

The Writings of Paul

Chapter 2

How God Commands we worship him

This chapter is titled the Writings of Paul, but before we continue to explore what Paul has written, I feel it necessary to point out the Core instructions given by God as to how to give true and correct worship to him.

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

The part of the above two verses that I have highlighted and underlined are at the core of understanding how God commands that we give worship to him. What these words are saying is that, God has already told us how to give worship and how to achieve righteousness.

What God has said is perfect, and needs no alterations or amendments. God comes right out and tells us: “I have given you all that you need to know as to how I command that you live your life and give worship to me.” This is found in the Ten Commandments, and in the Teachings of Jesus Christ. God further tells us: “Do not increase upon anything that I have given you or subtract from it, for if what I have given you was not perfect already, I would not have given it to you.” This is not an actual quote from God but God’s intent shines through just the same.

God has said, “In six days I created heaven and Earth, then on the seventh day I rested. Because I rested on the seventh day, I hallowed the seventh day and sanctified the seventh day,” (**Genesis 2:2-3**), therefore, “Remember the Seventh Day to keep it holy. In six days you shall do all your work, but the SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, in it you shall do no work.” (**Exodus 20:10-11**)

The words, “**That ye may live**,” do not mean to live your mortal life on this Earth, but to have immortal life in Heaven. If you obey the Word of God as is written in the Books of the Bible, then you will be justified in the hope of eternal life. If you are disobedient to the Word of God, then you can only look forward to eternal Death.

The words “go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you,” refers to the Promised Land that is today called the Palestine, but in ancient times was called Canaan. Many have told me that because these verses speak of going in to possess the land, it is a direct reference to the first Israelites and has no bearing on Christians.

I disagree. God promised Abraham that his seed would possess the land, and as I have explained before, the seed of Abraham doesn't just mean his blood descendants, but all who believe in the Word and Promises of God. In the End after Jesus returns, that land will be given over to those who are the Saints of God. Those very same saints will know eternal life, as well as the possession of the land. The promise will be fulfilled, for all those who are the Saints of God.

In the above references to quotes from the books of Genesis and Exodus, it is very clear that God's has told us that the seventh day is in fact his day of rest. (Exodus 20:10) When you then have someone, (the anti-Christ), come along and tell you that the Lords Day of Rest is the First Day of the week, you can easily see the lie. What the anti-Christ has done is disregarded what God has said and substituted that for what Satan wants you to accept and believe. It is in this way that Satan has changed, modified, or altered the Word of God.

Why does Satan want that you observe the wrong day as the Sabbath? God tells us, we are not to increase or diminish aught from what he has commanded. God has told us the Seventh Day is his holy Sabbath, therefore, if you do not obey what God has said, but keep a different day, then you do not give true and correct worship of God. If you do not worship the God of Creation, then who do you give your worship to?

With this in mind I feel that it is now time to spell out the Core things that are essential to the true and correct worship of God.

The Greatest Commandment of all

Jesus tells us that the following is the Greatest Commandment of them all.

Love God with all your heart, soul and mind. In the Lessons of this Web Page, I have given extensive discussion as to what this means and requires of you. I suggest you return there and reread it if you are not sure. In short however, Jesus is quoting something written by Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy which can be summarized in the following verses.

The Way of the Lord

*And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good. **Deuteronomy10:12-13***

To Fear God

To “**Fear**” God, does not mean to be afraid of God, but to show him the **utmost respect and deference**. God is your good Father, who shows you nothing but his love, all he asks for in return is that you show your love for him. This is manifest by your obedience to his commandments.

Walk in the Way of God

What does it mean to **walk in all his ways**? The “Ways of God,” has to do with his personality, code of honor, and his moral character. These are defined in the Ten Commandment and those moral imperatives taught to us by Jesus. God is telling us to be as he is, moral and righteous in all things.

What God Requires of Us

What is Moses saying in the above verses? “If you wish to give worship to God then these are the things that he **requires** of us.” He is not saying that God expects these things of us, or that God hopes these things of us, but that he **requires** these things of us.

The word “**Requires**” is defined as: **to have something as a necessary precondition, or to insist that we do something**. So what then is the “**Something**” that God requires of you and me? The something is that which God has already spelled out to us which is found in the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, perhaps you can thus understand why what God **requires** of us is that which he calls his “**Commandments**.” Perhaps now you can see what I mean when I say that you must give worship to God exactly as he commands, not as is your pleasure. God created Man for God’s pleasure; therefore, it is only correct that God would require that Man worships him as God commands us to.

So what is that something that God has spelled out? God Commands that we are to keep the Commandments of the Lord, and his statutes. The Commandments of the Lord are the Ten Commandments, and

with these being fulfilled or brought to completion by the Teachings of Jesus, they include the moral imperatives that Jesus taught as well.

Grievous Wolves

Do you recall how Paul warned against “**Grievous Wolves**” that would enter in among you? (Acts 20:29) The following verses will give a tool that we all can use to recognize and therefore ward off these wolves.

*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. **Deuteronomy 4:2***

God has commanded, “**Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.**” (Exodus 20: 8) God has told us, “**The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.**” (Exodus 20:10)

Satan has changed what God has said by telling us that the first day of the week is the Sabbath Day of the Lord, yet as you can see, this is in direct opposition to the words that God himself has said. Either you believe that the Word of God is supreme and obey, or you disobey and fall short of eternal life.

Now that you know how God commands that he be worshiped, you need only do as he commands and life eternal is yours; do not accept false doctrine in the form of traditions or customs. The Word of God is truth, if what you believe or practices and customs that you keep are not supported by the Word of God, then they are false, and you must reject them, else you fall from Grace and your worship will be in vain.

How to Pray

Remember: God tells us to **put no other god before him**, to pray to only him and **not to give prayer or worship to Idols that are graven images** such as statues, painting, sculptures, but this also includes giving prayer to the supposed Saints as offered by the Church of Rome and others. Pray only to the God of Creation, else you are giving worship to other gods. Jesus is God in the flesh of a man, therefore to pray to Jesus is equivalent to praying to God the Father.

Pray to God in secret

*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. **Matthew 6:6***

In the above verse, Jesus is not telling us when we shut the door on the closet to then turn on the light, no, he is telling us to enter into a dark place where you can see nothing, and then pray to God. In what way then will having a graven image help in your prayers if it is too dark to see them? Do as God commands, not as tradition or custom tells you for these are the ways in which Satan deceives us.

The God of Creation has given command as to how he is to be worshiped. For you to worship in any other way, removes you from worshiping the God of Creation to the worship of a god of your own creation, a false god, and that worship is in vain. Only the God of Creation has rewards for those who Love him, to worship falsely, is to remove you from receiving those rewards.

Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. Acts 21:8-9

From the above wording, it suggests to me that these pages, in the Book of Acts, were not written by Paul, but someone else not identified. To have such intimate knowledge of the activities of Paul it must have required that the author of these words was a member of a group that traveled with Paul and Barnabas.

The Prophet Agabus

And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus saith the Holy Ghost, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles." And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him (Paul) not to go up to Jerusalem. Acts 21:10-12

Evidently this prophet, Agabus, had received a warning from God that he was to dissuade Paul from continuing his journey into Jerusalem. So you will know the "Gentiles" that are being spoken of here are not those who have been converted to Christ but are those of the Romans that rule over the lands of Israel. It is unto the Romans that Agabus warns that the Jews will turn Paul over to.

It is my understanding that only Roman authority could legally carry out a death sentence. This is why Jesus was turned over to the Romans for his execution, when I have no doubt, that the Temple Elders would have been more than happy to do the deed themselves. It was true; however, that many were stoned to death by

the Temple magistrates, without first giving them over to the Romans, Stephen being one such execution. Even though to do so was illegal, under Roman law, and those responsible could have faced penalties from the Roman authorities, I am certain that many Roman administrators looked the other way rather than stir up the citizenry against Rome any more than it already was.

*Then Paul answered, "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart, for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done." And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem. **Acts 21:13-15***

As you can see, Paul is ignoring the warning from God. This to me is problematic. When God speaks it is righteous that we obey his words. That Paul ignores a prophet of God and his warning, reveals to me that Paul is capable of error, and will have to answer for his sin at some point.

Paul's Second Audience with the Elders

*And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his (Paul's) ministry. **Acts 21:17-19***

This is once more an assembly of the Elders with the Apostle James whose brother is the Apostle John both sons of Zebedee, sitting in as the senior elder. Once more Paul gives account of his activities in his journeys among the Gentiles.

*And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, "Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law": **Acts 21:20***

After Paul has given his account, those present give glory to God. This they do because it is not Paul that has by any power of his own converted those that were converted, but that God in his mercy allowed the hearts of those so converted to see God's Truth in the words spoken by Paul.

