together by the joints and bands, is increasing with the increase of God. Therefore, if you have died together with Christ from the elements [see Gal. 4:8-10] of the world..."** (verses 19-20).

*That's through baptism! He's saying to check out your baptism!*

**B. "...why are you subjecting yourselves to the decrees of men as if you were living in the world?...."**

Stop and think: How could that have happened to a Church of God that once knew the Truth? *Lack of faith! Lack of faith! Lack of faith! A little bit! A little bit! A little bit!* They were persuaded by persuasive speech.

*...They say, "You may not handle! You may not taste! You may not touch!"* **The use of all such things leads to corruption. It is according to the commandments and doctrines of men...**

What do the Catholics say? *We do not need the Bible to preach the Gospel!* Their Gospel is NOT the Gospel of Christ, though they put His name on it, but it is a *false* Christ!

- What did Paul say in 2-Cor. 11? *False apostles and false Christs!*
- What did Paul say in Gal. 1? *Some are coming along with a different gospel!*

Paul says that there's no such thing as a 'different gospel.' *There's only ONE!* That's what it's like in the world. I'll have to admit I've been watching

TBN a little more regularly, and I'm seeing some patterns that are very interesting, indeed! How they use the Bible, and it's all about modern psychology. They use the Scriptures that way for coping in the world. Some talk about salvation, but all talk about going to heaven. *We're going to talk about heaven coming to the earth!*

...which indeed have an outward appearance of wisdom **in voluntary worship of angels...**

***Every time someone bows down to the virgin Mary, you are bowing down and worshipping an idol to Satan the devil and the demons behind it!*** The reason that when people go to St. Peter's Basilica and they feel so overwhelmed with all the 'holiness' that is satanic deception! ***God will never be where there are idols! Never!*** Paul says, 'What do idols and Godliness and Christ and the Father have agreement with? ***Nothing!***

**...and self-abasement, and unsparing treatment of the body**, not in any respect to the satisfying *of the needs* of the flesh" (verses 20-23).

When you take all of this together, you find that this is a warning against the 'religions' of the world infringing upon the Truth of God! It is a warning against taking the things from the world and trying to inculcate them within the doctrines of the Bible, Christ and God.

***Sooner or later the path leads to destruction!***

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

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 40:12-18, 23, 25
- 2) Colossians 1:1-7, 9-18, 26-27
- 3) Colossians 2:14, 13-14, 11-12, 16-17
- 4) Revelation 14:12
- 5) Colossians 2:16-17
- 6) Daniel 10:21

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 42; 43
- Matthew 24
- Mark 13
- Hebrews 1
- Colossians 1:23
- Luke 2:1
- Acts 16:4; 17:7
- Ephesians 2:15
- 2 Corinthians 11
- Galatians 1

#### Also referenced:

from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix Z: *Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God*
- Appendix A: *Fourteen Rules for Bible Study*

#### Books:

- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop ([http://ldolphin.org/PDFs/The\\_Two\\_Babylons-Alexander\\_Hislop.pdf](http://ldolphin.org/PDFs/The_Two_Babylons-Alexander_Hislop.pdf))
- *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC: bo

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## The Mystery of Protestantism VII

*False doctrine of “once saved, always saved”; their finish is only the start!*

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

With all the trouble that’s going on with the hurricanes and things that are taking place, let’s come to Isaiah 41 and let’s see something very important. When we’re all up against such powerful things to take place—such as hurricanes and things beyond our ability to cope with—especially Americans, turn to God. The only problem is with Americans it doesn’t last very long. Hopefully God will deal with a good number of people and draw them to Him.

Isaiah 41:8: “‘But you, Israel, *are* My servant...” You put your name there; and we can also apply that to the Church, because Scriptures can have more than one inherent meaning within that particular Scripture.

“...Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham, My friend” (v 8). The New Testament says that *if you’re Christ’s then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise!*

Verse 9: “Whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called you from its uttermost parts. And I said to you, ‘You *are* My servant; I have chosen you, and have not cast you away.’”

