

The Writings of Paul

Chapter 8

Doing the Work of the Lord

*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **II Corinthians 5:1***

Remember: Paul lived and preached while the Temple in Jerusalem still stood.

The house of this tabernacle that Paul speaks of is the Temple in Jerusalem, and that it being built of brick and mortar, and by the hands of Man, can be dissolved because it is not built by God.

A building of God refers to the Tabernacle of God who is in Heaven.

*For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **II Corinthians 5:2-3***

When Paul speaks of **being clothed**, he does not speak of the shirt on our back, but to be wrapped in the love and mercy of God Almighty.

The same with the reference to **being naked**, it is not naked of the body but naked of the faith and Righteousness of God.

We **groan** for these things because as Saints of God, we are lost and alone in this world polluted by Satan's lies and deceptions.

*For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. **II Corinthians 5:4***

We that are in **the tabernacle**, once more refers to the Temple of Jerusalem.

We are **burdened** because so long as we live in mortal inequities, we stand the chance of falling short of the Lords Righteousness, and to be short is to chance being found unworthy of Heaven and Eternal Life, **swallowed up of life**.

Part Earth and Part Heaven

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **II Corinthians 5:5-7**

God created Man an animal of the Earth, then raised Man up, with the living spirit, to have the potential of Heaven. In Faith, we are confident that though we are mortally held to the Earth in our mortal body, we are absent from the Lord and eternal life.

We of Faith, know the Lord, though we have never seen him, having confidence that in our Faith, we will in time be with the Lord.

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:8

Though we are of the body and therefore prevented from entering Heaven, we would much prefer to be absent the body and present in Heaven.

Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. **II Corinthians 5:9**

Once more the words of Paul make it clear that he is aware of the need to “Work” in the search of the Lord, that we may be accepted of him. Again I say, don't just talk the talk, by calling yourself a Christian, you need to walk the walk, by working towards the perfection in yourself that is in God.

Whether Good or Bad

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

II Corinthians 5:10-11

Knowing the Morality of God is to know the law of God. They are one in the same. As you can see, Paul is showing that we are not free of error, and that we will be judged according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. If you believe that you are saved simply by declaring Jesus your savior, then why is Paul telling us that we will be judged on those things that we do. If you do badly you will be judged

accordingly, if you do good, likewise, it doesn't matter that you have declared Jesus your savior, what matters is you and how you live your life. Have you embraced God's morality, or do you still live your life as you please?

Consider this: Satan does not want you to give worship to God, if in his telling you that you only need declare Jesus your savior, and in this knowledge you do not give heed to God's Morality, then you will be judged as bad, not good, and Satan has won. I plead with you all, believe God's True Word as it is written in scripture and know eternal life, eternal death is the only alternative.

Glory in the Heart

*For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart. **II Corinthians 5:12***

Paul is making a strong argument against those who think that they only need declare Jesus their savior and they are saved. When you glory in appearance, you give honor to God and Jesus with your lips, but your actions are in opposition to the Commandments and Morality of God.

Only when you learn and then live by the Morality taught by Jesus, will you show that your love comes from your heart.

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; "After those days," saith the Lord, "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." **Jeremiah 31:33***

What God is saying here is that his law, God's Law, The Ten Commandments, will be written upon the hearts of all that are the Saints of God, and they will call the Lord their God, and he will call them his people.

The question is: do you want to worship God your Creator, or do you want to live in the pleasures of this world. You can have both, but your priority has to be to live in the Morality of God first and give glory to God for all that he has given to you.

Those who believe that they are above the Law, I ask you, why then does Jesus, Paul, and all the other Apostles take so much time and effort preaching obedience to God's Law, if we are already saved?

Jesus Died For All

For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ||

Corinthians 5:13-14

Before the First Advent of Jesus, there was no hope of reconciliation with God. All who lived and died had no hope that there was a resurrection into Eternal Life. In this fact, **all of Man was already dead**, for once your mortal life was spent, and there was no hope of an Eternal Life.

Before Jesus, God had not provided a path to salvation, even those who lived by the Commandments of God, in moral righteousness, had no hope of resurrection.

Because Jesus died for all of us, we all now have a path to God. Because Jesus died, we all died, and because Jesus was resurrected into Eternal Life, so too do we all have the hope and potential of Eternal Life.

To reach God we first have to walk that path of life, which is filled with many obstacles and pitfalls. Satan's lies and deceptions, are those pitfalls, therefore it behooves you to learn God's Truth so you will be able to recognize Satan's traps.

If you learn and then live by the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus, then Satan's lies will be manifest to you, and the path will be less difficult.

*And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. || **Corinthians 5:15***

The words: "**should not henceforth live unto themselves**," is a reference of living as though this is the only life and once you die it is all over for you.

The words: "**but unto him which died for them**," means that we must live according to the Teachings of Jesus, and no longer unto ourselves.

*Wherefore hence forth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. || **Corinthians 5:16***

While Jesus yet walked amongst us, we knew him in the flesh, but Jesus left the Earth, carried up into the clouds and into heaven, so we know longer know him. Through that which he taught, we can however come to know Jesus, through doing the **work** of the Lord, by study, research and learning.

The Purpose of Baptism

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **II Corinthians 5:17***

To **be in Christ** is to be a new creature, which means the same as Jesus tells us in:

*Jesus answered and said unto him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee,” “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **John 3:3***

When you accept the Teachings of Jesus, and believe in the resurrection and the promise of eternal life, you are considered to be in Christ. With this conversion to the faith (belief) you will also go through a change in yourself. The old you having been prone to sin, as are we all, but the old you will not have a care concerning that, or if you do care you will not know how to correct your error.

In the Teachings of Christ, in knowledge gained from educating yourself in the Teachings of Jesus, you will be shown how to avoid sin, and you will, because of your conversion, **need to** do what you must to avoid sin. You will go from a Man of the earth with only earthly concerns to a Man of the spirit, with concern of your immortal soul. You will be changed. As Jesus says, “Cannot see the Kingdom of God,” only those who go through this transformation will have a chance of entering heaven.

When you get baptized, you do so only after you have accepted the Teachings of Jesus as the true and correct way to live your life. With the knowledge of all the morality that Jesus taught, you thus know how it was that you were a sinner and you from that point on want to strive to no longer sin. Once this understanding and acceptance is manifest in you then is when you make a lifelong commitment with God by going through the baptismal process.

Baptism by water is a symbolic jester that you go through so as to remind yourself of your commitment to God and it is also to show God your commitment to God’s Morality. From the point that you are baptized God will be observing your actions and whether or not you are being true to your commitment. Baptism by water is only symbolic, in anticipation of having God baptize you in the true baptism with the Holy Ghost.

Reconciled Through Jesus

*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. **II Corinthians 5:18***

Before Jesus, Man could not be reconciled to God because of the Sins of Adam. The Sin of Adam was a sin against the Holy Ghost, which Jesus tells us, is an unforgivable sin.

Remember: as I showed in the Lessons, the Sin of Adam was not that he ate of the forbidden fruit, but that Adam accepted Satan's Lies as being the truth, and God's words as being the lie.

With Jesus, God no longer judges Man by the sins of the Father, but each of us are judged according to our own good things as well as our own bad things. It is for this reason that **by Jesus Christ, we hath been given to us the ministry of reconciliation.**

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. II Corinthians 5:19

Jesus is Christ because Christ is the essence of God the Father. In that God was in Christ, he therefore caused that Man can now be reconciled to him. This is again because of the promise of God-Jesus, that in conversion to the faith (belief) all men can be reconciled to the Father. To be reconciled is to be lead to redemption, and that leads to salvation.

God is not **imputing their trespasses unto men,** because Jesus tells us that **he did not come to condemn the world but that through Jesus the world might be saved.** John 3:17

Ambassadors for Christ

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:20

When Paul says, **we are ambassadors for Christ,** I am of the thought that Paul is referring to the Apostles which he is one of, as being ambassadors for Christ. But I do not think that this ambassadorship is exclusive to the Apostles. The Second Commandment of Jesus commands that we as converts to the faith must also continue the work of Jesus, which makes all who are converted responsible to preach the Kingdom of God and the Teachings of Jesus. As far as I am concerned that makes us all ambassadors.

Are You Sin?

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. II Corinthians 5:21

In that the Spirit of God resided in the body of Jesus, Jesus was incapable of sin, which is why Paul tells us that **he had no sin**. In his death, Jesus took on sin, because only those who are evil or in sin die. If you are forgiven of your sins by God then your sins are no more, you no longer have sin, it is for this reason that you will enter heaven and have eternal life. If you are sin, and repent not, then you remain sin, and only death awaits you.

If after you go through the process of embracing the Teachings of Jesus and you then are baptized, and then God forgives all your sins, then you are free of the sins you had before being forgiven, on a probationary basis.

If you return to your sinful ways and commit new sins, not only do your new sins condemn you but your old sins will be returned to you. If you make a promise, which is what commitment is, but then go back on your promise, then you are telling God that you really didn't mean it after all, that you lied. If you are insincere in your commitment to God, then he has no reason to forgive you your sins, which is why his forgiveness is probationary for the rest of your mortal life. From the minute that you commit yourself to living as Jesus taught, and for the rest of your life, you must strive for righteousness and remove yourself from sin.

Receive Grace not in vain

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. ||

Corinthians 6:1

Paul is pleading with us that when we are given the grace of God, either by hearing it from someone or reading and studying it in scripture, or by being touched by the Holy Ghost, as was Paul, that you take heed of God's Word, and do not ignore or refute it.

Remember: Jesus said "**For many be called, but few chosen.** **Matthew 20:16**

When God offers you his mercy through his grace, embrace it with all your heart, soul and mind, anything less and you will be one of those called but not chosen.

*For he saith, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." || **Corinthians 6:2***

Do not think that this time spoken of is as of the time of Paul, that it has come and gone. Know that the period that God refers to as the End of Times, which extends from **before** the birth of Jesus and into this day.

