

The Writings of Paul

Chapter 1

Paul is one of the most quoted of all the Apostles of Jesus, yet his meaning has been misinterpreted so much so as to make it unrecognizable from what God actually means.

Paul is Jesus' Prophet to the Gentiles. As with all of God's Prophets, Jesus would instruct Paul and Paul would then write down and publish what Jesus told him for future generations to learn from. The original language that the writings of Paul were written in was Ancient Greek, and has since been translated into most of the world modern languages. Unfortunately, in the process of translation, Satan has had influence, causing much of the modern translations to be altered from the original meaning. For this reason I offer this explanation of the Writings of Paul, given to me by God, and using the original Greek to determine the correct modern word to best give the true meaning of what Paul wrote.

Saul's Conversion

Paul begins as Saul, a fervent and zealous student of the Temple Elders in Jerusalem. As such he was highly educated for a person in his age of the First Century A.D. as we keep time today.

*And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, (followers of Christ), whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. **Acts 9:1-2***

Saul is a young priest of the Temple, and as part of his duties and training he has occasion to be present during the meetings of the High Council, which is the highest authority of Bible interpretation of the Nation of Israel. During one such meeting Saul was witness to the trial of a young man of Christ named Stephen, (**Acts 7:54-59**), who because of his testimony of Jesus as being the Messiah and the Christ, contrary to the dictates of the High Council, was stoned to death, of which Saul was also witness.

As a part of his duties, *yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord*, Saul would seek out others who preached witness of Jesus, and thereby caused that they should be

persecuted, tortured and murdered as well. In time, full of his zeal to destroy the followers of Jesus, Saul inquired of the High Priest, *and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues*, so as to bring those from outside of Jerusalem to face justice for their blasphemies before the High Council.

Satan's Power over the Jews

To give perspective to Saul's zeal I wish to show you the following.

*And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Revelation 12:17***

I have given explanation of this verse before, but I wish to explain it again in relation to what Saul is engaged in.

The **dragon** is Satan, and he is wroth, (having extreme anger and hatred), with the faith established by Jesus, and desires to destroy it before it has a chance of growing.

The **woman** is the Church of Christ or the people of the congregations that give worship to God according to the faith as taught by Jesus. It is this Church and the congregations of people, (the seed of the woman), that Satan through Soul endeavors to destroy.

It is through the Temple Elders that Satan first attempts this destruction, and Saul and others like him is the tool through whom Satan has influence and control to carry out his destruction. The Temple Elders believe that they are doing God's Holy work in their attempt to destroy the followers of Jesus, but because of their blindness from the truth spoken by Jesus, it is Satan whom they serve.

The customs and traditions of the Jews, established over generations, have become more important to uphold by the Temple Elders than is the Law and Word of God. Everything that Jesus taught can be supported by the scripture as it was during the time of Jesus, or as it is written in the Old Testament there being no New Testament yet.

Therefore, having been given letters from the Temple Elders, Saul journeys to Damascus Syria so as to carry out his destruction of the followers of Jesus in that city, still thinking he is doing the work of God.

Paul's Journey to Damascus

A Voice is heard

*And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me? **Acts 9:3-4***

During his journey to Damascus, Saul hears a voice not spoken from any of his companions.

*And he (Saul) said, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." **Acts 9:5***

This then is a vision given to Saul from Jesus. As used here the word **"Pricks"** means, **to make somebody feel a sudden strong unease; e.g. because of guilt or shame**, which suggests to me that Saul is fighting against his good conscience.

Remember: Saul was witness to the trial of Stephen, and heard all that Stephen said. This use of the word **"pricks"** suggest to me that as he journeyed towards Damascus, Saul had given much thought to Stephen's testimony, and perhaps this gave Saul cause to question the righteousness of his persecutions of the followers of Jesus. God can see into the hearts of men, so I suggest that God-Jesus seeing Saul's mental conflict chose to manifest himself before Saul, thus attaining the conversion of Saul into the belief of the Teachings of Jesus Christ.

*And he (Saul) trembling and astonished said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" And the Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." **Acts 9:6***

Put yourself in Saul place; you believe that you are doing the work of God and are justified in your persecution and execution of those who preach and worship contrary to the traditions established by the Temple Elders over many generations. Then as you are traveling to continue this work, you hear a voice from out of nowhere, asking, **"Why do you persecute me?"** I am not sure about you, but it would get my attention and scare me big time. Even more than that, this voice tells you that it is Jesus, the very man whose teachings you are set out to destroy.

In Witness of Others

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

Acts 9:7

Those who accompany Saul hear the voice but do not see he who it is that is speaking, which is to say that Saul has witnesses of this event so that others that they encounter in Damascus, might believe Saul's conversion because of these witnesses. I have oft times wondered what of these others who journeyed with Saul, where they also converted, but there is no further discussion in the Bible concerning them.

Saul is Blinded

*And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. **Acts 9:8***

As proof that Saul would not after a short time believe he had imagined what he had seen and heard, God-Jesus removes Saul's sight from him. It would be difficult to think you had only imagined something, when you no longer could see, as a reminder that it was not a dream.

*And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. **Acts 9:9***

I have found nowhere in this account of the conversion of Saul, that Jesus required that Saul fast after he had this vision of Jesus speaking with him, but as you can see, Saul does so for three days. In the heat of the Middle East, to go without water for three days is dangerous and could lead to death, but at the very least, it will leave your body weak.

Ananias of Damascus

*There was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Behold, I am here, Lord." And the Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. **Acts 9:10-12***

As you can see, not only Saul and those with him are witness to this vision from Jesus, but this Ananias of Damascus, who is described here as a disciple of Jesus. This added witness to the vision from Jesus, is yet another proof that Saul has to show other disciples that he has been converted. Without this added vision, I am not sure if Saul would have been accepted or given trust by the Damascus congregation of Christ.

Why Saul?

Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. Acts 9:13-14

Ananias voices his concern in regards to Saul, and acknowledges his understanding of whom and to what evil services Saul has been engaged. Think about what is happening. Ananias is given a vision, and in this vision he is told by Jesus to seek out this Saul, that Ananias is aware of how Saul persecutes those that follow the Teachings of Jesus, and even so, Ananias questions how wise it might be for him to approach Saul.

Saul Anointed by Jesus

But the Lord said unto him, "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:15-16

Jesus then out of compassion for Ananias' apprehensions explains that Saul has been chosen by God, and that it will be his (Saul's) task to preach the faith established by Jesus to the Gentiles, as well as kings and the children of Israel. It is because of these assurances given to Ananias from God-Jesus, in a vision, that Ananias does as he is bidden.

Remember: Ananias was not one of those with Saul when he had the vision. The vision that Ananias receives from Jesus is separate. I would suggest that Ananias was unaware that Saul had receive a vision from God, but learns of it for the first time from Jesus himself and not from anyone else.

Judas of Damascus

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” **Acts 9:17**

Ananias, the faithful servant of Jesus that he is, goes to the home of the man named Judas who lives on the street called Straight, and lays his hand on Saul as he was instructed to do by the vision from Jesus.

I should like to point out that this Judas is not a disciple of Jesus, that he must be a loyal Jew, who gave room to a member of the Temple elite in which Saul is. For Ananias to enter this Jew's home and speak to Saul as he does, reveals to this Jew, Judas, Ananias' true following. These are dangerous times for the followers of Christ, and Ananias reveals his courage in fulfilling that which he is given to do by Jesus. Ananias risks his own life in carrying out the instructions given to him by God-Jesus. This to me shows you and me just how strong his faith is, and his willingness to risk his own life in order to carry out the Will of God.

And immediately there fell from his (Saul's) eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. **Acts 9:18-20**

I am curious to know, if the man Judas spoken of here was also converted. After all he no doubt has heard all the testimony of the witnesses to this vision of Saul's as they themselves were having been witnesses to the words spoken, as if out of thin air, and then with this Ananias coming to his home, and speaking of his own vision of Jesus. You would think that might Judas also have been converted with such proofs of Jesus. I would have been hard pressed to not believe if I had been Judas, but there appears to be no mention in scripture that gives answer to this question.

When I read the Bible, I do not just read the words, I like to allow God's living word to enwrap me, placing myself in the event being spoken of, allowing myself to experience the event as if I was there as it was happening. The above is an example of how I accomplish this through asking questions as to the mind set of those being spoken of.

