

# The Writings of Paul

## Chapter 6

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### Things offered to Idols

#### Arrogance is not Wisdom

*Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth, and if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him. **I Corinthians 8:1-3***

I interpret these two verses to mean that no matter how much you think you know, concerning any subject, there is always more to know. It has been my personal experience, that there is always someone that knows more about a given subject than you know, regardless of how smart you think you are. But where God is concerned, and God “is all knowing,” if you love God as God defines love, then God will know. There is nothing you can do or say or think that God will not be privy to.

#### Sacrifices to Idols

*As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. **I Corinthians 8:4***

I have to admit, I only have knowledge of my small little part of this world, and the people that I have contact with. Therefore, I am unaware of any religion that currently engages in animal sacrifice, therefore this warning concerning eating things that were first given in sacrifice to any pagan gods, is unnecessary, as far as I am aware. Evidently, during the time of Paul, such practices were still quite common.

There is however the practice of praying to idols and other graven images, which is a sin against the Second Commandment of God. So Paul adds this last comment as a reminder to those who desire to give true and correct worship to God the Creator. **“There is none other God but one.”** And God tells us, **“I am God your Lord, and there is no other like me, I am God, and but for me there is no other.”**

## Animal Sacrifice offered to God

There is one thing that I want to bring to your attention on the subject of animal sacrifices however.

Under the Old or as I call it the Second Covenant, God allowed that animals be sacrificed as a way of cleansing yourself of sin. With the establishment of the New or as I call it the Third Covenant, such sacrifices are no longer permitted, in that Jesus was the ultimate of sacrifices, which cleansed all of Man who repent their sins. Therefore animal sacrifice is no longer needed in order to cleanse yourself of those sins that you commit.

The Jews, who still do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, reject this removal for the need of animal sacrifice, therefore, if they were ever to rebuild the Temple, such things would once more take place. This would be an abomination to God, and the eating of such animals would be the same as if they had been sacrificed to a Pagan God.

## Only One God

*For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. **I Corinthians 8:5-6***

What Paul is saying that we, who are the Saints of God, and thereby give true and correct worship of the Creator, know with empirical knowledge that there is only one God, and that Jesus who is the Christ, is God's only begotten son. We further know that Jesus is Christ and as such Jesus is God in the flesh of a man. This knowledge is pure and complete; there is nothing further to learn because the fact is complete. There is nothing more to add to this knowledge concerning who Jesus is, because the knowledge that he is the Son of God and God in the flesh of a man, is the truth and therefore absolute.

## An Example to others

*Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. **I Corinthians 8:7***

Paul then asks the question, if we who are the Saints of God know this to be true, then why is it that others do not understand and therefore know this truth? Because of this lack of knowledge, these others give worship to false gods, and engage in idolatry thereby defiling their souls.

Paul uses the word conscience as a way of explaining the mindset of the pagan worshipers. If you know that it is a sin to steal, but you go out and steal anyway, then your conscience will cause you a twinge or you will feel a discomfort if only for a second or two. But a pagan who does not have the knowledge of God the Creator, will have no such twinge when they give worship to Idols or other graven images, for they will not know it to be a sin.

This can be carried into the Twenty First Century; there are those who have been taught since children that they are supposed to pray to Saints, and the church has images, in the form of Idols, paintings and carvings, of these Saints, set upon alters, with candles around them, so that when you kneel to pray to the saint that is depicted, you can light a candle as well.

This practice of course is in direct violation to God's Second Commandment. The people of this church do not realize that praying to Saints, is in violation of the First Commandment, and knelling before the graven images of those saints is in violation of the Second Commandment, and that both are a violation of the Third Commandment. They don't know that this is a sin because their church has lied to them since the first day it was established in the 300's AD. Because they don't know that they sin, they have no attack of conscience.

If I who have knowledge of God's Truth, should kneel down before a graven image and give prayer to that image, then I would be guilty of sacrilege as well as blasphemy. All of my education and knowledge would not save me for giving such an insult to God the Creator, and his wrath upon me would be justified. This of course will never happen to me, for I would rather be torn to shreds by wild beasts rather than give insult, not just to my creator, but to my father and savior.

In times past, this choice was forced upon many a martyr, who chose death in the arenas of the Roman Empire, and in the torcher chambers of the Church of Rome. **Blessed are those who did not love their own lives more than they loved God. Amen.**

## That Which Defiles the Body

*But meat commandeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. **I Corinthians 8:8***

What Paul is saying, is that it does not matter if you eat or do not eat the meat of a sacrifice animal, as far as your relationship and worship of God are concerned. It is not the meat that is sinful to eat, it is your knowledge that the meat is from a Pagan Sacrifice or not. If you know it to be from a Pagan Sacrifice yet you

still eat it, then you have committed a sin, if you are ignorant as to whether the meat is from a Pagan Sacrifice or not, then to eat it is not a sin. This follows through with what Jesus said:

*Not that which goeth into the mouth that defiles a man, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. **Matthew 15:11***

This relates to what you speak, in lies, inequities and blasphemies, which defile you before God, not the foods that you eat. Which I interpret to say, that if you should by chance eat the meat of an animal that has been sacrificed to a Pagan god, that you are not defiled by the meat, in and of itself. What is in your heart and therefore comes forth in the words that you speak is what defiles you.

## Be an Example to others

*But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; and through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? **I Corinthians 8:9-11***

What Paul is saying in the above discussion is that as a Saint of God, you know that to eat meat from a Pagan Sacrifice is sinful, but because as a Saint of God, you give worship to God as God commands, and meet the definition given by Jesus as who it is who is a Saint of God, then you will not be judged in error by God.

The problem that Paul is bringing to light however is that if you eat such meat and others, who have yet to be fulfilled in the position of a Saint of God, see you eat what to them is sinful, then by your actions you might cause that person to do as you do, and thereby enter into sin. It is better that you do not engage in such things, so as to avoid pulling others away from the true worship of God.

Though Paul uses the eating of meat that had been offered to idols, the act of causing others to sin because of your actions, regardless of what those actions are, is the root of what Paul is speaking of.

## Eat No Meat

*But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. **I Corinthians 8:12-13***

Paul thus draws two conclusions, if engaging in something yourself causes another to sin, then he Paul, because of his standing and his desire to be an example to others, refrains from that activity all together, so he

can never cause others to sin. Paul uses the symbolism of meat, but he does not speak exclusively concerning the eating of meat from Pagan Sacrifices, anything that you do that may cause someone who is just learning of what it takes to be a Saint of God, which causes that person, because of your actions, is best not engaged in for the sake of the weak in spirit.

So you will not misunderstand, in the above, Paul is not saying to refrain from the eating of all meats, but only those meats derived from Pagan sacrifices.

## Vegetarianism

Do not do as others that I know, (Seventh Day Adventist) who think that Paul is suggesting that you should abstain from the eating of all meat. The meat that Paul is using as a symbolism is the meat given to false gods and only to that, Paul is not advocating vegetarianism.

## Twisting Paul's meaning

This is kind of ironic, that in these verses Paul is warning against engaging in something that will cause those weak in faith to sin, when his very words has encouraged the Church of the Seventh Day Adventist to do that which is in opposition to the Word of God.

The Seventh Day Adventist believe as part of the true and correct worship of God you must be a vegetarian, and refrain from eating any meat or animal byproducts such as milk.

God gave Man a list of animals that he can butcher for food and a list that he cannot have for food, these can be found in the **Book of Leviticus Chapter 11**. In that God said it is alright (Good) to eat these meats, and then to do so is not a sin, so, when a Seventh Day Adventist preaches that it is a sin to eat meat, then that Church places itself in direct opposition to the word of God, and therefore is engaging in the very kind of thing that Paul is speaking against.

## Moses Leads to Christ

*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. **I Corinthians 10:1-4***

The above four verses are references to the Exodus and events that occurred during the forty years in the wilderness.

## Baptized by Water

Paul further wants us to see the correlation between the people of the Exodus and the Old Covenant, and the people who are the followers of Jesus and the New Covenant. Paul is further showing that the original Israelites were baptized of the waters when they *passed through the Red Sea*, **Exodus 14:16**, as well as when they were *engulfed by the cloud that God surrounded himself in* when he spoke to them from Mount Sinai, **Exodus 19:18**.

## Spiritual Meat

*The spiritual meat* is the Manna which God provided for those that followed Moses during their time in the wilderness, **Exodus 16:15**.