Therefore, the time is now and for you, it is when you are invited of God, if you reject or ignore, then the time will have passed for you as well as salvation.

Consider your personal situation as you now read these words, have you accepted the words in scripture as the Word of God, do you accept that my explanation and interpretation of scripture is correct and therefore offered to you by God, for I am but the servant of God, his Prophet. If you accept that these words written in this Web Page are given to me by God and not my own words, then the offer was made when you began to read, and in your acceptance you are reconciled with your Father, God in Heaven; Glory to God and his mercy. Amen.

*Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watching's, in fasting's; by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. **II Corinthians 6:3-10***

The above several verses, is a summarization of who Paul is, and the sacrifices that he made freely, that those who read his words might find Faith, and through Faith, salvation in God.

A Difficult Path

*O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. **II Corinthians 6:11***

Our mouth is open unto you, is reference to the preaching that Paul engaged in for the hope of the convergence of those who would listen. Through Paul's preaching, his heart is grown with love for all who see the truth in the words spoken by Paul, and are brought closer to God, because of it.

*Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. **II Corinthians 6:12***

The word **strait** is defined as: **a situation that is difficult or involves hardship. A strait path is one that is filled with obstacles and twists and turns, not easily walked.**

Therefore what Paul is saying is that you do not walk this difficult path because of him, (Paul), but in accepting the faith of Jesus Christ, you place yourself on this strait (difficult) path.

In that the path is difficult it gives support to what I was saying earlier. To think that in just declaring Jesus your savior, how is your path made difficult? If on the other hand as I am saying, you must work or endeavor to study and learn God's Holy gospel, then this is an aspect of it being a difficult path, don't you agree?

Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged. II Corinthians 6:13

The word "recompence" means: to pay or give compensation for, to make restitution for damages done. When you sin, you insult God. He has given us his rules of conduct; these are known as the Ten Commandments. When you break a Commandment of God, you are telling God that you reject his rules, and thereby reject him. This is an insult to him, why, because he gave you the life that you have, he gave you a soul rising you above the other animals of the earth, in return for these awesome gifts, he asks that you obey him and give your worship only to him and no other. That you reject this reveals your disrespect for God. To disrespect someone is the same as telling them that you hate them. It is for this reason that when you convert to the faith as preached by Jesus, you have given recompence to God, and in so doing have shown your repentance of your insults.

To be enlarged is to go from a lost soul in a world of sin and influenced by the immorality of Satan, with nothing but death to look forward to, to that of a child of light having heaven as your home and eternal life as your reward.

Walk separately from nonbelievers

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? II Corinthians 6:14

This goes along with what was discussed earlier. We who are the Saints of God are different from those who do not believe and are therefore not of the True Faith. We therefore should keep ourselves apart socially from the nonbelievers, so as to prevent being tainted by any false worship they may engage in.

As was said earlier however, we must still engage with nonbelievers for the purpose of showing them the truth of our Faith, through our example.

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? II Corinthians 6:15

Belial is a onetime popular Pagan god. Being Pagan, is to worship Satan.

The word “**Concord**” is defined as: peaceful coexistence through an agreement, of friendly relations, or peace, or a treaty of peace.

What Paul is asking is “**what agreement does Jesus have with Satan.**” Does God have a treaty with Satan, no? God has been at war with Satan, and Satan with God since before Satan lied to Adam and Eve. Their war is not fought with weapons of guns and bombs, but with words, of truth and of lies.

The word “**Infidel**,” is defined by the dictionary as: somebody with no religious belief.

But more recently it is defined as: anyone who does not believe as you believe. If your believe is correct, then all other believes must be incorrect, and those who follow those incorrect believes are therefore infidels.

What Paul is therefore asking, what part of the True Faith in God-Jesus, does anyone have who in a nonbeliever?

What God Requires

God has made it clear as it is given in the following verses.

*Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. **Deuteronomy 4:1-2***

To **hearken** is to take notice of something. So God is telling all who read these words, to take notice of all of his statutes and his judgments, which are the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus.

The words, “**which I teach you**” refers to the fact that God through his Prophets, and through the Books written by the Prophets, has taught us what God commands and demands of us.

The words, “**for to do them,**” is a command by God that we obey and live by that entire **Word** that he God has taught us.

That ye may live refers **not** to the mortal life, but that you can live the Eternal Life, which can only be given if you obey that which God has taught and commanded of you.

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you neither shall ye diminish aught from it refers to the fact that the Word of God is perfect in and of itself, and requires nothing to be added to it or subtracted from it. For you to do so, removes the words from being the Word of God to being a pollution of what God has spoken, and as such blasphemy.

That ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you, which is very clear to me, that God intends and demands that we keep the Ten Commandments. God has spoken, and his words are clear, what then do you obey, what then do you believe?

What Agreement concerning Idols

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." ||

Corinthians 6:16

Idols are the graven images made by the hand of Man in Man's own imagination.

No idols are permitted in the Temple of God, because Idols have no life, and have no mind or thoughts.

We of Man are the children of God, and as such our bodies are not our own but the temple of the spirit of God, and God dwells in each of us, and God walks in each of us.

Idols have no life, therefore, God cannot dwell in them, but we, the children of God have life, so God does dwell in us.

Sons and Daughters of God

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. || Corinthians 6:17-18

These verses go along with what I was saying earlier concerning how the Jews were forbidden to enter the homes of the Gentiles. In these verses, Paul is once more giving plea that once you have converted to the faith; will remove yourself from all contact with the churches of Satan. The Church of Satan is any church that does not uphold all ten of the Ten Commandments. This includes all churches that observe Sunday as the Sabbath, which is in direct violation of the Fourth Commandment of God.

These two verses are the only place I have found so far in my Bible Study, where God refers to both the sons and daughters. This of course is something written by Paul, and even though I do see these verses as being spoken by God, even so, Paul has input his personal prejudice of women into this.

As I have explained before, God does not see the outward aspect of Man, only the inward or spiritual aspect of Man. As such there is no gender. We are all the Sons of God, not sons and daughters.

Cleanse Ourselves

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. || Corinthians 7:1

As I have explained earlier, Paul intends that the Saints of God keep themselves separated from all others not of the Faith, nonbelievers. For the purpose of purity of thought and prevention of becoming deceived, this is correct and proper, where congregations and other faith based assemblies occur.

As I also explained, it is the duty and responsibility of all who are the Saints of God to go forth and educate those not already living in the Spirit of the Lord, to come to and embrace that spirit. This can only be done when we do engage others. This is in direct disagreement with that which Paul is preaching.

Jesus told the Apostles to go out and instruct others, the Jews first then then Gentiles. As followers of Jesus Christ, should we not do as Jesus did?

Receive the Teachings of Jesus

Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. || Corinthians 7:2

The above verse is a request of Paul that wherever he or the other apostles goes, that whomever they encounter, that they receive their words and take heed thereof. Paul continues to say that they speak not out of any expectation of compensation in earthly rewards, or gratuities, but freely to all who will listen.

In your reading of this or any other of those writing that God has caused me to write, I have not asked for or will I accept any kind of compensation or donations. As Jesus said, “What I give freely, ye too shall give freely.” It is for this reason why I do not ask for contribution on this Web Page, nor does it cost for you to access any of the essays that I have been given to write by God.

Not a Condemnation

*I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you. Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation. **II Corinthians 7:3-4***

In the above, Paul is once more giving glory to himself by numerating all that he and the other apostles have endured to bring the Word of God to all who will listen. In this Paul is also humbling himself, as an example of spirit that others who followed could emulate.

*For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. **II Corinthians 7:5***

*Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus: and not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more. **II Corinthians 7:6-7***

Once again I take exception with the words Paul is using. Paul is voicing his happiness that these people had a fervent mind toward me, whereas, it is not their love of Paul that is important, he being only a messenger from God. What should be rejoiced by Paul is that these people received conversion because of the Teachings of Jesus Christ, which Paul only repeated. I see this as a vanity in Paul's personality, that and the other objections I have shown to you, makes me uncomfortable concerning the passion Paul has for the Glory of God or for his own glory.

Brought to Repentance

*For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceived that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. **II Corinthians 7:8***

Evidently, the people of Corinthian, had engaged in error in their worship, and Paul had sent a letter to them, reprimanding them their slide from the true Faith.

In this Paul is saying that he is sorry for sending them a reprimand, but is joyful that the reprimand brought about repentance and correction of that which they had been in error.

*Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. **II Corinthians 7:9-10***

*For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. **II Corinthians 7:11***

Because they had erred, and were reprimanded for their error, they learned from the reprimand, and with that learning become stronger in the Faith.

*Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you. **II Corinthians 7:12***

When a good parent disciplines or reprimands their child, it is out of love, with the hope and intent that the child learns that they did wrong, and in that education will not repeat their error again.

So too, does Paul look upon all those congregations that he had a part in forming. His reprimand was intended out of love not anger.

*Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. **II Corinthians 7:13***

My knowledge of Scripture is limited to that which God has given me to read and study, therefore, I am unsure as to who Titus is. From the wording, I suspect that he was a convert of Jesus, through Paul, and as Paul had written a letter to this congregation of condemnation, it was Titus who had taken the letter and then stayed to help bring the congregation back to the true way of Christ.

*For if I have boasted anything to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him. I rejoyce therefore that I have confidence in you in all things. **II Corinthians 7:14-16***

By God's Authority

Chastisement for Profit

*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: **II Corinthians 10:1***

The word “**Bold**” is defined as: willing and eager to face danger or adventure with a sense of confidence and fearlessness.

Because Paul is not with these people, he must be **bold** and forceful in giving chastisement of the error and inequity of the congregation’s practices.

The phrase, who in presence am base among you, means that the Congregation has at its **base** the Teachings of Jesus, but are lacking, which is why Paul feels the need to chastise with bold confidence that the congregation will learn from Paul’s criticism and amend their practices.

Bold against some

But I beseech you that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. II Corinthians 10:2

To walk according to the flesh refers to taking a personal advantage of ones position of authority, to achieve some kind of personal gain at the expense of others.

