

The Gracious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Book One

Gilbert Christian Assembly

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First Edition

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This book was originally created by the **Gilbert Christian Assembly** of Portland, Oregon from their writings starting in the early 1950s – we have been blessed by these books for over 30 years. The 4 **Gracious Gospel** books were written by Norman Wilcox, Sherwood Michael, Lulu Holmes and a few other authors.

We believe that the principal authors have passed away and that these books are in the public domain. Near the end of the **Gracious Gospel** Book Four, Sherwood Michael writes: “If any one any where has the funds and the desire to reprint and distribute any thing in any of our writings, they are absolutely free to do it as long as God gets the glory.” If anyone has any other Gracious Gospel books we would be happy to publish them as well.

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The Gracious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Book One

Precept upon precept: line upon line;
Here a little; there a little.
[Isaiah 28:9-13]

As taught and published by
GILBERT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
12933 S. E. Foster Road
Portland, Oregon 97236

[NOTE]

We, the Gilbert Christian Assembly, are made up of a battle-weary group of members of the body of Christ who are each contributing by prayers, love, assembly and teaching, to the furtherance of the Gospel. We believe the surpassing worth to be in the message, not the messenger. It has pleased God to bless us with the financial capability to compile and publish the Gracious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. All of our publications will be free.

While we have no qualms about taking the widow's last mite (we know the Lord can repay it many fold), we do not solicit funds from our members nor from the public. When God does not supply the means, we have no business trying to operate.

The only good this book can do anyone is what the Spirit works out. The flesh profiteth nothing. We will have other books on other scriptural subjects, but until a person has learned the lesson taught in this book (that **Jesus is the saviour of all men**) no other subject can be of any value to them. To believe otherwise is to bring Christ down off the cross and nullifies the effect of His death and resurrection for us.

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PREFACE

This book is not a throw-away. You should read it, check it with scripture and save it for study and reference. It will stand the test. Even if you do not accept the **grace message** it contains, you should read it clear through and study it, for Jesus said in John 12:47-48, “If any one hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day.”

When the work of God is completed in each person, not one will be able to say, “Lord, if you had only let me know.” For everyone will be reconciled to God and they will all know that **God in His righteousness did have a plan to save all men** (even in spite of themselves). “For every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.” [Phil. 2:10] God hath sworn to accomplish this and He said, “The words have gone out of my mouth and shall never return.” [Isa. 45:23] He will never change His mind.

INTRODUCTION

This book is meant to provide **scriptural knowledge** to as many of God's people as are being **led by the Spirit of Truth** to the acceptance of the wonderful grace of our Lord. If you have not fully embraced the grace doctrine, you probably will not like what we will show you in the scriptures at first. It is so contrary to what most people have been taught about the Lord. If, however, you are being led by the Spirit of Truth, you will not be satisfied with anything short of the **truth**.

We will present the scriptural evidence in this book. Those who will try to refute these scriptures will bring in many of man's sayings but will be in a sad position if they deny all these scriptures. We do believe the verses they will bring up, telling of God's judgments and chastenings; but **they cannot accept the mercy and the grace of God because of their own self righteousness**.

They will charge that we have taken verses out of context and have used them to make our points. So, we plead guilty. Paul once said *"If the truth of God hath more abounded thru my lie unto His glory; why am I also judged as a sinner?"* [Rom. 3:7]

Paul did not lie and the scriptures we are giving are not lies but they surely are to the glory of God. As the charge placed against us, we are in pretty good company. We do not claim to be the saviour of all men; that was the calling of Jesus. And **He used verses and fragments of scripture** from texts that apparently had no relevance to His own points. Do they charge Him with sin?

We do not claim to be the wise master builder who laid the foundation of the gospel of Christ. That was Paul's calling; and he used scriptures and parts of scripture to make his points. Do they presume to correct Paul's selfless ministry? We don't claim to be in the place of James, Peter, John or Jude; but they all took a verse of scripture here or a verse of scripture there and brought out their thoughts on a subject.

How many times did Jesus, Paul and the others say, 'For it is written,' or 'as it is written' or 'as the prophet Isaiah hath said' or 'as the prophets Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Hosea and others have said;' and then they would bring out a little point in God's plan that the Spirit

wanted to reveal at that time. Now, we will give you a couple.

As Solomon hath said in Proverbs 25:2, “It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory [honour KJV] of kings is to search things out.” And as the scripture hath said in 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Now, we are not ashamed of this **gracious gospel of the eventual reconciliation of all men; because it glorifies God, not man.** We would be absolutely ashamed to be found teaching the prevailing subversion, because it glorifies man, not God.

It is our firm belief that it is better to have a gospel based on the searched out scriptures and the rightly divided word of truth; than one based on the **trite mouthings of man.** Such as, ‘free moral agent’, ‘free will of man’, and the statements that ‘man must accept Christ as his personal Savior’. None of these can be found in scripture and all of them are contrary to scripture. Yet, if these are removed from their teaching, they have no foundation for their subversion. Under their standards, not one of God’s creation could ever be saved. We will prove it by many scriptures.