At First Doubt

But all, (the followers of Christ), that heard him were amazed, and said; “Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priest? Acts 9:21

As you might guess, not all who hear Saul speak are convinced he is sincere in his conversion, and those that do accept it are amazed at the story of it, and the living proof of the power of Jesus, the Son of God. All Glory to God and to his Son Jesus Christ.

Paul’s Ministry

But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. Acts 9:22

I can think of two possible meanings to the words: “But Saul increased the more in strength.” This could mean that after having not eaten for three days, Saul’s body was weak, and therefore this speaks of Saul’s increase in strength of the body that Saul enjoyed. An alternative meaning is that Saul was increased in the knowledge of the Teachings of Christ, and with this knowledge, his strength in preaching the Teachings of Jesus was magnified.

The word “**Confounded**” as used in the above verse means: 1. Puzzled or confused by something. 2. An expression of annoyance or irritation.

Based upon the context in which this verse is planted, I suggest the second meaning is correct.

In most of the New Testament, when God or one of his Apostles speaks or writes of the “**Jews**” it is in reference to those of Israel who do not Accept Jesus as the Messiah, but continue in the worship of God as it has become tradition to do, rather than as the Word of God Commands. It is in this definition where the contrast between what and who a Jew is as compared to what and who an Israelite is.

Remember: an Israelite is the name by which all Saints of God can be called, but a Jew is that which a citizen of the Nation of Israel or a follower of the preaching’s of the Temple in Jerusalem is

called. Because the Jews do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, they fall short of being the Saints of God, even though they keep all ten of the Commandments of God.

Paul's Life at Risk

*And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. **Acts 9:23***

With Saul's conversion and his outspoken preaching of Jesus as the Messiah and therefore the Son of God, the Jews of Damascus took offense and conspired to kill him. Evidently, Saul was given warning of their attempt, which is why this conspiracy is known to him.

Satan Makes War

This sudden turn from being one of the honored Temple priests to that of a hunted blasphemer, reveals just how dangerous it was after Jesus was crucified, and how Satan by his control and influence upon the Temple Elders, endeavored to destroy the Teachings of Jesus, before they had barely gotten a following. This then shows the relevance and the fulfilling of this prophecy from the Book of Revelation.

*And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Revelation 12:17***

Paul goes to Jerusalem

*Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. **Acts 9:24-26***

In order to escape the Jews of Damascus, Saul is lowered down over the wall that surrounds the city of Damascus, and flees to Jerusalem. No longer being safe to return to his former life, he endeavors to join the disciples in Jerusalem, who reject him, not believing he has been converted.

Barnabas Stands up for Saul

*But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he (Saul) had seen the Lord in the way, and that he (Jesus) had spoken to him, and how he (Saul) had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. **Acts 9:27***

I can only assume that Barnabas was an acquaintance of Saul from his former life, or was someone that Saul had suspected as being a follower of Jesus, and so he sought him out. Evidently, Barnabas believed Saul's story concerning his conversion, because Barnabas takes him before the apostles of Jesus then gives testimony on Saul's behalf.

*And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. **Acts 9:28***

This then tells us, that the apostles must also have believed, perhaps with some apprehension, and accepted Saul into their ranks.

An Advocate for Christ

*And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. **Acts 9:29***

Evidently Saul did not mince his words, for he spoke boldly, giving discussion and argument concerning Jesus as the Son of God. For his words, which refuted the will of the Temple Elders, many people made effort to silence him by having him killed.

Saul Travels to Caesarea

*Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. **Acts 9:30***

Recognizing his zeal and the truth of his conversion, the brethren in Christ assisted him in escaping Jerusalem where he then went on to Caesarea and then to Tarsus. It is my understanding that Saul grew up in Tarsus, it being his home and where he had family.

The Church Expands

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. Acts 9:31

My understanding of what the words: “**Then had the churches rest**,” suggests that for a time, the persecution of the followers of Jesus Christ, at least in the above cities, abated, thus giving open and unhindered discussion of the Teachings of Jesus possible.

This verse also tells us that because of Saul’s preaching, the lands of Israel were **edified**, or **taught and converted** to the Teachings of Jesus.

The Apostle John Joins Saul

*So they, (Saul and Barnabas), being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John (**the apostle**) to their minister. Acts 13:4-5*

The Apostle John is the son of Zebedee and brother also to James. It is also my understanding that this is the same John who is given the visions by Jesus and his recording those visions in the Book of Revelation.

John then accompanied Saul and Barnabas during the first part of their journey. I assume that John came along with Saul so as to continue to improve Saul’s knowledge and understanding of Jesus and his teachings, but in my reading of this story of Saul to Paul, I am left to believe that it is Jesus who in fact instructs Paul not any of the Apostles.

Remember: The Apostle John knew Jesus face to face and personally, whereas Saul had never met Jesus.

Beware False Prophets

*And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. **Acts 13:6-7***

Elymas, agent of Satan

*But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. **Acts 13:8***

This Elymas, who is a Jew, is referred to as being a sorcerer. I do not see this person as being one of the Temple Priests, but someone who is under the influence of Satan, who has heard of the Teachings of Jesus but rather than being converted by those words, attempts to establish his own religion, with himself as the leader. By corrupting that which Jesus preached, Elymas is preventing others from God's True Word.

In the efforts of this sorcerer, Satan is attempting to pollute the Teachings of Jesus even then only a couple of years after Jesus is crucified, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy that this would happen.

*For there shall arise false Christ, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. **Matthew 24:24***

I see this as Satan's first recorded attempt at establishing a False Religion based on the misinterpretation of the Teachings of Jesus.

Saul is called Paul

*Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, and said, "O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? **Acts 13:9-10***

Paul must have seen this Elymas as an agent of Satan as well, as is evidenced by his above words.

Paul has power over the Devil

*And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. **Acts 13:11***

In this verse, God reveals his power over Satan. God can protect his prophets and saints, but as you can see, Satan cannot protect those whom he controls from the Wrath of God.

*Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord. **Acts 13:12***

Remember: Saul and Barnabas had been called before the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, to preach to the deputy the Teachings of Jesus.

Saul who henceforth is called and known by the name Paul, I assume being done as a reflection of his conversion, places the same affliction upon this false prophet as he himself had suffered. Witness to this, the deputy Sergius Paulus, is then converted, for he believes that Paul is thereby proven to be a minister of God.

Paul Observes the Sabbath Day

*Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem. But when they departed from Perga, they come to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day, and sat down. **Acts 13:13-14***

Please take note: that God has caused to be written, in these verses, that Paul is given to the observation of the Sabbath on the Sabbath Day. In having this written down, for us to read, God is showing us that Paul does not give observance to the Sabbath on the First Day of the Week, but the Seventh Day of the Week, as the Fourth Commandment defines the Sabbath Day.

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work, **but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God:** in it thou shalt not do any work... **Exodus 20:8-10***

If Paul, who is a convert to the Teachings of Jesus, observes the Seventh Day Sabbath as the Fourth Commandment requires, and has not through his conversion begun to keep the First Day Sabbath, as Christians do today, doesn't that suggest to you that the First Day Sabbath is not the true day of rest of God or Jesus, but that it is Satan's lie to deceive those who would otherwise give true worship to God as preached by Jesus? Just as the sorcerer attempted to establish a False Religion, in the time of Paul, since then, as Jesus prophesied, others have been successful, and the first day Sabbath, is the practice that reveals these False Religion to us.

If Paul, as a prophet of Jesus to the gentiles, keeps the Seventh Day Sabbath, even after he has been given education in the Teachings of Jesus, then this suggests to me that Jesus never taught the observance of the First Day Sabbath, but in fact Jesus also kept the Seventh Day Sabbath just as the Fourth Commandment demands. If you keep any other day of the week as the Sabbath than that as taught by Jesus and then again by Paul, then how can you call yourself a Christian, or a follower of Christ?

Paul Stands to Read from Scripture

*And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, "Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word or exhortation for the people, say on." **Acts 13:15***

It is the Custom of the faith of Israel that the laws of God are read at the beginning of every Sabbath Day meeting of the Congregations. This is also shown to have been done by Jesus, **Luke 4:16-21**, and has been done since God gave the laws to Moses, and to my knowledge, continues in the Synagogues of the Jews into the Twenty First Century.

