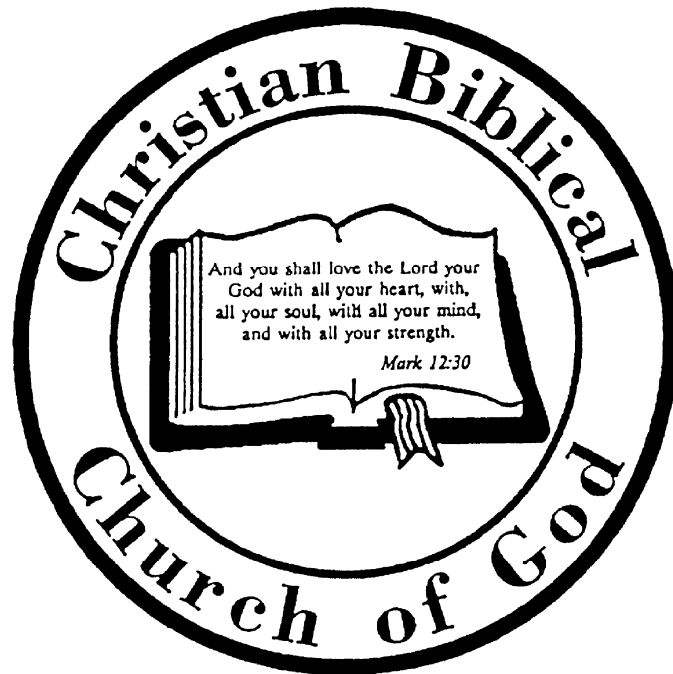


Word of God vs. Traditions of Men



Transcript Book

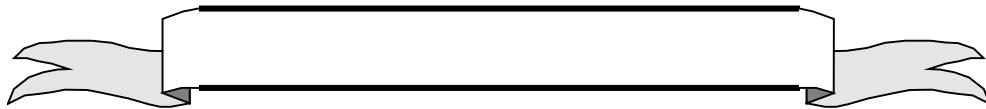
By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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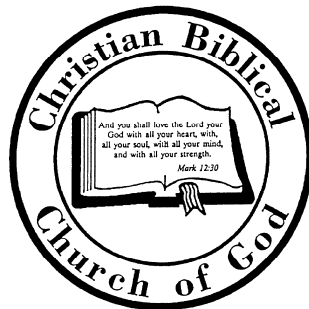
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Word of God *vs.* Traditions of Men

Series of 3 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

☐ Word of God vs. Traditions of Men I Date completed _____

☐ Word of God vs. Traditions of Men II Date completed _____

☐ Word of God vs. Traditions of Men III Date completed _____

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Word of God vs. Traditions of Men

Foreword

This book is a collection of sermon transcripts of sermons given by Mr. Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over 50 years, which are a study of what men say about God and what the Bible says about God. The reader of this book, upon doing a thorough study, can come to an understanding as to how great the errors are in the traditions of men in how God is viewed by these traditions.

The first transcript, “Word of God vs Traditions of Men I,” informs the reader about when and to whom God gave His law. It reviews the seven Churches of God in Revelation and mentions the sins of those Churches that were rebuked by God. Additionally, the sins of the Catholic and the Protestants are noted. Other important points given are:

- The Law of God was given to everybody before the flood.
- After the flood, the law of God was given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Israel.
- When Israel was a nation no other nation on earth had anything to do with the commandments and things of God unless they encountered Israel.
- The Bible, which is throughout the earth today, teaches the Law of God.

The second transcript, “Word of God vs Traditions of Men II,” gives much needed information regarding Messianic Jews and what they are trying to do and the importance of the 14th Passover. An examination of the code of Jewish Law is part of the transcript. Other important points given are:

- The religious authority of men is null and void if it is not in accordance with what Jesus said.
- The Jews know that the Passover of the Old Testament cannot be kept outside of the geographical territory of Israel. So, the Jews have created a counterfeit for the Passover by doing a Seder meal on the Night Much to Be Observed.
- Satan works at changing things by doing small changes incrementally over periods of time.
- The five foolish virgins, which Christ does not receive, are people that coasted along in life, they do not have the Holy Spirit of God, do not have real knowledge of God, and they do not love other brethren.
- All the false prophets that are written about in the New Testament are Jewish.

The third transcript, “Word of God vs Traditions of Men III,” focuses upon the difference between the laws of God and the works of men. Extensive coverage is given to the Jews and their works of law. Other important points given are:

- The only sacred names in the New Testament are the names Jesus Christ the Son of God and God the Father.
- False prophets work to replace the commandments of God with the commandments of men.

- Kabbalists are those who, as those of like mind in other religions, delve into demonism.

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

Word of God vs Traditions of Men I

Man rejects the commandments of God so they can observe their own traditions

Fred R. Coulter—December 3, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. Today we're going to talk about religion secondarily, and primarily Judaism.

When a lot of people first start coming to understand that Sunday isn't right, Christmas isn't right, they start going to Messianic Jews, especially if they're a Protestant. Let's see something that is no longer applicable in the way that Paul wrote it.

The only ones to whom God gave His Law and words and commandments were to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the children of Israel after the Flood. He gave it to everybody before, right at the creation of Adam and Eve. So, they all had it.

With the rebellion after the Flood, we find in Gen. 11 that God scattered all the nations across the face of the earth. They took with them all of their pagan religion, different names but the same three gods and same practices. Then God called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and it's said of Abraham that Isaac got the promises that were given to Abraham because *'Abraham obeyed My voice, kept My charge, kept My statutes and My commandments.'*

Then it comes down to the children of Israel, coming out of Egypt, and God gives the Ten Commandments, plus the judgments and statutes that we find in the Old Testament. No other nation on earth had anything to do with the commandments and things of God unless they came in contact with Israel. Of course they didn't have the means of travel like we have today, so that would be an entirely different situation.

Today you can get on a plane and there you go. You can actually get on a plane, like I did in Australia on a Tuesday at 5 o'clock, and land in Los Angeles on Tuesday at 2 o'clock. So, I got here before I left. They didn't have that kind of thing back then. The only way that Gentiles could come into the community of the children of Israel was circumcision and keeping the Law. Later, because of sins, the ten tribes of Israel were sent into captivity. Over a hundred years later then the Jews were sent into captivity to Babylon.

When they came back, there was a great revival through Ezra the priest. That's when they canonized the Old Testament and put it in the block form of the Hebrew that we have today. All of these scrolls went out to all the synagogues in the Persian Empire, which also included Babylon because they conquered it.

The synagogues had their services and they would read from the Law, they would read from the

Prophets, they would read from the Writings, and then they would have a little homily for today and some special music and things like this.

Basically the church services that people have today, even Protestant and the Church of God, go clear back to that time when the Law was sent out to all of the synagogues in the empire.

The Jews were the only ones that had the Law of God. You couldn't go to any of these other nations and say, 'How do I find God?' They would show you Baal, or they would show you Ashtoreth, or they would show you Tammuz, or all of these other pagan gods.

The Jews, having in writing the Old Testament, had an advantage over all the other heathen nations. They also had the advantage that when they were doing well, and not being punished by God, they received the blessings of God. Plus they had the advantage that the Messiah came through the house of David and Judah and that was Christ.

Go to Chronology V in *The Original Bible in Its Original Order*. The book of Romans was not written until the late 50s at the earliest. You read in the first part, Rom. 1, that Paul said he wanted to come and establish them because they hadn't heard the Gospel.

What does that automatically eliminate, just that one phrase itself? If Peter had been there in 42_{A.D.} they would have known all about it. At the end of the book of the Acts when he called the Jewish leaders from Rome, when he was in prison in Rome, they said, 'We've heard of this, but we know nothing about it.' Either those statements are true, and the Catholics are liars, *Peter was never in Rome!* As a matter of fact, if you want a detailed study on that, go to churchathome.org and we have 21 half-hour segments on *Was Peter Ever in Rome?*

If they hadn't heard the Gospel, and Peter was supposed to be there, then Peter utterly failed.

- Where did he go?
- What did he do?

You find the first epistle that Peter wrote, he says, 'Greetings from Babylon.' He was in Babylon.

Sidebar: Scholars say that was a euphemism for Rome. If that was a euphemism for Rome, what does that tell you? *Rome was practicing the Babylonian mysteries. No!* Peter was the apostle to the circumcision and the Jews were in Babylon and

that's where they went. We find no record of mass circumcision in Italy because he went there.

Romans 3:1: "What then *is* the advantage of the Jew... [that is over the Gentiles, at the time he was writing in about 58_{A.D.}] ...or what *is* the profit of circumcision?" You can go back to Rom. 2 and read it that circumcision in the flesh didn't mean anything now after the coming of Christ because it was the circumcision of the heart.

Sidebar: When God makes a law, who can change it? *Only God!* When He changes it, what does He do? He raises it from the level of the physical letter of law fulfillment to the spiritual level. Only God can modify His laws and when He does He raises it to a higher level.

Instead of circumcision, it is baptism. Baptism is greater than circumcision, because that happens on the 8th day of the infant boy's life and he doesn't know a thing about it and it has no meaning to him. But baptism is greater because that is your symbolic death, a higher requirement.

Verse 2: "Much in every way. Primarily, in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God." That was true at that time. ***It is no longer true today!*** The Jews have no advantage at all until God starts dealing directly with them. In my experience, in my life as a minister, and going through all of these things, only know of one Jew who does not rely on any traditions of the Jews and that is Michael Heiss. Then he goes through and shows what if some didn't believe.

Be sure and read: *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal Why is that a question on the title? *Because they claim that Moses, after giving the written Law, gave to the elders an oral law that was passed down to every generation!*

I want you to think about something. Go through all of the Book of the Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Everything there that Moses wrote is, 'And God spoke to Moses saying, speak to the children of Israel and say to them...' Is not something written more valid and important than something oral? *Yes, indeed!* So, there is no advantage there.

In the back of the book on Judaism we have an appendix going through a good number of the traditions of the Jews (from *Code of Jewish Law*). God inspired those who wrote the Bible to write His words. Yes, He did use them and they used their own vocabulary and things like that. ***God did not inspire the traditions of the Jews!***

What can you think of that would exclude Moses, even the smallest possibility of giving them an oral tradition that supersedes the words of God?

What do you think would do it? There are two examples:

First one has to do with Aaron. They already received the commandment for the Sabbath. Then Moses went up on the mountain and he was with God for 40-days and 40-nights. The children of Israel said, 'We don't know what happened to him. Maybe he fell into the volcanic lava up on top of the mountain and he's no longer here. Aaron, make us gods.' What did God say second commandment? *'You shall not make...'*

Remember Aaron's excuse? He said, 'Moses, I threw the gold in the fire and out leapt this calf.' What did he do? After it was built, he gathered them all around and said, 'This is a feast to the Lord,' when God had already given the Feasts that He wanted to Moses *written down*.

What happened when Moses came down? He was so angry he broke the two tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. What did Moses say? 'All of those who are on God's side get over here.' The earth opened up and killed all the rest of them.

What does God think then of the commandments of men? Here you have Aaron, chosen for high priest. He only continued to do that because God had mercy on him and because Moses intervened for him. God was ready to destroy Aaron as well and all the children of Israel. We're only here because Moses pleaded with God, 'Don't destroy them.' God said, 'Moses, these people have done so evil. I'll kill them all and I'll raise up my plan through you.' Moses said, 'Lord, don't. Think of what all the heathen are going to say; that You brought them out into the wilderness to kill them.' God said, 'All right, I'll be merciful.' God will be merciful if we ask Him, but no one can tell God what to do.

What is the second example? There are some others, but what is the second example involving Moses directly? There were two times that God commanded that water would come out of the rock. How God did that, we don't know. That would be nice to have during the drought. You'd have people lined up with containers around the block.

The first time God said to *strike* the rock and it would bring forth water. The second time God said to *speak* to the rock. The people were so agitated against them, 'Who is going to bring us water? What are we going to drink?' Moses got mad and struck and rock and beat it. God sent the water, but how did God view that?

God said, 'Moses, I'm going to take you up on this mountain and you will see the *promised land*, but because you didn't believe Me when I said to

Speak to the rock, and you struck it, you're not going into the *promised land*.'

I bring all of these up for this reason: Does any man, anywhere, at any time, have the ability to write religious laws and replace the Word of God?

What does it say in Isa. 8? *If anyone comes and says, 'Let us worship other gods, get in contact with the dead,' he said, 'Don't believe them! If they speak not according to this word—the Word of God—there is no light in them.'*

Let's look at a couple of Scriptures now in light of that. Today, especially in the end-time, the Jews have absolutely no advantage. God has spread His Word, caused it to be distributed in the world—Old Testament, New Testament—all of that. So, the advantage is not with the Jews, the advantage is with the Churches of God who are faithful.

The comment was made you look down through history and there was no advantage to be a Jew. Look at how they were treated and who said they would be treated that way for rejecting God? Think about it; that tells you a lot about the Word of God.

Isa. 9—here's the state of the world with religion today and in some degrees parts of the Churches of God. If you read Rev. 2 & 3 you have seven churches. When you read it carefully five were not faithful, two were: Smyrna and Philadelphia. Everyone wants to claim they're Philadelphia. I haven't heard anyone claim they're Smyrna because you'd be martyred. There are a lot of those from Ephesians because they have left off their love of God. You have Pergamos, they're ruled by man. If you don't have our new booklet, *Is the Ministry God's Government?* You write for it.

If you were in the Church of God where the ministers ruled with a rod of iron, that's not from God. That's a sin within that organization.

Then you have Thyatira, that was so bad. Sardis was so weak. He said, 'Strengthen the things that remain. I know you're almost dead, but you strengthen the things that remain and I won't blot your name out of the Book of Life.' That's quite a statement when you think about that. Then you have the Philadelphians; then Laodiceans. We covered that recently.