God intervenes from time to time for the physical children of Israel of the modern ten tribes. Of course, that makes up America, Britain and Europe.

These next few verses are very encouraging, v 10: “Do not fear; for I *am* with you; be not dismayed...”

- don’t get discouraged
- don’t get overwhelmed

“...for **I am your God. I will strengthen you...**” (v 10). Our strength comes from God and His Spirit.

“...yea, <sup>[#1]</sup>**I will help you**... [but you have to turn to God] ...yea, **I will uphold you** with the right hand of My righteousness. Behold, all those who were angered against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing....” (vs 10-11).

Will God do something with North Korea concerning this? *We don’t know!* We’ll have to wait and see!

“...And those who strive against you shall perish... [eventually in the end run] ...You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as a thing of

naught, for **I**... [God is personally involved] ...the LORD your God, **will hold your right hand**, saying to you, “**Do not fear; <sup>[#2]</sup>I will help you**” (vs 11-13).

I’m sure there are a lot of people crying out to God! It’s amazing that 90% of Americans *believe in God*, but how many **really believe God**? Do you know the difference between the two? *If you believe that there is a God, that’s fine! That’s good! But it’s better to believe Him and what He says!*

Verse 14: “‘Do not fear, you worm Jacob and men of Israel; <sup>[#3]</sup>**I will help you**,’ says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

So, with all of these things going on, let’s look at the Psalms; do a Google search through the book of psalms for *help* and *helper*.

Psalms 10:14: “You have seen it, for You behold mischief and vexation to repay it with Your hand. The poor commits himself to You; **You are the Helper of the fatherless.**”

Sometimes this is the way you have to pray if you have a lot of problems and difficulties come upon you. I’ll bet there are a lot of people in the hurricane areas that are doing this:

Psalms 12:1: “**Help, O LORD**, for the Godly man ceases; for the faithful disappear from among the children of men.” Look how many are turning their backs on God!

Psalms 30:10: “Hear, O LORD, and be gracious unto me; LORD, **be my helper**.’ You have turned my mourning into dancing; You have torn off my sackcloth and have clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever” (vs 10-12).

I still use a small concordance and they have a whole page of *help* and *helper* that you can come to. Psalms 56 is a good Psalm to read when you’re confronted with problems or difficulties that are hard for you to handle. We’re all going to have those come along; that’s just the way life is, especially today.

Psalms 56:1: “Be gracious unto me, O God, for man would swallow me up; fighting all the day, he oppresses me. Those who lie in wait for me would trample me, for many are those who proudly fight against me. When I am afraid, I will trust in You” (vs 1-3).

How does God know that we believe Him



and will trust Him unless we have circumstances where we need to? We're going to talk a little bit about one of the great errors of Protestantism.

Verse 4: "In God I will praise His Word; in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" That's really a good Psalm; think about it. What can anyone do to you if you belong to God and have the Spirit of God, and He's going to resurrect you in the first resurrection? What did Jesus say about that? *Don't fear the one who is able to kill the body, but fear the One Who is able to kill the body and the life! That's God!*

Verse 5: "All day long they pervert my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil." This is a prophecy of what Jesus had to go through. Think about that for a minute.

Jesus—God in the flesh—understood all men, could read minds, could understand their thoughts at any time. I'm sure He didn't use that power all the time, but He could. That's what they were. Read how the scribes and Pharisees were against Him.

Verse 6: "They stir up strife; they hide themselves; they watch my steps as they wait for my soul. Because of iniquity cast them out. In Your anger cast down the people, O God. You number my wanderings, O put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book? When I cry out to You, then my enemies will be turned back. This I know **because God is for me**" (vs 6-9).

Now, a little something here that's important. For God to be *for you*, you have to be on *His* side. There are times when God will help, even though you're not on His side, because like with the circumstances we're seeing today with the people in American and the hurricanes and things, there are a lot of people saying, 'I'm praying for you. I'm praying to God.'