Evidently, there are some who have voice a complaint that Paul or others with Paul have in some way taken advantage of the congregation.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. II Corinthians 10:3-5

My understanding of what these three verses are saying is that Paul is defending himself by explaining that he reprimands the congregations as is needed in his effort to defeat the influence of Satan on some of the congregation, not all.

I see this as a necessary duty of Paul, because history shows us that in time, the churches established by the Apostles do fall away from the Teachings of Jesus and into the false gospel of Satan.

*And having in a readiness to **revenge** all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. II Corinthians 10:6*

Paul uses the word “**Revenge**,” but in fact Paul does not take revenge on those that would usurp the congregation by introducing practices that are not of Christ, but instead, Paul, gives letters of warning, to the congregation, making them aware of those influenced by Satan.

In Christ or Deceived

*Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's. **II Corinthians 10:7***

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? In this Paul is asking a very important question. Give thought to it for a minute, and decide if you do or not.

When you look at another person, what do you see? You see their hair, their face, the clothes they are wearing, right? These are **the outward aspect of that person**. They really don't tell you much of anything about the person, such as their personality or moral character. To discover these hidden aspects of a person, you need to get to know them better first.

The same is true when it comes to understanding the Holy Scripture. When you read a verse, do not take it at face value, (**its outward appearance**), but give thought to what is being said and allow for its context as it is offered in any verses that proceed and follow after the one in question.

If you have been reading even a little of what I have offered as a way of explanation, I think you have noticed how I break each verse down and dissect them so as to get to the true meaning of what it says. I encourage you to do the same in your Bible study.

If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's let him of himself think this again: In these words Paul is telling us the same thing that I have been saying from the beginning of these Bible explanations. If you consider yourself to be a Christian, you need to reexamine yourself and what it truly means to be a follower of Christ.

When you follow Christ you are not following the man, because he is no longer walking among us, so what is it that you follow? Isn't it true that what you follow must be all that Jesus taught? When Christ said, “**I have “NOT” come to destroy**,” then you must accept that and know then that Jesus did not render the Ten Commandments obsolete, for if he had he would have destroyed them, but Jesus said, “**I have “NOT.”**” If Jesus has not, and you yet believe that the Ten Commandments no longer have power over you, then you are not a follower of Christ.

It is this same thing that Paul is talking about. If you are of Christ, then you must do and live as Christ taught, to do and live in any other way is to not be of Christ.

Authority for Edification

For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: that I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. ||

Corinthians 10:8-9

For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, is Paul's way of establishing his right to criticize and scold the congregations.

Which the Lord hath given us for edification: To "**Edify**" is to: improve the morals of someone, through education and knowledge.

Therefore, what Paul is writing is that he has been given the **JOB** of educating others in the Morals of God as taught by Jesus Christ.

Not for your destruction: It is the JOB of all teachers to increase the knowledge of their students, by educating them in the subject that the teacher is hired to teach. This is the same with Paul; he was given the JOB by Jesus to preach the Gospel of God as taught by Jesus Christ, not to bring them confusion, (**destruction**), but to bring them understanding.

I should not be ashamed: that I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. Because it was Jesus who gave Paul this JOB, it is therefore nothing for Paul to be ashamed of if Paul feels the need to give admonishment to those who are in error.

Power from God

For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. || Corinthians 10:10

For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; is Paul's way of saying that when Jesus spoke, the words spoken were filled with the weight of God and were powerful because of them being the Word of God.

But his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. It may not be that it is the speech of Jesus that Paul is referring to, but to Paul's speech. Evidently, Paul did not think that his verbal speech was as

understandable or got across the meaning that he intended, as well as his written words. I personally can sympathize with this, for my mouth doesn't speak with the clarity of my written words.

*Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present. **II Corinthians 10:11***

These words of encouragement and admonishment written by Paul have the same purpose in Paul's absence from the congregation as his spoken words would were he present to speak them.

The Wise accept Admonishments

*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. **II Corinthians 10:12***

To commend themselves, is to think yourself complete with no need of further education or knowledge, this is known as arrogance and conceit, such people tend to be in error more than they are correct.

If you measure what I have been writing about in these Lessons and Chapters of this Web Page, by the knowledge that you already possessed, and do not take the time to listen to and give consideration of what I write, because it is not as you already understand, then it is to you who Paul is speaking in the above verse.

The Word of God is Truth

*But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. **II Corinthians 10:13***

What Paul is saying is that we, as of, those who seek to follow Jesus Christ, will not and should not boast of things based upon our own knowledge, but measure what we understand against what God-Jesus tells us, and when what we understand is contrary to what God-Jesus says, we must reject our own understanding and embrace as truth that which God-Jesus has spoken.

In this way you show that you accept and believe that the Word of God is truth and all else is a lie.

For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according

*to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. **II Corinthians 10:14-16***

My understanding of what Paul is saying is that Paul goes to preach the Word of God-Jesus in villages and communities where the Word of God had never before been preached and anyone else. I assume he is referring to any of the other Apostles. Paul is further saying that he preaches not his own gospel but the Gospel of God as taught by Jesus.

*But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. **II Corinthians 10:17***

*For not he that commandeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commandeth. **II Corinthians 10:18***

It is not the one who preaches that is approved by God but that he first is commanded by God.

If I, deciding to be a minister of scripture decides this on my own, and then I go out and begin to preach to others, my understanding of the Holy Scripture, then this is not by the will of God, and most likely, because I interpret based upon my own understanding, I will preach in error, but if and because God-Jesus came to me and commanded that I should go out and preach the Holy Scriptures, then it is God-Jesus that gives me understanding, and as such has the power of God-Jesus behind my words.

In the above, I have given as if it were me, that Paul is talking about, and I believe it is, as well as other Prophets of his time, but Paul is also speaking of himself, so as to provide a bases for his authority being from God-Jesus and not from his own understanding.

Warnings of the False Gospels

*Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. **II Corinthians 11:1-2***

It has been the task of all of the Prophets of God to educate and give warning concerning the lies and deceptions of Satan and his false gospel. In this effort also were the apostles of Jesus engaged, Paul being one of them. It is their purpose to educate and thereby converts all who will be converted to the faith (belief) in God through preaching the Teachings of Jesus.

What Paul is saying is because of his influence upon us, which assisted in our conversion, he is jealous that we will remain in God and not be pulled away because of someone else preaching false gospel. In your conversion, you become a Child of Christ, and a Child of Christ, Paul is intent (Jealous) that you remain.

Paul then uses similar words as written elsewhere in the Bible, “**I have espoused you to one husband,**” which is a reference to the Saints of God being married to the Christ Jesus.

Paul is referring to his congregations as “**chaste virgins**” because as a Saint of God you are washed clean of your sins, and are therefore a virgin in faith to the Lord.

Eve was Deceived

*But I fear, least by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **II Corinthians 11:3***

Before the conversation with the serpent, Eve was a Child of God. It was only after Eve accepted Satan’s lies that she fell from grace. What Paul is saying is in that because Eve was deceived that anyone might be deceived. Knowing this, Paul is giving warning, that we might, being forewarned, fight off Satan’s subtle and sometimes difficult to discern advances. I refer you to God’s Truism, as a way of keeping you from falling for Satan’s Lies.

If God spoke it, then you will find it in the Holy Gospel,

If God spoke it, then it is the truth,

It is the truth, because it is of God,

It is of God, because God spoke it.

If God did not speak it, then you will not find it in the Holy Gospel,

If God did not speak it, then it is a lie,

It is a lie, because it is not of God,

It is not of God, because God did not speak it.

Another Jesus

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

II Corinthians 11:4

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, which is a reference to the Prophecies of Jesus whereby Jesus warned that many False Jesus’ would arise, deceiving many. This is not **only** a reference to actual men prophesying to being Jesus in the Flesh, but to another gospel that has the sound of the gospel taught by Jesus, but is polluted by things not spoken by Jesus.

Because these False Jesus' preach words that sound like those spoken by Jesus, many will be pulled into those lies and away from God's True Word. The reason Paul is voicing his concern for this happening, is because even in Paul's day, Satan was already hard at work distorting the words taught by Jesus.

I see this as a prophecy of Paul. In history this has indeed occurred. If you have read the lessons and the other chapters of this web page you will know who and what the anti-Christ is. With this knowledge you will understand what Paul is prophesying about. The anti-Christ is the Church of Satan, founded upon Satan's False Gospel, and as such has been successful in pulling those who think they are giving worship to God away from the true faith and into the flames of damnation.

Jesus tells us in the visions given to the Apostle John that those who are NOT virgins of the women will be unlikely to see and accept God's Truth, even when it is presented to them in the pages of the Bible. Such is the power that Satan has over the world of the Twenty First Century and in all centuries past.

Paul Preaches Jesus unpolluted

*For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things. **II Corinthians 11:5-6***

Paul admits that he is not at the head of the Apostles of Christ, and that his speech is rude, or confusing, but that his knowledge is of God, and what he preaches is therefore a manifestation of what Jesus taught.

*Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. **II Corinthians 11:7-8***

*And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. **II Corinthians 11:9-10***

In this Paul is giving testimony that he has never taken charity from anyone, and even though, in his travels, he has taken shelter from others, he always did work so as to compensate for that shelter. In this way, Paul has not been burdensome to anyone, and he intends that this is as it will always be with him.

By not accepting charity of others, Paul can therefore preach the Word of God and not be accountable to any other person, which would in any way sway that which he preached.

Misplaced Faith

*Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth. But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no Marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **II Corinthians 11:11-14***

When Satan tells his lies, they have the sound of truth.

Remember: Lies are 90% truth and only 10% lie. Because of this ease of getting people to believe a lie, Satan has no problem in telling his lies.

God Says: *But, the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, in it you shall do no work. **Exodus 20:10***

Even though this statement made directly from the lips of God is written in the Fourth Commandments, people still accept Satan's lie that says that the Sabbath Day of the Lord is on the first day of the week.