## Spiritual Water

*The spiritual water* is a reference to the water that God caused to spring out of the side of a mountain so that all could drink and be refreshed, **Exodus 17:6**.

## Spiritual Rock

Then Paul gives reference to *the Spiritual Rock* which is a symbolism in the Book of Daniel of the Messiah, **Daniel 2:34-35**, whom Paul and I agree is Jesus the Christ.

## Moses Preached the Word of God

But there is more to this than I have explained above. When Paul refers to the spiritual, he is not talking about the earthly or physical. Each of the above have to do with the fact that Moses preached the Word of God to those who came out of Egypt with him. It is this that is spiritual, the other things relates to the physical needs of the body.

Moses preached the Word of God to the first Israelites, so too does Jesus preach to the latter day Israelites, or as Jesus refers to the Saints of God.

# The Unbelievers

*But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. I*

## **Corinthians 10:5**

Despite these miracles that all that followed Moses saw with their own eyes, they still failed to believe in the promises of God, and void of belief they stumbled and fell, to be consumed while in the wilderness. This event is revealed in, Numbers 16:30-33.

*Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. I* **Corinthians 10:6**

## An Example to Remember

Paul then comes to the point he is attempting to make concerning these references, that God has told us of these events and the disbelief of those who followed Moses, so to show them as examples of how evil can blind us from God's promises and truth; that in looking back on these examples, we can more easily see God, and therefore not be blinded of similar things occurring around us today.

I see this as God's way of giving instruction to those of us who live in this the End of Days, and that those who followed Moses, were a sacrifice for us, that from their ignorance we would glean wisdom.

## Idolatry

*Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." I* **Corinthians 10:7**

This is once again a reference to the sins of those who followed Moses, and the Golden Calf that they encouraged Moses' brother Aaron to build, Deuteronomy 9:16-17. The act of giving worship to pagan idols was attributed to play, in that the people would dance around the Idol as they sang songs in praise to whatever god the Idol represented. Such merriment was coupled with some kind of feast as well.

## Fornication

*Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. I* **Corinthians 10:8**

The reference to the 23,000 is to those who followed Moses, of which rebelled against his and Aaron's rule, and that God caused the earth to separate and swallow them up, at the request of Moses, which again can be found in **Numbers 16:30-33**.

*Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. **I Corinthians 10:9-10***

## Admonishments of God

*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **I Corinthians 10:11***

In case you doubted my interpretation of Paul's words; he tells us with his own words that which I have given explanation of. The word ensamples means: example or point of instance. The word admonition means: to rebuke, to give advice either pro or con, and to give a warning because of actions taken by those being admonished.

## End of Days

Paul further explains that his comments are intended for those who live in the time of **the End of the World**, which is otherwise known as the End of Times and the End of Days. This tells me that Paul's words are being directed at you and me. If we learn from the mistakes of those that came before us, then perhaps we can rise above their sinful ways and obtain righteousness.

## Truth through Education

*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. **I Corinthians 10:12***

Paul then reiterates this. Do not think that you know God's Truth? If you think you do, then I ask you, how did you come to know his truth? Did you come to know God's truth through Blind Faith from accepting what others have told you throughout your life? I suggest that if this is the case, you probably do not know God's Truth, but in fact have been preached Satan's False Gospel.

In order to know God's Truth, and to have certainty that it is in fact God's Truth and not Satan's lies, you need to learn the truth through educated study and research. God is **very specific** as to how we are to give worship to him. If you error even in one thing, you then fall short of the true and correct worship as



commanded by God. It is to those who fall short that Paul is directing his above warning. To rephrase what Paul is saying I give you the following.

***If you think you standeth in God's Grace, take heed, lest ye have fallen short.***

**Remember:** God tells us: "*Those who seek me diligently shall find me.*" **Proverbs 8:17**

I am of the mind that what Paul is giving warning to here amount to a prophecy of those who come to call themselves Christians. Virtually every Christian that I have spoken to believes without a doubt that they are saved in the Grace of Jesus, and therefore have no concern to learn or understand anything else. They believe themselves to be perfect in worship, and therefore have nothing more to learn.

## A False Belief

It is a widely held belief that if you declare Jesus your Savior, then you will be saved from the Grace of Jesus, with nothing else required of you. There is nothing in Scripture that says this. Paul does give discussion concerning this, and does use words if taken out of context could be misunderstood as saying this, but when put into context reveals what Paul is actually saying.

## Paul's Warning

Paul is saying, "**Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall,**" which is pointing directly at those who believe they are saved by the Grace of Jesus.

Only by taking the time and effort to study and research the Bible and historical documents to determine what God has actually spoken, will you find God's True Word. As I have been saying throughout these pages of this Web Page, you need to do the work yourself. If you accept what others have told you, how can you know if they have it right, or are themselves deceived by Satan's lies?

## God Provides an escape from Sin

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* **I Corinthians 10:13**

God is merciful in that the temptations that we are given through our lives are not so powerful that we are not able to overcome them if we truly chose to. If you look to God for guidance, not just in the spiritual, but

also in the earthly, then overcoming temptation is not arduous. If on the other hand you ignore God's law, and turn your back on his morality, then these temptations will overcome you, and your life will be that of sin, and you will be lost from the promises of God.

## Paul Admonishes against Idolatry

*Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. I*

### **Corinthians 10:14-15**

As a Christian or a Jew or as a Muslim, you may think that Idol worship is a thing from ancient times that no one in these days engages in such practices except the truly obscure, but if you do believe this, you are mistaken. If you have statues or paintings or any other kind of man made art work depicting, Jesus, the Mother Mary, angles, or any other religious oriented depiction, then you are guilty of Idolatry.

To give greater understanding of what Paul is speaking, I refer you to the Second Commandment of God.

*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: **Exodus 20:4***

Most of the Christians I have spoken to disregard this verse and only remember the next verse. In this they believe that it is alright to have religious related statues and paintings, so long as they do not kneel down before them and give worship to them. But if you will examine the above verse, you will see that it is a sin even to have and possess, (**make unto thee**), such things regardless as to whether you pray to them or not.

## One Body in Christ

*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. **I Corinthians 10:16-17***

Those things that Paul list above are symbolisms and not objects of worship as are statues and paintings. Symbolically, they reveal our faith, but we do not pray to the cup, or to the bread, but with graven images you do.

*Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? **I Corinthians 10:18-19***

As part of the Jewish practice, they sacrifice animals for the cleansing of their sins, and then after they have been burnt in the sacrificial fire, the meat is then eaten. As God outlined this practice in the Books of Exodus and Leviticus, these are acceptable to God.

## Sacrifices to Devils

*But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. **I Corinthians 10:20***

What Paul is showing us is that the sacrifices made to pagan gods and Idols, are sacrifices to devils. There is only one God, and to give worship to any other god that is not a god, but a false god, is to give worship to Satan, the Devil. In so doing you are not eating the meat of an animal, but the meat of a sacrifice to Satan.

## Can't have it Both ways

*Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. **I Corinthians 10:21***

If you truly intend and desire to give worship to the Creator, the God Almighty, then you must not include in that worship anything that God has not told us of. If you have statues or painting that have a religious significance to you, even if you do not pray to them, it is still in direct disobedience to God's Second Commandments. You must worship God as he commands, adding nothing to that worship nor subtracting anything from that worship; else you do not worship your creator, but a false god.

## The Cross as an Idol

Let me go a step further, so as to make clear what I am attempting to explain. I have oft times seen Christians while in church and outside of church take the cross which they wear around their neck and hold it as they pray.

The cross is a symbolism that tells all who see it around your neck that you are a Christian, and in and of itself it is not an example of Idolatry, but when you take hold of it while you're pray, it then becomes a religious icon, a talisman. As such it becomes an aspect of Idolatry.

When you pray to God, it is neither required nor necessary that you have something to look at or feel to bring you closer to God; all you need to do is to look inside your heart to come into communion with your Creator. This is shown to be true by Jesus in the following verses.

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. **Matthew 6:6-8***

What Jesus saying is that go into a dark place, (a closet), and close yourself off from those around you, and then pray to God. When you sit in a closet with the door closed, there is no light, so you cannot see an Idol or a painting, so when you pray it is to God that you give prayer and not to an object made by the hands of a man.

**Remember:** you are made a living soul, and your soul is part of God, therefore you are part of the Body of God. This is why God hears your secret prayers, because he is in you and apart of you at all times. God is life, remove God and you have no life.