Paul is given warning

After this James and the elders give warning to Paul. "**Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law.**" In this it is said that these Jews believe, but it is not the belief in Jesus that they believe, but they believe in the traditions of the Temple and the Law as

given to them by Moses and the Temple. In this belief they are zealots, and therefore dangerous to anyone who would preach against those believes and traditions.

*And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? The multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. **Acts 21:21-22***

The warning is this; Paul preaches to the Gentiles that they need not have their foreskins circumcised, whereas the Jews uphold this requirement according to the First and Second Covenants, which is required in order to enter into the Nation of Israel.

Circumcision of the Heart not the Foreskin

Paul preaches that which is contrary to the first two Covenants made between God and Abraham, and through Abraham to Isaac, Jacob and Moses, and that these Jews, those who have accepted Jesus as well as those who reject Jesus, are both zealous that this aspect of the law be upheld.

Evidently Paul is also preaching that the customs and traditions espoused by the Temple Elders are in error as well, which is shown in the words: *neither to walk after the customs.*

The Jews are aware that Paul has preached that the Gentiles do not have to walk after the Temple customs, as Jesus had also preached. James and the elders give further warning that those in Jerusalem have been informed of Paul's blasphemies and that if he shows himself in Jerusalem he will risk the wrath of the Jews, even those that have been converted to Christ, as well as those who are close to being converted. These Jews have yet to understand that the Word of God is supreme over the customs of the Temple and so still remain zealous of the age old customs.

History Repeats itself

This is true of the Christians of today. Like the Jews of the time of Paul, the traditions acquired over the centuries have greater standing than does the Word of God. There are many traditions practiced by Christians that are not give to be done by any command of Jesus or God, yet, long held traditions give Christians to believe that they are a part of giving worship to God.

Remember: God tells us, "Do not increase or diminish aught from what he has commanded.

The Purifying Ritual

*Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. **Acts 21:23-24***

Paul is further advised by James and the other elders that he should shave his head and go through a purification process, in the hopes that when the people see this they will be less likely to vent their anger upon him, in that he has engaged in this humbling process revealing his acquiescence to both custom and tradition.

Preaching against the False Customs

*As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. **Acts 21:25***

The elders of the Church of Christ also are condoning Paul's preaching that the converts to Christ need not have their foreskins circumcised. I assume it is James who is speaking for the Elders when he further tells Paul, "**Concerning the Gentiles who do believe,**" or those who have been converted, James gives acknowledgement that they are in fact told of the customs and traditions of the Temple, but that concerning the circumcision of the foreskin need not be done, only these four traditions need be upheld as being part of the Church of Christ;

1. Do not eat of anything that has been offered to idols as sacrifice. This relates to the **Second Commandment**.
2. Do not drink the blood of any animal. This was given by God when he gave listing of those animals that were permitted to be eaten and those that were forbidden. (Leviticus Chapter 11)
3. Do not eat the meat of a beast that was strangled. This was also given when God gave the listing of animals.
4. Do not engage in Fornication. This is part of the **Seventh Commandment** as an aspect of Adultery.

These prohibitions are still in force today to all who would worship God as he commands, with the following exception as given to Peter in a vision from God.

Expanding the Permitted Foods

*On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. **Acts 10:9-12***

In the **Book of Leviticus Chapter 11**, God gives those animals which are permitted of the Jews to eat and those that are forbidden to eat. In this vision which Peter receives from God, many of those things not allowed to the Jews, who lived under the Second Covenant, are hence forth permitted unto those of the Saints of God who live under the Third Covenant.

*And there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat." **Acts 10:13***

As you can see, Peter is being told by this angel from God, that it is now permitted that he may eat of those animals that had been abominations before.

A Change of Tradition

*But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. **Acts 10:14***

When Peter hears this, he is repulsed at first, for as he tells the angel, he has never in his life eaten of such animals.

*And the voice spake unto him again the second time, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. **Acts 10:15-16***

I see this as God's way of showing how it is he, God, who decides what is good and what is bad. To the Jews it was forbidden that they eat of these unclean beasts, but with the New Covenant, where we are "**Justified**" in God, each of our own acts and works, **where God wants that we have a personal and intimate relationship with him**, that all of God's creation is good and clean, and therefore not something that is unclean or abominable.

This is a lesson whereby we are shown that the Word of God is supreme, where traditions, even those established by God, do not take precedence over the Word of God.

As I have said before, the only way a Law of God can be changed, is if God or the Son of God, tells us it is changed. If Peter was told this by a man, with no proof that it was the Word of God, then Peter would not have believed. Because this is being told to him by an angel from God, then Peter knows that this is the Word of God, and the tradition is now changed by God.

Creatures of the Sea Unchanged

One thing I want to point out concerning this however; God has only said “of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air,” in these instructions given by God there is no mention of the other creatures of the sea that had been forbidden at the first. If God did not speak it then it is not of God, therefore, it is still forbidden that you eat any creature from the sea that is expressly forbidden by God, which includes those creature whose skeleton is on the outside of the body, such as lobsters and crabs.

This lesson can be shown to have relevance in the conflict between the “First Day Sabbath,” and the “Seventh Day Sabbath,” where you can find in Genesis Chapter 2, and Exodus Chapter 20, discussion and command that the “Seventh Day Sabbath,” is God’s holy day, but there is no place in The Holy Scripture where God or Jesus gives instructions or command concerning the “First Day” being the Sabbath of the Lord. Therefore, it must be Satan’s lie.

Paul’s Purification

Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

Acts 21:26

Evidently, Paul accepts the advice of James and the elders and along with the four other men puts himself through the purification process.

*And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place, for they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple. **Acts 21:27-29***

As you can see, the purification process had no effect on how much the Jews wanted to have vengeance upon Paul. Some of the Jews had seen Paul in the company of Greeks which were not Jew, and assumed that Paul had brought them into the Temple with him, though there is no indication that he had.

Take Note: Something that you might want to consider, at this time, the Jews that had converted to Christ still held that the Temple was their holy place as did the non-converted Jews. In that the Temple had been built for the purpose of the Advent of the Messiah, in which he would already have a throne to sit upon. With this in mind, yes the Temple represented a Holy Place. With the Jews rejection of Jesus, however, the purpose of the Temple in the Church of Christ was removed. At this time however, the Messianic Jews still hold the Temple as a holy place. I suggest that the Temple had become so polluted by Satan's false gospel, through the Temples embrace of anti-God customs and traditions that it had no holiness left in it in the eyes of God which is why them Temple has no holy significance to current day Christians.

Paul Confronts the Jews

*And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul. **Acts 21:30-32***

In the above, Paul is pulled from the Temple by an angry crowd, and once outside the walls of the Temple, he is beaten by the mob.

*Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. **Acts 21:33***

The chief captain of the Roman guard had Paul placed in chains then inquired of the people what it was that Paul had done to cause such a riot to occur.

*And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him (Paul) to be carried into the castle. And when he came upon the stairs, so it was that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, "Away with him." **Acts 21:34-36***

With all the yelling and screaming of the people, the chief captain was unable to determine the offence that Paul had committed. Therefore he had Paul carried into the Castle. It was because Paul had been beaten so badly that he was unable to walk up the steps leading into the Castle, which is why he was carried by the soldiers. All this time the People continue to yell for Paul's death.

*And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, "May I speak unto thee?" Who said, "Canst thou speak Greek?" Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers? **Acts 21:37-38***

Evidently, there had been a previous public outburst, and the chief captain assumed that Paul was responsible for that incident as well. It is also revealed that the captain was surprised that Paul spoke Greek, seeing that he assumed he who had caused the uproar before was Egyptian.

*But Paul said, "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people. **Acts 21:39***

Paul proceeds to explain to the captain who and what he is, and then asks permission to speak to the people. I can only assume that he had been let upon by the mob so quickly that he was not afforded the time to speak before. With the safety of the captain and his soldiers, Paul would then be able to make his case to the people, if they would but listen.

Paul's Conversion to Christ

In the past I have given complaint that the Chapter and Verse numbering system used in the modern Bibles interfered with and on several occasions broke up a single thought or subject inappropriately, this then is one of those occurrences. As you can see, chapter 21 ends even though the subject that is being talked about is not at an end. This lends proof that when studying scripture for content, do not pay attention to the numbering of verses, as I have not.

Something of interest you might want to keep in mind that these verses show through. Paul speaks more than just one language, which tells us that he is educated far more than the average person during this point in history. This is to show why so many books of the New Testament were written by Paul.

*And when he had given him license, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying. **Acts 21:40***

*"Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you." **Acts 22:1***

And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith, "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God,

as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. Acts 22:2-5

Paul gives a brief biography of his life, first as an employee of the Temple Elders and his persecution of the followers of Christ.