You will not find anywhere in the Holy Scripture where God or Jesus gives instruction or command that the first day of the week is the Sabbath of the Lord, yet the far majority of Christian, believe Satan's lie over God's Truth, even after they have been shown the above quote as well as other evidences, from the Books of the Bible.

Here is the problem with this. God is very specific and demanding that we worship him exactly as God has given us command, **Deuteronomy 4:1-2**. When we worship in any other way, we are not giving worship to God but to Satan.

Because Satan only needs to get you to make a small change in how you give worship to God, it is easy for him to deceive you, and pull you away from the worship of God and into the worship of Satan.

*Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. **II Corinthians 11:15***

What Paul is saying in these verses is that those who preach Satan's False Gospel and thereby steal away the eternal souls of those deceived will bear the full wrath of God, and their end will be hell's fire and eternal death.

Paul is saying that in our acceptance of Satan's false gospel, it appears that Satan is as an Angel of Light, to those so deceived. As such it is difficult if not impossible to accept God's Truth that says that your worship is false and in vain.

It is not that Paul is saying that Satan will in fact be transformed into an Angel of Light, only that in the minds of the deceived he will appear to be an Angel of Light.

Those who steel men's souls

To Glorify God

*Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) and all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **Galatians 1:1-5***

False Gospel

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-7

As it is in latter centuries as Paul has given prophecy, so too is it in the days of Paul. Paul is expressing his mystification concerning those who have only recently been converted to the Teachings of Christ, and yet are being deceived by those who preach another gospel, that Paul and the other apostles of Jesus did not preach.

I see this as a warning to those of us today as well. If while the Gospel of Jesus is yet new and being preached by those who followed Jesus while he walked the Earth, can already be corrupted by false gospel, then don't you think that after 2000 years Satan's Lies might be even more pervasive than then?

A Perversion of Christ

First Paul describes this as another gospel then rewords it to explain that it is not another gospel but that what these others preach is not true to the Teachings of Christ, but a perversion of the truth.

A Question of Circumcision

So that you will understand, this complaint of Paul's revolves around the question of circumcision, not the Commandments of God. Circumcision of the foreskin is an aspect of the First Covenant that God made with Abraham, as well as the Second Covenant which God made with Moses and the descendants of Jacob, but not the Third and New Covenant. This discussion is then **NOT** an aspect of whether these people are upholding the Ten Commandments or not. It is to the subject of the circumcision of the foreskin that Paul addresses in these verses.

Be Accursed

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you that ye have received, let him be accursed." **Galatians 1:8-9**

If you recall from other of my writings, I showed through historical documents that there are those in history that have advocated doctrine that is in opposition to the Word of God. One such person gave as evidence that the Sunday Sabbath was observed by some early Christians, so therefore, he used it as evidence that the Sunday Sabbath is condoned by God.

This of course is Satan's lie, for **nowhere** in scripture is it written where God the Father or God the Son gives commandment or instruction that the Seventh Day Sabbath has been abolished and that the Sabbath hence forth is to be observed on the First Day of the Week. This person, Dr. Hiscox, is, as Paul has just said, accursed, for preaching a lie as the truth.

My argument concerning the Sunday Sabbath was if it is condoned by God, where is it so written. If you want to know the Word of God, you must look for it within the pages of the Books of the Prophets, New and Old Testaments. I have searched the Bible from cover to cover, and I have not found anywhere that God the Father or God the Son has given command or instruction that **the Seventh Day Sabbath has been abolished** and in its stead it has been moved to the First Day of the Week, nothing, nowhere.

Priest Thomas Enright

President of Redemption College, Church of Rome

Even though God-Jesus has not declared the Seventh Day Sabbath to be abolished in favor of the first day Sabbath, the Church of Rome has.

By my divine Power I abolish the Sabbath Day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.

Do you give obedience to the God of Creation, or to a man?

With this commandment from the Church of Rome, in the 300's A.D., shortly after the Church of Rome was established by Emperor Constantine, the entire civilized world bowed down in reverent obedience to the command of the Church of Rome.

Saint Catherine Catholic Church Sentinel

This transference of the Sabbath ordered by the Church of Rome is condoned and applauded by the Sentinel on May 21, 1995.

Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the church ever did happened in the 300's A.D. the day when the Church changed the holy Sabbath Day from Saturday to Sunday. Not from any directions noted in the scriptures, but by its own authority.

I believe that the Word of God is supreme; therefore, I know that Sunday Sabbath is Satan's Lie and so I reject it. Because the Church of Rome changed the Sabbath in direct opposition to the Word of God, it enforces in me the knowledge that the Church of Rome is in fact the anti-Christ as prophesized by Daniel.

Remember God's Truism: As God's Truism states, if God did not speak it, then it is a lie. In the above verses, Paul is giving support to this truism, and further states that those who engage in such blasphemies will know God's full wrath, which is what the word **accursed** entails.

Even though Paul is talking about circumcision and not the Sabbath, the same meaning of those who preach false gospel stands.

Paul Preaches God's Truth

*For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men, for if I yet please men, I should not be the servant of Christ. **Galatians 1:10***

Paul is not out trying to preach those things that people want to hear, but to preach the Holy Word of God, even if the Word of God is in opposition to that which the people believe because of Satan's False Gospel. In preaching God's True Word, Paul is willing to accept the loathing of others rather than their acclaim, because he knows that to do so is as God wills it.

Paul Certifies Truth

*But I certify you, brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. **Galatians 1:11-14***

Paul says that he "Certifies" to us, which is to say that Paul gives guarantee and testimony, that what he preaches is the Word of God, and that he has no ulterior or personal motivation for preaching it. In his further explanation Paul gives support to what I have said as it pertains to the Jews and the modern day Christians and their keeping of customs and traditions at the expense of and in direct opposition to the Word and Law of God.

Paul's Education in Christ

*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. **Galatians 1:15-17***

When Paul refers to being separated from his mother's womb, he is not being literal but symbolic.

Remember: Paul was employed by the Temple, and admits to having been a zealot in upholding its customs and traditions; it is this that he symbolizes as his mother's womb.

I am convinced that had not Jesus appeared to Saul in that vision while on his way to Damascus, he would never have been converted, and Saul would never have become Paul. It is because of this revelation

brought about by this vision that Paul was made manifest in the Teachings of Christ, and it is in his continued connection with Jesus in the spirit of the Lord and having been touched by the Holy Ghost that Paul continues to preach with the authority of Jesus and not by his own authority.

Remember: the definition of a Prophet of God, “One through whom God speaks.” Paul is a prophet of the Christ Jesus, so as Paul writes so are those words the words of Christ the Son of God, with but minor personal opinions as I have brought to light.

A Curiosity

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. **Galatians 1:18-19**

In this Paul is giving an accounting of the process he went through after his vision from Christ on the path to Damascus, and attests to the truth that his education came from God and not from any of the other Apostles of Jesus.

In the above verses this is confusing to me, “Save James the Lord's Brother.” There is no one that Paul or any other disciple of Jesus Christ who would refer to anyone else but Christ as “Lord,” therefore; this suggests that the James being spoken of by Paul was blood brother to Jesus.

There is one other place that I can think of where there is a suggestion that Jesus had siblings, and that is in the following verses.

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. **Matthew 12:46**

The word “Brethren” is defined as: Brother, but is generally considers as brothers in religion and necessarily brothers in flesh.

As used in the above verse whoever, it is suggested that the meaning is Brothers in Flesh because Jesus responds by embracing all present as his brothers in faith.

And he (Jesus) answered and said unto him that told him, “Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, “Behold my mother an my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heave, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. **Matthew 12:48-50**

Nowhere else in scripture, that I have discovered, save that written by Paul, gives suggestion that Jesus had a brother, either by blood from his mother Mary or by marriage from his step-father Joseph.

The only other James that I have seen mentioned in the New Testament is the brother of John, son of Zebedee. I cannot believe that Paul would refer to the Apostle James as being brother of the Lord.

Knowing this, who then is this James that Paul speaks of, and does this in fact mean that Jesus did have a brother? This then remains a curiosity to me.

Again Paul Certifies

Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. **Galatians 1:20**

Once more Paul attests that those things that he speaks of and writes are given to him from God. I for one know this to be true, for I can attest to you that because I, like Paul, receive my instruction from God and from no man, as did Paul.

The Un-Circumcised

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: **Galatians 2:1-3**

Now once more Paul returns to the subject of which he is writing the Galatians, and that is the **circumcision of the foreskin**. First Paul explains to us that in the beginning of his ministry he went before **those of reputation**, with Barnabas, and again fourteen years later Paul goes again to Jerusalem with Titus and once again reports concerning those things that he had been preaching to the Gentiles. **Those of reputation**, I interpret as **the apostles and disciples who had walked with Jesus**.

This he further explains, **lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain**, is so that he could verify with the apostles that what he had been preaching was correct to their understanding of the Teachings of Jesus. It is in this that having not been corrected by the apostles that he was not in error, encouraged him to continue in that which he preached, thus accepting that which God had given to him was indeed as Jesus had taught the others.

In this Paul tells us that Titus, his companion and a Greek, after having been converted to the Teachings of Christ, felt no compunction to be circumcised. Which I interpret as Paul's way of saying that if one as

renowned as Titus, who preaches Christ, is not inclined to be circumcised, then why do those of Galatia feel so inclined?

False Prophets

*And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. **Galatians 2:4-5***

Paul is accusing others that have preached the need for the circumcision of the foreskin as being false brethren, and because they were unaware, or that the people of Galatia were unaware that those who preached were false brethren, but it was because of this false gospel that the Galatians felt it is required to have the foreskin circumcised, even though Paul has previously preached otherwise.

I see this as Paul's way of telling us that because he receives his instruction from God and not from men, that what he preaches is the Word of God in its purest form, and therefore should be given notice as truth, whereas others that preach contrary to what Paul preaches are false, because they are not of God in that they preach that which is in contrast to what God-Jesus has shown Paul.