## Entering the house of a Pagan

I am sure that anyone who has been reading any of my writings will by now understand what Paul is saying as it relates to eating the meat of animals sacrificed to Idols of false gods, but there is a message that relates to we who live in the Twenty First Century, that these words of Paul manifest, so I am inclined to admonish you concerning it.

As you will no doubt recall, the citizens of the Nation of Israel, otherwise known as the Jews, were not permitted to enter into the home of a Gentile, then alone to sit and break bread with them. To do so was a violation of the laws of Moses, and the punishment could be severe.

These words of Paul speak to this as well. If you are a Saint of God, and thereby endeavor to keep the Commandments of God as well as follow and live by the Teachings of Jesus, then you should also refrain from engaging socially with others who are not believers as you are.

The reason the Jews were not permitted is the same reason you should not, and that is because if while in the home or church of nonbelievers you are made part of a pagan ritual or prayer, then you have been tainted by the devil.

Let me give you an example of what I am saying. There is this person who I have had many occasions to speak with concerning the True Word of God, and after some time they accepted that there is no scripture

whereby Jesus or God gives command or instruction that the Sabbath was transferred from the Seventh Day of the Week to the First.

**Remember God's Truism:** if God did not speak it then it is a lie.

## Entering the House of Satan

Despite their acceptance of this, they still continue to attend church on Sunday's. Their comments to me is that they keep the Seventh Day Sabbath as God commands, but that they see no reason why they can't attend church on Sunday as well. They tell me that they give worship to God all seven days of the week, so therefore where they give that worship should not be an issue.

What Paul is saying is that to engage in a religion that is not a worship of God is to partake in the worship of Satan, how can you be a Saint of God if you also enter the house of Satan? This person I am giving as an example, does not accept that the church that she goes to on Sunday is a church of Satan, but think about it, if this church does not recognize the Seventh Day of the Week as the true and correct Sabbath, but instead observes the Sabbath on the First Day of the Week, and that God never gave command nor instruction that he God had transferred the Sabbath, then is not this church and its practice in opposition to the Word and Law of God, and as such makes them Pagan?

## Stronger than God

*Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? **I Corinthians 10:22***

Knowing all of this, Paul then asks the question, "Do we intend to worship God the Creator, or is it our intent to vex God by being disobedient to his word?" Then Paul asks, "Can you truly believe that you are stronger than the God of Creation that you can stand in defiance to his commandments?"

We are One Body in Christ, and Christ being God in the flesh of a man is God, therefore, we are One Body in God. If you pollute the Body of God by engaging in acts of defiance to the Commandments of God, then you will be expelled from the Body of God. This is what is the intent of Judgment Day and Hell's Fire.

## Lawful for me

*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. **I Corinthians 10:23***

## Not Above the Law of God

Do not misunderstand what Paul means by “*All things are lawful for me,*” for Paul is not saying that he is above the Law of God just because he is a Saint of God, Paul is talking about the eating of animals that had been part of a Pagan ritual, as well as others that were originally given by God, in **Deuteronomy Chapter 14.** What Paul is speaking about is those additional animals that had been forbidden that were shown to Peter in a vision from God to now be acceptable to eat, **The Acts 10:11-16.** Under the Law of Moses, the first Israelites were limited in what animals they could butcher and consume as food.

## New Covenant Meats

Under the New Covenant, because of the vision given to Peter by Jesus opening up the consumption of several of those animals that had been forbidden, those who are the Saints of God do not sin when they eat of them, whereas, those who do not follow the Teachings of Jesus, do still sin when they eat those same animals.

As a Saint of God we are no longer restricted by the Law of Moses, at least as it relates to eating meats of certain animals, but those who are not the Saints of God, for example Jews, are still subject to those restrictions.

What Paul is attempting to give understanding to is that if as a Saint of God, you break bread with those who do not have the Faith of Jesus, whether they are seeking to achieve that faith or not, then it is expedient that you do not eat anything that was not permitted under the Law of Moses. The Saints of God need to be an example to others so as to show them the true path to Righteousness. If in your actions, you lead someone astray, then you have sinned as well.

## Seek for another man's wealth

*Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. I Corinthians 10:24*

The way that these words are written suggests that Paul is advocating that we steal from others. I know this is not the case, but as written, that is what the words suggest if taken out of context, which again is important to keep in mind of the need to know context before jumping to conclusions.

When you put this verse in context of what Paul has been talking about, the meaning becomes clear. What Paul has been talking about is that the Saints of God must be **Examples** to all others that they come into

contact with. Therefore, the Saints of God must keep in mind that those watching you may be lead to error if we engage in something that is lawful for us to do, but that is sinful for them.

**The Wealth of Others** is the work that they do to achieve righteousness, and it is to that wealth that we must look to enhance and not to our own.

**Let no man seek the wealth of another, but have patience in his own wealth and the station that which it provides.**

In using the word **patience**, Paul does not intend that you be content with your station in life, but that you have patience of others around you. There is nothing sinful in doing what you can in the improvement of your station so long as you do so within the parameters established in the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus. In business as in all things you must live in the morality of God, so long as you do so, God will bless you in your endeavors.

The context therefore, of what is being spoken of prior to this verse in the Book of I Corinthians, is to not do something that would cause others who do it, because of your bad example, to fall into sin.

When you seek what is your own, then you engage in actions that you know, as a Saint of God, not to be sinful for you, but Paul warns, instead of this, give consideration at all times to others, and only engage in those things that those who are not the Saints of God, need to be mindful of.

Paul has said that he can eat of meat that has been given in sacrifice to a Pagan god, and as a Saint of God this is true. But if someone who is not a Saint of God should eat of the same meat, that person does commit a sinful act. Therefore, Paul has chosen not to engage in any acts that though not sinful to him, are sinful to others, and as he has chosen he admonishes that all others who are the Saints of God to refrain also.

## For Conscience Sake

*Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. I Corinthians 10:25-26*

The word **"Shambles"** as used in these verses is defined as **a Slaughterhouse, or as meat or fish market.** Paul gives us this warning as it was, in his day, that when you go to the market to purchase meat, there was always a possibility that it might have been used in a pagan sacrifice. In order that you do not offend your conscience about this, it would be best if you did not ask where the meat was obtained from. This then gives voice to the unspoken words of Paul, that if you are ignorant of the origins of the meat and you consume

it, then you commit no sin, whereas if you ask and are informed that it is indeed from a pagan sacrifice, then you best not purchase the meat, for to do so does result in sin.

## Ignorance is not a defense

As given in this specific instance, I agree with Paul, however, do not carry this idea of ignorance as being true of other aspects of your faith. If you are ignorant of how God commands that he be worshiped and you engage in worship that is in error, then you sin, regardless of your ignorance. This is true because as we live today in the Twenty First Century, the Gospel of God can be found everywhere, it is up to you to read and learn from it, failure to do so is no one's fault but your own, so your ignorance is from your lack of caring or your laziness in doing the work that you must.

## Eat what is offered

*If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. **I Corinthians 10:27***

If you are invited into the home of someone that you know is not a convert to the True Worship of God, but this person is a friend or relative to you, so you agree to go. Paul is saying it is alright to go and when given to eat from their table, do so, in order to not offend your hosts.

*But if any man say unto you, "This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. **I Corinthians 10:28-31***

If you enter into the house of someone you know to not be a convert to the True Worship of God and are invited to dine with them, then do not offend your host by refusing to eat. If in your heart you go with good purpose, let not the eating of sacrifice meat be of a concern to you so long as it is done to the Glory of God.

I wish to offer a way of eating meat that you are aware of as having been used in a sacrifice, and that is to give a prayer asking God to bless the food you are about to eat. In this way you are showing God that you do not wish to offend God, by engaging in that which is sinful, and by having God bless the meat, it can no longer be blemished for all the Earth is God's and being of God cannot be sinful.



*Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. I Corinthians 10:32-33*

My understanding of what Paul is saying in these last several verses goes as follows. If you go to the home of a friend that then asks you to sit and have dinner with him, and you then chose to do so, do not ask where from the meat has been obtained, **for your conscience sake**. As Paul explained above, ignorance of this particular knowledge, frees you from sin. However, if you are told that the meat was obtained from a pagan sacrifice, then do not refuse to eat it **for your host's sake and his conscience**, but out of courtesy to your host you should eat of it.