And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" And I answered, "Who art thou, Lord?" And he said unto me, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. And I said, "What shall I do, Lord?" And the Lord said unto me, "Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do." Acts 22:6-10

And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, "Brother Saul, receive thy sight." And the same hour I looked upon him. Acts 22:11-13

And he said, "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth, for thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou has seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:14-16

And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; And saw him saying unto me, "Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me." And I said, "Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. Acts 22:17-20

And he said unto me, "Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles." And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. Acts 22:21-22

I am sure that Paul has repeated this telling of his own experiences in every city and every congregation that he stood up in. Because Paul had to date been so successful in the conversion to Christ of Jews and Gentiles, he once more told his story. Though its telling may have had an effect on the hearts of a few in attendances, the vast majority of those present were not swayed.

*And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air, the chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. **Acts 22:23-24***

Paul is a Citizen of Rome

*And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?" When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, "Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman." Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, "Tell me, art thou a Roman?" He (Paul) said, "Yea." **Acts 22:25-27***

In the history of the Romans, it had been made certain to all who were not Roman that a citizen of Rome was above the law of all other nations save that of the law of Rome. Any citizen of Rome who was handled by another people would be revenged upon by Rome to the point that whole communities had been destroyed for such an offence against even a single Roman citizen.

Knowing this, you will thus understand the importance of why the attitude of both the centurion and the Chief Captain changed so abruptly toward Paul when he told them he was a Roman Citizen.

*And the chief captain answered, "With a great sum obtained I this freedom." And Paul said, "But I was free born." Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. **Acts 22:28-29***

In these verses the captain admits that he is also a Roman citizen, but only because he purchased this privilege at a great price. Paul on the other hand informs the captain that he is a free born citizen of Rome, and as such Paul's ranking in Roman society is above that of one who purchases his citizenship. Under Roman law a citizen of Rome cannot be tortured without due process of the law. For this reason those who would have performed torture on Paul leave no longer having a job to do.

Paul Stands before the Council of Temple Elders

*On the morrow, because he (the captain) would have known the certainty wherefore he (Paul) was accused of the Jews, he (the captain) loosed him (Paul) from his bands, and commanded the chief priests (of the Temple) and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them. **Acts 22:30***

*And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.” And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. Then said Paul unto him, “God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?” **Acts 23:1-3***

Take note: that this Ananias spoken of is a high priest of the Temple and not the same Ananias that Paul came before in Damascus. Evidently, even a high priest of the Temple does not have authority under the Laws of Moses, to have smitten or otherwise mistreated a charged man, until the man has had a chance to give defense concerning the charges levied against him. I admit I have not taken it upon myself to learn the Laws of Moses in depth, because under the New Covenant the nation of Israel no longer has a place. God’s New Covenant is between you and him as individuals not as a nation.

*And they that stood by said, “Revilest thou God’s high priest?” **Acts 23:4***

As you can see, those in attendance of the council meeting were surprised and offended that Paul would speak so plainly to a high priest of the Temple. This relates to the arrogance of the Temple Elders, and the centuries of tradition that forbade anyone to take into question the actions of a high priest.

*Then said Paul, “I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, “Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.” **Acts 23:5***

I am not sure, do to my ignorance of the Laws of Moses, if this rule that Paul has just quoted was established by God or as part of the Temple’s slide from God’s Holy Gospel into the false traditions. But I have lived my life in America, where it is common practice and even a good thing that we citizens bring to task our leaders. The right to do so is written in our Constitution. To me this is a healthy exercise of the democratic process. If God has said that it is wrong to criticize our leaders, then God’s will be done, though as an American, I might find this problematic for me, so perhaps it is a good thing that I am ignorant of the laws of Moses.

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.” **Acts 23:6**

Having been employed by the Temple and having therefore been present at meetings such as this in the past, Paul knew that both sects would be present, because of this knowledge Paul endeavors to split their attention between each other, thus taking their minds off of him at the very least, or if he could align the Pharisee’s to his defense.

And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. **Acts 23:7-8**

And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees’ part arose, and strove, saying, “We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.” **Acts 23:9**

And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. **Acts 23:10**

Penalty for Disobeying God

And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” **Acts 23:11**

I do not see this as a true punishment for Paul not giving heed to God’s warning to not enter into Jerusalem, but when you consider that until this point Paul was free to travel where he chose and with whom he chose, it could be considered a mild rebuke from God. With this command from God, Paul is now required to travel to Rome as a prisoner and not by his own inclinations.

A Conspiracy to do Murder

And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. **Acts 23:12-13**

And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul. Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to-morrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him. Acts 23:14-15

This is not just a conspiracy between the forty Jews, but they have elicited and received assistance from some of the Temple Elders and high priests, bringing them into the conspiracy as well. This is a demonstration of just how far removed from the true and correct worship of God that the Temple hierarchy had fallen. These men had made a vow and have sworn an oath which then binds them to carrying this murder out to its completion. They are therefore all guilty of being in opposition to the commandment, "thou shalt not kill," and also, "thou shalt not give false testimony." Such oaths are taken in opposition to the will of God as Jesus addressed this in the following verses.

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, "Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:" But I say unto you, "Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Matthew 5:33-37

This is Jesus speaking, but do not assume that because it is Jesus that this moral trait does not apply to the Jews; Jesus has said that his comments are based on a commandment of Old Time, which is a reference to the Ninth Commandment and not giving false testimony. As Jesus warns these forty men have brought about evil between them because they have taken such an oath.

Remember: the words used in the listing that we call the Ten Commandments are an abbreviation of a much greater understanding, though the Ninth Commandment speaks of not giving false witness, that is but an abbreviation of the greater understanding that you do not make promises or oaths that you may or may not be able to keep.

As you recall from the lessons, when you make a promise that you then do not keep, you have lied, and as such have given insult to God. To make a promise for the purpose of killing someone, which is in opposition to the Sixth Commandment, you then are committing multiple sins against God. It is by this understanding that I show how far removed from God that the Temple and its customs and traditions were from the laws of God. This conspiracy from its onset was wrapped in evil.

Paul is given warning

*And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul. Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, "Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him. **Acts 23:16-17***

This is the only time that this Nephew of Paul is mentioned, but do you understand the significance of this young man's actions? Paul had been a respected member of the community in Jerusalem; he had been employed by the Temple, which would have enhanced his standing. Then without warning, Paul turned his back on the Temple and its traditions. Paul went from persecuting the followers of Jesus to that of being an apostle of Jesus. That his sister and her son still held respect and allegiance to Paul in all the disgrace that he must have brought on to them, shows how strong the bond of blood had even over religion. This has such meaning for me because I am certain that if I were placed in a similar situation as Paul, none of my family would lift a hand for me, if anything I am sure they would be holding the stones along with the others in the mob.

So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, "Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee. Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, "What is that thou hast to tell me?"

Acts 23:18-19

*And he (Paul's Nephew) said, "The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul tomorrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly. But do not thou yield unto them: for they lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee. **Acts 23:20-21***

Paul Journeys to Rome

*So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, "See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me." And he called unto him two centurions, saying, "Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen three score and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night; and provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor. **Acts 23:22-24***

*And he wrote a letter after this manner: "Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting. This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, have understood that he was a Roman. And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council: Whom I perceived to be accused of question of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds. And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell. **Acts 23:25-30***

*Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris. On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle: Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him. And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he (Paul) was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia; "I will hear thee," said he, "when thine accusers are also come." And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall. **Acts 23:34-35***

As I have done before, I will leave it to you the reader to continue in the Book of Acts if you chose to do so. I will however skip over those verses that do not contribute to the intent of that which I desire to make known to you.

*And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the costs of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us. And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself. **Acts 27:1-3***

As you can see by the wording, these verses are being written by someone other than Paul, who is traveling with Paul, even to Rome. This then leaves me to wonder if the other books considered to have been written by Paul, were also written by this same scribe.

Understanding Faith

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, "The Just shall live by Faith." **Romans 1:16-17***

The Gospel of Christ is considered by most to be all that is written in the New Testament, but Christ is the Essence of God, therefore all that Christ teaches includes both the Old and New Testaments. This is supported by the fact that Jesus oft times referred to Old Testament books and verses to give understanding and support to what he was attempting to teach us.

If you recall, from the lessons, one specific example is of Jesus using the words written by Moses to give context to his First Commandment, **“Love God with all your Heart, Soul and Mind,”** My point is therefore that the Gospel of Christ includes the entirety of God’s Holy Gospel and as such the entirety of God’s Holy Gospel must be taken into context in fully understanding the Teachings of Jesus.