Isaiah 29:9: "Be stunned and amazed! Blind your eyes and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not *with* strong drink." All nations are drunk with the wine of her fornication and all of the merchants have become rich with the abundance of her delicacies (Rev. 17 & 18).

Sidebar: Why did we just have Black Friday? Because the sun didn't shine? *No!* That's for many companies the first day of the year they show

a good profit, because of all of the Christmas sales and goodies. Who makes the money off all of those things? The merchants of the world (Rev. 18).

What happens when you leave God? Verse 10: "For the LORD has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes; He has covered the prophets and your rulers, *and* the seers." *They don't know!*

I talked to a man recently who has received some of our material and he was astonished we didn't believe in the trinity. He just left the Presbyterian Church after they ordained a homosexual minister. He needs to understand he's been blinded for all the years he's been there and he's well past the 70s. I don't know exactly how old he is. He was so staunch on the trinity. I told him we'd send him some material.

Sidebar on the trinity: I'm going to do a complete—set up an extra camera over here, so I can point out all the things that we need to understand concerning the basic Greek.

Within those seven churches, tie in Matt. 13, you have tares, you have those who get all excited and they want to do things, but they quit right away. So, you have all of that going on. Then within the churches, and in every one of them what does Jesus say? *Repent!* That's why repentance is important, every day.

Verse 11: "And the vision of all has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed..." Isn't that what they say? 'Oh, we can't understand it.' If you try and read it, you have to have a priest if you're a Catholic. Protestants just throw it all away. I need to bring my evangelical Bible—two verses:

1. believe and you pass from death to life
2. hallelujah you're saved

Those are false!

Anyone that's really serious, when they see all of this stuff going on, and especially in the Catholic church, men running around in women's clothes and robes and things like this, and doing all of these silly rituals. Anybody in their right mind would look at that and say, 'How can they do that?'

It's sealed. "...which they give to one who is learned... [the educated, they know, but do they really know? *No, they don't really know*] ...saying, 'Please read this,' and he says, 'I cannot, for it is sealed.' [now let me tell you about *our* traditions] ...And the book is delivered to him who is not learned, saying, 'Please read this,' and he says, 'I am not learned.' And the LORD said, 'Because this people draw near *Me* with their mouth, and with their lips honor Me, but **their worship of Me is**

made up of the traditions of men learned by rote...” (vs 11-13).

You find a lot of them here, traditions. Catholics—traditions. Isn’t it interesting, the Protestants want to do away with the Law, *which God says is perfect!* Think on that!

“...and their fear toward me is *taught* by the commandments of men; therefore, behold, I will proceed to do again a marvelous work among this people, *even* a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise ones shall perish, and the wisdom of their intelligent ones shall vanish.’ Woe to those who go deep to hide *their* purpose from the LORD! And their works are in the dark, and they say, ‘Who sees us? And who knows us?’ Surely, you have turned things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the potter’s clay; for shall the work say of him who made it, ‘He did not make me?’ Or shall the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘He had no understanding?’” (vs 13-16).

Do you really want to teach God? We’ll look at what happened in the book of Job. Do you really want to teach God? If you do, if you want to put your traditions ahead of the Word of God, if you want to put your Sunday-keeping ahead of the Word of God, which is perfect... The Word of God is perfect and *Sunday is a teaching of men*. They do it every Sunday. That’s amazing!

Is that a law of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church? If they go to church on Sunday, especially in the phrase of the Greek, ‘works of law,’ is that not a work of human law and tradition? So, think on that! That’s something!

You want to put your traditions before God, Isaiah 40:12: “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand... [do a little study on oceans, lakes and rivers] ...and meted out the heavens with a span?....”

Just last night I was watching the National Geographic Channel. They were showing all of these great things that they have discovered in the heavens. After they put the new set of glasses on the Hubble Telescope they saw incredible things.

When we sing the hymn *The Almighty God*, you see those three pillars go up. Those pillars are called the pillars of creation. Out of it buds a little new star that’s bigger than our galaxy. This is so tall and there are three of them.

I’m sitting there watching this and I thought, that is fantastic that God has given this witness to us as human beings to show His great power. Look at what He’s done and what He’s made. Then look at the things that we have done and made. No comparison!

“...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?” (vs 12-13).

Like this: ‘Lord, we know those Jews have been so nasty. We know that You have cursed them and You gave them the Sabbath to curse them. So, what we are doing, we are going to modify Your Sabbath Law and we’re going to keep Sunday. What do you think of that?’ If He reacted right away, they wouldn’t be here. But God gives free moral agency.

‘Oh, and by the way, we don’t like that Passover and Your Holy Days. We’re going to have Christmas and Easter, Halloween. All of those good things.’

Verse 14: “With whom did He take counsel... [Where is it ever recorded that God asked the man, ‘What do you think?’] ...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?” ***The heavens declare the glory of God!***

Verse 15: “Behold, the nations *are* like a drop in a bucket...” What did Satan offer Jesus? Because of the sins of mankind, all the nations have been given unto the control of Satan the devil, with the exception of those whom God calls. Satan said, ‘You bow down and worship me, and I’ll give you all this authority.’ What was he really in reality giving Christ? *Nothing!* God does not view things the way men do.

“...and are counted as the small dust of the scales; behold, He takes up the isles as a very little thing”(v 15).

Verse 17: “**All nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted by Him as less than nothing, and vanity.**” What was it that Solomon wrote about human life and human experience? ‘*Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!*’

God lives forever. Can something vain instruct Him? *No way!* God is merciful and kind and in His plan He’s going to work it all out. Because people take His name into what they do, notice how He views it:

Isaiah 43:24: “...but you have made Me serve with your sins; you have wearied Me with your iniquities.”

Every time a Protestant minister stands up there and says of Sunday: this is the day that the Lord has made. He didn’t do it. He made all days and He said Sabbath Day.

I want to show you something really important. We’ve covered part of this before: In

seven days God renewed the surface of the earth (Gen. 1 & 2). I've given a sermon recently on the appointed times (Gen. 1:14).

After God made man, what was the first thing He did? Had a Sabbath meeting with His creation. How important is the Sabbath? *Remember, the Law of God is perfect!* Right in the beginning. What happened when they sinned and decided for themselves they knew better than God? Then you have the promise of a Savior (Gen. 3:14-15).

Stop and think for just a minute. What are the two most important things for people in coming to God? that they need to do? that they need to change?

1. Sabbath
2. Passover, the Messiah

Right from the beginning! Isn't that amazing? That's why when you go to the Church at Sardis, it said 'you have a name that you lived, but your works are not complete; strengthen what remains and I won't blot your name out of the Book of Life.'

Most of those Churches of God keep the Sabbath and the Passover. Those two. Those who keep the Holy Days, according to the Word of God with the Scriptures, then God opens the door to understanding of what His plan is.

Everything that God has done that's complicated, comes down to a simple premise. Then it's stated out in the Ten Commandments.

(go to the next track)

Before we get into Job, this becomes a real key as we go through and understand the other things. If you have a first edition of the *Faithful Version Bible*, you do not have Appendix Z. Appendix Z is very important for you to have. So if you have the first edition of the Bible, you write me, we'll send you a replacement that has Appendix Z.

In the first edition of the *Faithful Version Bible*, Chronology V it's on page 1372. In the second edition it's on page 1480. What that chronology does, that takes you through a summary through the Scriptures and chapters of the New Testament showing the flow of how things were and what happened and when the various books were written.

This is why when people say, 'Why don't you put all the commentaries and appendices in a different volume?' *Because you need it with the Bible!* You don't have to go get another book. What happens if you just get used to the Bible and never study the appendices or whatever, then you miss the important things that are necessary to understand the basic problems with Protestantism, Catholicism and Judaism. They are all there.

- Appendix A is the *Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*
- Appendix E: When was Jesus Christ Born?
- Appendix J: Jesus' Three Days and Three Nights of Entombment and His Resurrection

One other thing I want to mention here, it's like this gentlemen that I was talking to concerning the trinity. He says, 'Three in one; the trinity is God; the Holy Spirit is God.' I said, 'Here's a simple question: can you show me from the New Testament where it says God the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit, which is God?' Then I left him two little clues:

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Holy Spirit was the third one. *NO, doesn't say it!*

Then I said to please read the introduction of all the epistles of Paul, Peter, John and Jude. I'm sure it does in James, too, but James was the first of the General Epistles written.

'And tell me why Paul affronted the Holy Spirit as God, because he said, 'Grace and peace be to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,' in every opening. That's the most important part of every epistle. It has God's blessing at the top of it, but it never says: 'And from the Holy Spirit.' So, I just left him with that. He was very new and didn't want to talk about it, so I just left him with a few clues.

Here is a big clue, Job 40. You start out at the beginning of Job, we'll summarize it, Job was blameless. He kept the commandments of God in the letter of the Law, maybe even some of them in the spirit of the Law. The trial came upon Job and Satan didn't really understand the heart of Job, but God let Satan go ahead and do to him what he did to him as we find in the first couple chapters of Job.

Later Job said, 'I wish there were an umpire—the *King James Version* says betwixtmen—between me and God that we could debate, it was actually go to court, and God would have to admit that my righteousness was right.' But Job failed to remember something that Jesus says in the New Testament. The apostles came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, increase our faith.'

So, He said, 'When you have done everything that you have been commanded—and remember Job did everything that God commanded him—you shall say you're unprofitable servants,' because you can do what is commanded and really not love God. You can believe God to a certain point, but not really believe Him the way He wants.

All of the righteousness of Job could never replace the righteousness of God. Even Elihu said,

‘Job, do you think this is right that you say that you are more righteous than God or your righteousness is more than God.’ He didn’t understand it.

Job said, ‘I wish God would come down and talk to me.’ *Well, God did!* He showed up in a whirlwind. ‘Job, where were you when I made the heavens and the earth and everything?’

Here we come to the conclusion of the matter in Job 40:1: “And the LORD answered Job and said, ‘Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct *Him*?’” (vs 1-2)

When people come along and *invent their own traditions* or they replace the Word of God with the *teachings of men*, what you are doing, you are contending against God. You are saying, if you keep Sunday, I don’t like the Sabbath. Who made that holy? *God did!*

- Are those who created Sunday Holy?
- Can a man make anything Holy?
- *No!*

The proof of that is you get old and die. You can’t change anything except with God’s Spirit be converted.

Verse 2: “Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct *Him*?....” Of course not! Isn’t that what they do with Sunday-keeping, holiday-keeping, etc? *Yes!* Regardless!

He says, “...He who reproves God, let him answer it” (v 2). That’s what they do when they have their own traditions. There are many, many traditions; the Jews have many.

Sidebar: When a Jew says Torah, that means the Old Testament and all the traditions combined. What does God say about His Word? *You shall not add to it or take away from it!* We already saw the impossibility of the declaration that the oral tradition was given by Moses. He could not have given it. But they call the whole thing Torah.

When they talk about the Torah, they’re excluding all the things of Scripture that they don’t want to keep. The things they want to keep then they say it’s in the Torah, being the Torah of God rather than the Torah of men.

Confronted face-to-face with God through the whirlwind, v 3: “And Job answered the LORD and said, ‘Behold, I am vile!.... [rather than righteous, that’s sure true] ...What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken; but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further.’ And the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said” (vs 3-6).

Here’s God’s answer. Anyone who wants to replace the Word of God with something else or

change what is in the Bible, the Word of God, or as we have seen, make the homosexual Bible, trying to replace the Bible with the Koran, any of these things.

If you’re going to talk to talk with Me, v 7: “Gird up your loins now like a man. I will demand of you, and you declare unto Me. Will you even annul My judgment?....” (vs 7-8). Think of that! Isn’t that what they do with the holidays? *Yes, indeed!* They say, ‘Oh, we don’t want that; that’s for the Jews.

“...Will you condemn Me so that you may be righteous?” (v 8). That’s something! He was accused of claiming his righteousness was more than God, he said, ‘God didn’t understand me. Oh, that I could talk to God.’ Here you are.

Verse 9: “And *have* you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?.... [try that] ...Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency... [that is become a spirit being] ...and array yourself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of your wrath; and behold everyone who is proud, and abase him. Look on everyone *who* is proud, *and* bring him low...” (vs 9-12). That’s exactly what God was doing to Job.

“...and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in darkness. Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you” (vs 12-14)—or this doctrine will save you.

What was the first thing that Jesus said when He came into Galilee? He said, ‘Repent and believe the Gospel; for the Kingdom of God is at hand.’ How do the Protestants get away with—and we’ll add baptism to that—or how do they think that they’re little simple formula or ‘believe Jesus and you’re saved’ and it’s all done? You’ve started and finished in the same breath. They hold that up as the will of God and the work of God and what God is going to do with that person.

We’re going to talk about *traditions*. When you get the book and read the book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*—and by the way, we have the whole book read so you get a CD with it being read.

This applies to all the traditions of the Jews, the Protestants, the Catholics, and any other religion. The Protestants go here and say, and even the *NIV* said, ‘Thus He declared all flesh clean.’ Blatant mistranslation, because they want to eat their pork and all of their seafood and things.

I was watching the cooking channel and you know I have a very fast thumb. There was this fellow who had this pure pork restaurant down in Florida. He had everything pork. Doing the

interview, put the microphone up there, ‘Why did you decide on all of this pork? Ham, bacon, pulled pork, spareribs. Why did you do this?’ He said, ‘I’m a Jew and when I was growing up I couldn’t eat any pork. One day I tasted it and I said, ‘Hallelujah, this is so good!’