## Give Prayer before you eat

Paul then goes on to explain that if you give thanks to God in a prayer before you eat the tainted meat, then how can you sin when your intent is not to partake of the meat of a sacrifice but that you are eating the meat of an animal, and as such it is of God, and being of God how can you sin? Paul is saying that so long as you **give glory to God**, then you cannot give offense, and no sin can occur.

I am of the mind that Paul has given these instructions because he was involved in a similar situation, and rather than embarrass or insult his host, he decided to give instructions so that any of us that might be so challenged would know and through this knowledge be free of conscience, and thus be free of sin.

## Don't Enter a home of Nonbelievers

I can see how this difficult situation could arise, and that how we might have good conscience concerning it, so we would not have to embarrass our host. But this all relates back to the reason why God forbade the Jews from going into the home of the Gentiles. Therefore, if you keep yourself separate from unbelievers, then you will not have to concern yourself with the possibility of sinning.

You are aware I am certain that though the Jews were not permitted to enter the home of the Gentiles, it was permissible for Gentiles to enter into their home. Therefore, if you have friends that are not believers, then by all means invite them to your home, that through your influence on them they might also become believers.

If on the other hand you go into their home, and they engage in a religious ceremony that is contrary to the Commandments of God, then you could be pulled into sin. It is better to avoid such situations, "keep yourself out of temptation."

## Be a Light and an Inspiration

There is a big drawback to this however. The reason you engage with nonbelievers, is through your example, they might see God's Truth and by that be converted. If you refuse to enter into a nonbeliever's home, then your ability to show them your light as given to you by God is removed. If you refuse to enter a nonbeliever's home you may insult them to the point that you turn them against your faith, rather than give them reason to convert.

## Confronted by Idols

This discussion relates to the eating of meat that has been sacrificed to pagan gods, but this also can relate to entering a home of nonbelievers, and being confronted with other aspects of pagan and other ungodly things. I speak of entering a home where the home is occupied by one whose religion encourages the keeping of Idols, and statues or paintings of religious icons.

All idols are a sin against the second commandment of God, even a graven image of that which is commonly considered a likeness of Jesus, or the Mother Mary. These are graven images as defined by God, and the keeping of these things are a sin. For you to enter into a home that has such things on display, puts you in the presence of Satan, therefore you should refrain from entering into the home of such nonbelievers.

I personally have never been one to shy away from pointing out to others what God has to say concerning actions that they engage in. I have on occasion gone into the home of another and seeing a statue or a picture of Jesus or one of the other Saints, I have informed those present, of the Second Commandment. In this way, I show God that I am not being pulled over to the ways of Satan, and am doing as Jesus taught, in that I am attempting to show others the way to the True worship of God.

One thing I would like to add to this discussion. Jesus tells us that we should love our brothers as we would have them love us. What this means to me is that I as a Saint of God have the knowledge of God's True Word, knowledge that others do not have.

Rather than to simply eating the meat offered in the home of a friend, with soft words I explain why I cannot eat the meat, it being contrary to my faith. Explain why it is a sin to eat such that are from pagan sacrifices.

The same is true as with the Idols in a friend's home; if you enter a friend's home and see idols or other graven images displayed, explain to your host why having such Idols is a sin against God. I do so by referring to the Second Commandment of God, which means it is a good idea that you can quote from it accurately. In

this way you bring to the forefront the truth and are showing by example that your hosts are in error. This doesn't mean that you should insult your host or argue with them, only point out their error, and then drop the subject, unless they ask questions of you and request further explanation by you.

Paul says to tolerate for the sake of the conscience of your friend, but if he is truly your friend, you should make an attempt to show him his error by explaining God's Truth to him. God tells us that **many will be offended**, and I say that is good. When you offend others concerning their long held believes, then you cause them to take a look at their own believes in comparison to God's True Word, and that will at least bring a small token of the truth into their conscience. Which is more important to you, protecting the conscience of your friends or promoting the Word of God?

## Be ye followers of Paul

*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. **I Corinthians 11:1***

I find that most of that, which Paul speaks of in **I Corinthians Chapter 11**, is based upon Paul's personal prejudices and arrogance, and not on anything spoken by God or Jesus. This shows through in these first two verses.

**Be ye followers of me**, are words of arrogance and not of a servant of God. It is not Paul that the Saints of God follow, but the Teachings of Jesus of which Paul is but a preacher. That Paul thinks that the people follow him as he gives instruction is pure conceit on Paul's part.

True Paul does include the caveat, **as I also am of Christ**, but it is not Paul that the people follow, it is Christ, Paul is only the one who preaches the Word of Christ. It is not Paul's word that the people follow, but what Paul tells the people that Jesus said.

*Now I praise you, brethren that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. **I Corinthians 11:2***

It is not Paul that the people should be remembering, but the words spoken by Jesus, of which it is Paul's job to preach to the people. To me, this is akin to my telling all who come to this Web Page and read these pages, that you are followers of me. I am no one to be followed, it is what God has given me to write that is posted on this Web Page, and it is this, which is God's True Word that we all must follow. Would you not think me arrogant, not to mention hypocritical, to ask that you follow me. It is not Paul that we who read his writings follow, but he who gave Paul those words to write.

## Head of Man is Christ

*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. I Corinthians 11:3*

I have already mentioned this, but, everything that I read in all the other Books of the Bible, not written by Paul, gives no support to Paul's contention that the woman is subservient to the man. I must conclude then that what Paul is presenting concerning this is founded upon his own personal prejudices based upon customs formed through generations of men and not on anything that God has instructed. This is a problem for me, because it was Jesus himself that chose Paul as the Prophet to the Gentiles. For me, or anyone else, to disregard that which Paul gives discussion to in these verses, causes us to risk placing ourselves in opposition to God.

I have prayed on this, and asked God for his guidance, but all I can tell you with any honesty is that I find Paul to be in error, and nothing yet has given me reason to think otherwise. Therefore, I present to you what Paul is saying, and I will give explanation as to what he is talking about, as I have with all other scripture, but I will also input or voice my objections where I find I am in disagreement. It is therefore up to you who read this to decide for yourselves, whether Paul is correct, or not.

*The head of every man is Christ*, tells us that Christ or God is ruler over us, and in this I agree, however, Paul is using the word "man" as relating to gender, when God uses the word "Man" as it relates to the species, which includes male and female. It is in this error that the rest of what Paul is speaking of is placed in error.

## Head of Women is Men

*The head of the woman is the man*: When Paul uses the phrase: "the head of," he is not referring to the physical head of the body, but to the one in authority over us. What Paul is saying in the above verse is that Christ is in authority over every man, but that men are in authority of every woman. Then he goes on to say that the one in authority over Christ is God.

There are many Christian religions that have taken Paul's words to heart, and until recently have not allowed women to become ordained ministers and are treated as nothing more than chattel. Everything that I read in scripture that is a quote from God or Jesus, disagrees with the idea that women are subservient to men. There are others of the Prophets of God that have shown women as inferior, but the words used in those situations gave me to believe that they were personal prejudices and not instructions from God.

## Paul's Error revealed

The following is one example of why I am convinced that Paul is in error on this issue.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* **Genesis 1:27**

As you can see, God is telling us that not only has he created Man, male and female, on the Sixth Day of Creation, but that both are created in the image of God. If women are created in the image of God, then the whole concept that women are subservient to men is false.

If a woman is created in the image of God, as it is clearly shown in the above verse, then like men a woman can achieve Righteousness, and with that be Saints of God. God does not discriminate between male or female, they are all the children of God and are therefore all able to become the Sons of God. The word "Sons" does not refer to only the male but to the entire species of Man.

## Uncovered Heads for Men

*Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.* **I Corinthians 11:4**

I understand this to mean that if I standing outside on a cold winters day, look up to give prayer or praise to God, that I am somehow giving dishonor to my head, which as you recall is a reference to Christ. Does that sound right to you?

I have yet to find anywhere in the pages of the Books of the Bible, except here, where it is even suggested that I have to have my head uncovered before I begin to make prayer to God. Can anyone tell me what would it matter whether I have a hat on or not when I give prayer to God?

I have another question: what about the Jews. It is the custom, though I am not sure where it derives from, that all Jewish men must wear the little cap upon their heads when they enter synagogue. It appears to me that Paul, who was a devote member of the Jewish Faith, is telling us that this custom is false.

I agree with Paul that such a custom has no support in anything I have read in the Bible, just as I disagree with Paul when he says that men are to have their heads uncovered when they pray to God. I have yet to find any commandment by God concerning this subject.