Most of whom I discuss the Bible with accepts that Faith is **to believe without knowledge, or to believe, as in Blind Faith.**

Paul shows us in these above two verses that this is not what faith in God actually represents. Paul uses the phrase, **“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written.”** In these words, Paul inputs a qualifier as a way of giving definition to what faith in God and faith in Jesus truly means. **“As it is written,”** shows us that Paul is not advocating Blind faith, but faith brought about from education. If you must read that which is written in order to obtain faith, then the faith is based upon your efforts of study and research, to read is to learn, to learn is to have knowledge, knowledge gives you intelligent understanding, and it is upon this that you establish your faith.

With that in mind you then have a more perfect understanding of, **“The Just shall live by Faith.”** If your faith is based upon acquired knowledge, and you embrace that knowledge and believe, then you shall live as one of the Just.

If on the other hand, your Faith is based upon blindly accepting that which is told to you without your first verifying that what they say is given support by the books of the Bible, then your faith is blind, and your faith is fraught with the potential of having in it Satan’s Lies.

Accepting Lies over God’s Truth

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **Romans 1:18-19***

Do you the reader perceive what Paul is saying in these two verses? The key to understanding is in the words, “who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” If the word “Righteous” means to be correct, then to be “Unrighteous” means to be incorrect.

The truth as used in these words refers to God’s truth, so Paul is saying that those who hold God’s truth to be incorrect will know God’s wrath. In the lessons I have shown how Satan has taken words spoken by God and turned them into lies by adding a word or changing the meaning of a word, taking what God said from being of God to being not of God. This is the same thing that Paul is showing you here. Because the people are deceived by Satan’s lies, they will hold Satan’s lies to be correct and the Word of God to be incorrect.

Educated Faith

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”

If you seek God and his truth diligently, through study and research, then you will find God’s Truth, and Satan’s attempt through lies to deceive you will fail. God has manifest this to you through the Bible as well as in the universe which he created, but because you do not diligently study the words of the Bible, putting their true and intended meaning to the words, through your own efforts of educating yourself, but instead accept as truth, interpretations of others, you are thus blinded from the truth.

God has shown the truth to you, in the Bible, which you have chosen to be lazy and not take the time and effort to know the truth through educating yourself in it. It is therefore upon your head that you worship in vain because your worship is founded upon Satan’s False Gospel, and not on God’s Holy Gospel.

To read the Bible as you would read a novel is not to study the word of God. To find God’s True Word you need to break down the verses as you can see that I do, so that you will see the true meaning of what God is saying. When you read the Bible like you would a novel, you will only see the meaning that Satan has given to the words and therefore not find God’s truth, but be blinded by Satan’s lies.

God’s Truth is Clearly Seen

*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **Romans 1:20-21***

As you may recall from the lessons, I once described God as “Unseen and Untouchable” but what Paul is saying in this verse is that this is not completely correct. What Paul is saying, “**For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen,**” that the presence and existence of God are clearly seen and felt throughout the natural world.

Paul points to, “**being understood by the things that are made,**” as those things in nature where the hand of God is evident, such as the coming forth of life in the spring, or the return to slumber in the fall, or the logical and systematic cycles of the heavens in being capable of giving forth **a calendar of day, night, months, season, and years.** This all is a result of intelligence present and can no way be achieved by random chance, as the foolish scientists suggest. These things are all manifest in the never ending and even eternal existence of all that is made, “**even his eternal power and Godhead;**” is revealed to those who will see with their eyes and hear with their ears.

Scientist who study and examine the natural world should be the first to see the presence of intelligence in all they study, but most refute the idea of a creator god. Why is this so?

I suggest it has to do with Satan causing the Bible to be so polluted with his lies that those of faith profess that most of what is understood in science contradicts the Word of God.

Scientist who can see how science is provable time after time knows through study and observation that these are proofs that science is correct, so therefore the Bible, as it is incorrectly interpreted, must be incorrect.

Because, both those of faith and those of the scientist accept the words of the Bible as they are misunderstood because of Satan’s lies, they both see that the Bible and Science as being incompatible. This is as Satan wants.

Remember: God is the Creator, so if Satan can cause everyone to fail to see that the Word of God as originally given in the Books of the Bible does in fact compliment and gives support to the sciences, thus giving an added testimony to the glory of God, then Satan succeeds in blinding us to God’s True Word. If you go to the Web Page and arrow down to the chapter titled, “**God’s Creation,**” you will see just what I mean concerning the unity of these two aspects of God’s Truth.

And because God has revealed all to us, “**so that they are without excuse:**” those who deny the proof all around them have no excuse for their ignorance. If you fail to study the Bible and to study history where the prophecies have been fulfilled, then you will be ignorant of the True Word of God, and it will be because of this failure of yours that you will be ignorant of God’s True Word.

In the beginning Man knew God and all that was, is of God, but rather than give glory to God thereby giving worship to the Creator, men were not thankful to the Creator, but imagined false gods, to give explanation to the world around them, thus removing themselves from the salvation of God to practices and rites of darkness and damnation.

This Man did because Satan had told them that they would surely not die. Satan would have Man believe that the soul of a man lives forever, and even though the body dies the soul continues on in conscience awareness of its surroundings. This is a lie, for God tells us that when the mortal body dies the soul does as well, all conscience is gone. Only upon the resurrection does life return to the body and soul. God did not give Man a living soul, God Made Man a living soul. The body is an aspect of the Natural World, the soul is an aspect of the Heavenly World, and the two are one. The body can exist without the soul, as is the way of the animals, but the soul cannot exist without the body, as is the way of Man.

*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. **Romans 1:22-23***

As Man invented the sciences of Astronomy and Physics, they deemed themselves to be wise, and with their arrogance they became fools, giving up eternal life for Pridefulness. And rather than give worship to the incorruptible God of Creation, Man established idols of images of corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. In this Paul is giving a history lesson of Man's slide from the Holy creation of God to that of the bleak and damned.

*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **Romans 1:25***

"The lust of their own hearts," is a reference to, Adultery and Fornication, which is sins against God and in that Man, has taken to the pleasures of the flesh in direct disobedience to the will of God, and therefore, they dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

Man in their arrogance chose to worship the creature more than the Creator, which refers to the animalistic urges of sexual lusts, (Adultery, Fornication, and Homosexuality) rather than the holiness of the Creator. Because God's truth rebukes such behavior, Man changed the truth of God through Satan's lies, into the lies, and the lie into the truth, which is the foundation of Satan's False Gospel.

*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **Romans 1:26***

Paul is referring here to homosexuality, which he refers to as vile affections. Then he goes on to reveal that even the women are susceptible to these lusts, which again Paul describes as being against nature.

*And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. **Romans 1:27***

As with the women indulging in the fornication of same sex, which God calls obscenities, men turn as well to unnatural acts of fornications. The words, “receiving in themselves that recompense of their error,” can be understood by considering the word error as used here is synonymous with sin, and the recompense is a reference to the damnation that is the result of such sins, which was meet is another way of saying that the damnation as will be meted out by God, that those who engage in sinfulness, is righteous and not unexpected. Those who live in evil deserve eternal death as their reward for disobedience to the God of Creation. It is therefore a truth that God is Righteous in his Wrath. Amen.

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, (immoral mind) to do those things which are not convenient, (improper or unsuitable); being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who know the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in that that do them. **Romans 1:28-32***

The above verse sounds like Paul is giving description of most the children of the last two or three generations of my life time.

Children of Satan

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, refers to the sons of Adam and how they quickly discarded the existence of God in favor of their false deities. God allowed them their vanities of error, and in this Man disintegrated from being the Holy Creation of God into children of Satan engaging in, “fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to

parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, acts of self-indulgence and deprivation.

You might want to take note here that many of these things listed relate to the Ten Commandments, which once again shows that Paul preached the righteousness of the Ten Commandments and not that the Ten Commandments had been rendered obsolete by Jesus.

*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O Man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. **Romans 2:1***

If you thinking yourself a man/woman of God, and pass judgment upon others for their iniquities, but are yourself filled with iniquity, in that you engage in things that are in conflict with the laws and Word of God, then you will be judged by God in the same manner and severity in which you give judgment to others.

*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. **Romans 2:2***

If we as Man pass judgment upon other men and are by nature filled with iniquities ourselves, then we should refrain from taking upon ourselves to judge others, God who is truth (perfect) is however righteous in his judgment of us. Another way of putting this is, **if you live in a glass house, do not throw stones.**

*And thinkest thou this, O Man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? **Romans 2:3-4***

Do not think that you being of God will be exempt from God's judgment, if you engage in the same acts of sin in which you judge others. If you neglect or disregard the goodness and forbearance and longsuffering of God, and by which are ignorant of that goodness and how it leads to repentance, because in your arrogance you see yourself sinless, then your judgment will be given in God's wrath, and not his love.