Not trying to commend ourselves but in commendation of the glorious grace and the undying mercy of our loving God and Saviour; you will have to agree, (if you faithfully study this book and check the scriptures given) that it is not a message God has based on just a few scraps of scripture. It is, in fact, the very gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is your complete and only hope of salvation.

“**Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.**” The Sadducees believe in neither resurrection nor spirit. The Pharisees believe in resurrection and salvation as a result of their motivation and good works. Both leavens are common in the churches today.

Some of you may think we are too harsh in our denunciation of the “**hireling**” shepherds [John 10:12-13] but we never called them a “**brood [generation] of vipers**” [Matt. 12:34, 23:33] nor do we call them “**...whited sepulchres, ... full of dead men’s bones...**” [Matt. 23:27] It was Jesus that used those words. And in Matthew 15:7-9 He said, “**You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far**

from me; in vain do they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.** Woe to you, ... hypocrites! because you shut [up] the kingdom of heaven against [before, to] men ...!" [Matt. 22:13]

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1. THE GOSPEL

Dearly Beloved of the Lord:

In starting this book in this manner, we wish to bring to your attention the fact that **not one person ever born or who will ever be born into this world is excluded**. John 1:9, “That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” And again in 1 John 2:1 & 2, “My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

So many people who profess to be Christians do not believe in Christ at all. They believe in themselves. They have been fooled by present day scribes and pharisees into thinking that what they have done caused God to love them and save them. No way! Forget it! 1 John 4:10, 14 & 19, “In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent his son to be the expiation [The act of atoning for a crime; the act of making satisfaction for an offense, by which the guilt is done away, and the obligation of the offended person to punish the crime is canceled; atonement] for our sins.” “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the World.” “We love because He first loved us.” And don’t forget it!

These are matters where Christians, who wish to go on, must discipline themselves. They must be sure to be guided by the word of God, not by doctrines of men. Probably 99% of all professing Christians have been taught that God made man a free moral agent, able to accept Christ at any time and able to reject Him at their own will. **The advice to accept Christ as your personal Savior is man talk, not scripture.**

We don’t care how lovely the preacher’s personality or how elegant his speech or how many seminaries he has attended. If he is teaching the free will of man, or that man is a free moral agent, or that he can accept or reject Christ when he wants to: That preacher is teaching **a lie** (even if unknowingly). This we will prove to you by scripture.

The word of God says plainly that children of God are “Born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:9-13. Oh! But you say the scripture says, ‘To all who believed Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.’ [~John 1:12] You are right and both parts of the scripture are right and true. This could only be possible because **the time of a man being able to believe was set by God’s will**; not man’s. This, too we will prove by scripture.

This leaves Christians in a bind. Shall we believe the words of men who say, (contrary to scripture) that man’s will, not God’s will, initiates Spiritual Faith, Spiritual Birth and Spiritual Salvation? Or shall we study and believe the scriptures that teach so plainly that **God’s will, through Jesus, “is the author and finisher of” every man’s faith?** [Heb. 12:2] That Christians are “born of the Spirit” [John 3:5-8] by God’s will, not man’s: [John 1:13] That salvation is of God, not of man. [Phil. 1:28] And **He “will have all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth”?** [1 Tim. 2:4] Which is the gospel?

Which of these teachings is to the glory of God? Which of these two God’s is your God? For they surely indicate two entirely different entities. Does the God you worship create a man without the capacity to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23) [“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”] and then throw him into a fire that does not destroy him through all eternity but just keeps him on fire, burning and screaming without any goal because a man doesn’t direct his steps? What a fiendish, satanic spirit must be behind such a doctrine. Those who burned the early Christians would not have wished such a heinous, never-ending fate for them. Hitler and his backers would not have wished any such torment on the millions of Jews they burned up in the ovens and lye pits and concentration camps. They only wanted them destroyed from the earth. Is your God worse than Nero or Hitler?

Our own leaders desired no such lasting torment on the millions of people in Viet Nam and Cambodia on whom they rained millions

of pounds of bombs, and burned villages and all the people with napalm and flame throwers. They just wished to destroy them from the earth. **Are your government leaders more righteous and merciful than God?**

How can anyone teach that God is so rotten? He has made a creation full of vanity [Rom. 8:20] and frailty and without the power to direct his own steps [Jer. 10:23] and they say that if the man doesn't do what he can't do, God will set him on fire and never let the fire go out for all ages. Shame! And they think they are going to flit around up in heaven and look down at the millions of lost souls in the fire and they will laugh at them while they are burning and taunt them and remind them that it serves them right. Again we say, **'Shame!' Shame on all who teach it and shame on all who believe it.** But it will be destroyed by the Spirit of Truth in God's good time.