So, with food it’s not how it tastes, *it’s what it is* before you cook it or eat it. Give that a go with some arsenic and see how that works. This in principle covers all the *traditions*. They had a tradition here and you can read it in the appendices that when they ate they washed their hands thoroughly, clear up to their elbows.

Mark 7:1: “Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem came together to Him.” They always come around because they want to catch Him in something that they can accuse Him of.

Verse 2: “And when they saw some of His disciples eating with defiled hands (that is, unwashed *hands*)... [notice it doesn’t say when they came and found His disciples eating some spareribs and sliced ham and pulled pork shoulder] ...they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews, holding fast to the tradition of the elders...” (vs 2-3).

Notice it has nothing to do with God, so puts it in the category that if you have a tradition that violates any part of the Word of God, you are going against God and you are by doing that saying that you know more than God and God is wrong.

“...do not eat unless they wash their hands thoroughly. Even *when coming* from the market, they do not eat unless they *first* wash themselves....” (vs 3-4). What if you bought some really good fruit down there at the stand and you were coming home, you couldn’t eat it until you got home and washed your hands. I’d eat it!

“...And there are many other things that they have received to observe, *such as the* washing of cups and pots and brass utensils and tables” (v 4).

They also still have the law today. They have two sets of dishes in the finest Jewish homes: one for dairy products and one for other products. They fail to read, because they claim about being descended from Abraham, back there in Gen. 18 [transcriber’s correction] when the Lord and two angels came to Abraham to tell him that very shortly he was going to have his son. So, they came, Abraham got up and said, ‘Please stay and eat.’

He sent a servant out to kill a fatted calf and he had his wife make some unleavened bread. They set the table with meat and butter. So, I don’t know what the different is, why do they have two sets? Don’t they wash them? I don’t know what the answer is. That’s a *tradition*!

Verse 5: “For this reason, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, *saying*, ‘Why don’t Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?’”—because they love the dirt with their food. **No!**

Verse 6: “And He answered *and* said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it is written...’” Notice when Jesus gave correction, He always gave what was written. How did He answer Satan? ‘*It is written.*’ What’s the first one? ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.’ Where does that place tradition?

“...“This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me”” (v 6). Meaning all of these things that they do, do not enhance your love of God. How are you to love God? *With all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and with all your being!*

You have these things. People honor God. Isn’t that what they do in church? What did God say? ‘You made Me to serve with your sins’ (Isa. 43).

Verse 7: “““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*.’.... [this covers all of the traditions of men] ...Then He said to them, ‘**Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your own tradition**’” (vs 7-9).

Line up the Ten Commandments. You worship another god, *you reject them*. What do they have? *Traditions!* Shall not make any idols and bow down to them. If you reject that, you have a church full of idols. **You reject the commandment of God!**

Same way with the third commandment. Every Sunday the Catholic and Protestant ministers take the name of the Lord in vain by saying, ‘He said,’ when He didn’t say, with the exception that if they read the Scripture, that part is true. That’s not because of their doing, but *because of God’s doing*.

Now let’s see how all of this turned out. How were their lies? Remember the one back there (Luke 17) where the two men came to pray: One a publican and one a Pharisee. The Pharisee despised the publican. Who went home justified? *The publican or the tax collector because he repented!*

Matthew 23:1: “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples...” Why would He say this? *Because at that time if there was a dispute that had to be settled you came to one of the scribes or a Levite!* They could be a Pharisee or Sadducee, didn’t make any difference. They would give you a

judgment from the Word of God. They were sitting in the seat of Moses as judges. They set themselves down in it, *inappropriately*, because they kept all of their traditions. The one who is judging also has to let the law judge him.

Verse 2: "Saying, 'The scribes and the Pharisees have sat down on Moses' seat *as judges*; Therefore, every judgment that they tell you to observe, observe and do....'" (vs 2-3). That's a judgment out of the Word of God.

They come and say, 'This man let his bull come into my pasture and he ate the pasture and tore down all the corn. Now my livelihood is ruined.' Then they get some witnesses. They ask about it and what does it say in the Law of God: That you shall compensate him for what happened. That judgment they were to do. However, if they put in *their own tradition*, don't have to do it.

"...But do not do according to their works; for they say and do not.... [their traditions. What do those traditions do?] ...For they bind heavy burdens and hard to bear, and lay *them* on the shoulders of men; but they will not move them with *one of* their own fingers. And they do all their works to be seen by men. They make broad their phylacteries..." (vs 3-5).

This covers a lot of things: special dress, badges, ribbons, like the military. There's a little cloth button medal, they put it on. You've been in so many years, you've been a sharpshooter, you've gone to Korea, Vietnam, Europe, all of those, you were in this battle and they have all of them. Then they have all the stripes on the sleeves and stars on the shoulders.

All of that means nothing if that were a religious thing. It means something in the military for command and control, and so forth, but they were putting on there, 'I have gone to Jerusalem 5,000 times. I've read the Torah 4,000 times in my lifetime and I got a little badge up here for that.' Kind of like the Boy Scouts and they get the merit badges. That's what phylacteries were.

Verse 6: "And they love the first place at the suppers, and the chief seats in the synagogues."

I remember one time Dolores and I went back to the church that we pastored up in Utah in Salt Lake. We went back there on Pentecost and the new minister was there and he's one of these arrogant, boisterous ministers. Everybody waited on him hand and foot. In the meeting hall we were in they had a stage. Up on the stage he had all the ministers and all the deacons up there. The line of food was down here and they were going through and picking out the best and bringing it up to them.

He kept calling out to me, 'Fred, come up here.' *No, I stayed in line with the brethren and talked with them.* I was not going to go up there in that self-exaltation. Needless to say, no one knows where he is, but he destroyed a lot of people's lives.

Verse 7: "And the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called by men 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you are not to be called Rabbi; for one is your Master, the Christ, and all of you are brethren. Also, do not call *anyone* on the earth your Father; for one is your Father, Who *is* in heaven" (vs 7-9).

Sidebar: Since we're talking about Messianic Judaism and Judaism, the sacred names of the New Testament are:

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ

That's it! If you're Hebrew, and know only the Hebrew language, and you have a Hebrew Bible translated, then you can use the sacred names there. Sacred names is not like a combination to open or close a door. When you pray:

- How is your heart is before God?
- Are you repentant?
- Are you believing?
- Are you loving God?

That's what's important!

Jehovah Witnesses always call in on radio programs and if there's a Catholic priest, they always ask them this question: 'Why are you priests called fathers? You aren't even married.'

Verse 10: "Neither be called Master; for one is your Master, the Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant.... [you serve, help, teach] ...And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled... [it's much easier to humble yourself than be humbled—witness Job] ...and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted. But **woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**...." (vs 10-13).

Most honorable people of all, no it says hypocrites. Remember, modern Jewry has come from the Pharisees. Remember that God destroyed the temple twice because of sin.

"...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; for neither do you yourselves enter, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter" (vs 13-14).

What does that say about gaining salvation through Judaism or Messianic Judaism? You keep them out by false doctrine.

Sidebar: What day of the first month did Jesus keep the Passover with His apostles? *14th day of the 1st month!* One-third of the Gospels is devoted to the Passover, His death and resurrection. You think that's important? One-third?

Just before He ascended into heaven, what did Jesus tell His disciples? 'Go into all the world teaching them all things I have commanded you.' Very important to understand. Was not the Passover one of the things He said, 'Take this in remembrance of Me'? On what night was that? *The 14th!* Very important!

What day do the Jews keep their Passover? and today all Messianic Jews? They keep their Seder—they don't keep Passover—on the 15th. That's derived from the commandment of God (Num. 9) that you had to be *in the land* to take the 14th Passover. The Jews in the Diaspora can't keep a 14th Passover because they've rejected Christ and the New Testament. They could keep it, but Messianic Jews, who say they're following Jesus are not following Jesus concerning the most important thing of all, the Passover, the day that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world.

They keep the exiled Jewish 15th Passover, the 15th day of the 1st month. You find that in John 19. That's important, because *if you do not keep the Passover on the 14th day, with the foot-washing, the bread, and the wine, Jesus said, 'You have no part with Me.'* So, there are some dividing lines that are absolutely like a sword cutting a piece of Jello in two. There has to be.

Notice their attitude and notice why God destroyed, as He promised, Jerusalem and the temple. That becomes important.

Verse 15: "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you travel the sea and the land to make one proselyte, and when he has become one, you make him twofold more a son of Gehenna than yourselves."

Lots of times we read it "...twofold more a son of Gehenna..." and we forget "...than yourselves." Which tells us if, when the second resurrection comes, they don't repent, they are going to Gehenna.

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). What brings about blindness? *They won't hear; they won't obey.* Invisible veil.

"...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.' *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 17-22). He's nullifying all of these claims of righteousness because you swear.

Verse 23: "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, but you have abandoned the more important *matters* of the law—judgment and mercy and faith. These *you* were obligated to do, and not to leave the others undone." He's doing all of this to provoke them in coming against Him.

Verse 24: "Blind guides, who filter out a gnat, but swallow a camel!" Remember that whenever you try and do something, you're after this little, teeny-weeny thing and you really can't get it. It really doesn't amount to anything, but you spend effort and time and money. Never works out. That was your camel.

Verse 25: "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but within you are full of extortion and excess. Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup and the dish... [that's your mind, heart, everything] ...so that the outside may also become clean. **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful *on the* outside, but within are full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness" (vs 25-27).

I can't help but thinking about St. Peter's Basilica. What is it built on top of? *A pagan cemetery full of the bones of the dead!* They claim that they found one of the bones of Peter or Jesus; I forget which. They have made so many claims. When they were analyzed, the bone turned out to be from a woman and one of the bones was a chicken bone. I think God loved playing jokes like that on them. Let them find this; let them think it.

But think about what they do when they have their ceremonies. When they have all the new priests come to be ordained the first time, they are in startling white robes. They come before the pope and here is all this idolatrous big thing behind the pope. Right at the top is a sunburst dedicated to Baal. They all prostrate themselves and take the vow. They lay flat on the floor and swear allegiance to the pope. Jesus said, *'Blind guides.'*

Verse 28: "Likewise, you also outwardly appear to men *to be* righteous, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. **Woe to you,**

scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the sepulchers of the prophets, and adorn the tombs of the righteous; and you say... [If it had been in our day... we're so good, or] ...'If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets'" (vs 28-30).

Were all of them partakers of the blood of Christ in killing Him? *Yes, indeed.* The high priest, the other priests, everybody.

Verse 31: "So then, you are testifying against yourselves, that you are the sons of those who killed the prophets; and *as for* you, you are filling up the measure of your fathers. *You* serpents, *you* offspring of vipers, how shall you escape the judgment of Gehenna?" (vs 31-33). That's pretty powerful right there.

Verse 34: "Because of this, behold, I send to you prophets and wise *men* and scribes; and *some* of them you shall kill and crucify, and *some* of them you shall scourge in your synagogues, and *some* of them you shall persecute from city to city; so that upon you may come all *the* righteous blood poured out upon the earth, from the blood of Abel the righteous, unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar" (vs 34-35). God stores it up and waits, and then it comes.

Verse 36: "Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *you* who kill the prophets and stone those who have been sent to you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her brood under *her* wings, but you refused! Behold, your house is left to you desolate" (vs 36-38). *That's what God did!*

Next time we'll pick it up and go on from here and see the confrontations that Paul had and some difficult Scriptures. If people try and study those difficult Scriptures and things, with the idea that Jesus did away with the Law, and with the idea that they didn't have to keep the things of God, then they don't understand these Scriptures.

We will see a pattern in Romans that is really quite astounding and then we will go to Galatians and see what it's really talking about. Galatians is one of the most difficult books in the whole New Testament. The one on which the lawless religions, called Christianity in this world, rely upon his writings to substantiate, they think, the doing away with the laws of God. I think we'll get a lot out of it.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 3:1-2

- 2) Isaiah 29:9-16
- 3) Isaiah 40:12-15, 17
- 4) Isaiah 43:24
- 5) John 1:1
- 6) Job 40:1-14
- 7) Mark 7:1-9
- 8) Matthew 23:1-38

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 11
- Romans 1; 2
- Isaiah 8
- Revelation 2-3; 17-18
- Matthew 13
- Genesis 1:14; 2; 3:14-15; 18
- Luke 17
- Numbers 9
- John 19

Also referenced:

- From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:
 - ✓ Chronology V: Chronology from 30_{A.D.} to 70_{A.D.}
 - ✓ Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning The Law and the Commandments of God
 - ✓ Appendix A: Fourteen Rules for Bible Study
 - ✓ Appendix E: When was Jesus Christ Born?
 - ✓ Appendix J: Jesus' Three Days and Three Nights of Entombment and His Resurrection
- Book:
 - ✓ *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
 - ✓ *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin
- Booklet: *Is the Ministry God's Government*
- Sermon Series:
 - ✓ *Was Peter Ever in Rome* (churchathome.org)
 - ✓ *The Appointed Times* (Michael Heiss)

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Word of God vs Traditions of Men II

Stand for the Truth though no one else does

Fred R. Coulter—December 17, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

First of all, I want to once again tell everyone to please order this booklet and read it. I'm going to give you some assignments. *Is the Ministry God's Government* and, what are the Nicolaitans? You need that. The reason being that there are a lot of difficulties between brethren, between ministers. We've been covering the love of God and loving each other in our sermon series: *Christ and Our Calling: TROLS: Truth, Repentance, Obedience, Love*.

There is a lot of trouble brewing with Messianic Jews. You need to read this book: *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* We have things in there that are really important for you to understand. If you think you've been in the church that has had hierarchical top/down government, the rabbis are as strong as the strongest church government you've ever had or stronger.

Phil Neal did a great job in writing this book, researching it and putting it together. You will read that they say some rabbis are so brilliant that they even teach God.