Isn't it interesting that with this, there's not a lot of killing and stealing—not a lot of crime going on—even though the opportunity is there. I'm sure God will notice that.

Verse 10: "In God—I will praise His Word; in the LORD—I will praise His Word. In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Your vows are upon me, O God; I will give thank offerings to You, for You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" (vs 10-13).

That shows the whole process of how we go through these things.

(break)

I was watching Trinity Broadcasting

Network (TBN) so that I can know what the Protestants do and say. How is it that they can read so much of the Bible but be so wrong! This man was a good speaker and was very convincing. He talked about the sacrifice of Christ and what Christ had done and what He went through. We are to believe in Him, repent of our sins and accept Him as Savior.

*All of that is true!* Then he said that 'if you pray this prayer right now: Lord, I believe in Jesus Christ, I believe He died for my sins; I repent of my sins...'—there are a few other words that are added to it—'then you are changed; you are now a new person.' Then he also said something else and talked about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and what He said on the cross; and most Protestants believe this.

John 19:30 is why Protestants believe that if you do just what I said that ***you are saved, and once saved, always saved.***

John 19:30: "And so, when Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished.'.... [So, they tell the new believe that everything is all done, there's nothing you really have to do.] ...And bowing His head, He yielded up *His* spirit." Is that true?

Let's look at something else, v 28: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had now been finished..." Everything on this day of crucifixion was all planned out, prophesied in the Old Testament, talked about by Jesus, and Jesus knew that it was *finished*.

"...so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst.'" (v 28). Then they gave Him the vinegar and He bowed His head and said, "...It's finished.'...." Did that really finish it? Let's do an analogy. Is this a start, or is this the finishing?

John 17:1: "Jesus spoke these words, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; since You have given Him authority over all flesh, in order that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God...' (vs 1-3).

Why did Jesus say that? *Jesus was God in the flesh!* But having human nature, was He really God? Completely as the Father? *No!* He had to divest Himself to become a human being. This is a true statement. That's why if you compare that with Matt. 19, the rich man came to Jesus and said, 'Good Master, what should I do to inherit eternal life?' *Why do you call Me good? There is only one good and that is God!*

Remember, this is Jesus' final prayer, v 4: "I have glorified You on the earth. ***I have finished the work that You gave Me to do***"—so He got up from

his prayer and left and wasn't crucified; *if finishing means ending the whole mission of Christ!*

This applies to his ministry. You read in Mark: *The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*. What did Jesus say of Himself concerning beginning. He says that He's the ending; He's the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega. So, if the Gospel had a beginning, this prayer is the finishing of His preaching the Gospel. So, He finished that.

The Greek word for *finish* is 'teleo' or 'telio'—*to perfect*. They're all closely related and also 'telos'—the Greek stem 'tel.'

John 4:32: "And He said to them, 'I have meat to eat that you are not aware of.'" What is that? *That's the work ahead!* The "meat"—the food—was the spiritual power coming from God. Don't we have a song that says, 'O taste and see that the Lord is good'? How are you going to taste the Lord? *It's symbolic!* Here this is a very driving force here in this case of what He needed to do.

Verse 33: "Then the disciples said to one another, 'Did anyone bring Him *something* to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My meat is to do the will of **Him Who** sent Me... [that's the Father] ...and **to finish His work**'" (vs 33-34).

What did Jesus tell John? *Lift up your eyes and look, there's still a lot of work to do!* (v 35). At this point He was just beginning His ministry. Remember, 'telio' is *to perfect*.

John 17:21: "That they all may be one, even as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, in order that the world may believe that You did send Me. And I have given them the glory that You gave *to* Me, in order that they may be one, in the same way *that* We are one" (vs 21-22). Here's quite a prophetic statement!

Verse 23: "I in them, and You in Me, that they may **be perfected**..."—same stem as finished. So, when the Protestants do this little prayer and say it's all finished and there's nothing more to do, *they lie!*

Let's look at it in a couple of ways; "...**be perfected into one**..." (v 23). You can take this and add a whole lot of other Scriptures about what it means *to be perfected*.