Would you like to know about our God? Would you really like to hear about a God you can love and what the scriptures say? When the angels made their announcement at the birth of Jesus they brought a message from God, "[Peace on Earth and good will to men.](#)" We know he did not bring peace and the good will was not yet evident, in fact, Jesus said later, "[I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.](#)" That does not make the promise God made through the angels wrong. Both statements will come to pass **in due time.**

We do not deny that in God's judgment some men will have to be destroyed from the face of the earth and some will have to be destroyed from His presence. Those are truths in scripture. We also do not deny the hundreds of scriptures that point to the fact that "[His mercy endureth forever](#)" [Psa. 136], and "[His judgments are unto victory](#)", [Matt. 12:20, Isa. 42:3 (KJV)] and that "**All men shall be made alive in Christ, but every man in his own order.**" [1 Cor. 15:22-23] Those, too, are truths in scripture. That is the Gospel. The thing that is hard for [the] Adam nature to accept (even after the Holy Spirit has been born in them) is that God's ways are not man's ways and man's ways are not God's ways. Automatically Adam wants to picture God as bringing everything into line with what Adam thinks is right.

God, according to scripture, had a plan before He created anything, that would end up with the salvation of His whole creation. God is the perfect conservationist. **He is not going to let anyone of His creation go to waste.** He knew the end from the beginning. **He will be *all in all*.**

2. THE CHALLENGE

When people have been rudely awakened to the fact that they have been lied to, tricked and brain-washed, some resist very strongly because they cannot admit that they let somebody hoodwink them. Others go off and sulk and withdraw from their proper activities. Others **humble themselves and begin anew** to try to make up for the time they lost.

The challenge for Christians, when they find that the things they have been taught are false and contrary to the gospel, is to examine themselves, see if they want the truth. Then, if the love of the truth is strong enough in them, go after that truth. It is '**the truth that makes you free.**' [John 8:32] You can never be free without the truth. Jesus is going to cleanse His church by "... **the washing of the water by the WORD.**" [Eph. 5:25-26] You can never be cleaned by dirty water nor by false words.

If you are not a Christian you cannot yet know spiritual truth. You have the mind of a man and can only know the things of man. If you are a Christian, you not only have your mind of man but you also have the **mind of Christ and can know spiritual truths.** This is brought forth in 1 Cor. 2:9-16. Our challenge after receiving the **mind of Christ**, and becoming a **member in that many-membered body of Christ**, is to discriminate in favor of that spiritual body and to crucify the wants and desires of our Adam nature. The truth hurts our Adam nature. The truth causes **our spiritual nature to thrive.** The man who has not yet been born of the Spirit cannot yet receive, know and love the truth. **The spirit of truth in you will eventually lead you into all truth.** [John 16:13]

We challenge you as a Christian to read this book, looking up all the scriptures given and then submit to your inner-man with all its "**still small voice**" [1 Ki. 19:12] and reject any teaching that is contrary to the gracious gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will now show you this gospel in the scriptures.

3. THE SCRIPTURES

- Something Old & Something New -

Man has a question that is supposedly unanswerable: "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" The question of whether man believes first and causes God to change direction; or if God moves first and causes man to believe is answered very clearly in scripture. The scribes and pharisees of this time are claiming that man must initiate his own spiritual belief. The scriptures show that **man cannot do this**. And yet they show that **no man will be left out**.

John 1:17, "The law was given through Moses; Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ." We intend to elaborate on this verse later.

John 1:29, "**Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**" If Christ is in you, you can believe that simple declaration by John [the Baptist]. It was given him by God who sent him to bear witness to the Lord Jesus. The Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. Is that too hard for you to believe? Have you let your hireling shepherds teach you that Jesus is going to fail?

John 3:5-7, "Jesus answered, 'Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water **and the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, **You must be born anew.**" Now maybe you can understand the scripture we gave earlier that said, "who were born, not of blood nor the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

1 John 5:1 tells us, "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is **a child of God.**" It doesn't say he is going to be. It says he is.

The scriptures make it plain from the Old Testament thru the New Testament that **God is the supreme being that works all things after the counsel of his own will** and He has a plan for the ages to save all men and He never left anything to chance nor did he leave anything Spiritual for the Adam man to foul up.

Every man is already condemned in Adam. He remains under that same condemnation, though his life may appear good or evil, until, under God's perfect plan, it becomes **his order to be made alive in Christ**. From that point of **Spiritual birth** (which he could have no more to do with than his natural birth) he is no longer under the condemnation in Adam, because he is then in Christ (even though he may not realize it yet).

Saul of Tarsus was born of the Spirit while he was still having Christians stoned to death. The Christ in him began to prick his conscience because of what his Adam nature was doing. When Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus, He said , *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads."*

In John 3:8, Jesus told Nicodemus *"The wind bloweth where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes: so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit."* They do not know. God knows. **Our times are in his hands. Every man will be given the Spirit and be made alive in Christ at the exact time it is God's order for him.**

Remember man must be born of the Spirit; the Spirit is not born of man. As my dear Aunt Lulu Holmes used to testify, "I studied the Bible. I read all about the terrible Judgments of God. I saw all the condemnation that came under the law I became willing to see most of God's creation turned over to a victorious satan to be burned eternally in a never-ending hell."