## Covered Heads for Women

*But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. I Corinthians 11:5-6*

If a requirement that men not have their heads covered is ludicrous and foolish, as I suggest, then it is also true that there is nothing as far as commandments or instructions given by God, that this should have any bearing upon a women giving prayer to God either.

As I have suggested in earlier chapters of the Writings of Paul, that he has a prejudice against women, and in this chapter, it seems to be full blown and obvious.

*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. I Corinthians 11:7-9*

As I have shown above, God created Man, male and female on the sixth day of creation, equal to one another in that they were both created in the image of God, therefore, these two verses are shown to be in error, woman was not created for man, no more than man was created for woman, they were both created for God, in that it was his pleasure to create male and female, and not only male, or only female. In this aspect of God's creation, man is no different than the rest of the animals of the earth, male and female.

## Dust of the Ground

I can only assume that Paul is referring to the following verses, in his stating that women were created for man.

*And the Lord God formed Man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and Man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7*

As you might have noticed, I have capitalized the word Man as it is used in this verse. When you use the word Man as it is being used above, it is in reference to the Race that is Man and not to any gender of a race, and as such the word needs to be capitalized.

It is my understanding based upon what God has told us in the previous verses to this one, which is what gives this verse its context, God is still talking about the Race, Man, as in that he created Man on the Sixth Day of Creation.

It is a common misconception that the above verse from Genesis refers to the man Adam, and this is thus brought to belief that Adam was the first Man. But there is no word of Adam, until after the Seventh Day, and this verse being a part of the Sixth Day refers therefore to the species of Man and not to any one individual. God established Man as a species upon the Earth on the Sixth Day of Creation, not the one man Adam.

As of this verse, God is explaining that Man the Species, is formed from the “**Dust of the Ground.**” Most, who I have spoken to, concerning this, believe that God took a pile of earth and shaped it into a figure that is the figure of Man, and then gave that pile of dirt life and from that Adam arose.

It is my belief and understanding that when God uses words to give instruction or explanation, those words always have meaning, and purpose. With that in mind, what meaning does God have in such a phrase, “Dust of the Ground?”

**Remember:** Throughout the Bible, God uses symbolisms to give graphic visualization of what he is attempting to explain.

I see this phrase, “**Dust of the Ground,**” as being one such symbolism. What then is the dust of the ground? This takes us back to the Third Day of Creation.

*And God said, “Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear:” and it was so. **Genesis 1:9***

In the Second Day of Creation, God divided the waters from each other with a firmament, which God then called Heaven, but on the Third Day of Creation God **gathers together** the waters that are under heaven into one place. In these words, God is giving explanation as to the end result of his creating the Planet Earth, **into one place.**

**Remember:** from my explanation of the First Day of Creation, in the essay titled, “**God’s Creation,**” where I suggested that the original form of God’s Creation was that it was H<sub>2</sub>O and that is why God calls it “**The Waters.**” **Genesis 1:2.** Those same waters, or hydrogen and oxygen are the original building blocks of the universe and all other elements that exist today were created in the center of the Proto-Stars of the newly formed universe.

The waters that God assembles in one place that are below the waters that God calls heaven are that which the planet Earth are formed from. When you look with your mind’s eye at what God is saying, you see the planet Earth as a ball of water, but then God commands that the dry land appear, and it does. This time the water is in fact the oceans of the Earth, and the dry land is the continents, barren and without life.

God does not tell us about the process that he used to take the heavenly waters and through them obtain the earthly waters. At least God does not tell us in words written down for us to read, but, God does tell us how this process occurred, and that is through observation of the universe around us, what we call science.

Science tells us that the planets were formed from the “**Dust**” of the stars that exploded in Super Nova during the early years of this universe. It is this “**Dust**” that the Earth and everything on the Earth is made of, every, rock, every piece of topsoil, etc. At first, as I have shown above, the Earth was **barren and without life**. Then God gave life to the land.

*And God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:” and it was so. **Genesis 1:11***

If you look closely at this verse you will see that God does not tell us that he created the grass or the fruit trees, but **that the earth bring forth**. It is out of the earth that the grass grows, not from seed but from the dust of the earth itself, which is to say that **God gave life to the land**.

At this point in creation, the Earth is no longer barren and without life, but has plant life as in the grasses and trees, all of which came forth from the earth.

Then on the Fifth Day of Creation God tells us this:

*And God said, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth,” which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. **Genesis 2:20-22***

As with the plants that came forth from the dry land, so to do the living creatures, **the moving creature that hath life**, come forth, not from the dry land but from the water of the sea. This then gives explanation as to whether the chicken came first or the egg, the answer is neither, God came first and caused that the water should bring forth the living creatures.

The phrase, “**After his kind**,” refers to the fact that all living things, plant and animals have in them the ability to procreate. Were it not for God giving this ability, life would only exist as long as that one thing that God gave life to was alive. If it couldn't reproduce, then there would be no more after the one.

The point that I am trying to make is that all life on the planet Earth originated from the **dust of the earth** in that the seas are star dust, as is the dry land, and it is from them that life arose. Man being another of



the animals that God establishes on the Earth on the Sixth Day of Creation is therefore, star dust as well, and because of this **Man is made from the dust of the earth.**

It is in this way that Man like all other living things on the Earth, is the result of a long period of evolution. Not the random chance evolution that Darwin suggested, but a controlled evolution, whereby God from time to time would tweak the process so as to make the evolution develop as he intended that it should; **By God's pleasure.** Therefore, when God tells us that he "**Formed Man of the dust of the ground,**" it is to the star dust that he gives reference.

What then does Paul refer to when he tells us that women are subservient to men?

*And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

**Genesis 2:8**

First God spoke of establishing the Species Man on the Sixth Day of Creation:

*So God created Man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* **Genesis 1:27**

When after Man had been established on the Sixth Day of Creation, God rests on the Seventh Day of Creation, then on the next day, which I call the Eighth Day, **which we still live in today,** God took Man one step further. I see the Ninth Day of Creation as being when the Old Heaven and Old Earth pass away, and God establishes a New Heaven and New Earth.

*And the Lord God formed Man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* **Genesis 2:7**

In this verse, God is restating what he had already done, in that he established Man on the Sixth Day of Creation, but with more information, in that he caused Man to come forth from the dust of the ground. This God does so as to inform you and me of where we come from, and that like the other animals we came from the dust of the earth which was formed from the dust of the stars. Then God tells us that he took Man the species and breathed into Man a living soul.

In this way, God is showing us, that he has lifted Man up above the other animals established on the Sixth Day and gave us not just life, but a soul as well. This he has done not to just one man, Adam, but to the entire species of Man.

*And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

### **Genesis 2:8**

But now in **Genesis 2:8** God is not speaking of the Species of Man but of one of that species, a man, singular.

God establishes the Race of Man then after God plants a garden, he takes one individual from that race and places that one into the Garden that God had planted. It is in this way that Adam is the father of Man, not that all mankind is blood descendant from him, but that Adam was the first Man that God took as his son, and that all Man since Adam have the potential of being Sons of God.

## **Equal under God**

Now that I have shown all of this to you, perhaps you can see that the male of the species is not greater than the female, nor is the female greater than the male, they are both members of the Race of Man, equal, made by God in the image of God.

## **Paul Continues in Error**

I am of the mind that the following words, once more reveals Paul's personal prejudices and not any commandment from God.

*For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. **I Corinthians 11:10-11***

Have you any idea what Paul is talking about when he refers to, "**to have power on her head because of the angels?**" All I see is that Paul is so adamant that women are less than a men, that to have an uncovered head is a disgrace and an effrontery against him personally and men in general.

*For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. **I Corinthians 11:12***

Despite Paul's previous verses, I feel that in this verse Paul is attempting to convince all others that he is right about women, by soliciting God in the subject by saying, "***but all things of God.***" If his words are not enough to convince you, then by injecting the thought that what he speaks is in fact given to him by God, then if you love God you should accept his view and not give disagreement, as I am doing.

As I said earlier, Paul is the chosen Prophet to the Gentiles, but I simply cannot accept that God would impose virtual slavery upon any one of his children, male or female.

## Judge for yourself

*Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? I Corinthians 11:13*

If God had given commandment to Paul to preach these things to us, then Paul would never have offered that we consider the issue for ourselves, “**Judge in yourselves**,” as he is in the above verse. A Commandment of God is just that, a command, and it is for us to obey and not to give consideration as to its merits. That Paul has given this ability to give consideration, tells me that this is all an opinion of Paul and not a Commandment of God.