While it is true the Jews did preserve the Old Testament, that is the Levites and priests within the Jewish community, not the Jews, and they did preserve the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. Other than that, they are as far away from God as you can be.

The Messianic Jews are coming in to try and lead people into prayer shawls, tassels, and so forth. I'm going to read from this book some of the code of Jewish laws. You won't believe it. We've got enough in here; you ought to read it.

They take away all free choice from individuals. You must do this; you must do that; you must do the other thing. If you see this sight, you must give this blessing. If you see that sight, you must give that blessing. If you see a giant, you have to give that blessing. If you see a dwarf, you have to give that blessing. It's crazy. We just summarize them here, but I've got this book *Code of Jewish Law*. We all ought to be like General Patton: read the enemies' books. Thousands of laws!

God says through Paul writing in the book of Colossians, **'let the Word of Christ rule in your heart.'** That's what it is to be.

Again, the 14th Passover has come up. I just got an e-mail from a man who says they're having a Bible study and 'when did Jesus keep the Passover, on the 14th or the 15th?' I e-mailed him back and said to 'give me your phone number, e-mail me as soon as you can, and we will send you, prior to your Wednesday Bible study, we will send you these books. We'll send you a box of books of *The Christian Passover*.

People do not realize how important the 14th Passover is. How do you answer that simple question that he did? Which day did Jesus keep the Passover? The 14th? Or the 15th? I answered in this book *The Christian Passover*.

What is the basic question and what is the basic answer? *You answer it this way, Jesus kept it on the 14th because that's when God commanded it to be!* If Jesus had kept it on the 15th, He would be sinning and He would not be our Savior.

What did Jesus say on the Passover night? What did He say of the foot-washing? 'You are duty-bound to do this, because I did it and you are to wash one another's feet, so that none of you get exalted over the other.' So, there has to be foot-washing.

What did Jesus say concerning the bread? 'Do this in the remembrance of Me.' And the wine, 'Do this in the remembrance of Me.' All of that was done on the night of the 14th. The day begins, not at sunrise, but at sunset.

Matt. 28 is the important thing that covers everything in the Gospels, everything that God inspired the apostles to write.

Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came *and* spoke to them, saying, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'"

What does that do to the religious authority of men? If it's not in accord with what Jesus said, it's null and void.

Verse 19: "Therefore, go and make disciples in all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe... [whatever you think you need to teach them—**NO**] ...**all things**... [each and every one] ...**that I have commanded you**. And lo, I am with you always, *even* until the completion of the age.' Amen" (vs 19-20).

That's what you would call a framework. Everything in the New Testament, since He was

Lord of the Old Testament, then hangs upon that. What He taught. Is He not the head of the Church? *Yes!*

We also get those who come in and say, it becomes more ridiculous the more you hear it, that Christ abolished the Law. He did no such thing! How could He abolish it, since it is perfect and He is Lawgiver. That's Satan's way of making people relieved of a guilty feeling when they transgress the Law.

It's like here in California. Instead of teaching people to say 'No, don't take drugs; don't smoke marijuana,' there are so many people smoking marijuana that 'let's legalize and collect the taxes.' How many years ago did I say that would happen? That wasn't because I'm a genius, that was because if you know human nature, that's how they're going to do it.

With the Passover it's same thing. People go to Deut. 16. What is the key in Deut. 16 that is mistranslated in the *King James Version*? It talks about the flock and the herd. You ever heard of a Passover calf? *No!*

They translate it roast and it means boil. What did God say about the Passover lamb in Exo. 12? *Not to boil it!* What are those sacrifices? Those sacrifices are the sacrifices on the day of the Passover at the temple for the redemption of their firstborn. They were to continually redeem their firstborn children and firstborn animals. It's called Passover offering, not Passover sacrifice.

One other thing, the Jews understood that you could not keep the Passover on the 14th outside of the geographical territory of Israel for the Passover of the Old Testament. Therefore, they kept a Seder meal on the Night Much to Be Observed, and called it the Passover. So, it is a counterfeit. That is worse than Sunday-keeping.

The 14th Passover is the covenant renewal. If you don't renew the covenant every year, you fall out of covenant with God. I'm going to send out an article on the Eucharist.

How does Satan work changing things? *Incremental, bit-by-bit-by-bit!* Jesus received His flesh from Mary. Therefore, the Catholics say Mary is an intrinsic part of the Eucharist, because it has her blood and her flesh in it. You've got to be the most credulous people in the world that you believe whatever you are told and you never check whether it's true or not. You're held in bondage.

Here in the various Churches of God, here comes someone, 'I'm a Messianic Jew.' *Oh, you're a Jew, wonderful.* And then start teaching all kinds of things.

The latest one is tassels, you have to have tassels, you have to have phylacteries. They go to Num. 15:38-39^[transcriber's correction] and say that you're to put a blue border on the base of your garment with little tassels on it so you remember the commandments of God.

I just got an e-mail asking: 'should we keep that?' *No!* Where does God want His laws and commandments remembered? *In your heart and mind!* That's why.

God has made us so wonderful and so great, given us such fantastic things. Think about every system of just the human body, from the simplest to the most complex. Think about your mind, think about your eyes, think about your ears, think about your mouth, your teeth, your tongue, your digestive system, all of the muscles. *Fantastic things that God has made!* All of us come from just a speck of dust. The older I get, the more amazed I become concerning that. That is an amazing thing!

Finish this with the Messianics. If they come into your congregation, ask them why they wear those tassels? Then point them to Heb. 10:16, *God wants to write them in your heart and in your mind!* It's worthless to have the tassels to remind you of the commandments if you don't exercise your mind and God's Spirit in you to learn and study it, so they're in your heart and mind.

Then ask them the next question. Which day is the Passover? The 14th? Or the 15th? If they say the 15th, invite them out the door. If they come with those things, they are coming with another Gospel, are they not? *Yes, indeed!*

2-John needs to be read and re-read quite often because it's simple, direct to the point. It is foundational and that is the greatest summary of the foundation of the Gospel that Jesus Christ brought.

2-John 1: "The elder to *the* chosen lady and her children, whom I love in Truth..." How are you to love God? *With all your heart, mind, soul and being!* How are you to do it? *In Truth!*

- the Word of God is true
- the commandments of God are true

"...and not I alone, but also all those who have known the Truth; for *the* sake of the Truth..." (vs 1-2). Notice, three times in just a couple of sentences. How important is the Truth?

Sidebar: Everything concerning the Laws of the priesthood and sacrifices has been superseded by the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who is our High Priest in heaven right now. Raised from a physical level to a spiritual level. From an external practice to an internal way of living.

All of the various laws that are now in force by the governments, such as the death penalty, God has transferred those to all nations. Israel had them in the Old Testament because they were a nation. Just keep that in mind.

Verse 2: “For *the* sake of the Truth that is dwelling in us, and shall be with us forever: Grace, mercy *and* peace shall be with us from God *the* Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” (vs 2-3). This is an incredible little epistle.

Now if you have a died-in-the-wool Protestant come in and say, ‘The Holy Spirit is a person and it’s God.’ What you do is say, ‘Why then did the Apostle Paul never honor Holy Spirit as God? Why, if it is so important, that when Paul gives the introduction—just like John did here—why is the Holy Spirit not mentioned?’ *Because it’s not a person, that’s why!*

Verse 4: “I rejoiced exceedingly that I have found among your children those who are walking in Truth, exactly as we received commandment from the Father.”

How did we get the commandment from the Father? *Through Jesus, ‘I speak exactly what the Father has commanded Me’ (John 12)!*

Sidebar: When Jesus took three of the apostles to go up on the Mount of Transfiguration, who did He take with Him? Peter, James and John. The brother of John was James and he was beheaded in about 41 A.D. What did they see in the vision? Jesus Christ and standing with Him Elijah and Moses. What do they represent? *The Law and the Prophets!* Who was standing in between them? *The Lawgiver!*

So, you confront them with that and say, ‘Why didn’t He say we’re doing away with the Law and the Prophets?’ *Never did!*

People come along and they really don’t know the Word of God and they really don’t study. If you really don’t study, you can’t learn the Word of God. If you study, but you don’t obey God, you can only learn so much. If you study and obey and repent and are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God, God will grant you all Truth. Not at once. We constantly learn.

Verse 5: “And now I beseech you, lady, not as though I am writing a new commandment to you, but that which we have *observed* from *the* beginning, that we love one another.”

That’s another problem within the Churches of God. You’ve got this splinter group out there that hates this splinter group over here, and this group over there that hates that group over there. Nobody can get along.

Concerning the *new commandment* here in v 5; He says he’s not writing it. What would have been the new commandment? ‘*I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets.*’ Wouldn’t that be a new commandment? *Yes, indeed!*

“...but that which we have *observed* from *the* beginning, that we love one another” (v 5).

As I mentioning concerning the churches. People think they can go from group to group and just carry the same thing they’ve always had. *No, indeed!* Remember Matt. 25 and the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins.

What happened to the five foolish virgins? Christ didn’t receive them, because they were the ones who coasted along and didn’t have the Holy Spirit of God and thought they knew everything and they knew nothing. They didn’t love the other brethren. **(parts missing from video but not audio)**

Sometimes with their reactions, and things like this, it’s really tough to love them. But that’s why God has scattered the Church. There’s a reason and a purpose for it. Ask this of yourself: **Will I stand for the Truth even though I know no one else who does?** That’s what God is getting answered with the scattering.

How many people went back into the world? I remember one woman who said, ‘I’m so glad we can keep Christmas. I always missed that wonderful smell of the evergreen tree in the house in the winter.’ You read the latest letter about what the Christmas tree stands for and you’ll take another thought concerning that. Notice that this ties in with 1-John 5:3:

Verse 6: “And this is the love of *God*: that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, exactly as you heard from *the* beginning, that you might walk in it.”

From the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ, He always taught to keep the commandments. How can anyone say they are Christian, have a Bible, pretend that they are righteous, and not read what John has written in the Gospel and in these three epistles, and what Paul wrote.

Here’s why these things have to be preached and understood, v 7: “Because many deceivers...” Do we have a lot of them? They’re not all in the political party.

“...have entered into the world; those who do not confess *that* Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is *the spirit of* the deceiver and the antichrist” (v 7).

They were getting a lot of Messianic Jews back then. Like Paul said concerning the false

apostles. But people put up with it. I get these things every once in a while, but the worse one of all are those who say they believe in lunar-Sabbath. That's where you go out and look for the new moon. Most people don't know how to look for it. That's why you need the calendar material.

Sidebar on the new moon: They ran an experiment. Here's a low hill, here's a high mountain. One group went up to the high mountain, looked for the new moon. The other group down here on the hill looked for the new moon. The group on the mountain saw the sliver of the new moon through binoculars or telescope at 14 hours and some minutes after the setting of the old moon.

That would be the first day of the month. But those down on the hill didn't see it until the next night. That's why it's calculated. So, you will keep the day, whether you're on a hill, or whether you're in a valley.

All the false prophets that are written about in the New Testament are Jewish false prophets. A good number of them came from the Holy Land but originated in Alexandria. Who was the great Jewish teacher in Alexandria at that time? *Philo*! This is important background for when we get into some more. What did they have? This is going to blow your mind. They had a paganized Egyptian-Judaism. How's that for being mixed up? Philo's purpose was to go through the whole Old Testament and allegorize it according to Greek philosophy.

This is just a little question in my mind. You've heard of Apollos who came from Alexandria? I wonder what happened to him? I don't know. Paul asked him to go to Corinth at one time and in Corinthians he said Apollos wasn't of the mind to come to you. So, I wonder what happened to Apollos?

Now with the coming temple that's going to be built and the activity of the Jews saying, 'If we build the temple Messiah is going to come, because Jesus wasn't the Messiah.' They've even appointed a high priest, the Orthodox Jews did, and he offered a sacrifice. I saw a picture of it. Someone sent it to me by e-mail.

Here he was, making an offering. I couldn't see what kind of offering, but it struck me what kind of wood was burning. I thought: *this is incredible!* It was a pallet, a wooden shipping pallet. That was the wood he was using, supposedly, for a sacred sacrifice. I thought to myself, this is craziness.

You talk about men putting God's name on something saying this is God's will and then going about to do things that way is insane. That's why we have a High Priest no one can get to. He's in heaven above.

2-Corinthians 11:13: "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).

Satan never comes and says, 'I'm going to convince you to give up your salvation.' He comes and says, 'Have you heard? Did you know this? Remember, the Jews have an advantage. They are really spiritual people.' *Not so!*

Verse 15: "Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works. Again I say, **no one should consider me a fool**; but if otherwise, receive me even as a fool, that I also may boast a little. What I am *now* saying, I do not speak according to *the* Lord..." (vs 15-17).

But 'you're so carnal, I have to answer you like a fool, v 19: "For since you are *so* intelligent, you gladly bear with fools." Isn't that something? A lot of these people think they're intelligent: new this, new that, new the other thing.

Here's something to remember. You're not going to learn something new until you really understand what you've already learned first. Then you can learn something new. It will always be based on the foundation of Christ, the Law, the Prophets, and the Bible.

Back to this lunar calendar: This is the most foolish thing in the world. You find the new moon and that's the first day of the week. Then you count seven days and that day is Sabbath. So you see the new moon on a Thursday, and you count seven days and Wednesday is the Sabbath. Then the next month you see the new moon and the new moon comes on a Monday. So, you count seven days and Sunday is the Sabbath. How are you going to explain that to your boss? That is the most foolish thing in the world.

Yet, people believe it. They send me the calendar and say, 'Look at this wonderful new thing.' It goes in the trash.