"Then God sent His Spirit into me and showed me the word 'until' in the scriptures. Yes, there was condemnation. Yes, there was judgment and remorse. But only until. Until what?"

"Then the Spirit of truth began to lead me thru the scriptures. I found that for every judgment there is an until"

God is not ignorant of the powers and wiles He has permitted our adversary to use. **Satan is our adversary not God's**. When satan

beguiled Eve in the Garden of Eden, it did not surprise God. God had created Satan and God permitted the serpent to work on Eve. Adam and Eve did not surprise God when they fell. God created them in frailty and vanity and in Isaiah 45:7 he tells us He created evil. But God did this **for his purpose**.

When Satan appeared among the sons of God and accused Job, he did not surprise God. He was permitted to work on Job. And God set the limits Satan could go, in afflicting Job. Job and the three old wise men used up every self-righteous argument that the high and mighty scribes and pharisees of this day are still foisting off on the Lord's people in the churches and on the precious children in the Sunday schools.

It is summarized for the children like this, 'Be good and you will go to heaven and fly around on wings and play a harp. But if you are bad God will turn you over to hell and you will be tortured forever.' It carries on up into their adult life until they either throw it out like trash or try to put the yoke on every body else even though, as Peter said, *'neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear.'*

Job couldn't find anything wrong with himself and therefore thought God was unjust. The three old advisors thought Job must have done something wrong for surely God wouldn't afflict Job otherwise. But they couldn't find anything wrong to accuse Job of.

But the Spirit of God speaking through young Elihu brought out the greatness of God and his spiritual plan and the smallness and imperfection of the most perfect Adam man and Job recognized that **he was wrong in his thinking** and had counseled others wrongfully.

Job 42:1-6, "Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 'I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be restrained. Who is this that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that which I understood not, things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak; I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. **I had heard of thee by the hearings of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee, wherefore I**

abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

The present day scribes and Pharisees are still teaching that salvation and place in heaven are based on **good works** in this life. The very word Pharisee means **“one set apart by works”**. In Bible times they used to declare the good works they had done and then were permitted another ruffle or fringe on their robes. But Jesus warned his people to **“beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”** Matt. 16:6. And he wasn’t speaking about the leaven they used in bread. He was warning of their **“teaching” [doctrine]** ... Matt. 16:11 & 12.

In Jeremiah 10:23 it says, **“I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps”** Do you find that too hard to believe? Why can’t the religious leaders believe it? Why is it not taught in any religious seminary? Why is it not taught in the Sunday schools?

Isaiah 45:5-7 tells us, **“I am the Lord, and there is no other, beside me there is no God; I girded you, although you do not know me, that man may know from the rising of the sun and from the West, that there is none beside me; I am the Lord and there is no other. I form the light, and create darkness, I make peace and create evil. I am the Lord, who doest all these things.”**

Why haven’t you been taught that God created evil and He wants His people to know it? **Evil fulfills a good spiritual purpose for God.** What preacher is going to stand up and declare that God didn’t know what he was doing? Who will say that it would be better if God hadn’t created evil? **He is responsible for it** and He is righteous because He also, in His plan, created the Lamb that was slain before foundation of the world, to be the **Savior of the world**, and to destroy the works of satan.

Isaiah 45:22 & 23 says, **“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: To me, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”**

4. THE WORDS OF JESUS

So while the anti-Christ spirit is at work teaching that Christ is going to fall [fail?] and satan is going to be victorious; all the time the Holy Spirit, working thru the scriptures is teaching that Jesus will draw all men unto Himself. John 12:32. [**“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself.”**] And because God knew there would be deceivers to claim that this meant you would have to lift him up as your personal Savior before He would draw you; He inspired John to add the next verse, **“He said this to show by what death He was to die.”** And sure enough in one of our song books there is a beautiful hymn based on John 12:32 saying you must lift Him.

What a deception! What a perversion of the words of Jesus! Jesus said plainly in John 6:44, **“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” Do you believe Jesus’ words** or the words of some stuffed shirt who tells you it is up to you to come to Christ?

Jesus went on in that 6th Chapter of John and showed them that only as a man was taught by God could he learn and believe and receive **the Bread of Life**. After much arguing from the Jews and the disciples, Jesus said again in John 6:63-65, **“It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and Life.** But there are some of you that do not believe. For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that should betray Him.”

And he said, **“This is why I told you that NO ONE can come to me unless it be GRANTED him by the Father.”** [John 6:65] Those are surely the words of Jesus and He thought He was telling the truth. What man has a right to say it was a lie?

And when Jesus follows it in John 12:32 with the promise that if He was put to death on the cross, **He would draw all men unto Himself;** who dares to teach that Jesus will not raise all men up at the last day?