As it is written in Luke, the individuals can then stand and be called upon to read from God's Holy Scripture. This is shown to be a custom that Jesus kept during his life on Earth, and is now being shown as being a custom of Paul and Barnabas.

It is after the reading of the Law, that Paul and Barnabas were asked if they would care to give any exhortation for the people of that congregation. An **"exhortation"** is **the giving of earnest advice or encouragement to urge somebody strongly to do something.**

The Story of Jesus

Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.” **Acts 13:16**

Paul accepts the offer and begins to speak, telling the congregation first about the teachings of Jesus and the tribulations that Jesus had endured because of those teachings.

Story of the First Israelites

The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with a high arm brought he them out of it. **Acts 13:17**

This is in reference to the Exodus of Moses and the first Israelites.

And about the time of forty years suffer he (God) their manners in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. **Acts 13:18-19**

Those who were the descendants of Jacob, had lost most of their knowledge of the God of Creation, and had fallen into many of the Pagan beliefs held by the Egyptians. It took forty year of the people wandering in the wilderness of the Sinai, for God through his prophet Moses, to reinstate the Law of God into those that came forth with Moses out of Egypt.

The Judges

And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. **Acts 13:20**

Despite giving to the Nation of Israel a written Law of Commandments, within two generations of the death of Joshua, the people of Israel fell away from giving worship to the God of Creation to giving worship to Pagan gods, which were no Gods.

God therefore established Judges to remind the people of God's Law, which lasted 450 years until the Prophet Samuel, who then established the first king of Israel, Saul son of Cis.

*And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. **Acts 13:21***

Saul's Disobedience to God

*And when he (God) had removed him (Saul), he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will." **Acts 13:22***

Saul fell into disfavor to God when Saul failed to obey the command of God.

The phrase, "**a man after mine own heart**," is spoken by God in regard to David. This means that David was a moral person and gave reverence and worship to the God of Creation, as was commanded by God in his Ten Commandments.

When you speak of another as being **after your own heart**, you are saying that this person is in many ways like you, and because of this similarity, you have affection for them. In this same way, God looks favorably upon David. This is also as it was with Abram, whom God renamed Abraham.

If you wish to have God think of you as "**after my own heart**," then you need to give obedience to the Word of God, and putting the Will of God above all else.

Saul's Test

*Thus saith the Lord of hosts, "I remember that which Amalek did to Isrel, how he laid wiat for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. **I Samuel 15:2-3***

The above two verses were a commandment from God through his prophet Samuel. As such, it was a command from God that those who give true and correct worship of God must obey, just as the Ten Commandments are from God and must be obeyed.

*But Saul and the people spared Agag, the Amalek King, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. **I Samuel 15:9***

Even though Saul utterly destroyed the kingdom of the Amalek, Saul failed to give full obedience to God by not destroying all the animals, but keeping those animals that were good. Either you give obedience to the Commandments of God as God has spoken them, and manifest your love for God, or you disobey the Word of God and show your hatred for God. With God there is no middle road, either you obey and manifest your love or you disobey and manifest your hatred of God.

From the Seed of David a Saviour

*Of this man's, (David), seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John fulfilled his course, he said, "Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to lose." **Acts 13:23-25***

In this abbreviated history lesson, Paul is revealing that it was Jesus who was the root of David, and the Son of God. Paul also uses that which was spoken by John the Baptist, acknowledging that in fact Jesus was the prophesized saviour to give support to what Paul is explaining.

Jesus' Death, Fulfillment of Prophecy

*Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath Day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. **Acts 13:26-27***

Remember: to fear God is not to be afraid of God, but to give deference, love, respect, and consideration, to God and the Word of God.

Many would think that the words, "**Stock of Abraham**," is a reference to being blood descendants of the man Abraham, but if you recall, it is more than that, it is a reference to those who believe in the promises of God, and that what God speaks, God will perform.

Resurrection of Jesus

And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they, Pilate that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher. Acts 13:28-29

But God raised him from the dead: and he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. Acts 13:30-31

The Messiah has come

And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, “Thou are my Son, this day have I begotten thee.” Acts 13:32-33

In this, Paul is giving quote from old scripture, concerning the prophecies of the Messiah, that Paul is giving those present to understand has been fulfilled by Jesus. That Jesus is the long awaited Messiah.

And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, “I will give you the sure mercies of David.” Acts 13:34

Again Paul refers to old scripture, so as to give support to Jesus being the Messiah. The prophecies give that the Messiah will be descendant from the house of David, as is Jesus, this giving strength to Jesus being the Messiah.

Shalt Not See Corruption

Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, “Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” Acts 13:35

It is said in prophecy that the Messiah would die but his body would not know corruption.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 16:10

The Messiah is the Holy One being spoken of. This is as Jesus has fulfilled in that God raised him from the Dead before the body could decay in death.

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, (Jesus), whom God raised again, saw no corruption. Acts 13:36-37

Paul continues to explain that King David died, and his body did enter into corruption, but that the body of Jesus did not, just as prophecy foretold.

The Forgiveness of Sins

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses. Acts 13:38-39

Paul goes on to explain that it is through the teachings of Jesus that forgiveness of sins are preached. It is through our belief in the resurrection of Jesus that *we will be justified from all things*, that the Laws of Moses do not justify us from.

What Paul calls the Laws of Moses, which include the Ten Commandments of God as given to Moses, but which also include those other commandments written by the hand of Man, or by Moses. There is nowhere in any of these commandments, not even within the Ten Commandments, where you have reason to hope or to be justified that you will be given entry into heaven, nor eternal life. Only through your accepting of the Teachings of Jesus and your acceptance and keeping of his teachings, are we justified in the hope of Redemption into Salvation.

In is in this way that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament by adding to the Holy Scripture the New Testament.

The Law of God, as summarized by the Ten Commandments, only shows how to avoid sin, but they do not give reward for living in righteousness. In the Teachings of Jesus, and because of his

resurrection from death, we are thus given expectation and hope of receiving those same rewards that Jesus received.

Satan's Deception

In these above two verses, it looks like at first glance by those who do not take the time and effort to study and understand what Paul is telling us, that all those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus are saved, but that is not what Paul is saying. **It is in this way that Satan is able to deceive.**

So as to reveal the truth in the above verse, I present the following discussion.

Forgiveness is Preached

Let us research what Paul is saying in the above two verse, so as to understand his words and thereby know his truth.

Through this man is preached the forgiveness of sin. This does not say that forgiveness is assured; only that it can be acquired through our belief in Jesus and his resurrection.

Is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, this does not say that forgiveness is manifest, only that it is preached. The words, "**Is preached,**" refer to **giving instruction.** Which is to say that through the Teachings of Christ you can learn or be instructed how to achieve forgiveness. These words do not say that forgiveness is guaranteed, only that you can learn how to acquire forgiveness.

To learn something requires an effort by you of educating yourself. To educate yourself in how to acquire forgiveness requires you to study and understand the Teachings of Jesus, and those words written down by the Apostles of Jesus. If you fail to take the time and effort to study, then education is not there. Without education there is little chance you will gain the knowledge you need to acquire forgiveness.

What all of this says is that Jesus does not automatically provide forgiveness, you must make an effort of learning and understanding what Jesus taught, and then with that knowledge proceeds to do what is required of you in order to acquire forgiveness and with forgiveness, redemption and salvation.

Remember: just reading the Bible like you would a novel is not the same as studying the Bible. In all my writings and explanation of Bible verse, I have shown you how to study the Bible, which is the Word of God. If you do this as I have shown you, then you will acquire the knowledge that will lead to understanding of who God is and what he demands of you.

Justified in all things

And by him all that believe are justified from all things. The word “*Justified*” means: having an acceptable reason for the action taken, acceptable or reasonable in the circumstances. As you can see nothing is being spoken in this definition, that to be justified is the same as being forgiven or redeemed. What Paul is saying is only that those who believe, in the resurrection of Jesus, are correct in their belief and because of that correctness could, (not will), earn forgiveness. To earn something is to suggest that some kind of work is necessary. Through the study and understanding of the Teachings of Jesus, you can learn what it is you need to do, (works), so as to earn forgiveness. Just declaring Jesus to be your savior is not enough. Satan has told you that that is all you need to do, so as to make you lazy, and not take the time and effort to learn for yourself.