*But after thy hardness and impenitent heart, (having no regret for sin or misbehavior), treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. **Romans 2:5-11***

The phrase, “**But after thy hardness,**” refers to the hardness of the heart, or hard-headedness, or willfulness, in giving no heed to God’s truth as written in scripture, and do not seek repentance because of your foolish ignorance of God’s truth, will through your ignorance and inequities, store up God’s wrath or anger against you, for Judgment Day, when God will vent his wrath upon all the unrighteous.

God will “**render to every man according to his deeds.**” To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, God will render eternal life.

For those “**that are contentious, and do not obey the truth,**” **but instead obey “unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,”** God will render “Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil.”

Being Judged by God

*For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. **Romans 2:12-13***

The above two verses reveals to me the truth that Paul does not hold to the lie that the Commandments of God were rendered obsolete when Jesus died on the cross. If you, as were the Gentiles, are without the law, which means if you were not brought up as a Jew or a Christian, then you most likely do not know God’s Law, and then engage in sinfulness, shall be judged not according to the law but according to your own personal sins.

Paul Preaches the Law

If you, as a Jew or a Christian, having been brought up having knowledge of the law, are sinful, then you will be judged according to the word of the law. If Jesus rendered the Ten Commandments obsolete, then how is it that Paul is preaching that those with the knowledge of the law will be judged according to the law on Judgment Day?

It is not in the knowing of the law that gives you **justification of redemption**, but keeping the law and thereby living your life without sin which will give **justification of redemption**.

Another way of putting this is if you know, because of the law, that to engage in fornication is a sin, but you do so just the same, then you will be judged accordingly to the word of the law.

If you do not know that it is a sin to engage in fornication, and do, then your judgment will be based upon your total life and what is in your heart. However, in both cases, it is a sin to engage in fornication, whether you know that it is wrong or not.

It is my personal opinion that those ignorant of the law will face a more merciful judgment than those who knowing the law still sin. This is not to say that I advocate not educating yourself in the Law of God, for if you know the Law and live by the Law, and give true and correct worship of God, and then you will not have to face judgment, but instead be one of those Raptured up into the Clouds with Jesus upon his return.

Belief

The reason the Jews failed so miserably is because they failed to believe that the Law was given to them by the God of Creation. They for the most part believed that the Law was given to them by the flesh and blood man, Moses. This failure to believe is the reason they failed so miserably to obey the Law. To do as the Law says, which is nothing more than what a man has told them to do, does not carry the same importance as to obey the Law because it is commanded by the God of Creation.

A Law unto themselves

*For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another; In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel. **Romans 2:14-16***

God understands and acknowledges that it is the nature of Man to resist his laws. Or to put it another way, it is unnatural for Man to live life in the limitations as given by the Law of God. But as God has made Man a living soul and thereby given him the ability to choose not to sin, it is expected by God that Man live in righteousness, and not as an animal which do not have such restrictions imposed upon them.

It is Satan that wants Man to engage in sinful acts, for in doing so it does reduce us to no more than animals, which is how Satan sees Man, an animal and unworthy of eternal life. **Knowing this I pray, my explanation and discussion of Scripture will help you to fight against all sin, and thereby give resistance to the war that Satan is engaged in against Man.**

A Kindred Spirit

When you as one who was not brought up in the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, are a law unto yourself. Which is to say, that even if in ignorance of the law, it is your personal choice to live a life of moral fortitude, then you are the law manifest not in stone but instead written in your heart. This makes you a kindred spirit to God, just as was Abraham.

What Paul is getting at is it is not the keeping of the Law because it is a law that must be kept that is important, but to keep the Law because it is an integral part of your personality of who you are, written upon your heart, then you are above the Law, because it is not to you a law that must be kept, but a way of living your life as a good person. When you live as this, and have no knowledge of the Law, then you are a law unto yourself. When you live as this and have knowledge of the Law then you are on the way to becoming a Saint of God.

*Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, and knowest his will, and approves the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; and art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. **Romans 2:17-20***

As I have given definition before, a Jew as the word is used in these verses, does not mean a citizen of the Nation of Israel, but it also refers to those that were to be known as Christians. At the time of Paul writing these words down the term Christian, had yet to be coined.

What Paul is doing here is showing commonality between those who were the Children of Israel and those gentiles that convert to the Teachings of Jesus Christ. Latter the word Christian would be used instead of the word Jew.

Your Actions condemn you

*Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Dost thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For (when you do not practice what you preach) the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written. **Romans 2:21-24***

If you as a teacher of those blind from God, in your actions of sinfulness, your instructions become unprofitable in those you teach. Jesus taught by his actions as well as with his words, shouldn't you also be mindful of how your actions are viewed by those ignorant of God's laws?

In this Paul is saying that you as the teacher of others must be an example of perfection. If you say I have obtained the understanding of Bible Scripture, and at the same time do things that are contrary to God's Law, then what will that tell those whom you attempt to teach the Ways of God?

For Example: a renowned preacher of many years, is found to be a solicitor of young boys, and having engaged in fornication with these boys, has shown himself to be a hypocrite, but what kind of a lesson will this be for those boys who put their trust in him.

Take Note: that once more Paul refers to the law, “as it is written,” which as I have explained refers to the need of understanding the law through education and the accumulation of knowledge, and not by Blind Faith.

Circumcision

*For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. **Romans 2:25***

As used by Paul the word circumcision refers to the First Covenant and that it is required of all males of the Nation of Israel and descendent of Abraham, to have their foreskin circumcised, and how that act is symbolic of accepting your place as part of the Old Covenant, Therefore, if you are circumcised of the foreskin and given instruction in the Law of God, and then obey those laws, then the law and the circumcision “is profitable,” to you in God’s Judgment of you.

If on the other hand, you are circumcised, and do not obey those laws, then to what purpose is your being circumcised, which is why Paul says that the circumcision is made obsolete just as if you had not been circumcised.

Remember: the purpose of having all males circumcised was to give them a constant and physical reminder as a symbolism of keeping and obeying the Law of God. If you are circumcised yet ignore that reminder, by failing to keep the Law, then to what purpose is the circumcision?

Those Not Circumcised

*Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision doest transgress the law? **Romans 2:26-27***

The above might be easier to understand if you replace the words, “Circumcised and Uncircumcised” with “Righteous and Unrighteous.”

Therefore if you have never been circumcised and have not been brought up in the law, yet still live by the righteousness of the morality as it is written in the law, then aren't you the same as those who have been circumcised and obeyed the law?

Jew verses an Israelite

In the above and in other of Paul's writings, Paul uses the word Jew to indicate those who keep the Commandments of God. The problem I have with this is that a Jew is also those who persecute the followers of Christ. I have found that it is less confusing if we differentiate between a Jew and an Israelite.

As I have shown in the Lessons, an Israelite is one who keeps the Commandments of God, whereas a Jew does not. If one who might be called a Jew also keeps the Commandments of God, then he is also an Israelite. This disparity is given support by Jesus in the following.

Nathanael

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael saith unto him, "Whence knowest thou me?" Jesus answered and said unto him, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." Nathanael answered and saith unto him, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." **John 1:47-49***

In the above verses, it is not given that Jesus in anyway knows Nathanael, yet he refers to him as, "an Israelite indeed." Have you ever given thought to why this is written in the Bible and what it is different about Nathanael that Jesus should single him out as an Israelite, and not just an Israelite but an Israelite in deed?

The words "In Deed" refers to engaging in something in actions and not just giving lip service to it. For example, someone who lives by the Morality of God, as an intricate part of their personality, does so in deed or action. Therefore to be an Israelite in deed is to live within the definition of what an Israelite is, in actions and not just in words.

By singling out Nathanael as an Israelite in deed, Jesus is revealing the distinction between being a Jew and being a faithful observant of the Laws of God. It is for this reason that I define a Jew as nothing more than a citizen of the Nation of Israel, whereas an Israelite is one who keeps the Commandments of God. Since Jesus, this definition is expanded to also say, "One who keeps the Commandments of God and has the testimony of Jesus Christ."

*For he is not a Jew, (an Israelite) which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, (an Israelite), which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. **Romans 2:28-29***

It is in this way that Paul argues, that it is faith of the Teachings of Jesus and the promise of life eternal, that a person is redeemed, not in the act of having your foreskin circumcised. God has no interest in the body of Man; God has interest in the soul of Man. Therefore, being circumcised is a symbolic gesture of the body that points to real circumcision of the heart, which is where the soul can be felt.

It is this that separates those of Faith from those that only live by the Law. You need both in your worship of God, else your worship is in vain.

What Profit is Circumcision

*What advantage then hath the Jew? Or what profit is there of circumcision? **Romans 3:1***

In the above, Paul is asking you and me two questions;

“Does being a Jew (Christian) and having been brought up in the knowledge of the law, give us an advantage of redemption over someone who was not brought up in the knowledge of the law?”