Later in John 12:47-50 Jesus says, “If anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day.” What were the words Jesus had spoken on this subject? They were words of grace. They were absolved of guilt by the words of Jesus in John 6 that we gave you. They had not yet been granted the capability to believe and accept His sayings. They were not placed under condemnation for not believing. They were already under the condemnation in Adam and would have to remain there until Christ would draw them in their order. God had not yet granted them to be drawn to Jesus.

In these scriptures God had been speaking through His Son Jesus. None of the disciples had yet received Christ. They were not yet Christians. Jesus had not yet been crucified nor resurrected to be the first fruits from the dead. But in John 14:15-20 Jesus said to His disciples, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (Note that these are in no way connected with the ten commandments) “And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another counselor**, to be with you forever, even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; You know Him, for He dwells with you, and **will be in you**. I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in the Father, and you in me, **and I in you**.”

Now it could not be written any plainer than that. **The Spirit of Truth was to be Christ, Himself**. When He said, “He dwells with you, **and shall be in you**, I will come to you;” He could not have meant anyone else. That is **Spiritual Birth**. It comes “... **not by the will of the flesh nor the will of man; but by the will of God**.” [John 1:13]

In John 16:12-13, the words of Jesus tell Disciples, “I have yet many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now.” When the **Spirit of Truth** comes, He will guide you into all truth. They could not bear them yet because they were still natural men and had not yet

received the “**mind of Christ**” [1 Cor. 2:16] which was to enable them to comprehend spiritual things.

In John 7:37-39, “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. **He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart [belly KJV] shall flow rivers of living water.**” Now this He said about **the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive;** for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Remember that in John 6 Jesus said that this thirst and this belief first had to be granted by the Father and Jesus knew ahead of time who were to believe. Only those that were given Him by the Father could come to him and drink. All of this was before the resurrection.

In John 20:21-22 the resurrected Lord Jesus said to the disciples, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**” And He commissioned them with power to forgive or to retain the sins of others. But they still were not given all truth or authority.

In Acts 1:4 to 8 we learn, “And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.** So when they had come together, they asked Him, ‘Lord will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” But they still were not given all truth.

In Acts 2:1-4 they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other languages so, no matter what nation a listener was from, he was able to hear, in their own language, what the Spirit had to say to them. But the Spirit of truth the disciples had received

did not yet lead them to all truth. Why not? Because in the divine wisdom of God, the Spirit of Truth was to lead them to a **chosen vessel** through whom that glorious gospel of Jesus Christ was to be delivered to man.

In John 5:19 Jesus said, **“The Son can do nothing of himself.”** And in John 5:30 Jesus said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing.”** Now if Jesus, the son of God, was not a ‘free moral agent’ and did not have a free will; how in the world can anyone expect a sinful Adam man to be a ‘free moral agent’ or to have a ‘free will’ to accept or reject Jesus as his ‘personal saviour’?

Especially when Jesus said, **“No one cometh unto me except the Father who sent me draw him.”** [John 6:44] And **“No one can come unto me unless it be granted him by the Father.”** [John 6:65] The present day scribes and Pharisees would lead you to believe that Jesus either did not know what He was saying, or was lying.

5. PAUL'S GOSPEL OF CHRIST

- In Acts and to the Saints at Rome -

The **Spirit of Truth** in the disciples led them to Paul's gospel of Christ. To Paul, who as Saul of Tarsus, had been persecuting the followers of Jesus and having them stoned to death or hailed [hauled?] into court and jailed; yes it was to Paul, the Spirit of Truth led them. Their flesh didn't want to go to Paul. There was much foot-dragging, but the Spirit of Truth led them to **Paul's gospel of Christ**.

The disciples had been told by Jesus in that day they would know that He was in them but they didn't understand it. But to Paul, 'it pleased God to reveal His Son in me.' Galatians 1:16. And to Paul "it pleased God to make known ... the mystery ..., which is **Christ in you, the hope of Glory**," Col. 1:26-27. And to Paul was committed "the ministry of reconciliation" for every man, 2 Cor. 5:18 & 19.

So it was to Paul's gospel of Christ the **Spirit of Truth** brought the disciples and the Christians of that time. It is to Paul's gospel of Christ that the Spirit of Truth must lead everyone of the Lord's people. Not because Paul was anything in himself; but because he **WAS the vessel God had chosen**.

So what does Paul teach about the necessity of the Adam man having to accept Christ as their personal Savior? If it is the truth Paul is still shoveling coal for his persecution of Jesus' followers. He never did accept the Lord as his personal Savior. He says God had set him apart before he was born. Gal. 1:15, and Ephesians 1:4.

Paul was shown that **believing had to be granted to a man according to God's time-tables**, not man's. Acts 13:46-48, "And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."

"For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost

parts of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the Word of God; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." The rest of those Gentiles and those Jews could not believe yet, because their time to be ordained to eternal life had not yet come.

In Romans 2 Paul tells of the judgments a man can bring on himself when he judges someone else and in the 15th & 16th verses he says, "They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus." The Gospel of Paul as well as the Words of Jesus, are full of grace and mercy.