## The Way of Nature

*Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. I Corinthians 11:14-15*

I have no idea of where in nature we can compare that where a male animal has long hair it is a shame to it, nor if a female animal has long hair it is a glory to her. What about the Lion? It is the male Lion that has the long hair in its main, and that main is to the male lion’s glory, whereas the female has no main.

What about the man Sampson, it was Sampson’s long hair that gave him his glory and his strength, once it was cut off, he had neither. As I see it, Paul’s entire premise is steeped in personal prejudices and not in any commandment from God.

## If you disagree with Paul

*But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God. Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. I*

**Corinthians 11:16-17**

Once more I see this verse as Paul attempting to force his prejudice against women upon all who take heed in his preaching’s. In the above verses Paul is voicing his disrespect of those who rebuke his opinion, and telling them that those to come together under disregard for his words are somehow not good but bad.

The word “**Contentious**” is defined as: causing or likely to cause disagreement and disputes between people with differing views. As far as I am concerned, Paul is attempting to impose an

ideology upon his congregations that is not supported by God, and if you disagree with Paul, as I do, then you are being “**Contentious**,” and therefore somehow at odds with the will of God.

I respect Paul in all of his other writings, but in his opinion of women, I must disagree. If in doing so I put myself in defiance of God, I am sorry, but until God shows me that Paul is in fact voicing God’s intent, I must respectfully disagree.

## Coming Together in Worship

*For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it, for there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. **I Corinthians 11:18-19***

In this verse Paul is taking his attempt to impose his ideology, concerning women, on his congregations by suggesting that those who disagree with him are heretics, and that the congregation has within its ranks heretics. In this, if Paul were to have read all this that I have written, which addresses my disagreement with him, and how I have shown that his attitude towards women is not as God intends, he would condemn me as being a heretic. It is therefore up to each and every one of you to decide based upon what Paul has written and what I have given as rebuttal, and what the Bible shows as God’s attitude towards women, which is who that is in error.

## The Lord’s Supper

### When We Come Together

*When we come together therefore into one place, this is **not** to eat the Lord’s Supper. **I Corinthians 11:20***

I don’t know if anyone else has noticed this, but in this above verse Paul has gone from a discussion concerning women in the church and then jumped into a completely separate discussion, which I can see no relation to what he was speaking of before.

If any of you have read the Lessons included on this Web Page, you may recall, that I had complaint that the Chapter Verse numbering system, sometimes broke up a subject making it look like the discussion was over, when in fact the next verse or two was a continuation of the discussion.

In this verse above, it goes just the opposite way. The above verse being the beginning of another subject should therefore have been numbered as a separate chapter from chapter 11. This complete change in subject matter dictates this, as far as I am concerned. But let us read on, to see if there is a correlation to the subject of the women and that of coming together as it relates to eating meals.

What Paul appears to be saying in the above verse is this; “**When we come together in congregation, we do not come together to have a meal.**” our purpose of coming together is in brotherhood of the Faith. Just because a congregation might come together and have a meal together, doesn’t make that meal a special occasion such as observing the Lord’s Supper.

In the above verse Paul comes right out and tells us, “**This is NOT to eat the Lord’s Supper.**” In that Paul is telling us that this new discussion he is engaged in is not about the Lords Supper, then why do you think that Paul brings up the subject concerning the Lord’s Supper?

## To Each his own supper

*For in eating everyone taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. I*  
**Corinthians 11:21**

My understanding of what Paul is saying here is that some of us are better off financially and as such we are able to buy and eat a better quality and a greater quantity of food than others, who are not so well off. We therefore each have our own supper to eat, and that it is best that we do not flaunt our place in society in front of those not so well off.

If you are having a steak for dinner, because you can afford to, but your neighbor can only afford a Hamburg, then it is rude and demeaning for you to eat at the same table as your neighbor. Therefore, what Paul seems to be saying is when we go to church, it should be for the worship of God and not to have a communal meal with others of our congregation.

## Eat at Home

*What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. I*  
**Corinthians 11:22**

This verse then gives support to my above understanding. Evidently, it had come to be a custom among the early congregations, that when the people came together within the church, that they would also engage in having a meal together, but they each brought their own food and some had plenty and others little. Paul is

telling these congregations that this is a bad custom, for it reveals the disparity between the financial abilities of those in the same congregation.

Paul is saying that instead of coming to church with the intent of having your meal, you should eat at home and bring nothing with you to the church. In this way, you do not shame anyone that has less than you may have.

## Community Food

In frontier America, where people lived far removed from each other and from the building that they used as the church assembly, it required a full day of going to and returning from church, therefore it was necessary that they brought food with them. These people realizing Paul's concern combined their foods together with others of the congregation in a buffet style assortment, from which all could pick and choose what they wanted to eat. In this way no one was being shamed by anyone else, the many as they were able, contributed to the communal meal.

## The Last Supper

*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. **I Corinthians 11:23-25***

In the above three verses, Paul is giving reference to what has become known as **The Last Supper**, where in Jesus showed symbolically the fulfillment of the true and correct worship of God as required by the New or Third Covenant, which you can find in **Matthew 26:26-28**.

To better understand the context of what Paul is saying above and will be saying in the following verses, we first need to have a better understanding of why Jesus and the Apostles sat to break bread together, and at what time of the day this all happened.

The **Why** relates to the fact that it was the first day of the week long Passover observation, and that on the first day, the Passover Beast is to be eaten as a remembrance of all God did to free the first Israelites from Egyptian Slavery.

The Time of Day is in the evening of that first day, and is therefore the meal of the Passover that Jesus and the Apostles were engaged in eating.

## Understanding the Passover Meal

It is now necessary for us to understand the importance of the Passover Meal that Jesus and the Apostles were taking observance of.

*And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, "Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." **Matthew 26:1-2***

You see, that which has become known as the Last Supper, began as an observance of the First Feast of the Passover. The Passover is a weeklong observance that begins on the fourteenth day of the month that we call March, until the twenty first day of the same month or a seven day observation. The instructions of how to keep the Passover is shown in the followings verses.

*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever. **Exodus 12:14***

I have for a long time believed that the observance of the Passover was a requirement of the Second Covenant that God made with the first Israelites that followed Moses out of Egypt, and all generations afterwards of the Nation of Israel, which is who the Second Covenant applies to, and not to those who are the Saints of God who are under the New or as I call it the Third Covenant.

God has shown me something that tells me, that the Passover observance in fact does apply to those who are the followers of the Teachings of Jesus, and are therefore part of the Third Covenant as well.

**Remember:** God is not talking only to those of the First Israelites, in the above verse from the Book of Exodus, but to all future generations of Israelites.

**Remember also:** that an Israelite is anyone, who keeps the Commandments of God and with the First Advent of Christ, has the testimony of Jesus Christ. That means you and I, who embrace the Teachings of Jesus and Keep the Ten Commandments as having been fulfilled and enhanced by Jesus, are also being spoken to by God in the above and following verses. This tells me that as the Saints of God we are also required to keep observance of the Passover.

## Fourteenth of March

*Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. **Exodus 12:15***

The Passover observance begins on the **Fourteenth day of March**, with no regard to what day of the week that falls on. From year to year, the day of the week will be different, and every so often, the first and therefore the last day of the Passover may fall on the Sabbath Day, but in the observance of the Passover, the Sabbath Day is not given consideration.

## Unleavened Bread

I am not sure why God is so demanding concerning the eating of unleavened bread, but God is, and as such we who wish to give true and correct worship to our creator, must do as God commands, even when we do not understand what purpose is served by what he demands of us.

God does give somewhat of an explanation in the following verses.

*Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction: **for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in hast**: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life. **Deuteronomy 16:3***

If you read the entire story of the Exodus and the observance of the Passover, you will understand that the people did not have time to put leaven in the bread dough the night that God brought death down on the First Born of Egypt. It is for this reason so as to remember that their departure from Egypt was in hast, and that God wants that they remember when eating unleavened bread.

## Cutting Off from Israel

It has been my understanding until now, that what God is saying, **that soul shall be cut off from Israel**, refers to the Nation of Israel, and not the Congregation, because the Passover applied only to those under the Second Covenant, in this I am wrong.

*Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. **Exodus 12:15***



In the above verse, God is referring to being cut off from the Congregations of the Israelites, or the Saints of God.