Not Justified by the Law

Paul goes on to state that from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses. With these words the knee jerk reaction is that Paul is saying, the Laws of God, which we know to be the Ten Commandments, but as you can see, Paul is clearly saying the Laws of Moses.

As I have already shown above, in these verses, both the Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses are being pointed to as not giving justification in the hope of salvation. In other words, Paul is not telling us that the Ten Commandments or the Laws written by the hand of Moses have been rendered obsolete, but that the laws do not give justification in the hope of salvation in and of themselves.

The word justification does not indicate salvation only that you are correct in your belief that because Jesus was resurrected from the dead unto eternal life, that you are also justified in the hope, (not surety), of eternal life.

It is Satan that has given the false meaning to what Paul has written. The words written by Paul are clear in their meaning, if you just take the time to study and learn. Accepting the false interpretation given by Satan, shows your laziness and preference to accept blindly what is told to you, rather than you're taking the time and effort to learn for yourself.

Those who will not hear

Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you." **Acts 13:38-41**

Paul then gives warning by referring to yet another of the ancient prophecies. In this prophecy God informs that in the days of the Messiah, those who will hear God's True Word will not accept or believe, and in this rejection they will perish, which is to say that they will only have damnation to look forward to. This was true of those who lived in the time of Paul, as in the case of the Jews, but it is also true of those who live today, the Jews, Muslims and the Christians.

As it was with the Jews, who over many generations had come to believe that their traditions took precedent over the Word of God, so too does it of the Jews, Muslims and Christians of today.

The Gentiles Hunger for Truth

And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. **Acts 13:42**

This verse confuses me. It is my understanding that only the Jews entered the synagogues, that the Gentiles were barred from doing so. If I am correct in this understanding, then I have to ask how is it that the Gentiles know of what Paul preached, in that they asked that Paul would preach to them again the next Sabbath Day. I can think of one possible explanation, and that being that not all gatherings of the congregations were conducted inside a building. If the number of people in the congregation was great, then they would be forced to move the assembly out to an open court yard. In so doing, Paul's words would have been heard by all in the area and not just those of the congregation.

The Sabbath Day

Take note also that the Gentiles are asking that Paul preach again the following Sabbath Day. This tells me that the early Christians kept and obeyed the Seventh Day Sabbath, just as was and is the way of the People of Israel. After all, at the time of Paul, there was only one day of the week that was known as the Sabbath Day, and that was as the Forth Commandment tells us on the Seventh Day of the week.

It is Satan who has added another day which he Satan declares to be the Sabbath. You must make a choice, either accept and believe the Word of God, or accept and believe the word of Satan.

Remember: originally, in the Book of Genesis, God only called his Holy Day the Seventh Day, but in the Fourth Commandment, God gave the Seventh Day a name, which he called Sabbath, therefore the Sabbath Day is the Seventh Day.

Know this: It is not the observance of a Sabbath that God made holy or sanctified; it was the day which God made holy. In the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, God tells us to remember the “**Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.**” It is not the Sabbath that we are to remember, but the “**Day,**” which he named “**Sabbath.**”

At First Acceptance

*Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. **Acts***

13:42-43

In these two verses we are informed that at first Paul and Barnabas are met with brotherhood by the Jews, and are given by the Jews to go in God's grace. This is to point out that at first the Jews, of this city, had no complaint or objection to that which Paul and Barnabas preached.

The Jews turn hostile

And the next Sabbath Day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:44-45

However, when the Jews saw the multitude of Gentiles congregate around Paul and Barnabas, they became jealous of their celebrity, they began to talk against those things spoken of by the two apostles. In that Paul is preaching that Jesus is the Messiah, and Paul's believe that Jesus is the only one, who could fit the prophecies concerning the Messiah, then to speak against the words spoken by Jesus is to speak against God, and that is blasphemy which the Jews resort to.

Spoken First to the Jews

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46

To wax bold is to speak without fear, and with fervor and devotion. Paul accepts that it was necessary that the Jews hear the words of Jesus first, for they are the descendants of Jacob, but with their rejection of the Teachings of Jesus, Paul would henceforth direct his preaching towards the Gentiles. If the Jews didn't want to hear, why continue to attempt to give them the good tidings. The Gentiles hungered to hear the word of God, so it is to them that Paul and Barnabas would preach.

I have personally encountered this sort of rejection of that which I have spoken to others. Whereas Paul and Barnabas had others, (the Gentiles), hungering to hear God's True Word, I have not as yet found anyone that wishes to hear me speak that which God has given me to write about. I do preach to others however, except I Know not who they are, for they are those several thousands who go to my Web Page to read and learn, but none who I have spoken to face to face want to hear God's True Word.

A Light unto the Gentiles

*For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, "I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. **Acts 13:47-49***

As is evidenced by our ability to read these words from the Book of Acts, we thus understand that there was those that heard Paul preach who then wrote down and circulated, (**Published**), Paul's words for those who did not personally hear Paul speak, could instead read them.

Expelled from Antioch in Pisidia

*But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. **Acts 13:50***

Even though the Gentiles hungered to hear the Word of God, Paul and Barnabas were force to leave the city.

*But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. **Acts 13:51-52***

If you recall, Jesus instructed his apostles that if they came into a house or a city that the words they preached were rejected by its citizens, (**Matthew 10:12-15**), that they were to shake off the dust from their feet upon leaving the city. And that those people inside the city would thus be condemned for their disbelief.

Danger in speaking the Truth

And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the multitude of the city was divided: and

part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, they were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: And there they preached the gospel. Acts 14:1-7

When Paul and Barnabas are threatened by the Jews of authority in the city, as well as those of the Gentiles who were not converted, they are forced to flee.

Paul Declared a God

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who, (Paul), stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on thy feet." And he leaped and walked. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men." Acts 14:8-11

My knowledge of the names of the cities and provinces of the Roman Empire, is at the best, sketchy, but based on the language and the God's being mentioned, I suggest that Paul and Barnabas are in a city of the Greeks and not in any of the lands of the Nation of Israel.

A Sacrifice to the two Gods

And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker, then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. Acts 14:12-13

Paul and Barnabas preach the Word of God as taught to us by Jesus, but these people of the lands of Lycaonia see the miracles as the acts of gods, and therefore see Paul and Barnabas as gods. Instead of hearing the words spoken by them the people only see the acts that they perform. This is as it is with those Christians I have encountered. They do not hear the words I speak, because they can only hear what they have been told throughout their lives. Such is the power of Satan to blind Man from God's True Word.

*Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, and saying, "Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all thing that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them. **Acts 14:14-18***

God gives us knowledge of this event so to show us that even when you hear some of God's True Word, many people will still incorporate what they hear in with their current believes. This is to reveal that it is important that we accept the word of God as truth, and not try to make it fit with our own understanding. If what you believe cannot be supported by the Word of God, then you must accept the Word of God as the truth and reject what you think you know as being Satan's lie.

Stoned unto death

*And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. **Acts 14:19-20***

Remember: Satan is at war with the "**Woman**" as spoken of in the **Book of Revelation 12:1-4**. The Woman is a symbolism of the Church of Christ as preached by Jesus and his apostles, Paul and Barnabas being among them. By using the Jews, lead by the Temple Elders, Satan does his best to silence the Gospel of Jesus while it is still in its infancy. This is shown symbolically in the following verse.

*And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. **Revelation 12:4***

Returning to Lycaonia

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. Acts 14:21-22

Just give thought to what is being told to us. Paul had been stoned near to death, yet he still returns to those cities were the Jews tried to kill him so as to reaffirm with those whom he had touched, to stand fast with their new faith.

The Bible does not tell us this, but I am convinced that Paul and Barnabas went back to those cities because had they not returned it could have caused all those who had converted to slide back into the false worship they had known before. Just think about it. The people had been given hope in the words of Paul and Barnabas, and then Paul had been stoned, they thought to death. How does that sit with those that had found hope? Would many have seen weakness in the preaching of a God that then allowed his preachers to be killed? By returning, Paul and Barnabas, gives evidence of the mercy and power of God, thus reinforcing the faith that they preached.