In Romans 3:10-12, "None is righteous, no not one. No one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong; no one does good, not even one." Paul never sought God. The disciples never sought God. Jesus told them, "You have not chosen me; I have chosen you ..." [John 15:16]

Romans 3:19-25 tells us, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight:** for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God thru **faith in Jesus Christ** for all who believe. For there is no distinction; [Verse 23 KJV: Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference:] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation [The act of atoning for a crime; the act of making satisfaction for an offense, by which the guilt is done away, and the obligation of the offended person to punish the crime is canceled; atonement] **by His blood, to be received by faith.**"

Ah! They say again that it depends on a man believing and having faith. And we bring out again that those scriptures are true, and we will insist once more that the error in the **great perversion** is in teaching that man is the author of that faith and belief. As you will see, if you faithfully follow the scriptures, God never trusted man with that responsibility or capability.

We will bring out for you the many scriptures in Paul's gospel of Christ in which he shows that **every man will believe and be saved in God's pre-ordained will**. That is why this little point is so important. The number of people who die as Christians are a very minute portion of the billions of people who have and who will be born on this earth. God loves every one of the whole creation and has said in the scriptures that those He destroyed in Ninevah, Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorah would all be brought back in resurrection life and many of them would be able to sit in Judgment over the self-righteous religious leaders.

In Romans 5:6 Paul says, "**While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly**" and in the 8th verse he says, "**But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.**" And in the 17th and 18th verses he tells us, "**If because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ. Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men; so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men."**

Why do these teachers insist that the deception of the serpent and the trespass of Adam and Eve are more powerful than the righteous act of the Savior on the cross? Why do people believe them when their words are so contrary to scripture? Let every man be persuaded in his own mind.

Romans 8:19-21, "**For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the Sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the **children of God.**" Can**

you believe that? Doesn't that seem wonderful? Or, does it make you jealous, and cause you to think God should not contaminate you good people by letting such sinners in?

What can they say to the **predestination** Paul tells us of in Romans 8:28-30?, and again about His calling and election before people were born as in Rom. 9:11-18? Romans 10:6-7, "But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (That is to bring Christ down) or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (That is to bring Christ up from the dead)."

Then in the next few verses Paul makes the following true statements, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." But in 1 Cor. 12:3 Paul says "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the spirit of God ever says, 'Jesus be cursed!' and **no one can say 'Jesus is Lord!' except by the Holy Spirit.**"

Again in Romans 10:13-17, "For every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are men to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a **preacher**? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written [in Isa. 52:7], How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news! But they have not all heeded the gospel; for Isaiah says [in Isa. 53:1], Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes from the preaching of Christ." [So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** KJV] And He has said no man can believe except it be granted him by the Father. [Rom. 11:32, Eph. 2:8]

Can you read Romans 11 and still believe in a free will of man to be saved or lost when he wants to? God said He had '**reserved to himself** by grace, **seven thousand men who would not bow the knee to Baal.**' [11:4, from 1 Ki. 19:18] He said that at that time there still was a '**remnant chosen by grace**'. [11:5] '**Israel failed to obtain what it sought**' [11:7] but God's elect obtained it by grace. Paul was emphatic about it being by grace. [11:6]

God hardened the rest with a "... spirit of stupor; eyes that they shouldn't see; ears that they shouldn't hear ..." [11:8] but Paul asks, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! "But through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles." [11:11] And in Romans 11:25-36 Paul says, "Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brethren; a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the **full number of the Gentiles come in, and so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written." [11:26] May we be so bold as to break in here to point out that if the full number of the Gentiles and all of Israel are to be saved that includes **every person**?[!] But to go on — "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; And this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. [11:26-27 from Isa. 59:20]

As regards the gospel they are enemies of God, for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. **For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable [without repentance KJV]**. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you **they also may receive mercy**. For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. [Verse 32 KJV: For God hath concluded them all (or: shut them all up together) in **unbelief**, that he might have **mercy** upon all.]

O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has a gift to Him that he might be repaid?
For from Him and through Him and to Him be glory forever. Amen" [11:33]

How do you like the knowledge that you, along with everyone else, has been **consigned by God to disobedience and unbelief**? And there is **no chance of being delivered until the time is right for God to show mercy**. My Adam man does not like it, but my inner man rejoices all over.

One more from Romans 16:25-27, "Now to Him that is of power

to stablish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began**. But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the **obedience of faith**, to God only wise, be glory **through Jesus Christ forever**. Amen.”

You see **the true gospel was hidden by God all through the scriptures and in the prophesies and it was not until Jesus revealed it to Paul that the righteousness of God was revealed. *It is only in the reconciliation of all men that God’s Love and mercy can be fulfilled.***

God is going to deliver the *whole* creation into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God. All the fullness of God dwells in Jesus Christ. God has placed all judgment into Jesus’ hands.

Jesus said He judges no man but the words He had spoken would be their judge. [John 12:48] According to the words He spoke **He will draw all men unto Himself**. [John 12:32] He said He did not come to judge the world but to SAVE the WORLD. [John 12:47] All these are scriptures. Only Christians can believe them. But every Christian who learns that they are scriptures should believe them. God has promised to leave us without any excuse.