When we go through life in the flesh, and everything we go through, that's part of being perfected. Just like little children when they start walking; they take two steps and you pick them off the floor and say that it's all done and you can sit in a chair the rest of your life. There's nothing more to do, you've taken two steps and it's all done.

Let's draw another analogy. You were

looking for a brand new house and here comes the salesman, the realtor, and says he's got the perfect one for you. He describes it for you, and he says, 'I'm going to take you out and show you your new house.' You get in the car and you drive out there, and he takes you to a place and here's a big slab on the ground. You look at that and ask, 'What is this?' *That's your new house.* 'Where's the house?' *It's finished!* 'Are you nuts?'

The great deception of Protestantism is that's just bringing them to the start, *not the finish*. Remember the proverb about *counting the cost* (Luke 14); how you have to dedicate yourself to God above everybody else, even above father, mother, brother, sister, and you have to love God more than anything else. Yes, and your own life also! *True!* Then He gave another analogy with that and said, 'What if a man builds a house and doesn't sit down and count the cost whether he has sufficient to finish it or not? If he doesn't, all that behold him will mock him because he couldn't finish his house. That's Jesus talking about:

- repentance
- baptism
- counting the cost
- growing in grace and knowledge
- overcoming human nature
- overcoming Satan the devil

All of those are compacted into that one statement. Here's how Paul looked at it. Paul and Apollos worked together and Paul said, 'Don't count us as anything, we're just doing the work of God.'

1-Corinthians 3:9: "For we are God's fellow workers; *and* you are God's husbandry, *even* God's building." We will see that God is building something in us.

Verse 10: "As a wise architect, according to the grace of God that was given to me, I have laid *the* foundation... [we just talked about a foundation for a new house] ...and another is building upon *it*..."

Apollos teaches and that helps build. What is it that all ministers are to do with the brethren? through God's Spirit? through God's Word? *To perfect the building!*

Notice that we have our part in it, "...But let each one take heed how he builds upon *it*. For no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (vs 10-11).

That little statement that the Protestants have is the foundation. Granted, repentance has to be a whole lot more than they say, but we will say that it was sincere. Then they tell them that it's finished

and all done. They don't read this!

Just like if that house with just the foundation, what if you were so excited about it, that you signed a contract to buy it and you didn't read all the fine print: that it has yet to be built, and if you sign this contract they're **not** going to build it. You see the foundation and ask, 'Where's the house?' *Read the contract! We don't have to build it! 'Give me my money back.' No! You agreed to it!*

***A fraud! That is the mystery of Protestantism!***

Verse 12: "Now, if anyone builds upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble." An analogy of the kind of works that we are to have: gold is the best, silver is next and precious stone. Wood, hay and stubble is going to be burned up!

The work of each one; work is another fraud of Protestantism: *you're saved by faith only through grace; no works!*

- Have they never read Rev. 2 & 3 where **Jesus says** to all the churches, ***'I know your works'***?
- Have they never read what James wrote? ***'Faith without works is dead!'***

*Works perfect—or complete—faith!* That's how it works.

Verse 13: "...and the fire shall prove what kind of work each one's is." Fire is *the trials that we go through*. We also have other trials.

If you build it on the Rock, which is the foundation of Christ, you build your house on a Rock (Matt. 7). You complete it. The wind blows, the rain comes, the waters flood and the house stands, because it's on the Rock of Christ.

But in Florida, I wonder if the highest point is 50-feet above sea level, I don't know. They build them right on the sand. There it is and you take no precautions. A hurricane comes and the wind and rain, and the water beats against the house and it falls.

What does that also tell you? ***A fake conversion!*** Not once saved always saved and you build it wherever it's most convenient.

In the book of Hebrews there's another one that's very interesting. This also will do away with **another false doctrine of the Protestants: once saved you cannot sin!** It doesn't matter what you do, you cannot sin. They even say that you have to do good things, but you don't have to have a code of law written down, which means that *if you think it's good*, it's good. That part where they say that you cannot sin is one of the worst translations in the New

Testament (1-John 3).

Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight... [that's a problem] ...and the sin..."

I thought they couldn't sin. Well, if you've gone over the one we did Rom. 7—*Overview of Romans 1-6 & Meanings of "Law" in Romans 7-8*—the law of sin and death within us, and the sins we fight now are within. You have ceased doing the sins out here that are sins by actions—maybe not entirely—but the sin:

***"...that so easily entraps us..."*** [Who wrote this? *Paul!*] ...and let us run the race set before us with endurance" (v 1).

What happens is that if you say this nice little prayer and now you're saved—once saved always saved—it's like running a race; you get down and get on your mark, get set and go. BAM! You take one step and BOOM! There's a wall right in front of you, and everybody else is running down the track. You ask the one who shot the pistol off for you to go, 'What happened?' *Don't worry, you finished the race!*

You have to be alert to Protestantism because it's so emotional. They talk so much about the love of God to us. If you watch the Trinity Broadcast Network or any of them—even Charles Stanley, he's one of the best—you're going to see that they talk about Christian living and how much God loves *them*, ***but they rarely talk about how you love God back!*** For years I never watched them. But if I'm going to talk about the mystery of Protestantism I better find out what they're doing. Even Patton said, 'Rommel, I read your book.'

***"...race set before us with endurance... [we have to be faithful to the end] ...having our minds fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of our faith..."*** (vs 1-2).

The beginning of your faith is all that Protestantism brings to people. ***You have to have Christ to finish it!***

***"...Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured the cross, although He despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself so that you do not become weary..."*** (vs 2-3).

- of doing well
- in overcoming
- in fighting human nature
- in circumstances around you

***"...and faint in your minds"*** (v 3). Why did Jesus say that 'few will be saved'?

Verse 4: “You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin.”

(go to the next track)

Let’s see something else that’s very important as it relates to *being perfect* or *being perfected*.

Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect.” Same root ‘tel.’

Talking about Christ; Hebrews 5:7: “Who, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was able to **save Him from death...**”

Even Jesus didn’t have it easy; He had it very hard and difficult. This tells us that if Christ were not perfect in what He did, living in the flesh He would have died for His own sins. I’m going to watch TBN and see if any of those ministers read these verses.

“...and was heard because *He* feared *God*. Although He was a Son, *yet, He learned obedience...*” (v 8). Isn’t that interesting? ***Protestants say that you don’t have to obey the Law!***

“...from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected...” (vs 8-9). Stop and think about that! Is God perfect? *Yes! God is perfect!* Christ was God in the flesh, manifested in the flesh. What did He have to do to become a human being?

Verse 9: “And having been perfected...” What did we read in John 17? ***We are to be perfected in Christ and the Father!***

“...He became *the* Author of eternal salvation to all those who **obey** Him” (v 9). That’s a nasty word that I don’t think the Protestants like to read.

The book of Ephesians is that goal for us what we are to be perfected to come to. Eph. 2 is very important, because it starts where almost all Protestant sermons begin. That is that you are dealing with people who are new, who have not been converted, even according to their own.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...” (vs 1-2). Satan the devil is deceiving the whole world. You can bring a lot of verses about Satan in here.

“...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience” (v 2). I think we underestimate the power and persuasion of Satan the devil. He gets you to sin by believing that you are

doing good, and that you’re going to get a benefit from doing it and he approves it. Does that sound like Gen. 3, that ‘you will be like God to decide good and evil for yourself? Aren’t you intelligent? Look at you, your wife is so beautiful and you’re so strong and handsome. Just think of what you can do.’

Think about the things in the world and how many things that people start to do that sounds good, looks good and they’re persuaded to it, *but it ends in disaster!* We’ve all done it!

I was shown some things that the rich people spend money on. Example: I didn’t realize that in Orlando, Florida, where they have the big Walt Disney World and just down the street from that they have Universal Studios.