Think of it like this, God tells you something, so you therefore know that it is true because it is told to you by God, and you know that it was God, because you know when God speaks to you. Then someone comes along and tells you something that is in opposition to that which God has told you. Do you question yourself as to whether God spoke to you or not, or do you rely on what you know to be the word of God, and therefore reject what this other person has told you as being a lie?

I have been in this situation, and I know when God is telling me something, because it is always verifiable in scripture, (I am always diligent in my study of scripture), so when someone tells me something that doesn't agree with what I know is of God, I reject it and attempt to show this other person how they are in error.

This is what Paul is saying. He has received his instructions from Jesus so he knows it to be true, which therefore tells him that anything spoken in opposition to what he has been given from Jesus must be Satan's lie, regardless who it is that speaks it.

Prophet to the Gentiles

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person's for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: But

contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (for he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) **Galatians 2:6-8**

The gospel of the uncircumcision refers to the fact that Paul is called upon by God to preach the Teachings of Jesus to the Gentiles and not so much to the Jews.

The gospel of the circumcision refers to the fact that Peter preaches to the Jews almost exclusively and not to the Gentiles.

I am convinced that Paul is correct concerning the Gentiles not needing to be circumcised, a lot because of his excellent discussion in the earlier verses, but mostly because God himself tells us that the New Covenant is unlike the one that he had made with our fathers, and that he would write his laws on our hearts.

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord: I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. **Hebrew 8:10***

This to me removes the need for the symbolic purpose of circumcision of the foreskin. In writing his laws upon our hearts God places a spiritual understanding of those laws upon us. The circumcision of the foreskin is not spiritual, but carnal, or of the flesh. The flesh is of sin, the spiritual is above sin, or free from sin.

Instructions from the Apostles

*And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. **Galatians 2:9-10***

Paul continues to explain that at least three of the pillars of the Church of Christ agreed with Paul's understanding, and that they agreed that Paul should preach to the Gentiles while they preached to the Jews. Paul's use of the word circumcision in this context means, Jews, and his use of the word heathen refers to the Gentiles.

The only thing that these three Apostles insisted that Paul preach, as did they, is that as the Saints of God, are required to give assistance to those of the Church of Christ who are poor or come under hardship. It is this that has come to be known as the "Christian Way, or Christian Charity."

Peter was to Blame

*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. **Galatians 2:11-12***

A Change of Mind

Even though Peter had originally agreed with Paul concerning the circumcision of the foreskin, somewhere along the way, Peter changed his stance.

Confusion in the Message

Paul explains that when he met up with Peter in Antioch, he withstood Peter to his face, which is to say that he confronted Peter face to face. In this confrontation Paul accuses Peter as being in the wrong and is thereby to blame for the confusion in the message being preached.

Peter's Actions

Paul goes on to explain that Peter in the past had sat down to break bread with Gentiles in their homes, even though the Law of Moses forbade it. This Paul gives as an understanding by Peter of the true words spoken by Jesus. Yet because of the pressure placed upon Peter by James and others of the Jewish converts, he caved in to their will rather than continue as Jesus had preached. This relates back to why Jesus called Peter a "Petros," a piece of rock, easily swayed rather than a "Petra," a massive, or cosmic rock, solid and sure.

If you recall from previous writings of mine, I revealed why Jesus called Peter a Petros rather than a Petra. A Petros being a piece of rock, easily move or swayed, whereas a Petra is an unmovable rock cosmic in size. This then gives understanding how Peter can be so easily swayed by the opinion of men, even when he knows the word of God.

Remember God's Truism: This then follows through with God's warning concerning the Word of God is truth, and anything said or written that is in disagreement or in opposition to the Word of God is a lie.

Face to Face Confrontation

And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, "If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" **Galatians 2:13-14**

Paul is showing that because Peter was pulled from the truth of the gospel of Jesus, in his actions caused others to also be pulled away. This he said to the face of Peter before witnesses. Evidently, Barnabas was also pulled away from the true intent of Jesus' Words.

Believe in Jesus Christ

We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. **Galatians 2:15-16**

The Law does not Justify

I feel compelled to reiterate that Paul is speaking of the law and it not giving justification to the belief of God's promises. Where is it written in the law where it says that the law will do anything more that keep you from sin? Nowhere does it say that salvation is earned from the keeping of the law.

Faith Justifies

Only in faith, which is born from belief that the Word of God is truth, and when you believe and place your confidence in the promises and Word of God are you then justified, (Justified, not Saved.)

To be justified in your belief that the promises and Words of God are truth, does not in and of itself guarantee redemption or salvation. It is still necessary that you keep yourself free of sin, to earn salvation. To keep yourself from sin you first need to know what a sin is, and this can only be known by knowing and understanding the Commandments of God and the Teachings of Jesus the Christ.

Does Christ lead us to Sin?

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Galatians 2:17-18

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, I understand this to mean, to be justified in your belief that the Word and Promises of God are true, then you must also accept that the Word of God is truth, and any word not spoken by God is therefore false.

Do Sinners Have Faith?

We ourselves also are found sinners. If you believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and that in his resurrection you have hope of your own resurrection, then you are justified in that hope. If at the same time you are also an Adulterer or a Fornicator, and being that, it does not alter what you believe, are you not still a sinner, even though you have faith in the resurrection?

Live in Righteousness

If the above situation or any other iniquity against the Commandments of God fit your situation, then does that mean *therefore Christ is the minister of sin?* Paul says, “**No. God forbid.**” To believe that **God only gives you justification in the HOPE of salvation** does not in and of itself insure salvation by itself.

What Paul is demonstrating is that you still have to live a life of righteousness, and righteousness can only be earned by keeping the Commandments of God and keeping the Teachings of Jesus Christ.

Sin Destroyed

For if I build again the things which I destroyed, refers to the sin that is destroyed through faith, but is rebuilt if you stop keeping and living by the laws of God-Jesus. To believe is to **Talk the Talk**, to live the life of righteousness is to **Walk the Walk**, or as Paul puts it, if you are in the spirit of the Lord, (which is to believe) then you need also to walk in the spirit, which means to live in the morality of God.

What Paul is saying here is if that which Jesus preached is incorrect, then how are any of us justified in Christ? Christ taught that it is through belief in the resurrection that we are justified, and belief has to do with the heart not with an outward mark upon our skin as is circumcision of the foreskin.

If what Peter preaches is true then Jesus was in error in what he preached which was against the law as it is written in the First Covenant, if that be true then all those that convert to Christ are in sin. This then comes down to this, is what Paul preaches concerning the circumcision correct or is what Peter preaches correct?

A symbolism in flesh

God has made it clear that circumcision of the foreskin is but a symbolism, a constant physical reminder to keep the Commandments of God.

A Spiritual awakening of the heart

What Paul is preaching is that with the Advent of Christ and the New Covenant, the symbolism has been replaced with the true circumcision of the heart, as God has always intended from the beginning.

Dead in the Law

For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:19-20

For I through the law am dead to the law. As Paul and I have been saying, the purpose of the law is to keep us from sin, and to be free of sin does not guarantee eternal life. In this those who only keep the law but do not believe the Word of God, have no salvation in Christ.

If you understand and accept that the law by itself provides only freedom from sin, so if you want **that I might live unto God**, then you also must believe justification comes from faith not the law.

To accomplish this, you must accept that **I am crucified with Christ**. Because of the law you will know only death, but in faith you will be dead **nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me**.

It is in the faith or belief **of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me**, that you thus have hope of your resurrection and eternal life.

In **Faith** is born **hope**, but in the keeping of the Commandments of God and embracing the Teachings of Jesus, will you translate that hope into **assurance of eternal life**.

Remember: You are not saved by your works alone, you must also have faith.

Did Jesus die in vain?

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 2:21

Paul argues that if righteousness comes by the law and not from belief, then Jesus gave his life in vain. The law existed before Jesus, and yet there was no justification in the hope of eternal life, only in the belief that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, do we have hope of our own resurrection. It is in that belief and faith that we have hope of salvation, not in only the keeping of the law.

Remember: I am saying the **HOPE** of salvation and not salvation itself.

Understand this: I again feel inclined to make note that the law concerning the circumcision of the foreskin is spelled out in the First Covenant between God and Abraham, and not an aspect of the Ten Commandments, nor of the Teachings of Jesus, therefore when I say that you still must keep the Commandments of God, the circumcision of the foreskin is not included as being required.

How Received the Spirit?

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? **Galatians 3:1***

Through your Works

*This only would I learn of you, received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? If it be yet in vain. **Galatians 3:2-4***

Through Faith

*He therefore, that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? **Galatians 3:5***

Abraham believed God

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham, and the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham saying, "In thee shall all nations be blessed." So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. Galatians 3:6-9

Paul once more refers to Abraham to give support to his understanding of belief as being that which gives justification and not the law. I feel compelled once more to point out, justification does not mean salvation, you still need to keep the Commandments and Laws of God, or else you will fall short of redemption. This Paul has revealed on at least two occasions before as well.

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Remember: to be righteous you must keep the Ten Commandments; however, Abraham did not have the Ten Commandments. Even though Abraham did not keep the Ten Commandments, as they are spelled out, he was not compelled to do so for they were to Abraham not laws to be obeyed, but a part of his own moral character. It is because he believed the Word of God, so God accounted Abrahams believe as righteousness, not because Abraham kept the Law of God, though he did, Abraham simply did not know that his moral character was the Law of God.

Abraham was a kindred spirit to God, and that is why God offered him so much if Abraham would just give his worship to God and no other of the plethora of pagan gods.

Children of Abraham

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. It has come to be understood through the ages that to be a child of Abraham is to be a blood descendant of Abraham. What this verse is telling me is that this historical understanding is false. To be a child of Abraham is to have Faith, or to believe in the Word of God, and all who have this faith, whether they are of the blood of Abraham or not, are the children of Abraham.

There are many, who being the blood descendants of Abraham, which do not believe in the promises of God nor in the resurrection of Jesus, therefore, they are not of the Children of Abraham in the Faith of the promises of God. Think of this in the same way as I showed the understanding of those who were blood

descendant of Jacob, but were not Children of Israel. In the same way, God renamed Abram to Abraham because Abraham believed.