Verse 20: "For you bear *it* if anyone brings you into bondage, if anyone devours *you*, if anyone takes *from you*, if anyone exalts himself, if anyone beats you on the face." That's what's happened. So, that's got to stop. Look at all the things that are coming against the people of God today:

- world
- false prophets within the Church
- false doctrines within the Church
- Messianic Jews coming in

We have to know so we can stand. That's why we know. That's why we have *The Christian Passover* book. The 14th Passover is the key to salvation.

Like I told that man, I said, if he kept Passover on 15th [transcriber correction] he would be sinning and that would be just like saying that Sunday is the Sabbath. That falls into the category, and a lot of the Messianics believe in Jesus as a man, not the Son of God, much like the Muslims say Jesus was a prophet.

1-John 2:21: "I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth."

One caveat: If you bring all the Truth then there is not a lie. Can you take partial Truth, make it sound authentic, but it is really a diversion from the Truth? *Yes, you can!*

Verse 22: "Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either" (vs 22-23). There we go; that's what they were coming teaching

Verse 24: "Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you... [remember it; make it part of your very being] ...if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father." Notice again, *no Holy Spirit*. When we come to 1-John 5 in *TROL* series we'll cover that.

Verse 26: "These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray."

Remember, they didn't have Bibles like we have today. That's important to really understand.

(go to the next track)

We're going to get into a little doctrine and some of it is not easy to understand, but I'll try and make it as easy to understand as possible.

Romans 2:11: "Because there is no respect of persons with God."

What did Peter say to Cornelius when he went into Cornelius' house? 'There is no respect of persons with God.' How does that work? On a practical level, God provides for every human being, righteous or evil, food, air, water, everything. God to gives to everyone all the faculties of being a human being. He gives to everyone all the ability to reproduce. That's *carte blanche* for everyone. There may be an exception here or there because of different circumstances.

God is no respect of persons concerning His law whether you know it or not. Just like if you

stumble and fall, you're going to get hurt, whether you're righteous or you're a sinner. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We're going to make this as clear as crystal, because we need this before we go to Galatians.

Sidebar on Galatians: Too many people, when they start reading the Bible or go to church, end up getting to Galatians before they even know Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, just the names of the Gospels. They know nothing. If you read Galatians, with knowing nothing, you're going to know even less. You're going to be greatly confused.

Just like I said, Alexandrian pagan Judaizers. That's a combination. Not many people realize that. Please understand this. There were incursions because of the Gentiles, that's true, but the biggest problems with false teachers came from Jews.

So, Paul is giving an overview here, v 12: "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law... [God didn't give the Law to all the nations of the world. Israel failed to take it to them] ...and as many as have sinned within *the Law* shall be judged by *the Law*, (because the hearers of the Law... [Greek is 'ho nomos,' the Law of God] ...*are* not just before God..." (vs 12-13).

How many people know parts of the Law? know parts of the Bible? *But don't believe it or follow it!* They're not *just* before God.

Think of this. Catholics say Sunday is their doctrine and Protestants keep it. A lot of Protestants are against idolatry, but is not Sunday an idol for the Protestants? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 3: "Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified"—which tells us you must have repentance first and start keeping the Law before you're justified.

What is justification? *Justification is being put in right standing with God, having your sins forgiven!* That's what justification is. But you have to quit sinning before you can be justified, because God is not going to keep forgiving if you're actively living in sin.

You can liken that to a drug addict, heroin addict. That's a big epidemic now. You can hear all the things, 'you've got to quit; you have to stop; don't do it.' Then they go out and do it. They even found some of the rehab teachers who are actually drug dealers.

What are we talking about? *We're talking about hypocrisy!* You must be a doer of the Law

before you can be justified. You must repent when you find that you have sinned.

It's like this. If someone came to me and said, 'I want to be baptized.' I would talk to them about baptism and I ask, 'How is your life, this and that and the other thing?' *Oh, I've repented of that. By the way I faithfully go to church every Sunday!*

What do they have to do before they can be baptized? Keep the Sabbath and know why they need to keep the Sabbath, then be baptized. What's one of the first things you had to do when God was calling you, before you were baptized? *Keep the Sabbath!*

Sidebar: That's what happened to me. I was cook up in Redwood City, California, chef and cook. That's when God was calling me. So, I wanted to be baptized. I went down to Pasadena to be baptized. I was still eating my bacon and tomato sandwiches and I wasn't keeping the Sabbath. I was told that if I wanted to be baptized then I had to repent of those things, stop it, and then I could come back. If I were ready for baptism then I would be baptized.

I came back, stopped the bacon and tomato sandwiches and that quit my burping all night, so that was a good deal. God is no respecter of persons. I came to the manager and said, 'I can't work Friday night and Saturday.' He looked at me and said, 'Why?' I said, 'Because of my religion.' He said, 'When did you get religious?' I said, all right, 'if you can't accommodate me, I'll quit.' He said to hold on and he would look at the schedule. He went back and looked at the schedule, came back and said, 'I can't see how we can do it.' I said, 'Let me look at the schedule.' He said, 'Okay, look at the schedule,' because he didn't want to lose me.

I went back and looked at the schedule and I worked it this way, because it was open 24-hours. I worked from 4 to midnight. That was my regular shift, because I go to school in the daytime. I saw that the chef worked from 8 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon.

I came back and said, 'How about if you give the chef Friday off.' That was a good deal because you have to do all the weekend prep. 'And let me come in on Friday and I'll work 8 to 4. Then Saturday I'll come in at midnight and work the graveyard shift. I'll take Tuesday off.' He said, 'You got it.' So I was able to keep the Sabbath, but I had to do that first.

It's like everything else. I talked to a woman recently who said, 'When I took the four Sabbaths in a row that you said, 'You want to know about the Sabbath, take four Sabbaths in a row and keep them and study the Bible those four Sabbaths and study on

the Sabbath and you'll understand the Sabbath.' She said, 'That did it for me.'

So likewise, whatever it is, "...the doers of the Law shall be justified." Here's something that blew the minds of the Jews:

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

God even honors it for the Gentiles that He never dealt with. They discover that murder is not good; adultery is not good; stealing is not good; lying is not good. They never made it to the Sabbath and they never made it to idols, but at least within their societies they had that part of it.

This becomes important and we'll see it later, v 15: "Who show the work of the Law..." If there is *the* work of *the* Law referring to the commandments of God, is that a good thing or is that a bad thing? *That's a good thing!* Please note very carefully, this is the only place in the writings of Paul that he used the term *the work of the Law*—"to ergon, ho nomos."

"...written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also as they accuse or defend one another" (v 15).

Sidebar on v 15: Did you know that Protestants say that from birth God has written His laws in our hearts, based on this verse. Why is there so much sin? It's only written on their hearts if they found out that's a good thing to do.

Verse 16: "In a day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel."

Paul castigates the Jews. Notice what he says of the Jews: You boast in the Law; you're circumcised; you think you're a teacher of other people, and yet, you're great sinners.' I'm telling you that your circumcision is uncircumcision because you don't obey God. The Gentiles who obey God have the circumcision of the heart, which is greater. That's another thing that we need to always remember. Circumcision is now of the heart, not just of the flesh.

We're going to find another term. This is also in Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures. This is important.

In preparation for something else down the road, I'm going to mention this again. Every noun in Greek has a gender—male, female, neuter; every single noun. We'll see that's where the confusion comes in concerning the Holy Spirit. We'll get that later.

This becomes very important. Romans 3:19: “Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law...”

Who is under law? *All human beings are under law*—period! Protestants say if you’re under grace and not under law, if you try and keep the commandments, you’re trying to earn salvation. No such thing at all. This is important with doctrine.

If we’re going to love God with all our heart, that means *all our emotions*. We’re going to love God with all of our minds, that means we need to apply ourselves to understand His word and to know why it’s written the way it’s written, and to understand what God is doing.

“...so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (v 19). That’s why everyone’s under law. If you’re keeping the commandments of God in the spirit, then you are within law. Is that not correct? *Yes!*

Verse 20 is the key verse, one of the hardest verses in the Bible to understand, especially in the *King James Version*. When you first read this, when you’re coming to the knowledge of the Truth, and you have a *King James Version* of the Bible, or any other version of the Bible, it will throw you for a loop.

Let me read vs 20-21 in the *King James*: “Therefore by the deeds of *the Law* there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the Law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without *the Law* is manifested, being witnessed by *the Law* and the Prophets” (vs 20-21).

That is reasoning in a circle. That is an incorrect translation in the *King James Version*. Remember what we read back in Rom 2: the work of the Law. Paul was talking about the Law of God. Here in the Greek it is not *the work of the Law*. There is no definite article before deed or before law. In the Greek it’s not there and that’s important. Furthermore, it is not *work* of law, it is *works* of law, ‘ton ergon.’

Let’s read the correct translation from the *Faithful Version*: Verse 20: “Therefore, by works of law...” What are works of law? There are two categories of works of law, having nothing to do with the Laws of God that we are to keep in the New Covenant. It does have to do with:

1. the ritual laws at the temple

They were to offer sacrifices if they sinned, and they would be forgiven to the temple. They would be justified to the nation of Israel and justified through the priesthood. That’s been elevated to a higher level, because now justification comes through Christ.

Let’s understand this more. “Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him...” (v 20).

2. The other set of laws are a *code of Jewish law, the traditions of the Jews*

What did Jesus say in Mark 7 that ‘keeping their traditions you reject the commandments of God and worship Him in vain.’ In other words, works of law, whether sacrifice or traditions of the Jews, never justifies unto forgiveness of sin for salvation. That’s important.

Works of law—‘ton ergon nomu.’ Here’s another thing that becomes a little difficult here. Let me explain this. What is the sacrifice that forgives sin spiritually before God but the sacrifice of Christ. Is that not the greatest thing that God could do? Think of the justice of God in doing it that the One Who became Jesus Christ created Adam and Eve. In His judgment against human kind, they received the ‘law of sin and death,’ and He gave it to them.

Now then, to redeem, eventually as many as will repent through the plan of God, God since He did this came and took upon Himself human flesh, lived a perfect life, gave Himself over to the cruelty of men to be crucified and die. God raised Him from the dead and His blood is the sacrifice to cover our sins.

This is a work of God, an operation of God. Can any work of man forgive sin before God spiritually? *No!* The greatest work to do that was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. When we have our sins forgiven then we are justified.

In the Greek the word for *righteousness* and *justification* are very similar. However, when you repent, your sins are forgiven, then God imputes or reckons you as righteous because your sins have been removed. You are not righteous in the sense that you’re living a righteous life. Do you see the difference?

Therefore, what Paul was working against—Rom. 2 shows it with the Jews—the traditions of the Jews and their clinging to the temple. The temple was still up and running during this time.

These false prophets were coming around and saying, ‘No, you have to have the traditions of the Jews and you have to have the sacrifices at the temple.’

Verse 21: “But now, *the* righteousness of God *that is* separate from law...” *King James* says ‘without the Law.’ What does *without* mean? *It means the absence of!* How can there be any righteousness in the absence of law? That’s why it should be translated that is ‘separate from law.’

Keeping law, sinning, repenting, is over there. Sacrifice of Christ is over here. It's separate from the Law and the Prophets.

"...has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets" (v 21). Because it was foretold it was going to come. Nowhere does it say that the Laws of God have been eliminated, but the word *without*, I know when I first studied that, the first time I read that, I said, 'What on earth is this?' I didn't understand it.

I knew nothing of Greek. But I can tell you what, when I understood the Greek and read it, it was like 10,000 light bulbs going off all at once. Clear as can be.

That also was the thing that the Jews were requiring Gentiles to do before they came into the synagogue? *A little circumcision party!* That was a work of law.

Reading through here, if you put the word *justification*, because no man can be justified from sin before God without the shed blood of Jesus Christ upon repentance. Can't be done.

Even law today, you do a crime, especially a murder—you can watch this on *Forensic Files*—you can disappear, change your name and looks, do everything, but that dead-case file still sits there and waits and waits. There's no statute of limitations against murder.

They have found people who have gone out, changed their lives, moved to another state, got another occupation, were honest and trustworthy within the society, even going to church on Sunday, all of this sort of thing; upstanding man or woman in the community. Then lo and behold, the Scripture: God's no respecter of persons, the Scripture that says, 'Be sure your sin will find you out.' And they get caught.

Case of one man, he remarried, twenty years, was going to a church, leader in the church. Nobody believed it, but it was true.

The same way, you cannot have your sins forgiven through any ritual in the Catholic Church. You cannot have a sin forgiven by Sunday-keeping. The only forgiveness of sin before God the Father is through the blood of Jesus Christ and that sacrifice which He did, which is the work that Christ Himself finished. For all of us, when that happens with baptism, that's a new beginning.

Verse 22: "Even *the* righteousness... [justification] ...of God *that is* through *the* faith of Jesus Christ, toward all and upon all those who believe..." That belief includes everything ***we are to believe:***

- the Law
- the Prophets
- the Gospels
- Christ
- in His forgiveness
- in His sacrifice
- in His shed blood
- that we need to be baptized

Believe! That means *everything about you being a Christian!*

"...for there is no difference.... [no respecter of persons] ...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *but* are being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (vs 22-24).

Can anything replace or substitute for the sacrifice of Christ? Remember, the doers of the Law shall be justified, which means those who don't do the Law will not be justified. There has to be repentance and obedience. That's why we're doing the series on *Christ and Our Calling—TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love*.

In fact, that's the way the book of Romans has been written. By the way, we have three in-depth studies on Grace:

- *Grace of God in the Bible*
- *God's Grace and Commandment Keeping*
- *Grace Upon Grace*

That's one that has never been explained, so you need those three.