6. MORE GOSPEL

- In 1 and 2 Corinthians -

What does Paul's gospel give us in Corinthians? 1 Cor. 1:26-31, "For consider your calling, brethren, not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were of noble birth, not many were powerful: but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, Let him who boasts boast of the Lord." Remember – "He is the source" "**Beware of the leaven of the pharisees.**" [Matt. 16:6]

1 Cor. 2:10-16 tells us again that it would be **impossible for our natural man to accept Christ. It is foolishness to the natural mind.** How can a natural mind carnal and selfish, think a spiritual thought that scripture says can only be produced by a spiritual mind of God? "God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the **Spirit of God.**

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit." (Now we want you to notice the next few verses very carefully.) "The natural man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man judges all things, but is himself judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**"

The scriptures are pretty clear that **the old natural mind of man does not do the believing or receiving of Spiritual things**. It is utter nonsense or folly to the natural mind. In God's order, the Spirit of God makes it possible to believe and receive Him. As the scripture said, "**God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus.**" [~ Col. 3:3-4] **God chooses**; man never chooses.

1 Corinthians 3:7 "**So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the increase.**" Let us drop back to Acts 2:47 to pick up a fragment. "**Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**" Why not add all those people to the church? Because it was not yet time in God's plan for them to be brought in.

1 Corinthians 4:7 "**For who sees anything different in you? What have you that you did not receive? If, then, you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?**" How many times have you heard people testify that they quit smoking or drinking or chasing around and Jesus saved them. It is just as impossible to earn salvation by saying you accepted Christ as your personal Savior as it is by trying to clean yourself up so the Lord would save you. Both would be **works of the flesh**. If your salvation is by the works of the flesh it is not by the **free grace of God**. That is putting the cart before the horse. That would be thinking Spiritual thoughts with the natural mind. The scripture says, man no can do.

1 Corinthians 12:3, "**Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, 'Jesus be cursed.' And NO ONE CAN SAY, 'Jesus is Lord' EXCEPT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**" Is that language too hard for you? A simple child could understand it and if he were taught it, and then someone got up and told him that every man can accept Jesus as his Lord and savior whenever he wants to; the child might be smart enough to know the man was lying or he might be gullible enough to believe Paul was lying. But he couldn't believe both. How about you?

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 tells us, "**For as in Adam ALL, die, so also in Christ shall ALL be made alive. But EVERY man in his own order...**"

There is the secret of God's plan. **He has an order for the salvation of every man.** [1 Cor. 15:23] All scripture is true. One place in John [12:39-40] it says, 'They could not believe because ... God had **blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts ...**' and in another it says God blinded them so they could not believe "until the full number of the Gentiles were brought in" and then it says "and so **all Israel shall be saved as it is written.**" [Rom. 11:25-26] And now we find that scripture says, 'As in Adam **all die, even so, in Christ shall all be made alive.**' [1 Cor. 15:22] And the scribes and Pharisees will teach that Paul meant all when he spoke of their death, but he didn't mean all when he promised them life.

But Paul sums those scriptures up pretty good in [1 Cor. 15] the 28th verse when he says, "... that God may be **everything in everyone.**" And in the 44th thru the 57th verse Paul says, "It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a **Spiritual body.**" (Please note that! Do you have a physical body? Then **you shall have a spiritual body.** Simple enough?)

"Thus it is written [in Gen. 2:7], 'The first man Adam became a living being [KJV: living soul] [psuchē, breath (of life) in Greek], the last Adam became a **life giving Spirit** [KJV: **quickenning spirit**] [pneuma, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth in Greek]. But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust. The second man is from heaven; as was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven." [1 Cor. 15:45-49] (Doesn't leave anyone out, does it?)

"I tell you this, brethren, flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the corruptible inherit the incorruption. Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but **we shall ALL be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality**, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the power of

sin is the LAW, but thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our **Lord Jesus Christ.**" [1 Cor. 15:50-57]

Has this ever been taught to you? Why not? It is scripture isn't it? God is to be thanked and praised because He loves all men and is going to save every one he has created. If that old **self-righteous garbage** that most professing Christians have surrounded themselves with was true; not one man could be saved. You could have no hope in Christ.

On the first page of Chapter 3 we gave John 1:17, "The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Here is some more on that subject. Which side are you on? The **ministry of death and condemnation** whose glory is fading away Or the **new covenant** not **written** on tables of stone but **in the heart**? Have you still got a veil on your heart because you are still in bondage to the law?

2 Corinthians 3:2-18, "Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men; being made manifest that **ye are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, **written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God**; not in tables of stone, but **in tables that are hearts of flesh**. And such confidence have we through Christ to Godward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant not of the letter, but **of the Spirit: For the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life**. But if the ministration of death, written, and engraven on stones, came with glory, so that the children of Israel could not look steadfastly upon the face of Moses for the glory of his face; which glory was passing away: How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be more glorious?