- Isn’t entertainment a good thing?
- Isn’t it nice to be entertained?
- Isn’t it nice to laugh?
- You wouldn’t want to be a ‘worry wart’ all your life!
- You never want to be a scrooge!
- Cartoons are fun!

Remember how Walt Disney started out: Mickey Mouse; that’s funny. Then what is the process that Satan has used from that time to this? *Incrementalism! A little leaven leaves the whole lump!* Now Universal Studios has a Harry Potter center. They are even considering certain parts of the Harry Potter books for ‘scripture.’

- See where it starts?
- *Look where it ends!*

It all looks so good! I remember the humor, fun, children, comedy against robbers; sometimes against cops. Remember the movie *Puff the Magic Dragon*?

- good way to break kids in on drugs
- good way to break them in on following Satan

Puff did good things; he helped children. They even rode him around and he got rid of the ‘bad guys.’ That’s all part of Satan. We need to realize that he presents things and brings things that may be even beneficial and good *as a start!* Look what it is now, both Universal Studios and Walt Disney are all wrapped up in satanism and wars in outer space.

I remember when we first went to see Star Wars. Took the whole family to see it. We’re going home in the car and everybody’s all hyped up about Star Wars and everything. I sat there and said, ‘That’s nothing but a bunch of satanism.’ *Awe, Dad!* Well, isn’t it? *Yes!* Even Darth Vader gets saved! Sound like a false doctrine you’ve heard?

“...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience; among whom also we all

once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of the world” (vs 2-3).

Because everything that appears good is *not good*, it leads you into sin. If you don’t believe that, watch two programs: *I Almost God Away with It* and *Forensic Files*. Analyze the things that bring this about:

- lying
- cheating
- stealing
- adultery
- idolatry

None of them are keeping the first four commandments:

- have the true God
- have no idols
- don’t take God’s name in vain
- remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy

Probably most of them broke the fifth commandment: dishonoring father and mother. Now we have a criminal society that you have to have a policeman on every corner to tell people what to do, because you never educate them enough to think right and wrong, good and evil, and to know and understand what to do.

Big corporations today are having to take the people who just graduated from college and bring them in and give them basic classes on *how to think!* This is the world, no wonder we have Protestantism like it is; no work involved.

Verse 4: “But God, Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in *our* trespasses...” (vs 4-5). When did you first cry out to God? *When you were deep in sin!*

“...has made *us* alive together with Christ. (For you have been saved by grace.)” (v 5). The Protestants don’t even understand *grace*. Grace is the whole relationship between you and God.

God has *given you permission* to pray directly to Him. God has *given you His Holy Spirit* by grace. God has a great and fantastic plan for everyone whom He is calling so that we likewise can be perfected, as Jesus said, and enter into the Kingdom of God and live as sons and daughters of God *forever!*

Solomon said, ‘Even if you live a thousand years twice told, you have everything you want and then you die, compared to eternity what’s that?’ *Vanity! You’ve accomplished nothing!* So, grace and the forgiveness is the start, and then the grace

grows—we’re to grow in grace and knowledge—and you develop a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. You change, grow and overcome (Heb. 12).

Verse 6: “And He has raised *us* up together...” He hadn’t yet done this, but this is what is called *prophetic perfect*. ***IF*** we are faithful, love God and overcome then this will happen.

“...and has caused *us* to sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that **in the ages that *are coming***... [that’s when that will take place; we go over that during the Feast of Tabernacles] ...He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ***For by grace you have been saved through faith***...” (vs 6-8). That one they quote!

“...and this *especially* is not of your own selves; *it is* the gift of God, **not of works**...” (vs 8-9). They quote that a lot; ‘if you try to keep the commandments, you’re trying to earn your own salvation.’ *No you’re not! You’re keeping commandments so you won’t sin!*

Nothing, *nothing*, ***nothing*** can bring you justification and bring you eternal life except through the grace of God. But we have to keep the commandments of God *through grace* ***spiritually speaking!***

“...so that no one may boast.... [remember Job, the most righteous man, physically, on the earth—Daniel, Job and Noah] ...**For we are His workmanship, being created in Christ Jesus** unto the good works...” (vs 9-10)—that we are to do:

- love
- faith
- peace
- hope
- commandment-keeping
- Sabbath-keeping

All of those are good works. Are they evil works? *No!* Why then do the Protestants hate it?