Much Tribulation

In these verses God is also showing all who convert to his true worship that to do so is not an easy road to walk. **“That we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”** Even those such as Paul and Barnabas had to endure hardship, physical abuse, and near death at the hands of those influenced and controlled by Satan.

What this is telling me is that to declare Jesus your savior is not enough in and of its self. We must go through a transformation of our spirit, through a time of strife and turmoil of the soul, before we will come out the other side as true converts to the Teachings of Jesus.

One other thing I would like to point out. Despite Satan’s best efforts at destroying the Church of Christ in its infancy, he failed, which is testament to the power of God’s Truth when spoken by those who have faith and believe.

*And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they come to Pamphylia. And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: and thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the Grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. And there they abode long time with the disciple. **Acts 14:23-28***

Circumcision of the Foreskin

*And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. **Acts 15:1***

To give more perfect understanding to this insistence of the Jews, who had been converted to the Teachings of Jesus, that the converted Gentiles must also have their foreskin circumcised, I need to show you the wording of the covenant that God made with Abraham.

The Law in Question

*And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. **Genesis 17:7-8***

In the above two verses, God is giving his promises to the seed of Abraham. In a contract, there needs to be at least two parties, and each give something of value to the other to seal the contract. The above constitutes what God is giving, the land of Canaan.

*And God said unto Abraham, "Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." **Genesis 17:9***

This is the first major covenant that God makes with a child of Man. A covenant is another word for a contract. All contracts require at least two parties, and each party gives something of value as their part of the contract. In this First Covenant God offers as his thing of value, all the lands of what was

then called Canaan, but today is known as the lands of the Palestine. In return Abraham agrees to give worship to God and to obey his commandments.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; "Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you." **Genesis 17:10-11**

Abraham's thing of value is that he and all his future descendants will give worship to the God of Creation as God commands them to do. As a symbolic yet tangible sign of their acceptance of this agreement, all males of Abraham's seed and any others who are or become part of their household, must have their foreskin circumcised.

And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. **Genesis 17:12-13**

It is in these two verses that the converted Jews of Paul's time argue that the Gentiles must also be circumcised else they will be cut off from the covenant, in that to not be circumcised is a breach of the contract that the Nation of Israel has with God.

And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant. **Genesis 17:14**

A New Covenant

A problem exists in this kind of thinking however. God has voided the Covenant that he made with Moses and the descendants of Jacob, because they had not lived up to their part of the contract. Those who live by the Teachings of Jesus are not a part of the old Nation of Israel, of which God gave the land of Canaan.

In the New, or as I call it the Third covenant, the Nation of Israel is not given any longer by God. God has given that inheritance to a new nation, the old no longer being recognized by God, and therefore the people are not required to have their foreskins circumcised, but their hearts instead.

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Jeremiah 31:31-33***

The "**House of Israel**," does not refer to the Nation of Israel. A "**house**," as used in these verses, refers to the lineage or the family of. Israel as spoken of here, refers to the Man Israel, who is he who God renamed from Jacob because Jacob overcame his sins. Therefore, the "**House of Israel**" refers to all, Jew and Gentile, who overcome their sins, and embrace the laws of God and write them upon their hearts.

I am a member of the House of Israel, not because I am a blood descendant of Jacob, but because like Jacob I have overcome my sins and have embraced the Teachings of Jesus and have come to live my life within the spirit of those teachings.

Paul's Disagreement concerning circumcision

*When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. **Acts 15:2***

Because Paul and Barnabas disagreed with the Jews concerning the Law as it pertained to the First Covenant and the circumcising of the foreskin, and the new covenant, it was decided that the two should return to Jerusalem and meet with the Apostles of Jesus, so as to achieve a consensus of the application of the Law.

*And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. **Acts 15:3-4***

*But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, that it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the Law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. **Acts 15:5-6***

These Pharisees are converts to the Church of Christ, yet they insist that the law concerning circumcision be upheld by those of the Church of Christ as it is written in the First Covenant.

Remember: the Temple Elders preferred traditions above the word of God, even though these were those who had converted to Christ; they still found the pull of tradition strong. I must admit, that they did have a strong point of view. Only in a full understanding concerning the end of the old covenant and the beginning of the New Covenant, can God's will be understood however.

Peter Stands Up against Circumcision

*And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, "Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. **Acts 15:7-9***

It is in these words that Peter gives definition to why God no longer requires circumcision of the foreskin. **The Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.** What these words are saying is that the Gentiles did not have benefit of the Law of God, nor were they circumcised, yet because of the Teachings of Jesus, as spoken by Jesus as well as the apostles, they came to believe through those teachings despite not having known the laws since childhood. This is the circumcision of the Heart, of which God speaks on several occasions in the books of the Old Testament.

Being Touched by God

In the above verses Peter gives reference to being touched by the Holy Ghost, and that God made no difference on who was so touched, be they Jew or Gentile. I feel it necessary to point out, how the Apostles knew that the Gentiles had in fact receive or been touched by the Holy Ghost.

If you think you have been touched by the Holy Ghost, then you will know of what I am talking about, but those never touched, may not understand how Peter knew that those to whom he preached had received the Holy Ghost.

I began my study and research of the Bible in February of 2007. I did not begin with the desire of finding God, but to obtain learning so I could dispute interpretations that my Cousin, an ordained minister would give. It wasn't until, May of 2009, until God showed his mercy upon me by touching me with the Holy Ghost.

Physical, Mental, and Spiritual

I was sitting in a chair watching a video of a man preaching the Book of Daniel, and giving explanation as to the meaning of those prophecies when the Holy Ghost came upon me. Had I not been sitting down, I know that I would have fallen to the floor. Even so, though I was sitting, I almost slid off the seat.

Such a powerful thing happened to me, that it was felt by me, as a physical power affecting my motor skills. It simultaneously affected me; mentally, in that all that I had studied to that point in time, suddenly become understandable. It was as if a light had suddenly been turned on in a room filled with darkness. At that same time, my soul, which until that time, I doubted even existed, was filled with such love and joy, so as to make me tear up, in deep emotion. The thing is, at the time this all happened to me, I was unsure of what it was. It wasn't until a couple of days later, that I realized that I had been touched by the hand of God. With that realization, I declared the rest of my life to the worship, and service of God Almighty.

Because, as I now believe, when you are touched by the Holy Ghost, anyone around you will see the transformation come onto you. There will be little doubt to them, if they themselves had gone through it. In this way, the Apostles knew when their preaching brought about conversion of those hearing their words.

Not Imposed by God

And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; The truth that Peter is bringing forth is that these same Gentiles have received from God

the Holy Ghost, and for this reason God has chosen that they are worthy, therefore it is not for any of Man to attempt to impose a requirement upon the converted Gentiles that God did not impose himself.

Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. Acts 15:10-11

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

The word “**Grace**” is another word for “**Mercy.**” God has told us that he is merciful to those who love him. Jesus tells us to love God with all of our Heart, Soul, and Mind. As I have shown in other lessons, the definition of how to manifest this powerful kind of love is to keep the Commandments of God, (the Ten Commandments). In that this is taught to us by Jesus, then it does not apply only to the Jews only but to all who will worship God as he commands.

The Grace of Jesus is therefore his teachings and his teachings have as their foundation the Ten Commandments. If you do not study the Teachings of Jesus, then you will not personally have the knowledge that those teachings provide. Without that knowledge you fall short of receiving the Mercy of God.

A Friend of Jesus

This is my commandment, “That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Greater love hath no man than this, “That a man lay down his life for his friends.” Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:12-14

The key to understanding what the Grace of Jesus is can be found in the following words. **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** What then did Jesus command us? We are to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, which is manifest when we keep the Ten Commandments. Therefore, to be saved in the Grace of Jesus, we must do as he commands; Keep the Ten Commandments and all those other things that he taught. This is why Jesus defines the Saints of God as **those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

When Peter tells us that we are saved by the Grace of Jesus, it is in our obedience to what Jesus commands us to do that we are saved. If you do not obey that which Jesus tells us to do, then you are not a friend of Jesus, if you are not a friend, then you will not be saved.

To put it another way, it is not enough that you simply declare Jesus to be your saviour; you must obey his teachings, which have as their foundation the Ten Commandments. To call yourself a Christian, to give lip service to giving your love to God, and to declare Jesus your savior with your lips, by themselves, will not save you, you must first do as Jesus commands.