If you do not obey God in all things, even those that you do not understand, then you are being disobedient to the Word of God, and that removes you from being Righteous in the eyes of God. If you are unrighteous, then your worship falls short of that which God Commands of us and your worship is therefore in vain.

## My Conclusion

This then tells me that those who are the followers of the Teachings of Jesus are subject to the keeping of the Passover observance, just as the first Israelites were, and that includes not eating any leaven in your bread.

## A Holy Convocation

*And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. **Exodus 12:16***

The first day of the Passover week and the last day of the Passover week there is to be a holy convocation.

The word “**Convocation**” is defined as:

1. a large formal assembly,
2. the calling of a formal meeting,
3. generally considered a meeting of the senior members of a church or congregation.

As used in the above verse, it applies to the entire congregation and not just the senior members.

By using the word “**Holy**” as a qualifier of the kind of Convocation, God intends that this gathering is religious in nature, and is therefore an important part of the true and correct worship of God.

What this is then telling me, is that there are two feast that are part of the Passover observance, the First is to be held on the **Fourteenth day** of the month of March, and the Second is to be held on the **Twenty first day** of the month of March.

## No Work Done

God then goes on to instruct that there is to be **no work done** in those two days. In this way God intends that those two days, the first and the last day of the Passover, are to be treated the same as is the Sabbath Day, in that there is to be no work performed by anyone in the congregation or that can be defined as an Israelite.

**Remember:** these two days may or may not fall on the Sabbath Day, even so, they must be observed as is the Sabbath Day, except that the preparation of food is allowed for on these two days, whereas such activities, such as the preparation of meals, are not allowed on the Sabbath Day.

## Jesus and the Passover

This then brings us back to the Passover observance that Jesus and the Apostles are engaged in. This also shows me that because Jesus is observing the Passover that we must also, as followers of Jesus Christ.

*Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, "Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?"* **Matthew 26:17**

**Take note:** the above verse is saying that it is the first day of the Passover, as opposed to the last or seventh day of the Passover.

We know from the above, that this is the First Day of the Passover, and that this is therefore the meal and holy convocation of the first day of the Passover. It is during this meal of the First Day of the Passover observation that the sacrificed beast is to be eaten as given under the Second Covenant.

## As they were eating

*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."* **Matthew 26:26**

## Breaking of the Bread

**Take Note:** The above verse tells us that Jesus and the Apostles were already eating before Jesus takes the bread and breaks. This I point out is to show that the act of breaking the Bread, in and of itself has no special meaning or significance; it simply means that they were already sat down and were already eating their meal.

When Jesus then breaks the bread, Jesus is using the bread as a symbolic example of his body that is broken, and his blood which is shed, for the forgiveness of the sins of those who are the Saints of God. In this way Jesus is giving you and I instruction as to an aspect of the true and correct worship of God.

I point this out, because it has been told to me by several, including a couple of ordained Christian pastors, that the term, “**Breaking of Bread**,” refers to a **holy convocation**, whereas I insist that the term is a colloquialism and was used in regards to any time that people sat down to eat a meal, and not only in a Holy Convocation.

To show that I am correct, I want to point out, that the above verse tells us that they had already begun to eat, and in doing so they were already involved in the act of **breaking of the bread**.

It is true that this was the first day of the Passover, and that this gathering was indeed a Holy Convocation, but the phrase, “**Breaking of the Bread**,” was used in regards to all meals and not just special occasions.

## Blood of the New Testament

*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. **Matthew 26:27-28***

In this way Jesus is using the bread and the wine to symbolize not just his sacrifice, but that because of his sacrifice, “**Many**” for the remission of sins. I have highlighted the word “**Many**” to hammer home the fact that Jesus is not saying all Mankind, but that “**Many**” would know the remission of their sins. This is to point out that only those that qualify as the Saints of God will have their sins forgiven. If you reject the Teachings of Jesus and are disobedient to the Commandments of God, your sins will not be forgiven. This is important, because so many Christians think that the sacrifice of Jesus, gives forgiveness to all of mankind, when this verse makes it clear, that only “**Many**” will be forgiven.

If you live your life in sin, and fail to repent those sins and ask God for forgiveness, how can you think that in Jesus you will still be forgiven and that you will find your way, because of the Grace of Jesus, into Heaven?

**Remember:** God tells us that either you love God, by being obedient to his word or you show yourself as hating God by being disobedient. Only those who are the obedient to the Word and Law of God qualify as being the Saints of God.

## The Passover and the Third Covenant

As I pointed out earlier, the Passover is not only the responsibility of those covered under the Second Covenant between God and the Nation of Israel, it is not that the Nation of Israel was composed only of the Saints of God, or the Israelites, but that it also had in its population those who did not believe, and therefore failed to be defined as an Israelite. It is to those who are the Israelites that God commanded that the Passover be kept. Even though most of the Nation of Israel kept the Passover at the time that Jesus walk among us, not all who did were in fact Israelites as they are defined, simply because they didn't keep all the Law of God.

We, who are the followers of the Teachings of Jesus, are those that embrace and obey those teachings, which include the keeping of the Ten Commandments, but there are many who do not keep all that Jesus taught but who even so call themselves Christians. Of those religions that call themselves Christian, I am not aware of any that actually keep the Passover as it is commanded to be kept by God in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

### Animal Sacrifice

Here is the thing that I want to point out however. With the sacrifice of Jesus, there is no longer an allowance or commandment that Israelites engage in the sacrifice of animals any longer. As such the eating of the Passover beast is no longer required. This does not mean that the followers of the Teachings of Jesus are no longer required to observe the Passover, because it doesn't mean that, it just means that Jesus has replaced the eating of the Passover Beast with something else.

### Bread and Wine

In Jesus giving the symbolism of his body and blood in the bread and the wine, Jesus replaces the sacrifice and eating of an animal with the Breaking of Bread and the drinking of wine, but only as it is shown by Jesus to be done. This amounts to Jesus is the New Passover for the New Covenant people. All is the same as with the Old Passover except that there is to be no sacrifice of an animal, which is replaced by the Breaking of the Bread and the Drinking of the Wine.

We are still required to observe the Passover, because it is required as a way of keeping in our memory and of future generations, all that God did for the Saints of God in the person of the First Israelites, in bringing them out of bondage and making them a nation of the faithful, even if we are no longer a nation with borders.

All other aspects of the Passover are still to be kept, the first day begins on the Fourteenth day of the Month of March and the last day is on the twenty first day of March. There is to be no work done on either the first day or the seventh day of the Passover celebration, and we are not to eat any bread that is leavened. Only unleavened bread is to be consumed.

It is on these two days, the first and the seventh that we are to have the Lords Supper, and once more engage in the symbolic enactment of “**Breaking the Bread** and **drinking of the wine**.”

**Please Take Note:** It is not fermented wine that is required. When Jesus turned the water to wine, it was what we today call grape juice and not fermented wine. This is shown by comparing the Good Wine from all other wines. It is alright if you wish to use fermented wine in this ceremony, but those like me, who do not drink alcohol of any sort, can use grape juice instead.

The reason therefore, that Jesus broke bread and drank the wine was to give the New Covenant Saints of God, a New Passover.

## The New Testament

*After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, “This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”* **I Corinthians 11:25**

The words, “**In remembrance of me**,” does not apply to remembering Jesus the flesh and blood man, but the Teachings of Jesus, and our embrace of those teachings, and our efforts to live by the morality of God as taught by Jesus and as given in the Ten Commandments.

**Remember:** Jesus defines a Saint of God in the following way.

**“Those who keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”** **Revelation 12:17**

With this understanding of who a Saint or an Israelite is, it is also understood that as such we must observe the Passover, and perform this breaking of the bread and drinking of the wine as a remembrance of those things that God did to bring the people out of Egypt, but also to keep in our remembrance the Teachings of Jesus Christ as well as the sacrifice of his mortal life for the remission of our sins.

## Till He come

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. I*

### **Corinthians 11:26**

The words, "Till he come" is a reference to the Second Advent of Christ, which is to say as long as there are generations of the Saints of God, and until Jesus returns, Jesus is commanding all the faithful to perform this observance of the Passover, as God-Jesus has commanded.

## Jesus Fulfills

It is in this way that Jesus fulfills the Passover. As originally given, an animal was used as a symbolic sacrifice which pointed to the Advent of Christ. With Jesus, using the symbolism of the Breaking of the Bread, the sacrifice of an animal is no longer required nor allowed.