“Does your having been circumcised under the law of the Old Covenant give you an advantage in redemption over someone that has not been circumcised?”

To Believe

Paul then goes on to answer those questions in the following verses.

*Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? **Romans 3:2-3***

The word “way” as used in this context refers to faith or the way that you give worship to God. So what Paul is saying is that the Jews in their way of worshipping God, they having been given the oracles of God, (The Ten Commandments which are an abbreviation of the entire Gospel of God), might seem to have an advantage on Judgment Day over the Gentiles who do not know the Law of God.

Then Paul goes on to point out that what if some of the Jews did not believe? If all were given the law, yet still there were those who do not believe, or do not practice their worship to the letter of God's Word, would that then render the faith of the Jews without effect? Or to put it another way, if, as is the case, some of the Jews failed to believe in the Word of God as being truth and thereby did not keep the Law of God, does that then mean that all Jews are damned and their worship of God is thus made in vain? Paul then gives answer to that for us.

Every Man a Liar

*God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, "That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." **Romans 3:4***

Paul's answer to the above question is, "God Forbid." Which I interpret to mean, "NO", the failure of some to believe does not cause the worship of those who do believe to be in vain. Paul goes on to explain; "**Let all men be equal in that they are all liars, those who are under the law and those who are without the law.**" We are all equal, therefore we all are in the potential of redemption, some because of their knowledge of the law and others out of faith brought about because of the Teachings of Jesus.

The whole purpose of this discussion by Paul is to show that all who believe and therefore have faith in Jesus, even though they are ignorant of the Law, become equal to those who have lived under the Law all their lives, because of that Faith in believing the Teachings of Jesus. Not just believing that Jesus the man is the Son of God, but that what Jesus taught is truth.

The Authority of God

*But if our unrighteousness commend (recommend as worthy) the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man.) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? **Romans 3:5-6***

Again, for Paul the question is, "If those who are unrighteous, commend or establish as worthy righteousness, how then does that reflect on who God is and his authority to judge Man?"

The first thing to keep in mind is that God is the Creator and as such is truth; therefore the Law of God is truth. All other questions concerning the righteousness of men therefore must originate from that fact. It is this fact why Paul tells us that **all men are liars**, for only God has truth and Man only becomes righteous

through God's Truth. Man cannot be righteous by his own abilities, but only through obedience to the Word of God.

Remember: God is the Creator, and it is by his rules that he Commands that Man must live. It is God who has given definition to what is right and correct, and what is wrong and evil. For men to attempt to establish their own set of moral codes places them in opposition to God. How can you worship that which you oppose?

Sinner or Saint?

For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say, "Let us do evil, that good may come? Whose damnation is just?" **Romans 3:7-8**

In these two verses, Paul reveals his purpose for writing all of the above. Paul has been slandered by the Jews who say that he is a blasphemer; therefore his purpose is to show that it is not he who blasphemes the Lord but those who slander Paul's name.

For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory. Paul is asking the question, "If in the lies of Man, the truth of God is more fully shown and thus enhances the glory of God, then **Let us do evil, so that good may come?**"

If Man who is evil and sinful, by living in sin, we reveal the stark contrast between the Evil of Man and the Righteousness of God, then in doing evil do we not reveal the glory of God. If in doing evil we reveal the glory of God, then should we not always engage in evil and not in righteous living? In doing evil do we not show that our damnation is therefore just?

Under the Law verses without the Law

What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; as it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." **Romans 3:9-12**

Paul once again answers his own question. In living in evil, by not upholding the laws of God are the Jews then better than the Gentiles? **No, in no wise: For there is none righteous, no not one.** If the Jews that

have the law reject the law and live in unrighteousness, then they are no better than the Gentiles who do not have the law, who do not live in righteousness. There is no difference one from the other. The both equally live in unrighteousness.

Seek Me Diligently

Paul says one other thing in the above verses, that I feel is important and needs to be pointed out. **There is none that understandeth there is none that seeketh after God.** Do you understand what Paul is saying, not only do the Gentiles who live without the knowledge of the law, neither do they seek out God. The Gentiles believe that there is no one god, but a plethora of gods, therefore they do not seek out the God of Creation, for they are unaware that he even exists.

Remember: what God tells us in the following.

*I love them that love me; and those that seek me early (diligently) shall find me. **Proverbs 8:17***

It is one thing to be ignorant of God's Law, but to fail to even seek out God's Truth delivers you to Eternal Death, for if you do not know God, his personal honor, his personality and his moral character, how you will ever learn to love him is doubtful.

This is true of the Gentiles as well as those who call themselves Jew and Christian; you accept interpretation of scripture that someone else tells you it means without taking the time and effort to study and research to know the truth for yourself. In so doing you accept by Blind Faith that what you are being told is the truth, but Satan lies, and he manifests himself in many different ways, only in educated knowledge can you ever perceive God's Truth and thereby see Satan's lies for the lies that they are.

The Bottomless Pit

*Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: **Romans 3:13***

A "**Sepulcher**" is another name for **grave**, therefore Paul is telling us that those who are ignorant of God's True Word and have never sought out God, speak lies and deceptions, to themselves as well as others, and in so doing send those who listen and accept those lies as truth to their eternal graves. Only in knowing God's Truth is there a possibility of salvation and through salvation Eternal Life.

It is interesting to me that Paul uses the word “Sepulcher,” in the same sort of reference that Jesus does in his visions given to the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation. There, Jesus refers to those who come out of the bottomless pit, **Revelation 9:1-3**, where the bottomless pit is a reference or a symbolism of the mouth of Satan and the lies that continuously spew forth from it, and those that come out of the pit are those deceived by Satan’s lies. In the above, Paul is using the Sepulcher or grave as having that same meaning, for to live in the belief that Satan’s lies are truth, leaves only the path to the grave for you.

*Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: **Romans 3:13-17***

In the above, can you see a description of those so blinded by Satan’s Lies, that they bring war and misery to the Earth?

No Fear of God

There is no fear of God before their eyes. Romans 3:18

If you do not know that there is a God of Creation and that he is your creator, and he commands that you worship him in a very specific way, and then you being ignorant will fall short of Salvation. Both the Jew who does not uphold the Law of God though they know the law, and the Gentile, who does not know the law, are full of inequities, and do not know the way of peace, nor do they fear the wrath of God, this being true of both, thus rendering both, equal in the lies that come forth from their mouths.

If you believe that you worship God as he commands, then when you make war upon others in the name of your Faith, then you have no fear of God, for you believe he is with you.

Remember: as I have pointed out before, to fear God does not mean to be afraid of God as someone who wishes to do you harm, in this context the word fear means to have deep respect for, to be in awe of God and all his glory. If you are ignorant of who God is, how then can you possibly be in awe of him and thereby give him respect.

*Now we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin? **Romans 3:19-20***

The law, (the Ten Commandments), are a listing of the “Thou Shalt Not’s” and as such are a listing of that which constitute sin. By knowing the law you know what is sin and through this knowledge you can know

to hold your tongue, every mouth may be stopped, and not speak evil. By knowing sin in advance do you not then know how not to sin? In knowing sin does that not reflect that God sees all men as being filled with sin, that only by his telling us what sin is, by way of the Ten Commandments, will we then be able to not sin, which is to say, that God sees all men as being guilty of sin, and only through his educating us of sin can we then avoid sin.

God's Righteousness without the Law

*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, (through Jesus Christ), being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **Romans 3:21***

Paul then makes this conclusion: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, through the teachings of Jesus to the Gentiles who did not have the law, is the righteousness of God yet manifested, even without prior knowledge of the law. The word "Manifested" means: clear, to see or understand, to show something clearly, and to be revealed, this is to say, Paul is informing us that the Commandments of God, the Law of God, is made clear from the Teachings of Jesus Christ. Everything that Jesus taught has as its foundational base the Ten Commandments as well as all that has been written by the prophets of old in the Books of the Bible.

There are many Christians that I have spoken with who insist that the Ten Commandments which are the Law of God, were fulfilled to the point of rendering them obsolete, when Jesus died on the cross. What Paul is in fact saying is that the Law of God are in fact manifest, or made understandable or made clear by the Teachings of Jesus. Either we can accept the truth as given by Paul a prophet of Jesus or we can continue to believe Satan's Lies.

I have shown in those web page chapters titled, "Teachings of Jesus Christ," that everything that Jesus taught related back to and are founded upon the Ten Commandments. In the above verses, Paul is telling us this very same thing.