For Example: I am not born a Jew, there is no Jewish blood in my ancestry, therefore, I am not a blood descendant of Abram, yet I am a child of Abraham, because I believe the Word and Promises of God as did Abraham.

The scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham saying, “In thee shall all nations be blessed.” Because God accepted Abraham as being righteous because of his faith (belief), God established through Abraham that all who believed and thus had faith could be justified in faith. All nations that accept and believe in God shall be blessed.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. Please take note that God is saying that those of faith are blessed, **not** redeemed. You must accept the words of God as they are given, do not put words into the mouth of God. You may object by saying that these are the words of Paul not of God, but remember, Paul is the prophet of Jesus, so that which he writes as it pertains to the Holy Scripture is given him by Jesus.

Remember: a prophet is one through whom God speaks; therefore Paul is but the conduit from the lips of Christ to our eyes and ears.

Cursed by the Law

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” **Galatians 3:10**

If you do not keep the Commandments of God, then you are cursed, to not keep the Commandments of God is to engage in sinful acts, and it is that which makes you cursed. To be righteous is to keep the laws of God; all who are **unrighteous** are cursed.

Both Law and Faith Required

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, “The just shall live by faith.” And the law is not of faith: but, “The man that doeth them shall live in them.” **Galatians 3:11-12**

Even though you live by the law of God, this alone does not justify you in the hope of salvation, only with the added element of Faith are you then justified, not guaranteed, only justified. It is for this reason that

the Jews are not justified in the hope of salvation, because they do not believe that Jesus resurrected from the dead. If the Jews did believe, then they would no longer be Jews but the Saints of God.

Christ the Redeemer

*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, "Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree:" That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. **Galatians 3:13-14***

Paul then again explains that the law is the curse that binds us to the flesh of this world, whereas belief in the promises of God gives way to faith, and faith gives way to justification.

Remember: the blessing of Abraham is that he believed God, and this he did before he knew the law or was circumcised.

As you may recall, Jesus was crucified from a cross that was built from a tree, and it is written that **all who die while hung from a tree are cursed**, therefore Jesus is cursed. Even though Jesus is cursed for having been crucified from a tree, in Jesus' resurrection that we are given hope of God's promises, whereas the law in and of itself does not.

Do not increase nor diminish

*Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. **Galatians 3:15***

In this Paul is giving reference to the Book of Deuteronomy Chapter 4 verse 2, where God tells us that he has given us how to give worship to him, and that we must obey his word, not adding to them or subtracting from them, which is to say that it is not for Man to change by adding or subtracting to that which God has spoken, which I say is to put words in the mouth of God. Only God can amend his words, as Jesus did in his discussions concerning a few of the Ten Commandments.

One Not Many

*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ. **Galatians 3:16***

As to be a child of Abraham is to have Faith and thereby believe as did Abraham, so too is to be the seed of Abraham, so though I am not a blood descendant to Abram, I am seed of Abraham, for I believe, and in my belief I have faith. Through my belief in the Teachings of Jesus and his resurrection, I am therefore justified in my hope of Salvation.

Four Hundred Thirty Years after Abraham

*And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. **Galatians 3:17-18***

The word “Disannul” means to: cancel, to destroy, or to make void.

That the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ refers to the First Covenant, but the law did not come until 430 years later in the Second Covenant, does not annul the First Covenant which was founded upon Abraham’s belief, not on the law. The law does not void the promises of God which he made to Abraham.

Paul goes on to explain that if the law be the only requirement for the inheritance of eternal life, then the inheritance is not of the promises of God, but only by the law. This Paul points out is not correct, because God gave the promise to Abraham because of his belief in the promise not in his keeping of the law.

What Purpose the Law?

*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. **Galatians 3:19-20***

Paul then gives explanation why God gave us the law through Moses in the first place. Paul says this is because from Adam to Abraham to Moses, the sons of Adam transgressed, and turned their backs on God and his covenant.

As has been written before, sin is no sin if God has not told us that to do something is to sin. In the law, as it is given to us in the Ten Commandments, God spells out what is sin, therefore we are given an understanding of what we must not do, but more importantly, what we must do, in this way God has shown us how to return to him, and end our transgressions.

Do you understand then what Paul is saying? The Ten Commandments were given to Man so that we would know sin. We need to know sin so as to keep us from sin, and thereby achieve righteousness, for only the Righteous shall enter Heaven.

Jesus Brings Salvation

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. Galatians 3:21-22

The law as given to Moses and all generations since do not void or negate the promise that God gave to Abraham because of his belief. The law is to prevent sin until the coming of the seed of Abraham to which the promise is made. All those generations in between did not live under the promise of eternal life, only those who belief as did Abraham, are justified in their hope of redemption.

It is my belief however, that with Jesus, all who have ever lived, that were righteous in the eyes of God, are saved in Jesus, even though they lived before Jesus.

Law the Schoolmaster

In the Following, Paul is attempting to give full clarification of what he has told us above.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:23-24

But before faith came, we were kept under the law. The law is the schoolmaster, which is to say that the law was given to us so as to teach us how to avoid sin. In the law sin is defined, by knowing what is sin we then are educated in knowing how not to sin, it is in this that the law is the schoolmaster.

Law by itself will not give us justification in the hope of salvation, but when you take what law teaches you and couple it with belief in the promises of God, then you have faith, and then you are justified in hope.

The law is still an aspect of that faith, but only so that you do not inadvertently sin. If you are not aware of what sin is, how can you know if you do sin?

Remember: being justified does not mean you are saved or redeemed. Redemption comes from Faith and living in Righteousness, Righteousness comes from being free of sin.

But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster, for ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:25-27

There are many that interpret the above as Paul saying that in Faith you are above the law, this is Satan's Lie.

Paul is not saying above the law, only that you are no longer under the teacher. One of the aspects of coming into the faith is embracing the morality of God as is listed in the Ten Commandments as well as was given to us by Jesus. When you write the morality of God on your heart then you are part of the faith that God's Word is God's Truth, in knowing this you thus believe.

In the faith that Jesus has risen from the grave, you have graduated from school, so you no longer need tutoring, but it does not mean that all that you have learned is now obsolete and unneeded. When in school, you learned that 2 plus 2 equals 4, when you graduate from school, this knowledge is still valuable to you and there will come times that having this knowledge will assist you in life. The same is true of the Law of God.

Know this: Jesus taught the Morality of God, Jesus also taught and expanded upon the meaning of six of the Ten Commandments. In this he taught the law, therefore, to say that you are saved in faith only, is to disregard all that Jesus taught.

To be a follower of Jesus Christ is to live as he taught. If you are immoral and reject that which Jesus taught then you are not a follower of Jesus, even if you give lip service to being one. If you are a whoremonger, which is another name for adulterer, or a fornicator, then you are not a follower of Jesus, because you live your life in direct opposition to that which Jesus taught.

To Put on Christ

Paul then goes on to give qualification even to this. **For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** To put on Christ is to accept the Teachings of Christ and take the morality taught in those teachings and adjust your personality and your moral code to match that of God's. This is first done symbolically by going through the process of baptism, signifying your transformation or rebirth, from one of sin

to one of God's morality. You then continue the process of learning through research and studying the Holy Gospel and living your life as God intends that you live and not in sin as you did up till your baptism.

The Baptism of Water is symbolic; it is from your **works**, which is again, the process and time and effort you engage in to learn and accept the Word of God. It is in educating yourself in the Word of God, that you then have **justified hope** of God baptizing you with the Holy Ghost, and through that true baptism, into salvation and eternal life.

Heirs to the Promise

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:28-29

As Paul attempted to say earlier, the seed of Abraham is not the blood lines that reveal you as being a descendant of Abram, but in your believe in the Word of God, that you are the seed of Abraham.

The Christ Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise that God made to Abraham, so when you embrace the Teachings of Jesus, you become an heir to the promise that God made to Abraham.

Heir to the Adoption

Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Galatians 4:1-2

Think of this a the heir to one of the thrones of Europe, as a child, he is subject to the instructions given to him by his tutors and governors, even though the crown he will inherit is that of a powerful nation. What Paul is saying that like those heirs, Man as converted to Christ, is subject to our tutors as well, and our tutors are the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus Christ, until the time appointed of God that we should receive our inheritance. The inheritance is not ours yet, for Jesus is yet to return, so until then we are still required to do good **works**, and thereby live in Righteousness.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Galatians 4:3-5

The law is what prepares us for the inheritance, and it is within the dictates of the law that Jesus was sent to the earth, and it is from that adherence to the law that Jesus is manifest in the redemption of all who like Abraham believes, and thereby be adopted by God the Father as his sons.

Think of this as a Man who adopts a child, and in the adoption transforms that child into his son, it is in this way that God will adopt those who belief and therefore have faith. If our father is Almighty God, then our inheritance is all that God is and created. God is Eternal Life, and God created this universe and the Earth that is therein.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father, wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:6-7

Having now established this concept Paul then returns to his intended subject.

Once in the Spirit of Faith

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Galatians 4:8-9

Remember: The subject of Law that Paul has been discussing is the **circumcision of the foreskin** of all males, as a symbolic jester of accepting that the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed. Paul now returns to the core of the subject to which he is commenting on.

If after all that we have studied in the Writings of Paul you believe and therefore have Faith in Jesus, why would you then feel it a necessity to return to the need of the flesh by being circumcised of the foreskin? When you are in bondage to the law without faith, then you have no hope of eternal life, but only of death. In belief which is the foundation of Faith, you have justified hope of salvation. In this you are lifted up from the earthy to that of the spiritual, what purpose is served to then return to the earthy?

Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. Galatians 4:10

The reason Paul says, "**I am afraid of you**," is because, he has preached the true gospel of Christ, but these people have accepted and embraced a false gospel, concerning the circumcision of the foreskin.

Remember: You must worship God exactly as God commands, not adding or subtracting anything from what God has already said.