Verse 25: "Whom God has openly manifested..." He did it for the whole world, so the whole world would know. He didn't do it just over in this little country over here and it was done in secret and you've got to come over and join this secret society in order to get an 'in' to have your sins forgiven. *No!*

"...to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..." (v 25). What does propitiation mean? *It means a continuing source of mercy and forgiveness upon repentance!* Think about repentance for a minute, because our whole lives, even after baptism, we've got a lot of repenting to do, because God is putting in us the mind of Christ. There's a lot of erasing and re-writing in our minds that needs to be.

How much is in your mind? There are a lot of things there. I bet if I said, 'Jingle Bells,' that's there. How about some advertising? 'Coke is the real thing.' What are some of the other advertisings that they have. How about some of the songs you know?

Tell one on me. This is not necessarily a bad thing to have in your mind, but I watched one of the Trump *Thank You* tours and they have the song

Proud to be an American. That's been running around in my mind. We have a lot of things in our mind. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but it's really annoying, because I need something else in my mind other than that. That's why the daily prayer is, 'Forgive us our sins.' That's why He is the propitiation.

"...through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, in respect to the remission of sins that are past" (v 25). God never forgives future sins. If you plan to sin, it's already done. You just haven't carried it out.

Verse 26: "Through the forbearance of God, yes, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time..." That's why we have the Bible.

There are now about a billion digital Bibles on cell phones. How's that for getting a witness out to people, right in the palm of your hand. 'Lord, you never told me.' *Did you have a cell phone? Did you have a Bible on it?*

"...that He might be just, and the one Who justifies the one who *is* of the faith of Jesus? (v 26). A work of law will never justify you, only the work of God through Christ and His shed blood can justify you.

Verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting? It is excluded. Through what law? *The Law* of works? By no means! Rather, *it is* through a law of faith. Consequently, we reckon that a man is justified by faith, separate from works of law. *Is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also *the God* of the Gentiles? YES! *He is* also God of *the* Gentiles" (vs 27-29).

That's what Jews especially back then, did not want to acknowledge. This was the big problem when we get to Galatians.

Verse 30: "Since *it is* indeed one God Who will justify *the* circumcision by faith, and *the* uncircumcision through faith." Same operation. Now there is not the divergence between the people of Israel and the other nations of the world.

Verse 31: "Are we, then, abolishing *the Law* through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the Law*."

How's the best way to establish the Law even in the society? *Internalize it!* Just think what it would be like if you lived in a town where everybody kept the Sabbath, everybody kept the Holy Days. You didn't need any police, nobody lied or stole or cheated. Everyone loved each other. You didn't have to worry about a thing. No locks on the doors or windows. You could trust everyone. Wouldn't that be something? That's what we're

going to do in the Millennium. That's what we're going to do with the help and power of God's Spirit.

Now we are ready to tackle Galatians. We've got several studies on Galatians, especially the one on Circumcision Wars. That's what was happening in the New Testament.

There is so much in the Bible. It's the greatest book in the world, the most widely distributed in the world and covers everything concerning all aspects of human life. No other book can do that. The Bible tells you:

- how to run the government
- how to run a church
- how to run a family
- how to run your life
- what you need to do as husband and wife
- what you need to do with child rearing
- what's the history and how did we get here
- where are we going
- what is the plan of God
- how is He going to carry it out
- who is going to do it
- how is it going to be done
- when will Christ return
- how is He going to return

It's all in the Bible. Just think how many volumes of books that would have to be if men wrote it.

I remember the first time, and the only time, I went to Washington, D.C. I went back to Baltimore to visit some brethren. Gary Stazak gave me a tour around Washington, D.C. What struck me was how small. When you see Washington Monument you think that's really big. Lincoln's Memorial you think that's really big, but it's not, it's small.

Then he took me into the Library of Congress. That was quite an experience. They've got every published book that they could possibly get. Dolores used to be a librarian. They have card catalogues on it and they have a whole bunch of little desks with lights on them and you can check out a book and sit down and read it; all of those books.

I said to myself, isn't it amazing how much God has put in one book, the Bible and has made it so freely available to people. You may have to buy it, but it's still freely available.

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

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 28:18-20
- 2) 2-John 1-7

- 3) 2-Corinthians 11:13-17, 19-20
- 4) 1-John 2:21-24, 26
- 5) Romans 2:11-16
- 6) Romans 3:19-31

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 16
- Exodus 12
- Numbers 15:38-39
- Hebrews 10:16
- John 12
- Matthew 25
- 1-John 5:3
- Mark 7

Also referenced:

Booklet: *Is the Ministry God's Government?*

Books:

- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

From the *Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:
Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult
Scriptures Concerning The Law and the
Commandments of God

Sermon Series:

- *Christ and Our Calling: TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience, Love*
- *Grace of God in the Bible*
- *God's Grace and Commandment-Keeping*
- *Grace Upon Grace*
- *Circumcision Wars: Galatians*

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Word of God vs Traditions of Men III

Stand for Truth, not the doctrines and traditions of men

Fred R. Coulter—December 24, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath services. We've been covering in a short series of sermons about Messianic Judaism and Judaism, and how that is beginning to affect many different fellowship groups and churches.

This is why I have said, you need this book by Philip Neal, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* The confrontation in the New Testament has nothing to do with the Protestant/Catholic confrontation that we have had for over 500 years. It has to do with the confrontation between the Truth of God, the laws of God, the truth of the Gospel, the spiritual aspect of what God is doing with His Spirit vs Judaism.

Judaism created all the traditional laws as a fence around the Law so that no one would be able to break the laws of God if they kept these laws.

The thing very few people really understand is that in Hebrew the Law is called the Torah. Torah means *law*. When the Jews talk about Torah, they don't mean the first five books of the Bible. Most Protestants assume that's what they mean. Too many people in the Churches of God assume that if the Jew says Torah, he's talking about the laws of God. He is not necessarily talking about the laws of God. He is talking about the *code* of Jewish Law.

- Do you know anything about the *code* of Jewish law?
- Do you know anything about traditional law-keeping of the Jews?
- Do you know their mindset without the Spirit of God as they look at the Scriptures?
- Do you realize that just as it says the Jews have a zeal for God, but 'not according to knowledge' (Rom. 9).

Not even the knowledge of the Old Testament, and certainly most limited knowledge of the New Testament.

Example: In the New Testament we are taught the spiritual application of the Law. When the Messianic Jews, who don't have the Spirit of God—there may be some that might—you need to understand that very few have ever forsaken the traditional laws of Judaism.

We have a lot of other things to cover when we get to the book of Romans. Let's see what God says. Because the problem with man—Jews, Protestants, Catholics, all religions in the world, Islam, Buddhism, whatever it may be—is that they

think can get in touch with God their ways. All of the things they do are *works of law* or *works of tradition*, which then is a *work of law*.

Let's understand something very important. The Jews claim that Moses gave to the elders secret knowledge, verbally, tradition. That is not so! God had Moses write everything down. Men like to think they can change what the Almighty God has done. It says in Isa. 40:

- Who has been the instructor of God?
- Who has been His counselor?
- Who told Him how to create the earth?
- All nations are a drop in the bucket and less than vanity.

What do you think that means concerning traditional teachings of men? *They have no standing with God!*

Deuteronomy 12:29: "When the LORD your God shall cut off the nations before you, where you go to possess them, and you take their place and dwell in their land."

Israel was a nation with geographical territory. God gave to all nations, right after the Flood, the administration of death. That is the political and civil power to have laws in a community and to carry those laws out.

As I've covered in sermons concerning Islam, Islam is a political national movement. That's why they want to bring Sharia Law. In Christianity, since God says it goes into all the world, God has taken away the administration of death. God has upgraded His laws to the spiritual meaning of the law, not eliminating them.

When you upgrade it to a spiritual meaning, let's just look at the laws of sacrifice. Those were performed by the priesthood and the Levites at the temple or the tabernacle. When Christ came, and His sacrifice superseded all of the laws of the priesthood and sacrifices, those were replaced by God with the sacrifice of Christ and the spiritual keeping of the Law.

The whole purpose of sacrifice, and high priest, and mediator for the people, now is done in heaven above. God did that because He knew He was going to destroy the temple and Jerusalem. Didn't Jesus tell His disciples that (Matt. 24)? *Yes!* We're talking about:

- our relationship with God
- commandment keeping
- loving God

- loving our neighbor
- loving each other
- loving our enemies

That's why God gave us laws.

If you haven't studied much in the laws of God, read them and ask: Is this a good law or not? You read the laws of Exo. 20, which is the Ten Commandments. Then Exo. 21-23. Are those good laws? *Yes, indeed!*

Let's see that God warned in many places, many times. Deuteronomy 12:28: "Be careful to observe and obey all these words, which I command you, so that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever when you do *that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.*"

Is that right? Is that good? *But of course!* Therefore, the Law is not a curse, as most Protestants believe. The breaking of the Law *brings* a curse, a penalty. God wanted it to go good and right with them in the sight of the Lord.

Verse 29: "When the LORD your God shall cut off the nations before you, where you go to possess them, and take their place and dwell in their land, take heed to yourselves..." (vs 29-30).

The thing of human nature is that 'there is a way that seems right to men and women, but the ends thereof are the ways of death.' So, you have to take heed that you have to follow the laws and commandments of God, now spiritually amplified in the New Testament. Not do away with law.

Even if they removed every Bible in the world, *the laws of God would still be in effect, because they are spiritual!* Think on that for a minute.

Verse 30: "Take heed to yourself that you do not become ensnared by following them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not ask about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods that I may also do likewise?'"

Remember the sin of Solomon? Remember the sin of the children of Israel? *Baalim, and Ashtoreth!*

Verse 31: "You shall not do so to the LORD your God..." What does this involve? This involves adding things to the laws of God, taking away things from the Law of God, to justify that kind of behavior.

Verse 31: "You shall not do so to the LORD your God, for every abomination to the LORD, which He hates, they have done to their gods; even their sons and their daughters they have burned in the fire to their gods. Whatsoever thing that I

command you, be careful to do it. **You shall not add to it, nor take away from it**" (vs 31-32).

Why does God allow false prophets? *Because there is free moral agency!* God wants to know:

- What are we going to choose?
- How are we going to choose it?
- What are we going to do with it?
- **Are we going to think *our ways* are greater than God's ways?**
- Are we going to think the way other nations worship their gods we should do so?

Let's see what God says, Deuteronomy 13:1: "If a prophet rises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder."

There's even a minister in one of the Churches of God, one of its leaders who said, 'I had a dream.' He preaches some mighty false doctrine. But people are like lemmings and fall in line. ***We are to fall in line with God!*** The false prophets come along so God is going to test us: What will you do?

Just like if Messianic Jews come into a fellowship group or a congregation and start telling you have to have phylacteries, have your hair just right, a prayer shawl, and *you have to use sacred names.* *That's Judaism!* I challenge anyone, anywhere to find sacred names in the New Testament, except the names Jesus Christ the Son of God, and God the Father. Those are the only sacred names in the New Testament.

One little caveat: Once in Romans and once in Galatians Paul uses the word *Abba*, which is Aramaic. Then he puts Father after it. *Abba* means in a complete trusting childlike way that you're trusting your father or daddy.

Verse 2: "And the sign or the wonder, which he foretold to you comes to pass, saying, 'Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,' you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God *is* testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, **and keep His commandments, and obey His voice,** and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him" (vs 2-4).

The next verse says, because they had the administration of death, they were to take that prophet out and execute him. Look at all the damage that is done with false teachings.

Let's examine just one thing. Catholics make it very clear—and we have it *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants* in Appendix N in the

Faithful Version Bible—that Sunday is a day they devised themselves and flaunt it before the Protestants. Cardinal Gibbon, who wrote that in 1893, makes it clear that if ‘you Protestants really believe solo scriptura,’ then why do you keep Sunday, which is a Catholic institution; you need to keep the Sabbath Day.’

Have you ever read that in Appendix N? That’s why we have the Bible and that’s why we have the appendices. Have you studied the appendices? Have you even looked at them? That’s why they’re in the Bible. That’s why they’re not in a separate book. Everything in the commentaries and the appendices is geared to explain to this generation God’s way vs all of the false doctrine that the Catholics, Protestants, and Jews have. So, it’s necessary to study it, necessary to go through it.

As a matter of fact, Appendix A is how to study the Bible: *Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*. What we do here, we go verse-by-verse, and so forth.

But look at this: “...keep His commandments.” What’s the fourth commandment? You know that one very well, the Sabbath. What did Jesus say about the Sabbath?

Mark 2:27: “And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, *and* not man for the Sabbath; therefore, the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath” (vs 27-28).

This tells us if you want to keep the true Lord’s Day; it is not Sunday, it is Sabbath, and Jesus is Lord of it. Any minister, anywhere that says, ‘We keep Sunday and that’s what God honors,’ is a liar. You know what Jesus said is going to happen to them? *Unless they repent, they’re going into the Lake of Fire!*

‘Yeah, but the whole world does it.’ Really? What does John write about the whole world? *Satan has deceived it (Rev. 12:9) and the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one!* That’s why!

You could take whatever other ones you want to. I’m going to read to you some of the *Code of Jewish Law*. We’ve covered it. Just to remind you:

- What happens when people have traditions in place of the Word of God?
- What happens they try and serve God with that?
- Does God accept it?
- Does He look down here and say, ‘Oh, they’re well intentioned, they’re so fine, good and nice, they’re wonderful’? *No!*

This had to do with the washing of hands. Furthermore, the Protestants and Catholics twist this

to say that all meats are clean to eat. God never said so.

Mark 7:5: “For this reason, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, *saying*, ‘Why don’t Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders... [these learned, wonderful men] ...but eat bread with unwashed hands?’” Those filthy disciples of Yours, Jesus.