Verse 10: “For we are His workmanship... [Who’s workmanship? *God’s!*] ...being created in Christ Jesus unto the good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them.”

Works are necessary, and these are *all the good works of God!* It’s not something that you can do yourself; it must be with God’s Spirit *in you*. Otherwise it isn’t *good*.

Eph. 4:11 is always read to bring authority over the brethren and smash them down, but it doesn’t mean that. We are to teach and teach. That’s what Jesus is called: *Teacher*—*didaskalos*.’

Ephesians 4:12: “For the perfecting of the

saints...” If it’s done immediately when you accept Jesus, what perfection is there yet to do?

If it’s finished, *it’s finished!* But that is not the finished work of God. He had many things to do to finish. What He’s doing now is working with us to develop the character of God, the love of God and the things that we have in our lives to change, to grow, to overcome. That’s a lifelong battle! That’s why, even though we’re still converted, we have *the law of sin and death within us*, but we have been delivered from it to the extent that:

- with God’s Spirit we can overcome it
- with God’s Spirit we can put it aside
- with prayer and yielding to God and building the character of God within us we are being perfected

***The workmanship of God!*** If God’s Spirit is working in your mind—leading, guiding, molding and helping you—and you have to make the choices, Whose work is that? *That’s the workmanship of God!*

“...for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ; until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect**... [‘telio’] ...man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we no longer be children... [we are to grow up and be mature Christians] ...tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness, with a view to the systematizing of the error” (vs 12-14).

That’s interesting! They were already working on a false Christianity during the time of the apostles. As a matter of fact, that majority of it came out of Alexandria, Egypt.

Note sermon series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*. You need to get it and read the book *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldman. There were renegade Jewish priests who were exiled by the Maccabees out of the Holy Land to Egypt, and the king of Egypt gave one of the renegade priests a temple in Leontopolis. There he had a religious service that had incense and wine and bread.

You watch a High Mass that the Catholics do and that’s where that came from. They were already trying to do these things.

Verse 15: but holding the Truth in love, may in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, *even Christ*.” We’re to become spiritually mature. Then Paul tells you how to do it.

Let’s see what Jesus had to do to become human. We have that in the book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* In that book we send out a CD with the reading of the whole book, and also all of the sermons from

**churchathome.org** on DVD all at no cost. That’s what tithes and offerings are to be used for; to serve the brethren and to preach the Gospel.

Here’s what Christ had to do, so don’t get yourself into a little pity-party about how hard it is on you and what you have to give up. What did Jesus have to give up:

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus; Who, although He existed in *the* form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God” (vs 5-6). We know through the things that ***He was and is God***.

Verse 7: “But emptied Himself...” That means everything that He was as God, His glory and power, and become a pinpoint of life and be impregnated into the womb of the virgin Mary, and be born as a baby. He also received human nature from His mother. There was no immaculate conception of Mary. That would have been before Christ. That doctrine was so controversial that it took 1800 years for the Catholics to declare that it was a doctrine of the Catholic Church. Nothing like settling the issue right away.

“...and was made in *the* likeness of men, and took the form of a **servant**” (v 7)—‘doulous’ meaning *slave*.

So, all of those people out there who say that we’re descendants of slaves and you owe us this, that and the other, you don’t know your history; all people have been slaves. Even here in America there were black slave-masters who had white slaves! Never heard that before, either—have you? There are slaves right now in Muslim lands. There are slaves right now, though they may be paid, working in China in factories. There are slaves in North Korea.