There is an effort required of you to do as Jesus commands, you must know and abide by the Ten Commandments as well as know and live by the morality taught to us by Jesus. Only in your doing these things will God know the truth of your love. If in your worship you engage in things that put you in opposition to the laws of God or the teachings of Jesus, then your worship is in vain even if you profess Jesus to be your saviour.

The Three Covenants

Based on what Peter has written above I have no doubt that Peter is aware of the following:

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Jeremiah 31:31-33***

There are many that tell me that the Commandments of God have been rendered obsolete by Jesus' death on the cross, but as the above verses are telling, us those commandments are to be written upon our hearts, no longer a physical sign as in the circumcision of the foreskin, but as a spiritual sign by imprinting those commandments upon your heart, and your conscience.

The First Covenant

The old covenant with Abraham, which I call the **First Covenant**, was with Abraham and his descendants through Isaac, not through Ismael. In this covenant Abraham's seed is required to have their foreskin circumcised as a symbolic acceptance of that covenant.

The Second Covenant

The covenant that God makes with the descendants of Jacob, which I call the **Second Covenant**, was with the Nation of Israel, not with any individual person, but all the citizens of the Nation as a group. In this covenant God turns slaves into a nation, but also requires that they uphold the conditions of the First Covenant as well.

The Third Covenant

Under the New Covenant, which I call the **Third Covenant**, God intends that each of us as individuals will have a personal and intimate relationship with him directly, One to One. It is in this that the circumcision of the foreskin no longer has meaning. God is not interested in outward and physical aspects of our body, they are but symbolisms.

God wants real and substantive acceptance of his laws, those things that generate from our soul which is manifest through our heart, soul and mind. This is why, under the New Covenant, God wants that we become circumcised of the heart, no longer requiring the circumcision of the foreskin.

I want that you should take note of something spoken of in the above verses from Jeremiah; God tells us that this New Covenant will be with the **house of Israel, and with the house of Judah**; yet we who are Gentiles are also covered under the New Covenant if we do as Jesus Commands. I point this out to show that when Jesus in Revelation talks about the 144,000, those not blood descendants of Jacob are included in that number as well.

Remember Too: the sons of Jacob each sinned against God when they sold their brother Joseph into slavery, but then repented their actions, and when confronted by Joseph in latter years, were given forgiveness by Joseph and God, just as Jacob had been forgiven by his brother and God. In this way,

anyone, Jew or Gentile, that repents their sins and asks forgiveness qualify as being part of the house of Israel and of Judah.

*Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. **Acts 15:12***

With the words spoken by Peter, and the wisdom and truth that those words exhibited, those others, who had disagreed at first, were left to silence. In this meeting of the Elders of the early Church of Christ, the circumcision of the foreskin is no longer required.

James agrees with Peter

*And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon (Peter) hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. **Acts 15:13-14***

*And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, “After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.” Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day. **Acts 15:15-21***

James therefore has agreed with Peter that it is not for them to impose a requirement upon the Gentiles that God did not require of them before giving them the Holy Ghost. It is therefore in this agreement and explanation that I once again insist that the 144,000 include all who strive in the name of God, and not just the blood decedents of Jacob.

The words, “for his name,” refers once again to the name of God, and my insistence that the name of God is not just Jehovah, or Jesus, but that the true name of God is found in the Ten Commandments and the Morality of God.

Animals for Food

James does however add a requirement that those of the Gentiles so converted be educated concerning the **abstaining from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from eating things strangled, and from drinking the blood of the animals eaten.**

I am convinced that James is not being exclusive of only those sins that he lists, but that **the sin of Idolatry and Fornication** are aspects of the Ten Commandments, and is therefore a reference to all ten.

The things strangled and from blood, refer to the listing of those animals that were permitted to be killed and eaten of Man, with the added qualifier that those animals were not to be strangled, and that we were not to drink the blood of them that we killed. The listing of these animals can be found in the **Book of Deuteronomy Chapter 14.**

What is the name of God?

Which name of God is James referring to above? As I have shown in the lessons, the names given to God are not so much names as they are titles, or statements of fact.

And Moses said unto God, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, "The God of your fathers hath sent me, "What is his name? What shall I say unto them?"

*And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, "I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover to Moses, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, "The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations." **Exodus 3:13-15***

In the above verses God himself tells us his name is **I AM**, yet is **I AM** a name as a name is defined. I have always understood a name to be that which we are given by our parents at birth so as to distinguish us from any siblings we might have or are intending to have. For example, I am the last of eight children. My parents named me Larry, therefore that is my name. I do not have a brother that my parents also named Larry. To have done so, would have established confusion when addressing one

from the other. Just think of those fathers who name their first son after themselves. If my father's name had been Larry, then this too could have brought about confusion. It is for this reason why in past times, the son would be given a nick name, such as Junior, or Larry II, or perhaps called by his middle name. I think you can see my point.

We are Many

A name is that which we are called so as to differentiate one from the other. This is done because there are several of us. However, there is only one God, and he is everlasting to everlasting. When God tells Moses that we are to refer to him as "I AM", that is so as to differentiate him the God of Creation, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, from all the other false gods that existed and were worshiped during the time of Moses.

When God tells Moses and through him all of us that we may call him I AM, is God not giving us a statement of fact, and making use of that as a way of setting himself above all false gods?

This is as I perceive God's intent. So the name of God, as given to Moses, is not so much a name but a statement of fact, being given use as a convenience for Man. That being the case, we must once more ask the question, to which name is James referring?

Personality, Character and Honor

At birth our parents give us a name, but this name as of this point is for convenience. Through our lives we develop our own personality and moral character. It is these things that when developed truly define who we are. The name then is an easy and convenient way of summarizing all that we are. The name does not define us; it only summarizes all that does define us.

It is this definition of our personal honor, personality, and moral character that truly defines us, and therefore is our name. That I am called Larry is simply a convenient way of knowing me from all others.

Likewise it is not the name I AM that tells us who God is, but all the same things that define you and me, therefore, that which gives us definition as to who God is, which is his personal honor, his personality, and his moral character. These can be shown and understood in the Ten Commandments

and the morality taught by Jesus. It is this that tells us who God is, and it is in our embrace of those same aspects of morality, honor, and personality, that we become one with God. It is in this that we as Jews and Gentiles are **taken out of them a people for his name.**

As of this meeting of the elders of the Church of Christ, Peter has already had his vision from Jesus that opened up all four legged animals for meat to Man, but that the eating of an animal that has been strangled or the drinking of its blood is still condemned by God. I see this as James' understanding that many who were Gentiles and being converted to Christ were ignorant of such condemnations, and therefore needed to be educated.

A Consciences is reached

*Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: **Acts 15:22***

Thus a consensus is reached and it is decided that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised as a symbolic acceptance by God as was revealed when the Holy Ghost came upon the Gentiles even though they had not been circumcised first.

I should like to make a comment concerning this. As I have shown, the true reason the Gentiles do not need to be circumcised of the foreskin is because it is not a requirement of the Third Covenant. The Gentiles that are converted are circumcised of the heart, which is the true circumcision that God intended all along, even of the first Israelites.

Circumcision of the foreskin was always a symbolic jester to remind the people to keep the Law of God as understood by Abraham. Most of the descendants of Abraham failed to keep the Law, because they did not believe, even after God, set the Law down in writing, in the form of the Ten Commandments, they still did not believe that the law was given to them by the God of Creation, they saw it as a law given to them by the man Moses.

A Proclamation is sent out

*And they wrote letters by them after this manner; “The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, “Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men that have hazarded their live for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 15:23-26***

Once the assembly of the apostles and elders had decided the question, they wrote letters to be sent to all the newly formed congregations to explain and give guidance. This was done to bring symmetry of common worship between the many churches of Christ in the far reaching provinces of the Roman Empire.

*We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; **Acts 15:27-28***

*That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. **Acts 15:29***

Do not think because this letter is specific in what it is instructing the churches of Christ not to do, that the congregations are restricted by only those things. The Churches of Christ are established upon the Teachings of Christ; therefore they are to embrace the entirety of his teachings if they are to remain a part of the Church of Christ. This includes the understanding that Jesus taught the Ten Commandments and through his own teachings expanded upon those Ten with many other moral imperatives, all of which are required as part of their own personality, honor and moral character, of the converts to Christ.