## A warning

*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. I Corinthians 11:27*

Do you understand the implications of why Paul uses the word, "Unworthily," in the above warning?

Under the Second Covenant only those who were citizens of the Nation of Israel, be they Israelites or not, were allowed to eat of the two meals of the Passover. It is this same restriction that Paul is speaking of in the above verse.

If you call yourself a Christian, but only give lip service to being a Christian, and do not live as the Teachings of Jesus tells us to do, by not observing the Sabbath on the Seventh Day, or any of the other Commandments, then you are not a Saint of God and as such are not worthy to partake of the Lords Supper. Because of your unworthiness, and your hypocrisy of partaking of the Lords Supper, you are guilty of the murder of Jesus, just as if you were one of those present that day, which condemned him and crucified him.

## The Unworthy

This warning is important because Jesus tells us that all those who receive the Mark of the Beast, which are those who fall short of giving true and correct worship of God, will be treated with the same level of God's Wrath as will Satan. All those who give lip service to being of Christ, but do not keep all of those moral

imperatives taught to us by Jesus and do not keep and obey all ten of the Ten Commandments, are hypocrites and are unworthy to partake of the Lord's Supper.

## Judge Yourself

*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. I Corinthians 11:28*

To "**Examine himself**" is to compare yourself, your beliefs and your practices with the Teachings of Jesus and the Ten Commandments. If you are confident that you are in fact in obedience to the Word of God, and that you are a Saint of God because of your righteousness in compliance to the Ways of God, then you can partake of the Lord's Dinner. If you find that you fall short of being an Israelite, then do not compound your sins by partaking of the Lord's Dinner.

*For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. I Corinthians 11:29-30*

The word "**Discern**" is defined as:

1. To see or notice something that is not very clear or obvious.
2. To be able to tell the difference between two or more things.

An example of this is for you to keep and observe the first day of the week as the Lord's Sabbath, even though God makes it very clear that **the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath Day of the Lord. Exodus 20:10.**

*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. I Corinthians 11:31*

If you are willing to look critically at yourself, and compare what God has commanded and instructed against your beliefs and your practices, and when you see that you are doing not as God says but differently or in opposition to what God has commanded, and then adjust yourself to being obedient to the Word of God, then there will be no reason for God to judge you.

**Remember:** Those who are the Saints of God and thereby are righteous in the eyes of God will not have to face judgment on Judgment Day, for they will already have been lifted up into the clouds to be with Jesus when he returns, because they are already perfect in the eyes of God. Those that remain must therefore be judged.

*But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come. ¶*

### **Corinthians 11:32-34**

The reason Paul has written all that he has relates to the desire of God, that by reading these chastisements numerated by Paul, we will take notice of our own short comings and thereby learn righteousness because of them. If we fail to listen or take notice, then we will be doomed to damnation.

The phrase, “**Tarry one for another,**” refers to taking the time before going to the gathering to eat your meal rather than taking food with you to be eaten in front of those not as well off as you are, in other words, to be considerate of others that you do not shame or offend them.

As you may have notice, there is no correlation between Paul’s conversation of the first 19 verses of Chapter 11 of the Book of I Corinthians concerning women and his conversation in the last several verses that relates to coming together in congregation and having meals, and it is for that reason, I have complaint concerning how the Chapter Verse numbering system is used.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

The phrase, “**The Breaking of Bread,**” is nothing more than a colloquialism and was used by people long before Jesus broke bread during the Last Supper.

## **Those who Disagree**

There are a few Christians who having read or heard what I have to say concerning the Breaking of Bread, reject my understanding of the phrase, and have voiced their disagreement by sending me emails, which you too can do by going on this Web Page, under the Heading, “**Contacting Us.**”

The following is one such response. I have put this persons words in a different font than those words that are my commentary so as to make it easier for the reader to differentiate between who the words are from.



## First Day Sabbath a lie

The disciples of Jesus met the first day of the week to share communion in remembrance of the Lord's death. Peculiar that they did not do it on Saturday or even Thurs or Friday which ever day Jesus instituted it, originally. Instead they chose Sunday the first day of the week. That is because it is a NEW Covenant on New Promises, and Jesus rose from the dead the first day of the week which happens to also be the 8th day in the cycle the NEW day.

Let me break this down so as to give understanding of the error being made here. The above rebuttal relates to the following verse.

## First Day Sabbath

*And upon the first day of the week, (Sunday), when the disciple came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until mid-night. **Acts 20:7***

The disagreement concerning the “**Breaking of the Bread**,” relates to the greater disagreement concerning which day is the True Sabbath Day, the first day of the week or the Seventh Day of the Week. I consider the misunderstanding of the meaning of the phrase, “**Breaking of Bread**,” as being at the center of the misunderstanding concerning the acceptance of the first day, (Sunday), as being the true Sabbath Day.

## Why Paul broke the bread

The disagreement concerning the purpose of the above meal relates to the understanding or misunderstanding of why the disciples came together in the first place.

I see nothing from the words in this verse nor in any of the verses leading up to this one or after this one that tells us that this meal that Paul is taking part of on the first day of the week, had anything to do with the observance of the Sabbath, nor of the observance of the Passover.

## Not Supported by Scripture

This person, let's call him Joe, who is giving disagreement, declares that “**the disciples of Jesus, met the first day of the week, to share communion in remembrance of the death of Jesus.**” There is nothing in the above verses written by Paul, which tells us this is indeed was why Paul and these people from this congregation are coming together.

As I see it, Joe is putting words into the mouth of Paul. When you read scripture it is required that you neither increase nor diminish that which God has said, and because Paul is the prophet of Jesus, that which he has written are not his words, at least in this case, but the Word of God-Jesus.

It is because of this false understanding; why Joe then goes on to give question as to why they were motivated to engage in this communion on the first day of the week rather than the Sabbath or any other day.

**“Peculiar that they did not do it on Saturday or even Thursday or Friday which ever day Jesus instituted it, originally.”**

Again, however, Joe has given a false understanding with the words, **“which ever day Jesus instituted it, originally.”** There is nothing in Scripture spoken by Jesus whereby Jesus speaks of or gives instructions of the observance of the Sabbath on any day other than as it is commanded by God in the Fourth Commandment. That Joe is under the impression or misunderstanding that Jesus did so instruct, adds to his error.

**“Instead they chose Sunday the first day of the week. That is because it is a New Covenant on New Promises, and Jesus rose from the dead the first day of the week which happens to also be the 8<sup>th</sup> day in the cycle, the New Day.”**

Once more Joe is showing his error. Joe is saying that Paul and the others **“Chose Sunday,”** when there is nothing in what Paul has written that there is any kind of choosing. They did not choose Sunday to have this meal, it was dinner time and they sat down to eat, that is all. There is no special occasion mentioned in what Paul has written, therefore, to assume that it was in observance of a Holy Convocation, is to put words into the mouth of Paul.

As I have pointed out earlier in this chapter, the Lords Supper is held during the evening of the first and seventh day of the Passover, as a remembrance of all that God did to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, but also to keep in remembrance that Jesus sacrificed his mortal life that the rest of us could be reconciled with God in his Mercy and his Grace.

The Lord’s Supper and Jesus’ breaking of the bread therefore, has everything to do with the Passover, and nothing to do with the Sabbath. In that the Passover had already passed by as is given in the following verse, therefore this coming together of Paul and other disciples, has nothing to do with the Passover or with the Sabbath as Joe would have us believe.

*And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. **Acts 20:6***

As you can see, this verse informs us that the Passover has passed before Paul reaches Troas, and sits to have a meal with some of its congregation. It is for these reasons, and because I know from historical writings outside the Bible, the phrase, “**Breaking of Bread**,” simply means to sit down for dinner, with no other special significance implied.

It is this misinterpretation of the Writings of Paul that is a perfect example of one of the ways that Satan tells his lies. It is through Satan’s lies that those like Joe are deceived from God’s True Word and the true and correct worship of God. In this misinterpretation of something written by Paul, Joe thinks that to observe the Sabbath on the first day of the week is acceptable by God, when just the opposite is true. Such is the result of Satan’s deceptions.

When Satan can confuse and deceive us into observing the Sabbath on a day other than the one that God Commands, he places us in disobedience to the Commandments of God, and as such removes us from Righteousness. Jesus tells us, only the Righteous will come to know God.