Under the First and Second Covenants with Abraham and Moses, it was required of God that the men be circumcised, but under the New or Third Covenant, God commands that all the Saints of God have the Law written on their hearts, to be **circumcised of the Heart**. With this, the true belief of keeping the Ten Commandments, there is no longer a need for the symbolic physical circumcision.

*Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. You know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. **Galatians 4:11-14***

What Paul is referring to here is as Saul he engaged in the persecution of the followers of Christ, and despite this, he was accepted by those to whom Paul is writing as an angel of God, when Paul began to preach the Teachings of Jesus Christ. As you may recall the word "**Angel**" means **Messenger**.

*Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. **Galatians 4:15***

Paul is explaining to the people of Galatia, that after he converted them to Christ that they become so fervent in their faith that had Paul asked of them they would have taken out their own eye. I believe that Paul is being philosophical and not literal but his intent is understood.

*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. **Galatians 4:16-18***

Evidently these same people over time have been preached false gospel, and Paul realizing this is commenting upon their false believes. Once a belief or custom is established, it is difficult to let it go, and these people of Galatia are unwilling to accept the gospel as given by Paul in favor of their established false understanding. This reveals that even during the Life of Paul, Satan is engaged in polluting the Word of God.

This discussion relates to the circumcision of the foreskin, and these people of Galatia, have been told by others, that if they want to be of Christ they must first have their men circumcised. Paul is telling these people that this is false, that they are above the requirement of the law of circumcision because they have the law circumcised upon their hearts and there is no need to also have the symbolic reminder of obeying the law by having their foreskins circumcised.

*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. **Galatians 4:19-20***

Paul is saying that because of the false practices that they keep that he is in doubt that they are still of the Faith of Christ. What this is telling me, is even though you may have been touched by God it does not mean that you are incapable of returning to sin. If we were truly forgiven of our sins by Jesus, then why does Jesus and all the Apostles continue to preach the need of keeping ourselves free of sin? Adam and Eve had once been free of sin, yet Satan was able to cause them to enter into sin. So can we who are the followers of Jesus Christ, able to be fooled into a false practice or custom that will bring us back into sin. We must remain vigilant, and always live in the morality as taught by Jesus and codified in the Ten Commandments.

Remember what Jesus tells us: “To honor his name with your lips, but then to not keep his commandments is to worship in vain.”

Abraham had Two Sons

The following is an excellent explanation by Paul of additional evidence given in scripture that lends strength to his preaching that the circumcision of the foreskin is no longer an aspect of being in obedience to the Word of God.

*Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. **Galatians 4:21-23***

Abraham’s oldest son Ishmael was not born from a promise of God, his mother Hagar was given to Abraham by his legal wife Sarah, that is why Paul refers to Ishmael as having been born of the flesh, whereas Isaac was born from a promise of God, and thus was born by promise not of the flesh.

*Which things are an allegory, (**true story**,) for these are the two covenants; the one from the Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. **Galatians 4:24-25***

Mount Sinai is the same mountain which is called by the Arabs, “**Agar**.”

Agar is the name given to the mountain by men, but Sinai is the name given to the mountain by God.

*But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, “Rejoice, thou barren that barest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. **Galatians 4:26-27***

Jerusalem is free, because the city was ordered to be built not by men but by God, and with its building Jerusalem is become the mother of all Israelites.

The nation of Israel and its population is small as compared to all other nations and people of the Earth, but of those who are defined as Israelites, **they do not travail in search of God**, but all those others of Man do.

*Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. **Galatians 4:28-29***

Ishmael was Abraham’s oldest son, and was beloved by Abraham for Ishmael’s first 14 years of life. When Sarah gave birth to Isaac, Sarah and God required that Abraham force Ishmael and his mother out into the wilderness, they being concerned that the eldest son thinking himself Heir to Abraham, might harm or even kill Isaac. The hatred and war between these two sons still rages on in the world today between the Jews and the Muslims.

*Nevertheless what saith the scripture? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” **Galatians 4:30***

*So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. **Galatians 4:31***

I see this as symbolic of those who belief and thus have faith, and those who do not belief and are thus slave to the law. Those who lake faith and therefore are under the law, will not be inheritors of the promise, whereas, those who do belief and therefore have faith, are the inheritors of the promise but also of the adoption.

Faith is of Love

To have Faith in God is to believe that the Word of God is truth, this in turn shows God that you love him, because of your belief.

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. **Galatians 5:1***

Paul is encouraging those who have come to Christ by faith as well as those who having lived under the law, to stand fast and not let themselves be swayed by the false instructions that will pull them back to the

bondage of the Second Covenant. In faith and belief they came to Christ, to succumb to being circumcised of the foreskin will remove you from faith and return you to the brand of the slave to the law that the circumcision represents.

*Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. **Galatians 5:2-4***

The belief that Jesus was resurrected is the faith of hope; the circumcision provides only knowledge of right and wrong but does not provide hope of resurrection. Those who have come to Christ in hope and belief in the resurrection will gain nothing in turning to circumcision, and will in fact be pulled away from the hope of the promise, by giving proof that you do not believe because you accept the need for the circumcision.

The faith of hope comes from the heart; the laws come from sin, which is why the Brand of circumcision of the foreskin is required, as a sign showing that you are slave to sin. The **circumcision of the foreskin profited the Jews not at all**, because they did not have faith they fell into sin, but **the circumcision of the heart profits all who believe**, for once you believe sin has no temptation for you.

Sinfulness of Sex

Let me give you an example, perhaps it will help make understandable that which Paul is preaching.

Of the Ten Commandments, the failure of keeping the Fourth Commandment is most prevalent among those who call themselves Christian. The next most prevalent sin is failure to keep the Seventh Commandment, **“Thou shalt not commit Adultery,”** which includes the prohibition of Fornication, which also includes Homo Sexuality.

In my youth, I was guilty of breaking this Commandment, even though I loved my wife, there was a flaw in my personality whereby I was unable to prevent myself from this sin. Having since educated myself in the Word of God, I now know what that flaw was. All through that time of my youth I knew that it was wrong to engage in adultery, but I did not believe in the resurrection or any of the other promises of God, and I was ignorant of the Teachings of Jesus, so committing this sin carried no importance to me. I accepted that I would die and that my death was eternal.

Because I did not believe in the resurrection I lived my life by the motto of **“Life is Short, so live it to its fullest.”** I now know this is to live in sin, and with that knowledge I have overcome my sins and now live in the Ways of Jesus and God my Father.

Now that I have been educated in the Law as well as the Promises of God, I have hope in the resurrection and of eternal life. I have repented my sins, and have made a concerted effort ever since to live under the parameters set forth by the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus. This has helped to keep me from committing more sins, especially those of a sexual nature. But in and of themselves, I am not justified in the hope of salvation, only in the believe that Jesus was sent to forgive our sins and through him God will give forgiveness to all who truly repent, of this I am now justified in my expectation of the resurrection or transformation of body and soul into Eternal Life. Salvation requires both the belief and the law.

Remember: even though God gave Abraham that his believe accounted for Righteousness, before he was given the law, Abraham did receive the law afterwards. The law he received was the requirements of the First Covenant with God, and his requirement that Abraham and all those in his house were to be circumcised.

This is to bring clear to you that Abraham was required to have both the law and the belief, just as we are. Like Abraham, the Gentiles of the time of Paul, also received from God that their belief accounted for Righteousness before they understood or were given the law, but at the same time they are now required to obey the law of the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus, just as Abraham was required to keep the law as spelled out in the First Covenant.

*For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith, for in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. **Galatians 5:5-6***

If you believe in the promises of God, that the word of God is true, and you put your life and soul in that belief then you have obtained faith. Once you have this faith, then it does not matter if you are circumcised of the foreskin or not, for it is by faith that you are justified not by the brand of the slave to sin.

Not of Jesus

*Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. **Galatians 5:7-8***

Paul is telling those of Galatia that at the first of belief they held to the faith well, **ye did run well**, but with these other preaching's of false gospel they have become persuaded that belief is not enough, but these **false persuasions** are not from Christ, and therefore need to be ignored.

As the Truism of God says, if it is not spoken by God then it is a lie.

*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. **Galatians 5:9-10***

In this I am convinced that Paul is accusing Peter of being the one who is preaching the false gospel. If in fact Peter has changed his original stance concerning the circumcision of the foreskin then I agree with Paul, Peter is to blame.

God imposed the circumcision of the foreskin on Abram and his blood descendants because of the sin that is rampant in the world. With this visible and physical brand, God hoped that Abram's sons would thus remember and through memory avoid sin.

This was a sign, that God saw in Man a sinner, and only in educating them against sin could they rise above sin. In this the people fell short, because they lacked belief in the promises of God, even after witnessing miracles with their own eyes they still lacked belief.

When you come to belief the promises of God, and especially the promise that because God rose Jesus from the grave you too are justified in believing that you can be raised from the grave, then you have something far greater than a physical reminder not to sin, but a heartfelt need not to sin, because you now believe that to sin removes you from the hope of resurrection. Only in righteousness are you justified in the hope of the resurrection. To sin is unrighteousness, when you avoid sin through deliberate conscience effort, which is the definition of righteousness.

Remember: to sin is to break one of the Ten Commandments, so when you keep the first day Sabbath rather than the Seventh Day as commanded by God, then you sin. As Jesus said, "if you break **even the least of these commandments**, **Matthew 5:18-19**, then you break all of them, and no one that sins shall ever enter into the house of God." **Matthew 5:20**.

*And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased. **Galatians 5:11***

If Paul was preaching that the Gentiles needed to be circumcised of the foreskin then why was he still being persecuted by the Temple Elders? It was by preaching that the Gentiles who come to Christ do not have to be circumcised that gives the greatest purpose for the Temple Elders to condemn and persecute the followers of Christ. If Paul was preaching the circumcision then wouldn't then the Temple Elders stop their persecution of Paul and others of Christ?