One with God

*Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **Romans 3:22***

The Teachings of Jesus builds upon the law of God by giving several more moral imperatives over and above those listed in the last six of the Ten Commandments. Through the Teachings of Jesus is the knowledge

of the law brought to light for those who were uneducated in the law. Take note here that Paul is telling us that there is no difference between the Commandments of God and the Teachings of Jesus, both give us a moral guide by which God intends that we should live our lives, both reveal the personality, honor and moral character of God and all those who live their lives as dictated by God's morality. It is in this way that we can become one with God.

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **Romans 3:23***

As Paul has said earlier, all of Man is in sin, be they Jew, Christian or Gentile.

*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **Romans 3:24***

There are many who think that the word "Justified" as used in this verse is synonymous with "Saved," but it is not. The word "Justified" means: having an acceptable reason for the action taken, or, being acceptable or reasonable in the circumstances. In other words, through our understanding of the Teachings of Jesus, we are given reasonable expectation of salvation, but by no means does it tell us that we are saved with certainty.

The word "Grace" is also misunderstood, it means: a capacity to tolerate, accommodate, or forgive people. Therefore the Grace of Jesus refers to his capacity to forgive the sins of Man. To be forgiven is always followed after repentance.

Asking for Forgiveness

If you fail to see yourself as a sinner and having realized your sins then repent or regret having committed those sins, but do not then ask God to forgive you, then God-Jesus cannot forgive you. If you do not ask for forgiveness then how can God give forgiveness?

Remember: when you sin, you are being disrespectful of God. God is a moral being, and he wants that those whom he created, be moral as well. When you engage in sinful acts, you are telling God that you disagree with his morality. In this way you are giving insult to God. It is for this reason that you must first ask God to forgive you for your insult. Only in your asking can forgiveness be given.

What is Sin?

This all returns back to what is a sin. The Ten Commandments is a listing of what God considers sins. To engage in any of those things listed is to be sinful, which is to say that if you are ignorant of the Ten

Commandments, then how will you know if you have sinned or not? Satan does not want us to know the Ten Commandments, which is why he has lied to us by telling us that the Ten Commandments have been fulfilled by Jesus to the point of rendering them obsolete. Now that you know the truth, what path will you walk from now on?

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (to win God's favor) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **Romans 3:25***

The Word "**Propitiation**" means: to appease or conciliate somebody, to work with opposing parties with the goal of bringing them to an agreement or reconciliation, to get somebody's support or friendship back.

What Paul is saying is that God wants to bring you, a sinner, back from sin to a person of righteousness and thereby return you to being One with God, however, you have to want that as well, and the choice is yours.

Walk the Walk

The word "**Forbearance**" is defined as: patience, tolerance, or self-control. What Paul is saying is that by removing yourself from sin and embracing the righteousness of God's Morality you will then through the forbearance of God because of his Grace, be forgiven, and through forgiveness you will be justified in the expectation of salvation. But as you can see, there is a labor required of you. Before forgiveness can be given you must first repent your sins, and endeavor and work towards keeping yourself free of sin through learning and keeping the Law of God. To simply proclaim Jesus your saviour through your words, will not give you forgiveness, you must first accomplish repentance in fact and deeds and not just in words.

*To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. **Romans 3:26***

In that all Man have sinned, those who have the law and those ignorant of the law, and all have come short of the glory, (morality), of God; being justified by the love of Jesus, through redemption from the Teachings of Jesus, which are the fulfillment of the Morality of God: Whom God has given over to the cross, to bring into God's favor, through the faith in the resurrection because of the blood of Jesus, to declare God's righteousness for the remission (cleansing) of sins that were in the past, through the love of God.

*Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. **Romans 3:27***

Where then is anyone able to boast, that they are saved because of the law? Even in the law you fall short of the glory of God.

The word “**Faith**” is defined as: belief in, or devotion to, or trust in somebody or something, especially without logical proof. What Paul is therefore saying is that even those not educated in the Law of God who have embraced and have changed their own morality after hearing the Teachings of Jesus, do so because they believe that Jesus is God in the Flesh of a Man and as such those things that Jesus teaches are being taught by God and not a man. Having “**Faith**” that Jesus is God and that because of his resurrection from death that we too will be resurrected to eternal life if we embrace the Teachings of Jesus and make his morality our morality.

The God of all Man

*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: **Romans 3:28-29***

Paul then comes to another conclusion. We are not justified by the law, nor by the works, or by your deeds, but we are justified by faith in the Teachings of Jesus. Seeing there is only one God, and but for him there is no other, and only he created all that is, therefore he is the God of the Jews and the God of the Gentiles, for we are all of God’s Creation.

What Paul is speaking about is the attitude or arrogance of the Jews that they, because of being brought up under the law, where the children of God, and that all others, the Gentiles, not having the law could not therefore achieve the status of being Children of God unless they first took the time to learn the law.

What Paul is saying that this is a falsehood, that through the Teachings of Jesus and by embracing the moral imperative given to us by Jesus, that we all can become Children of God.

Jesus Establishes the Law

*Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. **Romans 3:30-31***

Paul then poses another question. In that there is but one God, and it is he who will justify by faith both those of the circumcision (the Jews) and those not circumcised, (the Gentiles), do we then make void the law through faith? **God forbid: Yea, we do not void the law but establish the law.**

Only through knowing the law do we know sin, and only by knowing sin are we then able to avoid sin, this is why Jesus taught not only additional moral traits over and above the six moral imperatives listed in the Ten Commandments, but Jesus also taught and expanded upon five of the six moral imperatives listed in the Ten Commandments.

The law by itself will not insure redemption, but combined with faith in the promises and teachings made by Jesus, as well as the resurrection of Jesus, they do over redemption by living our lives within the parameters set forth by the morality taught by Jesus.

To know the law, and yet not have the faith of Jesus, will lead only to damnation. To have faith in Jesus, but then sin through ignorance of the law, will only lead to damnation. Only in Faith of Jesus and embracing the morality of God (the Law) and giving true and correct worship to God, will you be justified in redemption, all of which are taught to us in the Teachings of Jesus.

What is Paul saying here? In having the faith in Jesus, we do not void or render the law obsolete, but we **establish the law**. If you believe that Jesus, in fulfilling the law rendered it obsolete, then these words from Paul should dissuade you from such erroneous belief.

Paul is saying straight out that the law is not obsolete but brought to completion. When you bring something to completion you do not throw it away, but you then put it to use. The law is justified through believe that Jesus resurrected from the dead. Had Jesus not resurrected, then to what purpose is the law. It is in this way that Jesus establishes the law as the tool to salvation, before the advent of Christ it was only the tool to knowing sin.

The Parable of the Chair

One of the easiest way of gaining understanding of what amounts to an abstract theology, Jesus used Parables, to give explanation of something already understandable, that has moral or faith based symbolisms. I have thought of a parable that gives explanation as to the concept of having something fulfilled.

If you build a chair, but stop your work before you place the seat on it, then the chair is not yet fully a chair, for its purpose is not fulfilled. When you then place the seat on the chair, it then becomes a chair and can be used in its intended way.

This is as is the Ten Commandments, as they are written they are incomplete, and therefore not able to be used as is their purpose, but with the teachings of Jesus, they are brought to completion, thus making them fulfill their purpose which is to show us who God is, his honor, personality and his moral character.

When you say you have faith in Jesus, what you should understand is that you have faith in the Teachings of Jesus, and Jesus taught an extension of the morality found in the Ten Commandments, as well as an enhancement of the Ten Commandments themselves. When Jesus fulfilled the laws of God, he took what was incomplete and brought them to completion. It is in this way that faith in Jesus brings establishment of the full meaning of the laws.

Jesus Raised for our Justification

Abraham and the Law

*What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? for if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt? **Romans 4:1-4***

Paul asks the question, “Consider Abraham our father, as pertaining to the circumcision of the flesh. Was Abraham justified by his works? If he was, then his glory was from his works, but not before God.”

Scripture tells us however, “Abraham believed the promises of God,” and it is that belief that was counted for him as righteousness, not by his works in keeping the law of God, for Abraham when God made the covenant with him did not know the law, so therefore could not have righteousness from his works.

It was through faith in God, which was brought about by belief in God’s promises, that Abraham is manifest in righteousness.

As Abraham Believed

*But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. **Romans 4:5***

But to them who are not raised in the law, and therefore are ignorant of the law, yet believe in Jesus, and his teachings, their faith is counted for righteousness, though they has done no works under the law.

As David Believed

*Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works. Saying, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." **Romans 4:6-8***

Paul then makes another argument in support of what he is attempting to explain visa-a-via King David. David wrote, "**Blessed is the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.**" This then gives support to what Paul is arguing. God does impute righteousness, even without the benefit of knowledge of the law.

Those Crucified with Jesus

There is another argument that can be given in regard to this subject, and that relates to the other two men who were crucified alongside Jesus.

*And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." **Luke 23:39-42***

In these words this one being crucified alongside Jesus reveals his belief that Jesus is God in the flesh of a man, and has asked that Jesus remembers him when he Jesus enters into his kingdom.