Notice how Jesus answered. Isn’t it interesting that when challenged Jesus always answered with Scripture. Remember when He was tempted by Satan the devil? *The devil said, ‘If You’re the Son of God, command that these stones become bread!’* What did Jesus say? *‘It is written, man...’*—since He was God manifested in the flesh, He’s talking about Himself—*‘...shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God!’*

What did we just read in Deut. 13? *To keep His commandments and obey His voice!* The Bible is the Word of God in print. It’s so imperative that there are more Bibles than ever before. Jesus prophesied it would be *preached* and *published*.

Verse 6: “And He answered *and* said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me.”’”

- How is your heart?
- How close are you to God?

God hasn’t called us to *play* religion. God hasn’t called us to play church. ***God has called us to receive eternal life, the greatest gift ever!*** I want you to think on that. I want you to mull that over: *called to eternal life*, and all that it means.

Here’s what happens with traditions. Any tradition of any religion does this, v 7: “But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men.”

What happens when you replace the commandments of God with the commandments of men? Here’s what you do:

Verse 8: “For leaving the commandments of God...” The tradition becomes more important. Think about this in a Messianic congregation. Everybody comes in, they check their beard and their phylacteries, rather than loving them as brethren and loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. That’s why there are false prophets.

The Jews keep the Passover on the wrong day—the 15th instead of the 14th. You need *The Christian Passover* book. I’m going to tell about this one again and again as we go toward the Christian

Passover. You need this because this is the most important book you can read. That is the most attacked and vilified practice that men have done absolute violence to: the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, communion, Passover on the wrong day. We'll get into that, but you need to know.

I got an e-mail a couple weeks ago where a man said, 'I need some help. Is the Passover on the 14th or the 15th? When did Jesus observe it?' I said, 'That's quite a serious question.' He said, 'We've been studying in our study group and I'm going to cover this on Wednesday.'

I said, 'Why don't you e-mail me back your address and we'll send you as many of *The Christian Passover* books as you need so that everyone can study it together.' He never answered back.

There are so many things that Satan has done to the true Passover, because he knows that if you miss the mark on the Passover, it's very likely over a period of time you could slip out of covenant with God, because you're not keeping His commandments, and you're not obeying His voice, and you're not doing as Jesus said. This becomes really important.

Verse 8: "**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 8-9)—*whatever that may be!*

I'm going to read from you from the *Judaism* book very interesting things. I'm going to read you about hand-washing. Remember what the dispute was with the disciples and the Pharisees. Here's what they say about hand-washing in the morning:

Judaism: Revelation of Moses, or Religion of Men? by Philip Neal (pg 160)

1. Since every man upon rising from his sleep in the morning is like a newborn creature, insofar as the worship of the Creator is concerned, he should prepare himself for worship by washing his hands out of a vessel, just as the priests used to wash their hands daily out of the wash-basin before performing their service in the Temple....

- Are they priests?
- Is there a temple?
- *No!*

In rejecting Jesus, now they think they can make themselves Holy by bringing in things that look like they make you righteous. These are *works of law*,

along with all the sacrifices that they had at the temple.

This hand-washing is based on the Biblical verse (Psalms 26:6-7): "I will wash my hands in innocency, and I will compass Thy altar, O Lord; that I may publish with a loud voice," etc. There is another reason given by the Kabbalists...

Who are the Kabbalists? *They are the same those in the different religions that delve into demonism!*

...for this morning hand-washing: when a man is asleep, the holy soul departs from his body, and an unclean spirit descends upon him. When rising from sleep, the unclean spirit departs from his entire body, except from his fingers, and does not depart until one spills water upon them three times alternately. One is not allowed to walk four cubits (six feet) without having one's hands washed, except in cases of extreme necessity.

Then it talks about the first garment that must be put on, which is the 'tallit katan,' the four-cornered one.

...for one is **not allowed to walk even as much as four cubits without having a fringed garment on.** But as his hands are still unwashed, he may not say the benediction on putting it on.

All of these were to make them righteous. Let's look at another one.

On Dressing and Deportment (pg. 161-2):

1. It is written (Micah 6:8)...

They go the Scripture and then they bring a *tradition* and a *false doctrine*. That becomes more important than the Scripture. Notice this:

"And to walk humbly with thy God."....

notice how they interpret it

...Therefore it is the duty of every man to be modest in all his ways. **When putting on or removing his shirt or any other undergarment, he should be careful not to expose his body unduly. He should put it on or remove it while still lying covered in bed.** He should never say to himself: "Lo, I am all alone in my inner chamber and in the dark, who can see me?" For the glory of the Holy One, blessed be He, fills the universe, and darkness and light are alike to Him, blessed be His name; and modesty and a **sense of shame** indicate humility before Him, blessed be His name.

Rules of Decency:

4. **While in the lavatory, it is forbidden to think of sacred matters...** On the Sabbath, when it is forbidden to think of business, one should think of some interesting things that one has either seen or heard, or something similar to that.

How about reading the Word of God?

Chapter 8: What May not be Done from Dawn Until Praying Time (pg 163):

As soon as the day dawns, that is, when the first light of the sun is seen in the East—since this is the time when prayers may begin (if one had by chance prayed at that early hour, one had complied with his duty) we are not permitted to begin any kind of work, or transact business, or start a journey until one has prayed, as it is said (Psalms 85:13): “Righteousness shall go before him; and he shall make its footsteps a way to walk in.” “Righteousness” means prayer, where in we declare the righteousness of our Creator, and only afterward are we to direct our footsteps on the road of our material desires.

2. **One is not allowed to eat or drink before praying...**

How about that? There are many, many others. There are thousands of them. We only put a few select in the book so you could read and understand what they were.

Chapter 40: Washing the Hands Before Meals (pg. 164)

Chapter 46: Forbidden Foods (pg. 167):

1. The blood found in eggs is forbidden. Occasionally, it is forbidden to eat the entire egg on account of blood-spots....

That may be a good health thing.

...Therefore, the egg should be examined before using it in the preparation of food.

2. The use of the blood of fish is permitted, but if it is collected into a vessel, its use is forbidden for the sake of appearance, because people might think that it is forbidden blood....

You have to wash your hands after eating as well

Chapter 44: Laws Concerning the Washing of Hands and the Saying of Grace After Meals (pg. 166):

2. **We must not pour this water on the ground where people walk, because an evil spirit rests upon it....**

Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Chapter 46: Forbidden Foods (pg. 168):

18. If we happen to forward, through a non-Jew, a slaughtered beast or fowl or anything else without a seal, then we must **consult a rabbi** about it.

Chapter 72: The Holiness of the Sabbath (pg. 170):

12. On Friday, one must wash the face, hands, and feet in warm water, and if possible, one should bathe the whole body in warm water and then **immerse in a ritual pool**.

Chapter 73: Work Done by a Non-Jew on the Sabbath (pg. 171):

Yes, you could have them work. What does the Bible say? *No, you don't!*

Chapter 80: Some Labors Forbidden on the Sabbath (pg. 174):

The principal works we are forbidden to perform on the Sabbath are already known to most of the children of Israel. The list given herein comprises works that are not generally known to be forbidden; they are common things performed in the course of our daily lives.

1. It is forbidden to work that requires concentration before a lamp. The Rabbis have forbidden this, lest one forgets and tilts the lamp in order to bring the oil closer to the wick, and then one will be guilty of “igniting.”

Think of that!

3. Pouring boiling gravy on pieces of bread or *matzah* is forbidden. One should first pour the gravy into a dish, let it cool off until it is fit to eat, and then put the bread or the *matzah* in it

Can't pour it over, but you can put it in it.

...but as long as the gravy is hot, even if it is already in the dish, it is forbidden to put either bread or *matzah* in it... It is likewise forbidden to put salt or spices into the gravy, even if it is already in the dish...

Think of that! All of these laws have to do with making themselves righteous.

Numbers 15:37: “And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel and command them that they make fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue. And it shall be to you for a fringe that you may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and so that you do not seek after your own heart and your own eyes which you yourself wantonly go after, that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be Holy to your God’” (vs 37-40).

This is where they get the garments. Where does God want the commandments with us today? On a blue ribbon? or in our hearts and minds? Here’s what they say concerning this.

Therefore, every Jew must take care to wear a *tallit katan*, a small fringed garment, all day. This must be made of white lambs-wool measuring about three-fourths of a cubit in length and half a cubit in width (13-1/2 inches by 9). Other authorities hold that the measure ought to be 18 x 18 inches, but those who sew together the sides of the *tallit katan* should take care to leave the greater part of both sides open. It is not permissible to join the open parts by means of hooks. Every man must provide himself with a large fringe *tallit* with which to enfold himself when praying. He should take care that the *tallit* is handsome.

For every religious deed must be performed in the grandest manner as it is written, “This is my God. I will glorify Him.” As explained to me, show yourself glorious before Him when performing His commandments. One must also be careful to buy the fringes from a trustworthy person and be certain that they are spun entwined for the specific purpose in accordance with the provisions of the law and that they are to be of the prescribed length.

Hundreds, thousands of laws. *Thousands!* These are *works of law*. They think that in doing this, they are righteous before God, or that is they are justified before God. God wants a conversion, a change of heart and mind with His Spirit, not the physical things like this.

Even though God originally commanded it, look where they have taken it. Look what they have done with all of these things. You need this book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* You need to read it. That’s why we have it. We have these books to help us understand the Truth

of God and the Word of God. That’s what’s the important thing.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how it was with the confrontation with the Jews and Judaism that was the main problem within the New Testament church. Too many people have put that into the context of Protestant vs Catholic. There may be some similarities, but that’s not the problem that we find in the New Testament.

After they had healed the man at the Gate Beautiful and they were arrested, brought before the Sanhedrin, the priests and the Sanhedrin said, ‘You’re not to speak in that name anymore.’

We are going to see the same thing applied in the New Testament that God told the children of Israel in the Old Testament, to the writings of the Word of God and the writings of the New Testament itself.

Here they were, Peter and John standing before the Sanhedrin; Acts 4:19: “But Peter and John answered *and* said to them, ‘Whether it is right before God to listen to you rather than to God, you judge.’ That’s quite a statement and we need to keep that in mind when we get to Galatians.

Verse 20: “‘For we cannot but speak what we have seen and heard.’ And after further threatening them, they let them go...” (vs 20-21).

They were hauled in again, brought before the Sanhedrin, Acts 5:27: “And they brought them in *and* set *them* before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them.”

The high priest was the final authority among the Jewish community. He was probably of the lineage of Aaron or Levi. Everyone was to obey what the high priest said. This tells us that the high priesthood on earth has no authority today. It is our High Priest in heaven above: Jesus Christ. We are not to follow the teachings of men, but the teachings of God and the teachings of the apostles, especially for us today, since we have the whole Bible.

Verse 28: “Saying, ‘Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man’s blood upon us.’”

Notice what Peter and the apostles said. This becomes very important as we’ll see in just a little bit.

Verse 29: “But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, ‘We are obligated to obey God rather than men’”—and *their* traditions.

How are we to worship God today? *In Spirit and in Truth*, with the laws of God written in our hearts and in our minds. That takes place through prayer, study, living and so forth.

Peter continues, v 30: “‘The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by hanging Him* on a tree. Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And we are His witnesses of these things, as is also the Holy Spirit, which God had given to those who obey Him’” (vs 30-32).

Notice their response and this has been the response carried down to this day. It is also the same response today of Islam:

Verse 33: “Now when they heard *this*, they were cut *to the heart* and took counsel to put them to death.”

Then Gamaliel stood up and saved them from that, so they beat them again and let them go. Peter had a dream, all unclean animals and everything were let down in a sheet three times. Then God told Peter to go with the three men that He sent from Cornelius. Cornelius was a Roman centurion, uncircumcised—very important. We’ll talk about circumcision here in just a minute and see what Paul said about that.

This is not to cleanse unclean meats. This is to show Peter that he was not to call any man common or unclean. Cornelius had a large home, a lot of servants, a lot of people, soldiers.

Acts 10:25: “And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him *and* fell at *his* feet, worshiping *him*.... [he didn’t say, ‘oh, mighty pope, welcome’] ...But Peter raised him up, saying, ‘Stand up, for I myself am also a man.’ And as he was talking with him, he went in and found many gathered together. And he said to them, ‘You know that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew to associate with or come near to anyone of another race....’” (vs 25-28).

That was a law of Judaism, not a Law of God. What did God say concerning the stranger? *Same law, same treatment as the children of Israel!* This was one of those separation laws that Judaism invented to try and keep Jews from apostatizing into the pagan religions again.

Notice his answer to them: “‘...But God has shown me *that* no man should be called common or unclean. For this reason, I also came without objection when I was sent for. I ask, therefore, for what purpose did you send for me?’” (vs 28-29).

They wanted to know about Jesus. They wanted to know about God. So, Peter preached to them. Peter tells why he came.

Cornelius said, v 33: “‘Therefore, I sent for you at once; and you did well to come. So then, we are all present before God to hear all things that have been commanded you by God.’ Then Peter opened *his* mouth *and* said, ‘Of a truth I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons’” (vs 33-34). Didn’t we read that in Rom. 2:13? ‘God is no respecter of persons.’

Verse 35: “But in every nation the one who fears Him and works righteousness is acceptable to Him. The word that He sent to the children of Israel, preaching the Gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), you have knowledge of; which declaration came throughout the whole of Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism that John proclaimed *concerning* Jesus, Who *was* from Nazareth: how God anointed Him with *the* Holy Spirit and with power, *and* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all *the* things...” (vs 35-39).

We don’t know the complete sermon or message that Peter gave. But he convicted them, talked about the resurrection, commanded to preach. To him all the prophets agreed.