I would they were even cut off which trouble you. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” **Galatians 5:12-14**

If you believe in the promises of God, and thereby have faith in the resurrection, this does not give you license to sin. Faith justifies you to have hope of the Resurrection, but justification does not mean you are already redeemed; redemption comes from embracing the morality of God and making his morality your morality. All sins are acts of immorality; therefore if you have God’s morality, then you are incapable of sin. If on the other hand you think yourself above the law, which is the schoolmaster of sin, then you do not live in God’s morality, and therefore are **one who is called, but not taken**, which is to say, you risk judgment.

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. **Galatians 5:15**

Evidently there is a lot of infighting going on concerning the circumcision of the foreskin, and Paul is warning the Church of Galatia, that if this continues, they could destroy all that they have built. This relates to us who live in the End of Days as well, though the question of circumcision is no longer an issue, there still is the issue of the First Day Sabbath as opposed to the Seventh Day Sabbath. All that is being spoken of here by Paul is just as easily used in this End of Days disagreement between the Christians and the Saints of God, whom I refer to as Israelites in truth.

Walking in the Spirit of the Lord

This I say then, “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” **Galatians 5:16-17**

This gives support to what I was just saying; if you walk in the Spirit, which is to say, if you live by the Morality of God, you will be free of the lusts of the flesh. As a mortal Man, we have the animalistic urges of the body, (the flesh), that pulls us in the direction of sin, and as one of Faith and belief in the promises of God, we have the pull of the Spirit, which pulls us back away from the desires of the flesh.

What Paul is saying is to not give in to the pull of the flesh but to embrace the pull of the spirit. Only those who walk in the spirit have hope of redemption.

The things that ye would, refers to the natural desire to engage in the animalistic urges, but through the mind and soul you can fight off the animal and embrace the spirit.

Not Under the Law

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Galatians 5:18

Most Christians that I have spoken to believe that in the above verse Paul is saying, “As a Christian, you are above the Law, and as such the law no longer has hold on you or your actions. That by believing and having faith in Jesus, we are saved by the Grace of Jesus, and no longer have to obey the law.”

What then does Paul actually mean when he says you are not under the law? If you have been paying attention and you put this above verse in context of all that Paul has written before, you will know that Paul is not saying you are no longer subject to the morality of God, which is what the laws gives identity to, but that as one in the spirit, you are not a slave to the law, but have written the law upon your heart and made God’s morality your morality, thereby placing yourself above the law, because it is no longer a law to be obeyed, but an aspect of your own personality, honor and moral character. It is this that puts you above the law, and not in opposition to the law.

Paul Teaches concerning Sin

In order to make it clear what Paul is talking about, Paul then gives a listing of the sins that are manifest when you allow yourself to be pulled by your animalistic urges or as Paul calls it, “the works of the flesh.”

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;

<i><u>Adultery,</u></i>	<i><u>Fornication,</u></i>	<i><u>Uncleanness,</u></i>	<i><u>Lasciviousness,</u></i>
<i><u>Idolatry,</u></i>	<i><u>Witchcraft,</u></i>	<i><u>Hatred,</u></i>	<i><u>Variance,</u></i>
<i><u>Emulations,</u></i>	<i><u>Wrath,</u></i>	<i><u>Strife,</u></i>	<i><u>Seditions,</u></i>
<i><u>Heresies,</u></i>	<i><u>Envyings,</u></i>	<i><u>Murders,</u></i>	<i><u>Drunkenness,</u></i>

Revellings and such like:

Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

As you might have noticed I have underlined several of those sins listed which are also aspects of the Moral imperatives listed in the Ten Commandments.

Paul then informs us without any doubt that to engage in these sinful acts removes you from any chance of inheriting the Kingdom of God. This gives full support to all that I have been saying as well, only the Righteous shall enter into Heaven.

Fruit of the Spirit

Paul then goes on to give a listing of those moral aspects that are of the spirit. There is no law against these moral traits because these traits are an aspect of God's Morality, and therefore are righteous, only those laws established by Satan through his False Gospel, would make such as these sinful.

But the fruit of the Spirit is...

Love,

Joy,

Peace,

Longsuffering,

Gentleness,

Goodness,

Faith,

Meekness,

Temperance:

*Against such there is no law. **Galatians 5:22-23***

Do you "Walk in the Spirit?"

Do you wish to walk in the ways of God or of Satan, the choice is yours. In the Writings of Paul, he has given you education in the ways of God, at the same time Paul gives you understanding how not to walk in the ways of Satan, which path do you chose to walk?

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:24-26

Jesus defines the Saints of God as: “Those which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” To be in the spirit of the Lord is to be as that definition describes.

You must keep the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments tell us how God demands that we worship him. The Last Six commandments are six of God’s own moral traits. God is our Father in Heaven, he created us, and it is his intent, like any human father, that we his children grow up in the same moral character that he has. By providing us with these codes of conduct our Father reveals what is a sin and how we should conduct ourselves to avoid sin.

Testimony of Jesus

The above definition also requires that we have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us two forms of testimony.

The first is that Jesus is God in the flesh of a Man, the Messiah, and the Son of God. As part of being in the spirit, we must believe this to be true, and that he Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and that through his example that we too will be resurrected. This is the promise upon which we build our Faith.

The second of the testimonies of Jesus is all that he preached and taught. The Ten Commandments were a part of his teachings, but Jesus expanded upon the six moral imperatives by giving us several more, in this way Jesus fulfills the laws of God. Jesus did not add to the moral imperative as a way of rendering them obsolete, but by adding to the laws Jesus brought them to completion, revealing the full aspects of God’s morality, and expanding upon those moral traits that we as the children of God must embrace and live by.

What Paul is saying above is if we live in the Spirit; let us also walk in the Spirit. I translate that to say, don’t just talk the talk, but walk the walk, which is to say, don’t just learn the Commandments of God and the Teachings of Jesus, but make them apart of who you are, your honor, your personality and your moral character. In this way you walk in the Spirit of the Lord.

Those who falter

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. **Galatians 6:1**

If in your congregation there is a person who is falling into iniquity, it is the duty of you and those others in the congregation to admonish him and show him the way back to righteousness. If you fail to do this, when it

is seen by you to be happening, then you leave the door open that your or others in the congregation might also falter, and fall into sin.

Fulfilling the law of Christ

Be ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ, for if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. Galatians 6:2-3

The word "**Burden**" is defined as: a difficult or worrying responsibility or duty, a heavy load to carry.

In context to what Paul is talking about, when you are a burden to someone else, it means that you cause another to carry a responsibility for your soul. When you inform another that they fall into inequity, then you place a burden upon them to correct their fault, and attempt to climb out of sin. In doing this you fulfill the Law of Christ who said "**Love others as you would have others love you.**" The greatest gift you can give to another is the gift of Righteousness, for righteousness leads to salvation and salvation to Life Eternal.

It has been my experience that more often than not, they will be angered by you, and will argue that it is you who is in error. But those who are in the Spirit of the Lord know the righteousness of their ways, and in a congregation, the many need to assist those in error back to the correctness of the Teachings of Jesus.

Consider this: if as many believe, as Christians you are saved by the Grace of Jesus, then why does Jesus, Paul and all the other apostles spend so much time and effort in warning us against sinfulness? If Jesus has already forgiven us our sins, then why are they so adamant that we do not sin? This belief is the result of Satan's lie, and any church that preaches this lie, is nothing more than an instrument of Satan, and as such anti-Christ.

Prove your own Righteousness

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another, for every man shall bear his own burden. Galatians 6:4-5

What Paul is saying above is before you can point out the inequities of others, you first must prove that your understanding of the Teachings of Jesus is correct and not yourself in error. The words, "**every man shall bear his own burden.**" gives support to what I have said on several occasions, it is necessary that you take the time and effort to read study and come to understand the Word of God on your own, and not rely on others to give meaning for you.

Pray to God-Jesus

*Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. **Galatians 6:6***

To communicate with **him that teaches** is to pray to God-Jesus, for it is God who teaches all good things. What I believe Paul is saying, is do not prove yourself by your own abilities alone, but pray to God to give you guidance in your studies.

We Reap what we Sow

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. **Galatians 6:7-8***

As part of Paul's insistence that you prove yourself, Paul adds that we must not be deceived by our own arrogance in thinking we have it right, but do not. In prayer to God, God will show you the truth, if you truly seek out God. God will know if you do or if you lie to yourself.

If you have faith in God and with God, then you will reap everlasting life, but if you are arrogant and lie to yourself, then death is what you will reap.

Joy in Well-Doing

*And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. **Galatians 6:9***

When you show another the Ways of God, you help them come to God, and this is joyous to your own spirit.

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. **Galatians 6:10***

In this Paul is preaching that we are to attempt to show everyone the way to righteousness, but even more so to those others of your congregation that may be in error.

Fear Not persecution

*Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand? As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. **Galatians 6:11-12***

Paul has spent a lot of time and effort writing these letters to the various churches concerning the circumcision of the foreskin, and he wants that those who have read them understand that those who tell you that you must be circumcised do so that they will not be persecuted. If your worship is tailored to appease others rather than to be in righteousness to the Teachings of Christ and the Commandments of God, then you are not truly a Saint of God.

Do not take into consideration whether you will be persecuted or not, but think only to the Glory of God and your eternal soul.

Those under the law, fail to keep the law

*For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. **Galatians 6:13***

When you are successful in bringing another person out of sinfulness and into righteousness, you have cause to glory in your accomplishment. It is to the Glory of God that you glory, so too do those who attempt to bring you into compliance to their misguided and error prone believes glory when they have succeeded in doing so. It is to their own glory that they bring you into error, not to the glory of God.

*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. **Galatians 6:14***

Paul seeks not his own glory when he leads you to righteousness, but always and only the glory of God-Jesus.

A New Creature

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. **Galatians 6:15***

As Jesus said, “**Only those reborn shall enter before the Father**,” it is this rebirth into a **new creature** that Paul is speaking of.

*And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the **Israel of God**.
From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace
of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. **Galatians 6:16-18***

The “**Israel of God**,” is a reference to the new nation that God gives the New Covenant to, not a nation of real-estate or land boundaries, but a nation of Saints.