Philosophers of Greece

*Then certain philosophers of Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him, (Paul). And some said, "What will this babbler say?" Other some, "He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection." And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?" For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. **Acts 17:18-20***

At first you might think that these philosophers were curious and desired to learn of Jesus and his teachings. The words, **And they took him**, refers to a forced taking. Paul had no choice and if he refused he may have been beaten. These **Stoics** deemed themselves intellectuals and elitists, and therefore considered that they had superior knowledge over anyone else.

*For all the Athenian and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing. **Acts 17:21***

You might have thought that this would make them open minded towards new ideas, but just the opposite was true.

*Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious, for as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, "To the unknown god." Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship; him declare I unto you. **Acts 17:22-23***

Remember: the Greeks, like the Romans, gave worship to a plethora of gods. What Paul is saying is that they were giving worship to a god that they knew not at all, an unknown god. How can you worship that which is unknown to you? Talk about having blind faith. Paul is telling them here that the unknown god is in fact the God of Creation, of whom Jesus is the son.

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the

bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, thought he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. Acts 17:24-29

We are the children of the living God; as such we ought not to think of God as being made of Gold, Silver, or Stone, graven by the art and man's imaginations. We are of God, God is not of men.

Men Everywhere Repent

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Acts 17:30-31

Most Christians that I have spoken to tell me The Ten Commandments have been rendered obsolete by Jesus' death on the cross, but if that is true, then why does Paul insist that we must all repent? To repent suggests that we are in sin, and must repent from those sins. If the Ten Commandments, which give definition as to what is sin, have been rendered obsolete, then from what must we repent? This is another way in which Satan deceives us. If there is no Ten Commandments, then there is no sin, if there is no sin, then there is nothing from which we need to repent.

Because God does command that we must repent, it stands to reason that there must still be sin, if there is still sin, then only if we know what constitutes sin can we repent from it.

From the time that the Garden of Eden was taken from Adam and Eve, God has allowed that Man worshiped as was their preference. That does not mean that he was happy about it, only that he did not force himself upon Men, God wants that we love him by our own choice, not because he forces us. There is one catch however, if you do not worship God as he commands, then you will not receive the gift of eternal life, but will instead know eternal death.

When God first established Man on the Earth, he gave Man a lease on the Earth. God created the Earth so it belongs to God, but God told Man to multiply and replenish, and subdue all the Earth and to

take dominion of it. Man's payment for Dominion of the Earth was that we were to give worship to God as God has defined that worship and have no other god before him.

With any lease of property, it is also understood that the lessee would keep in good condition the property leased to him. Man has failed in both these requirements. For this breach of contract, God is going to remove Man's dominion of the Earth; he is taking back possession to himself and is going to evict all men who refuse to uphold his lease requirements. It is this that Judgment Day is all about.

With the teachings of Jesus, his death and resurrection, God will no longer allow that Man give worship to any other than him. God has lost his patience with Man, and the time of Judgment is set.

*And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, "We will hear thee again of this matter." **Acts 17:32***

This verse shows us that these Stoics did not believe, but simply want to hear more, only because it was something new which they had never heard before.

So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17:33-34

Receiving the Holy Ghost

*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" And they said unto him, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." **Acts 19:1-2***

If you have not received the Holy Ghost then you are not saved in Jesus. If in your faith you believe that you give true worship to God, but have not yet received the Holy Ghost then you are not saved in Jesus and therefore your worship is in vain. So I guess we have to ask the question, how can we know if we have received the Holy Ghost?

This I have already discussed above, as well I my personal experience of having received the Holy Ghost.

*And he said unto them, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" And they said, "Unto John's baptism." Then said Paul, "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." **Acts 19:3-4***

What Paul is telling these people is that it is not enough to be baptized but that John the Baptist preached repentance of sin, and that those whom he baptized were to believe on him which should come after, which is Jesus Christ, which is another way of saying that repentance of sin will not in and of itself give you salvation, that you must also believe in and keep the Teachings of Jesus Christ.

Speaking in Tongues

*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve. And he went into the synagogue and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. **Acts 19:5-8***

As you can see what came to the disciples when they received the Holy Ghost. The question therefore has to be asked, do you have the ability when speaking the gospel of God to speak in tongues? I would think that the first question should be what does it mean to speak in tongues?

In order to know if you are speaking in tongues you first have to be in the company of people who did not grow up speaking the language that you grew up speaking, so when you speak the Holy Gospel to them in your own native language, they will hear you in their birth language and not in your birth language. The following gives support to this.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" **Acts 2:4-8***

Now that you understand what it means to speak in tongues, have you ever been able to do so? If not, then I suggest that you might not have received the Holy Ghost, and are therefore not Saints of God. If you determine that this does in fact describe you, then I suggest that you make the effort of time and study to bring you in to being one with God. The fact that you are reading these words given to me by God, tells me that you are making the effort.

In all truth, I have no idea whether I speak in tongues or not. I have not attempted to preach openly to anyone who grew up speaking a language other than English; instead I have devoted my time to the writing down of all these pages that you find on this web page. In this effort, I have translated into eleven other languages many of these writings, but that is not the same as to what it means to speak in tongues.

What is the Holy Ghost?

There is more to receiving the Holy Ghost over and above the ability to speak in tongues however. This relates to what the Holy Ghost is. Most Christians believe that the Holy Ghost is part of the Trinity or Godhead. This concept or interpretation was established by the Church of Rome from an assembly of Bishops, early in its history. Like everything else that the anti-Christ has established it is false and not of God.

I have given explanation in the lessons as to what the Holy Ghost is, but in short it is the living word of God. When you are filled with the Holy Ghost all the knowledge that you have acquired through study and research comes into full clarity as to its meaning and your understanding thereof. I can best explain this through my own experience.

In February 2007 I began to study the Bible with a large outlay of my time and effort. I went into this study not to find God but to show my Cousin, who is an ordained minister, his error in his understanding of scripture. Though I did not study to find God, through my diligent study of scripture and those historical events spoken of in prophecy, I achieved a large amount of knowledge. I received knowledge not wisdom. I had the data, but I did not understand, nor did I believe as is the requirement of faith. It wasn't until God took pity on me after I made prayer to him because of my frustration of not understanding that he God touched me.

In my prayers I asked God for his forgiveness in the sins I had committed since my youth, and then I repented of those sins, once I had come to realize that which is defined as being a sin. When God touched me, all that data I had obtained through study, came into clarity, and understanding came to me in a flood of emotional, physical and spiritual power. I am convinced that had I not been sitting down, I am sure I would have fallen down; such was the power of having been touched by God.

This is as it was with me when I received the Holy Ghost. Though this may not be as it is with you, the one commonality will be that you are given understanding of all that you know concerning scripture. I am not saying that the entirety of the Bible will be suddenly known to you, only that of the Bible that you personally have given studies to will become understood by you. However, as you continue to study the Bible, after you have been touched by the Holy Ghost, you will understand as you study, there will be little if any uncertainty as to meaning. During this process, you still need to look to God for his guidance. If you follow where God directs, and not where you chose to go, then true understanding will occur.

One clue which will tell you if in fact you have received the Holy Ghost is if you have come to realize that the Fourth Commandment is as God intends that you observe his Holy Sabbath or if you continue to see no problem in observing the Sabbath on the First Day of the week. To remember to keep the Sabbath Day holy is the Fourth Commandment, because of its importance in the true and correct worship of God. If you still do not accept this as truth, then I doubt that you have been touched by the Holy Ghost.

A Friend of Jesus

Jesus has said that you are his friend if you obey his command, and the Ten Commandments are part of how we are to show our love for God, the Fourth Commandment being one of those ten. Therefore, if you do not do as God commands and keep the Ten Commandments, all ten of them, then you are not his friend, if you are not his friend then you will not receive the Holy Ghost, nor will you know eternal life.

Paul and the First Day Sabbath

If you refute what I say concerning the Seventh Day Sabbath, Paul gives discussion in the following verses.

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

The **days of unleavened bread** refer to the Passover; this then tells us that this event takes place in the Month of March.