Here in America, all of our slaves are mostly mechanical. Your car is your slave; you go where you want to go. If you didn’t have that, a hundred years ago you would have a horse. If you didn’t like a horse, and you were smart, you got a horse and carriage. If you were rich you could box it in so you wouldn’t have to have the flies, manure and dust get on you when you went to travel. You talk about being spoiled today! Think about it! Think what Christ gave up:

- the throne of God
- the glory of God
- the power of God
- pure love
- no sin

And He took within Him *the law of sin and death* and never sin. That’s how He was perfected. Rom. 8 is what we need for encouragement as far as our

overcoming sin is concerned.

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit.” That means being led by the Spirit of God, thinking on the Word of God—using that as a way that you think to run your life.

Verse 2: “Because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death.” The Spirit of God within you gives you the power to overcome sin. You can’t do it in the world.

Alcoholics quite drinking, but they go to AA and they load up on candy. They’re alcoholics to candy. You need the Spirit of God to do it.

Verse 3: “For what *was* impossible for the Law... [God’s Law] ...to do...”

As we’re seeing today is that the law (any law) can’t make you do anything. You must see the law and agree to obey it. If you don’t believe me, the next time there’s a policeman on the corner and there’s a stop sign on the corner and he’s sitting on his motorcycle waiting, you just drive right through the stop sign. He pulls you over and says, ‘Didn’t you see the stop sign?’ *Yeah, I saw the sign!* ‘Why didn’t you stop?’ *I was waiting for the sign to make me stop!*

Likewise, you know about the Sabbath, why don’t you keep it? *I was waiting for God to make me keep the Sabbath!* You have to choose. We are delivered from it by using the power of God.

Verse 3: “For what *was* impossible for the Law to do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in *the* likeness... [the sameness: ‘homoiomati’] ...of sinful flesh...”

If it was impossible for Jesus sin, how could He be made in the likeness of sinful flesh? That’s another contradiction with Protestantism.

“...and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (v 3). Whose flesh was sin condemned in? *Christ’s!* that’s why when we read Heb. 5 *He was perfected!* Perfected in the flesh because He could have sinned had He chosen to sin, because He had *the law of sin and death* within Him. It wasn’t like as you see a 90% naked man on a cross with nails driven through his hands and feet and little bit of blood dripping out of his side. That’s another one of the Protestant and Catholic sins.

Col. 3 talks about overcoming sin. The whole chapter is talking about the workmanship of God, and these are the good works that we are to follow. Isn’t it a good work to overcome sin and using the Spirit of God to do so? *Ayes, indeed!* Then it shows all the things that we need to get rid of:

- lying
- cheating
- stealing
- malice

Colossians 3:12: “Put on then, as *the* elect of God, Holy and beloved, deep inner affections, kindness, humility, meekness *and* long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another... [those are good works] ...if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so also you *should forgive*. And **above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection**” (vs 12-14).

That’s what God wants to do. He is working with us so that we become a perfect product. Coming from sinful human nature to becoming the sons and daughters of God is a marvelous and fantastic thing.

The Protestants are deluded into thinking that if you just have this simple formula, everything is done. *NO! You have just begun!* Not done, but begun; it’s different! ***That tells you that their finished product is only the first step!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 41:8-14
- 2) Psalm 10:14
- 3) Psalm 12:1
- 4) Psalm 30:10-12
- 5) Psalm 56:1-13
- 6) John 19:30, 28
- 7) John 17:1-4
- 8) John 4:32-34
- 9) John 17:21-23
- 10) 1 Corinthians 3:9-13
- 11) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 12) Matthew 5:48
- 13) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 14) Ephesians 2:1-10
- 15) Ephesians 4:12-15
- 16) Philippians 2:5-7
- 17) Romans 8:1-3
- 18) Colossians 3:12-14

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 19
- John 4:35
- Luke 14
- Revelation 2; 3
- Matthew 7
- 1 John 3
- Romans 7
- Genesis 3

- Ephesians 4:11

Also referenced:

Sermon Series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*

Sermons:

- *Overview of Romans 1-6*
- *Meanings of “Law” in Romans 7-8*

Books:

- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldman
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC: bo

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