First it is clear that in confessing his own guilt he has repented of his sins. That this man has also shown faith that Jesus is God by indicating that he knows that Jesus will enter into his kingdom, which is to say that on the cross this man found faith.

Understanding "This Day"

*And Jesus said unto him. "Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." **Luke 23:43***

Because this man has shown faith and belief in Jesus, Jesus then tells him that he will be with Jesus on that day when the Kingdom of God is established upon the Earth which will not occur until Jesus returns.

Virtually all whom I have spoken to concerning the words, “To-day” accept that Jesus is telling this man that he will be with Jesus that very same day, which is to suggest that the Kingdom of God is to be established that very day that Jesus is crucified, however, when you use the original Greek words that the original text used, the true meaning shows through.

In the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance the Greek word used is “Semeron” which is translated as “This-day.” When you put that into context of what the man asked of Jesus, that he be remembered when Jesus enters into his Kingdom, then the response given by Jesus is a reference to the day when he does establish God’s Kingdom on Earth. Therefore, what Jesus is saying is on “this-day” or on the day he establishes his Kingdom, this man will join Jesus in paradise. This is but another way that Satan has attempted to promote confusion as to the meaning of God’s Holy Scripture.

*Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. **Romans 4:9***

Paul then asks two more questions.

Does the blessedness described by King David come upon only those who have the law, or does it come to both those who have the law as well as those who do not have the law?

Then Paul reminds us that Abraham was considered righteous by God, from his faith alone, before he knew the law. If God so blessed Abraham, he would also bless all those that come to God through faith as well. It is in this way that we who believe in Christ, are all the children of Abraham even though we have no blood ties to him.

Justified in Faith

I wish to impress upon you, all that Paul has written to this point supports this, but though you can be justified through faith, which is only the first step, this does not mean that you will know salvation. Once Abraham became justified by God, he was then required through the First Covenant to give worship to God as God commands, it was this establishment of the law, that continued Abraham in the glory of God.

Abraham was justified, but that in and of itself does not guarantee salvation. Only after Abraham kept to the letter of the Covenant was he then given salvation. If you recall, after making the covenant with God, Abraham was tested by God on several occasions, the most memorable is when God tells Abraham to sacrifice his most beloved son. In this we are shown the magnitude of Abrahams love of God, it was in this show of

loving God with all his heart, soul and mind that insured Abrahams place in heaven and also reveals Abrahams obedience to the command of God and not just by faith but by his actions.

As Jesus Taught

Think of it like this: When you through belief in the promises of Jesus, become justified in the potential of salvation, only by embracing the Teachings of Jesus, and going through a “Rebirth” in moral character, by living your life within the parameters of those teachings, will you actually be given salvation.

It is written, “***Many will be chosen, but only a few will be taken.***” This can be understood to mean, that though God will deem you justified to receive salvation, thereby chose you, only a few of those so deemed will actually make the effort required of them to be given salvation.

Abraham before circumcision

*How was it then reckoned? When he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. **Romans 4:10***

The subject is the acquisition of righteousness by Abraham. Paul asks, “When then did Abraham receive righteousness? Was Abraham circumcised when he was blessed by God, or did God extend his blessing before Abraham had been circumcised? Which is another way of saying, did Abraham have the knowledge of the law before God blessed him or was he blessed first and then receive the law?”

When Abraham went through the act of having himself circumcised that was his act or work of keeping the Law of God. Did this act occur before or after God accepted Abraham’s faith for righteousness?

*And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. **Romans 4:11-12***

Paul then answers that question. Abraham received the blessing from God, before he received the law. The sign of the circumcision of the foreskin was a symbol as a seal of his righteousness and of the contract (covenant) that he made with God, which came after God had already blessed him.

Seed of Abraham

There is one other thing that Paul is saying here which gives support to something I have been saying all along; “*And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only.*” What these words are telling me is that Paul considers Abraham father to all who have faith in God-Jesus, which is another way of saying that the “Seed of Abraham” does not refer to the blood descendants of Abraham only but to all whom through belief in the promises of God, are also of the seed of Abraham.

For example: I believe in the promise of resurrection unto eternal life, and because I believe, I am of the seed of Abraham, whereas there are several Jews, (the Sadducees), who are blood descendants of Abraham that do not believe in the resurrection, therefore even though they are blood descendants, they are not of the seed of Abraham, in this context.

*For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. **Romans 4:13***

Therefore, the promise of God that Abraham was to be the heir of the world came before Abraham received the law. It was Abraham’s faith that God made him the father of the world, both those of the Jews and those of the Gentile. It was in his acceptance and keeping of the Law of God that sealed him in the Glory of God.

A Kingdom of Priests

This brings home a misunderstanding of the Jews and their purpose under God. God had told the descendants of Jacob that they were to be a Kingdom of priests, Exodus 19:5, yet they never achieved that lofty status.

What is it that is a priest? Is not a priest someone who preaches the gospel? Then is it not correct to be a Kingdom of priest that God intended that the whole of the peoples of the earth were to have God’s Holy Gospel preached to them by the Jews.

This of course did not happen, for the Jews decided in their arrogance that they were the only people that could or should be the children of God, so they kept to themselves and did not engage in the promotion of the laws of God to any other people. If you were not born a Jew or married into the house of a Jew you could not become a Jew. It is this arrogance that kept them from fulfilling their intended role as being a kingdom of priests.

No Law, No Sin

*For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. **Romans 4:14-15***

Think of this as if God had never said, “Thou Shalt Not Steal.” If God had not told us that to steal is a sin, then it would not be a sin, and to steal would be acceptable morality. In that God gave blessing to Abraham before he received the law, then so to do others receive blessing through the faith in belief in the promise, and not in the works of the law. However, as Abraham also needed to continue in his faith by giving obedience to the Law of God, so too do those who believe in the Teachings of Jesus, have to accept and keep those moralities taught to us by Jesus.

Grace through Faith also

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Romans 4:16

Paul then makes the conclusion. It is by faith and not only by the law that righteousness in grace can be obtained. The faith of Abraham is the trust in the word of God as being the truth, and that when God makes a promise, he will fulfill that promise. It is more than just the promises however. It is that Abraham accepted the Word of God as true beyond all else. For you and me, we must also accept that what God has spoken is true and if some other thing written not in the Holy Gospel is not the word of God, and must first be given support by scripture, before you accept it as true.

If God spoke it, it is in the Bible, if God spoke it, it is the truth. If God did not speak it, you will not find it in the Bible, if God did not speak it, then it is a lie.

For you to accept something not spoken by God as truth is to accept Satan’s lies as truth, which is to consider God’s truth as the lie. Doing so will remove you from righteousness. The only way for you to know if it is spoken by God is for you to seek God diligently, through study, research and in prayer that God give you direction and understanding in your study and in your life.

*As it is written, “I have made thee a father of many nations,” before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be. **Romans 4:17-18***

God told Abraham that if you believe in me, and give worship to me, as I instruct you to, then I will make you the father of many nations. Part of that worship is the belief that the Word of God is truth, and reliance on the Word of God, is righteous. All who, in like kind to Abraham, believe in the Word of God will also be justified in righteousness.

*And being not weak in the faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he (God) had promised, he (God) was able also to perform. And there it was imputed to him for righteousness. **Romans 4:19-22***

Abraham believed God when God told him that through Sarah he would have a son. Even though Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born, Abraham believed God's Word and in that belief he became justified through faith.

*Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. **Romans 4:23-25***

As Abraham was justified in his faith in the Word of God, we also are justified in the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, and as the Son of God is God in the flesh of a man. Through this faith, you will be justified in righteousness.

Two ingredients to Salvation

As I have tried to make clear before however, though you may be chosen because of your faith in Jesus, being justified does not automatically mean you will be redeemed. Righteousness comes from faith, but redemption comes from obedience to the Word and Law of God.

To be ignorant of what it takes to be in sin, and then you commit sin, will take you from the path of righteousness and onto the path of Judgment. Those who walk in righteousness will not be judged. Those who are raised up into the clouds with Jesus during the Rapture will not know judgment, for only those who are righteous in faith and free of their sins will already be redeemed by their own lives. What I am attempting to make clear is that there are two ingredients to salvation, **having faith in Jesus in your belief that he is God in the Flesh of a man** and **acceptance of the Teachings of Jesus and making God's morality your morality.**

In this chapter, I feel that I have made it clear from the Writings of Paul, that this is true. Paul, in his own way, has argued this same thing. I hope that my explanation of what Paul wrote is understandable to you and brings you the knowledge and the truth of this.

To receive Salvation you need Faith in the belief of the Word of God as being truth, as well as the act of keeping and living by the morality (Law) of God.