Easter

I would like you all to take note that Paul gives reference to the Passover but not to Easter. The early Christians, Paul included, did not hold observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus as any kind of holiday or annual religious observation. It wasn't until the establishment of the Church of Rome in the 300's AD when Emperor Constantine ordered the observance as well as the observance of Christmas.

Emperor Constantine did this, not because of anything in scripture where God gives instruction or command, but because those two occurrences falls during the Spring Equinox as well as the Winter Solstice, both of which were an aspect of the worship of the pagan Sun god, and have nothing to do with the Teachings of Jesus, or the worship of the God of Creation. Emperor Constantine was a fervent worshiper of the Sun god, and was never a Christian as defined by **those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

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

Many have referred me to this verse when giving example that Paul observed the First Day Sabbath. At first glance I can see how you might think this; however when you take the time to discern what is being said you will see that it is not the Sabbath observance that Paul is involved in or speaking about.

Breaking Bread

This verse is definitely speaking of **the First Day** (Sunday), but the question you need to ask is, “What is Paul doing on this **first day of the week**?” This verse tells us, ***the disciples came together to break bread.*** What does it mean to break bread? They have come together to have a meal, it is dinner time. There is nothing to suggest that this meeting is in any way a Sabbath observance, they have come together in the evening to have dinner. The verse then goes on to tell us, ***“Paul preached unto them.”*** It is these words that those who I have spoken to insist that this reflects a Sabbath observance, because Paul preaches to those present on the first day of the week.

The key to understanding why this is not a Sabbath observance is in the following words however. ***“Ready to depart on the morrow,”*** reveals the true purpose of why Paul preaches to those present. Paul will be leaving in the morning, so the people want and need that Paul give them instruction concerning the Gospel of God, for who knows when or if Paul will ever pass their way again. This is not a Sabbath observance but an impromptu meeting of the people to gain as much knowledge from one such as Paul as they can before he leaves. The words, ***“And continued his speech until midnight,”*** is the first aspect of why this story is written in scripture, with the following bringing complete understanding to the purpose.

You might ask then, “Why has God caused that this be written in scripture if not to instruct that worshiping God on the First Day of the Week is permitted of God?” The following verses give the purpose or context of why this story is being told in scripture.

*And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, “Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.” When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. **Acts 20:8-11***

As you can see the purpose is to show that a child fell three levels and was declared dead, but when Paul came to him, his life returned to him. It is this that is the purpose of telling this story and nothing to do with any first day Sabbath.

One thing I want to bring to your attention, which for me gives proof that this is not a Sabbath gathering. Paul then continued *and talked a long while, even till break of day.*

Remember: this meeting and preaching begins when they sit down at dinner time on the first day of the week, and then *continues through the night until the break of day,* which would make it Sunday evening dinner, through the night to the morning or sunrise of Monday morning.

Remember also: God determines the new day as beginning at Sun Down, therefore the day being spoken of is not the Sabbath, the Seventh Day, but is in fact the first day of the week or Sunday. So they sit down to have dinner, Sunday Evening, which then as now occurs sometime near or after sundown, or in the evening of the day, which is to say, Sunday evening. What this is telling me is that at the end of the first day in the evening of the first day, they sit down to have dinner. This end of day meal would have occurred shortly before they sat down to dinner, depending upon what time of the year it was, and continued during the night when the child falls. This is during the hours of the second day of the week as God tells time. We know what time of the year that this takes place from, *after the days of unleavened bread, Acts 20:6.* This phrase is a reference to the Passover, which falls in the month of March, which means that this meal would have taken place early in the evening at around 1600 hours, or 4 PM Sunday, and before they sat down for dinner.

Therefore, this entire story is being told of events that occur from the setting of the Sun on the first day of the week, through the night to the break of day on the second day of the week, which is not the first day of the week, Sunday, but the second day of the week Monday. It is at sun rise, on the second day of the week (Monday), that Paul then departed.

Now that we have taken the time to study and understand these verses, I don't see how anyone can construe this story as being an instruction of observing the Sabbath on the First Day of the week. All of the preaching done by Paul was after the sun goes down the evening of the first day through the night to the morning of the second day. None of Paul's preaching occurs during the day time hours of the First Day, they all occurred during the hours when most people would otherwise be asleep, and that God gives us to be the new day or the second day of the week. If those that believe that these verses give proof of keeping the Sabbath on the first day of the week are accepted by God, then doesn't it follow that these same verses should give proof that we must observe the Sabbath on the Second Day of the week, Monday as well? Of course it does not, the Sabbath is the name that God gave to the Seventh

Day of the week, the only day of the week that God hallowed and then sanctified. Just as we call the seventh day Saturday, God first gave it the name of Sabbath.

*And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. **Acts 20:12***

The context of all the above that Paul is doing relates to the young man who falls off from three stories high and is pronounced dead, but when embraced by Paul, his life is returned to him. This is not a special meal or some kind of a celebration of Jesus, nor was it establishing the Sabbath on the first day of the week, it was but a meal eaten at the end of the first day of the week. The subject and context relates to the young man, not the meal.

Beware Wolves in sheep clothing

*And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. **Acts 20:25-27***

*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:28***

This is a letter to the leaders or elders of the Churches. It is to these people that Paul tells the congregations of Christ to take heed over themselves as well as the congregations. The Church is in their hands to oversee and to nurture. That the Church was purchased with the Blood of Christ on the Cross, and that therefore it is imperative that these elders keep to the true worship of God as outlined in the Teachings of Jesus, which include the Ten Commandments.

A question that should be asked is, of what are these elders being warned to take heed of? In what way are they to feed the Church?

Grievous Wolves

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples

after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears. Acts 20:28-31

In the above verses Paul is giving a dire warning to the Churches that he helped to establish. He is warning the congregations that, **grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock**, which relates to those who would preach false gospel and sway the people from God's truth and into false worship of God.

Paul goes on to warn, **of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.** Even those who are of the congregation, who appeared to have been converted by the teachings of Jesus to the true worship of God, will pervert the Holy Gospel into Satan's lies, thereby infecting the congregation into giving false worship.

I can show you historically how one such perversion has occurred and thereby show you what kind of thing to take heed of in your own personal worship of God.

Dr. E. T. Hiscox

Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, then adopted and sanctified by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism."

This is a quote from the Baptist leader, author of the "**Baptist Manual**," Circa 1880 to 1898.

The above quote is based upon the understanding that the early Christians gave observance to the Sabbath on the First Day of the week and therefore legitimized the Sunday Sabbath. But as Paul's prophecy has warned that it was practices, the grievous wolves, like this that would pull early congregations away from the true worship of God.

Evidently Dr. Hiscox had never studied the writings of Paul, and therefore was unaware of his prophetic warnings of **grievous wolves that would enter in among you.** Or is it that Dr. Hiscox is one of those wolves that Paul warns about? The Fourth Commandment is quite specific concerning the day of

the week that the Sabbath is to be observed. You either obey the word of God or you do not, either you are a friend of Jesus or you are not.

*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. **Acts 20:32***

Paul did not preach the observation of the Sabbath on the first day of the week. In that Paul was and is Jesus' Prophet of the Third Covenant, and as such is chosen of God to give instruction as to how those that would worship God as Jesus taught should listen to. Therefore, if you want to be a part of **an inheritance among all them which are sanctified** you need to worship God as the word of God instructs and not as is convenient for you. A friend of Jesus is not one who gives lip service to being a Christian, **but one who obeys his words, in all their heart, soul and mind.**

Let me repeat something that I have been saying all along through these writing that God has caused me to do since June of 2009. **If you do not worship God as he commands then you do not worship God at all.** This is given support in the following verses.

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

God has taught us, through his prophet Moses as well as all the other prophets, how he God commands that we give worship to him. All that he has taught us is summarized in the Ten Commandments. In that this is the Word of God, and is spoken to us by God through his prophets, we who love God and who want to manifest our love for God in a way that he God will see our love, need to keep the teachings of Jesus exactly as Jesus has taught us, neither adding anything to his words nor removing anything from his words. In short do not put words into the mouth of God, nor remove or ignore that which God has spoken. To do so removes you from giving worship to the God of Creation to that of giving worship to a god of your own invention. Only the God of Creation offers rewards for your obedience, what does a god you invent offer you?