Verse 44 was special. God did this to show that the Gentiles would receive the Holy Spirit the same way that the apostles did through repentance, baptism and laying on of hands. This was important because the Jews look upon—and in many cases today—all other people as inferior to them. That’s an important thing to grasp.

Notice what happened, because Peter would never have done this, baptized them for the Holy Spirit unless God did this first. This is not to say that today people don’t need to be baptized. No, that was not the lesson. The lesson here was very clear, for Peter, that God gave His Holy Spirit to them though they were Gentiles and though they were uncircumcised.

All Gentile proselytes coming to the synagogue had to be circumcised. Then they were allowed to come in the section of the synagogue where the proselytes sat, and that was a common. That’s a common man. Unclean is uncircumcised. Common is circumcised and a proselyte. They also had common and unclean foods of things that were not clean or unclean in designation concerning meats. But that’s another story.

Verse 44: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came upon all those who were listening to the message. And the believers from the circumcision were astonished, as many as had come with Peter...” There had to be witnesses.

They were astonished that God would do this, because they had been previously through Judaism commanded to not even keep company with Gentiles. So, now God was changing everything that the Jews had taught through Judaism. It was no longer acceptable. This becomes very important.

Verse 45: “And the believers from the circumcision were astonished, as many as had come with Peter, that upon the Gentiles also the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out; for they heard them speak in *other* languages and magnify God....” (vs 45-46). Probably spoke in Aramaic, Greek. These were Italian soldiers from Italy.

“...Then Peter responded *by saying*... [What could he do? Here the hand of God was performing this]: ...‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have also received the Holy Spirit as we *did*?’ And he [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they besought him to remain *for* a number of days” (vs 46-48).

Not only did Peter go there, not only did God show that He was going to call the Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them, but Peter stayed there for a number of days, meaning he ate there, slept there, he was in constant companionship with them for all those number of days.

Those who were with Peter went on back to Jerusalem and they told the elders of the church. It was hard for them to believe.

Acts 11:1: “Now, the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God; and when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of *the* circumcision disputed with him, saying, ‘You went in to men who were uncircumcised and did eat with them.’ But Peter related *the event* from the beginning and expounded *everything* in order to them, saying, ‘I was in *the* city of Joppa praying...’” (vs 4-5).

The men came, and so forth. He didn’t eat anything common or unclean (v 8). The voice from heaven said, ‘What God has cleansed, you are not to call common’ (v 9).

They came, v 12: “And the Spirit said to me, ‘Go with them, doubting nothing.’ And these six brethren also went with me; and we entered into the house of the man, and he related to us how he had seen the angel...” (vs 12-13).

Verse 15: “And when I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came upon them, even as *it* also *came* upon us in *the* beginning. Then I remembered the word of *the* Lord, how He had said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit.’ Therefore, if God also gave them the same gift that *was given* to us, who believed on

the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I *to dissent*? Do I have the power to forbid God?” (vs 15-17). Remember that.

Sidebar: Remember the power of the popes to preach things contrary to the Word of God and it replaces the Word of God. Their supposed first pope Peter did not do that. You go online to **churchathome.org** and go through the series, *Was Peter Ever in Rome*. You will be astonished he was never there.

Verse 18: “And after hearing these things, they were silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also has God indeed granted repentance unto life.’”

Let’s shift this ahead a few years and let’s come to the book of Galatians. Galatians, in some parts, has some very difficult things to understand. We have a series on Galatians that you can write for: *Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*.

The Galatians were confronted with a paganized Judaism and even those from Jerusalem, when they were at Antioch. Let’s see what Paul wrote and how important the book of Galatians is. It was so important that it was included here to ensure that in the Churches of God they would not be Judaized. That’s why.

Let’s come to Rom. 2 first because we need to talk about circumcision/uncircumcision. Here’s what Paul also made very clear. This becomes very important for us to grasp.

Paul is talking to the Jews because in Rome there were Jews and there were Gentiles, both. So, Paul is writing to the Jews:

Romans 2:17: “Behold, you are called a Jew, and you yourself rest in the law, and boast in God.” Yes, they had the law of God and they had their traditional laws as well.

Verse 18: “And know *His* will, and approve of the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; 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” (vs 18-20).

The form of it, but not all of it, the outline of it. Today we’re to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Today we are to have His laws written in our heart and our mind. Today we are to have the circumcision of the heart, not the circumcision of the flesh.

Verse 21: “You, then, who are teaching another, **do you not teach yourself also?**....” Very important principle! We can never at any time say that we know everything that there is in the Bible,

because it is layered and it is spiritual and there is so much involved in it. We learn, and learn, and learn, and we grow in grace and knowledge. We're to teach ourselves. We're to constantly be learning.

"...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 who boast in law, are you dishonoring God through your transgression of the Law?" (vs 21-23).

What was the biggest transgression of the law that they were doing? *The traditions, the works of law!*

Verse 24: "For through you the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles, exactly as it is written. For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the Law*... [listen] ...on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the Law*, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.... [what strong words to the Jews] ...Therefore, if the uncircumcised... [Gentiles] ...is keeping the requirements of the Law... [that's a good thing, the law of God] ...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law, judge you, who, with *the letter* and circumcision, are a transgressor of *the Law*? (vs 24-27).

Those are powerful words. The things that are from the Old Covenant and from Judaism that have to do with those things, God has raised to a higher standard. Circumcision now is of the heart and of the mind. Our attitude, our love toward God. Law-keeping is putting it in our heart and our mind and we live by it, as Jesus said, 'Live by every word of God.'

Verse 28 is an absolutely stunning verse. It's like taking a Jew and hitting them over the head with a mallet. But it is true.

Verse 28: "For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision which is external in *the flesh*; rather, he *is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly, and circumcision *is* of *the heart*, in *the spirit* and not in *the letter*; whose praise *is* not from men but from God" (vs 28-29).

That's important to remember. Jesus did not say that man shall live by 50% of the laws of God and 50% of the traditions of men, whether it be Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, anything else.

Let's see what Paul wrote. He was a high mucky-muck among the Pharisees. He had direct authorization from the high priest to arrest and to bring back to Jerusalem all of those who believed in Christ. You can read that in Acts 9. Then come over to Acts 13 where he goes out with Barnabas and they go out and teach the Gentiles.

Galatians 1:1: "Paul, *an* apostle, not *sent* from men nor *made* by man, but by Jesus Christ and God *the Father*, Who raised Him from *the dead*; and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the Father* and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world..." (vs 1-4). That's why, brethren, we need to ask:

- Do I have one foot in the world and one foot in the Church?
- How am I spiritually?

We have to choose by obeying and loving God!

"...that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father; to Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen" (vs 4-5).

Notice what Paul says in v 6. This is absolutely true in every generation coming down through time—that once people get away from really loving and serving God, and get wrapped up:

- in traditions
- in other things
- change the activities
- water down the Truth
- have short little sermons
- have nice little sayings

Then when trouble comes, just ask: Remember the trouble we've gone through for 20 years. Where are all of those who were once with us? *Some went right straight back into Protestantism!* Same thing here. We are going to see that there were those Jews who were coming and even the Apostle Peter himself got caught up into the practices of Judaism again. He knew better.

Verse 6: "I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the grace* of Christ, to a different gospel."

'Let's change this here; let's change this over here. Oh, the Jews have preference, even though God accepts the Gentiles.' A lot of different things going on.

Verse 7: "Which *in reality* is not another Gospel; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ."

Is Sunday-keeping and holiday-keeping a perversion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? *Yes, it is!* Later the Gentiles came doing that. So, it's not just to the Jews alone, but it's those opponents who are religious, who think that they know more than God, to come in and have the audacity to change the Word of God, the understanding of the Scriptures, bring in

false doctrines. Remember what happened? *Yes, indeed!*

Notice this warning, v 8: “But if we... [Paul and all the brethren, or the apostles] ...or even an angel from heaven... [where was Lucifer before he rebelled? Cast down to the earth in heaven] ...should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” The strongest sense of the word.

Would you say Satan the devil and the demons are accursed? *Yes, indeed!* Same way with the religions of this world. They think they’re sweet and nice and lovely and fine, but they are accursed. The curse means you’re cut off from God.

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!”

Remember where we started—Deut. 12 and 13. God still allowed false prophets to come, to test and see.

- Do we know the Truth?
- Do we believe the Truth?
- Do we love the Truth?
- Do we love God the Father and Jesus Christ?
- Do we love the brethren?
- Are we going to stay in the works of Christ or are we going to do our own?
- What is it that we are going to do?

I call your attention to the message that I gave during the Feast of Tabernacles^[transcriber’s correction] *The Lessons of Solomon*. How did Solomon go wrong? He got his mind on himself and diminished the role of God in his life. That’s how apostasy takes place.

Verse 10: “Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Think about that! Everyone of us who are elders and ministers and teachers, think about that! That’s why Paul told Timothy to ***preach the Word***—the Word of God, in season and out of season.

Verse 11: “But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not according to man; because neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught *it by man*; rather, *it was by the* revelation of Jesus Christ. For you heard of my former conduct when I was in Judaism...” (vs 11-13). Paul knew Judaism forward and backward, sideways to sideways, and upside down. He knew it and he was coming hard against Christ. Remember

when Christ knocked Paul to the ground. Paul said, ‘Who is this?’ Christ said, ‘Jesus, Whom you are persecuting,’ because he was persecuting the brethren. If anyone goes against the brethren, you are persecuting Christ. Think of that!

“...how I was excessively persecuting the Church of God and was destroying it; and I was advancing in Judaism *far* beyond many of my contemporaries in my *own* nation, being more abundantly zealous for *the* traditions of my fathers” (vs 13-14).

Then he talks about how God called him. Gal. 2 becomes very important. Here he comes back with Barnabas and Titus, came back to meet Peter, James and John at that particular time. They brought Titus, who was a Greek, and was not compelled to be circumcised.

Galatians 2:4: “Now this *meeting* was *private* because of false brethren brought in secretly...” False brethren, not only false apostles coming, sideling in with different doctrines, practices, suggestions and ideas. This was even more vicious.

“...who came in by stealth to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, in order that they might bring us into bondage” (v 4)—*into the laws of Judaism*, whatever the practice was. Paul let it be known to Peter, James and John, too.

Verse 5: “To whom we did not yield in subjection, *not* even for one hour, so that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with you. But *the Gospel that I preach did not come* from those reputed to be something. (Whatever they were does not make any difference to me; God does not accept *the* person of a man.) For those who are of repute conferred nothing upon me” (vs 5-6).

Here’s the truth of this. ***The Truth of God stands always!*** If we stand for the Truth of God, we are not going to give in to the doctrines and teachings of men.

What do you believe when you are all alone and no one is there to see you or hear you?

- Do you love God?
- Do you desire to keep His commandments?
- Are you growing?
- Are you overcoming?
- What is your life?

Each one of us is going to be judged individually. We ‘re not going to do like Adam and Eve. Eve said the serpent. Adam said the woman. God said, ‘All three of you are wrong.’ Peter, James and John didn’t confer anything on Paul.

Verse 7: “But on the contrary, after seeing that I had been entrusted with the Gospel of the uncircumcision, exactly as Peter *had been entrusted with the Gospel* of the circumcision.”

That’s why Peter never went to Rome. You go to **churchathome.org** and go through that series that we have here. When you read where he was in 1-Peter, he says, ‘The church in Babylon salute you.’ Where was Peter? *In Babylon, not in Rome!*

Verse 8: “(For He Who wrought in Peter for the apostleship of the circumcision wrought in me also toward the Gentiles)” That means work actively with the Spirit within to serve.

Verse 9: “And after recognizing the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas and John... [that is James, Peter and John] ...those reputed to be pillars—gave to me and Barnabas *the right hands of fellowship, affirming that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision. Their only request was that we remember the poor, which very thing I was also diligent to do*” (vs 9-10).

Here comes the confrontation. Here comes a reasonably difficult section of Scriptures to understand. Remember how we covered that only the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ can justify us—that is forgive our sins, and put us in right standing with God. Remember what we read.

Verse 11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned... [this was public] ...for, before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles. However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the circumcision party*” (vs 11-12).

Peter always had a political streak in him. He didn’t want to offend James, the brother of Jesus. When they came, which also tells us that back in Jerusalem they were still holding to the circumcision doctrine, much more than they should have been. Here’s what they did. He was eating with the Gentiles, just like he did with Cornelius. Peter knew better.

“...However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the circumcision party*” (v 12). That’s what Paul called it.

Verse 13: “And the rest of *the Jews* joined him in *this* hypocritical act, insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.” That was quite a thing they were doing. ‘Oh, here are these important people from James. We can’t let him know that we were eating with these Gentiles.’

So, you see the problems in the New Testament do not have to do with the laws of God,

but with the laws of traditional Judaism. That’s what’s important to understand.

We’ll go through ‘works of law’ vs justification by faith in part four.

I hope this is helpful! You go back over these things and learn them and study them for yourself.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 12:29, 28-32
- 2) Deuteronomy 13:1-4
- 3) Mark 2:27-28
- 4) Mark 7:5-9
- 5) Numbers 15:37-40
- 6) Acts 4:19-21
- 7) Acts 5:27-33
- 8) Acts 10:25-29, 33-39, 44-48
- 9) Acts 11:1-5, 12-13, 15-18
- 10) Romans 2:17-29
- 11) Galatians 1:1-14
- 12) Galatians 2:4-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 9
- Isaiah 40
- Matthew 24
- Exodus 20-23
- Revelation 12:9
- Acts 11:8-9
- Romans 2:13
- Acts 9, 13

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *The Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:

- Appendix N: Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants
- Appendix A: Fourteen Rules of Bible Study

Sermon Series:

- *Was Peter Ever in Rome?* (churchathome.org)
- *Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*

Sermon: *The Lessons of Solomon*

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