For if the ministration of condemnation is glory, much rather doth the **ministration of righteousness exceed in glory**. For verily that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel

could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: For until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in **Christ**.

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now **the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass [miror] the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as [by] the Spirit of the Lord.**“

Nothing has ever been as stupid as the outrage of the religious groups when public schools were forbidden to force the ten commandments and other religious teachings on the children. We sure don't want the scribes and Pharisees teaching the laws of Moses as gospel. Nor do we want them to teach our children their leaven.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 tells us, “For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sakes died and was raised.” [For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. KJV]

Now we can see how **the righteousness God will work out without the law of Moses**. When a person is made **alive in Christ**, the Lord starts **working on the inside** to oppose our human, selfish, unrighteous and to promote the unselfish work of a member of His body. Man is so steeped in the Adam nature it is hard for him to cut loose and live for the Lord, even after receiving Christ. The scriptures tell Christians to **crucify their flesh**. That hurts.

For those who would charge us with teaching people to break the laws of Moses and for any that may believe their charges; we assure them we teach no such thing. The righteousness of Christ far

exceeds anything the law can produce. **‘For the law could make nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope does ...’** [Heb. 7:19] Try to live for him who died for you, instead of unto yourself and you will find how strong your **“carnal nature”** [Rom. 8:5-9] is. **“But He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”** [~Phil. 1:6]

Please study this next scripture very carefully and try to figure out how anybody could possibly count the trespasses of the world against them; if God doesn't.

2 Cor. 5:18-19 **“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation.”**

That 18th verse says God, through Christ gave us the ministry of reconciliation and the 19th verse says, God was in Christ...; and hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation. How come the so-called Christian leaders preach all over the world that the reconciliation message is of the devil? Think about it. Are Christians to be swayed by the precepts of men, or by scripture? The scripture says, **“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses against them.”** [2 Cor. 5:19]

Notice! Herein lies the grace of God! Even the scribes and Pharisees are going to be saved, and will have their self-righteousness destroyed; both those of Bible times and those of this present day. **“For He [Who] will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of [the truth] God.”** [1 Tim. 2:4 KJV]

So we too have been led by the **Spirit of Truth** to this message from Paul and like Job our old flesh man might want to complain about God letting the ones we think to be less deserving than ourselves, get off the hook. But when we see God in His righteousness, we too, like Job abhor ourselves and figuratively repent in dust and ashes.

This reminds me of the story Jesus told where the landholder went into the city earlier and hired help at so much a price and then went in later in the day and hired more help but when the day was over he gave them all the same wage. The ones who had worked longer did not praise him for his goodness to the others but cried out against him. It is the goodness of God that gives salvation to every man in his order. Don't cry out against it. **Praise Him for it. For you too were saved by His grace.**

As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:16, “Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh: even though we have known **Christ after the flesh, Yet now we know Him so no more.**” We do not need to worry about being contaminated in heaven by other people's wickedness; He will cleanse both them and us.

This is probably a good time to bring up the subject of Bible translations. There can be no contradictions in God's inspired word. There are serious contradictions in the King James Bible. Over fifty times **the word hell was erroneously inserted** for such words as death, pit, grave, earth, Sheol, Gehenna and Hades. Over fifteen times the words damned, damnation and condemnation were used for judged, and **judgment**. These errors are put forth as a final destiny for the greatest portion of God's creation. And yet we have hundreds of scriptures extolling the mercy and grace of God; and the final salvation of every man in Christ.

The **Spirit of Truth**, working in sincere Bible students, began to bother them about the evident contradictions. They found that **great latitude** was used in inserting the translators meanings into the King James version. **The scribes and Pharisees of that day coined the word hell themselves** and used it along with misplaced condemnation and damnation to promote the **ministry of death and condemnation**. Jesus warned the disciples and us of the dangerous leaven and Paul tells us of it in 2 Cor. 3. Read it over again.

Can you see any way where God could put most of His creation which He loves into a fiery endless torment and still keep His word that ‘... **the whole creation was going to be delivered ... into the**

glorious liberty of the Sons of God? [~Rom. 8:21]

'The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life.' [2 Cor. 3:6]

7. MORE GOOD NEWS

- To the Saints at Galatia & Ephesus -

Gal. 1:1-16, "Paul an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of **this present evil world**, according to the will of our God and Father: to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I marvel that you are so quickly removing from Him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another gospel; only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that we preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preacheth another gospel than that which ye received, let him be accursed."

(Let me emphasize that the gospel he had given them and they had received was the gospel of the grace of Christ; and Paul's concern over the Galatians was because they **foolishly had gone back under the law**.) Now to go on with the 10th verse, "For am I now persuading men, or God? Or am I seeking to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ.

For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but **it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ**. For ye have heard of my manner of life in time past in the Jew's religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and made havock of it; And I advanced in the Jew's religion beyond many of mine own age among my countrymen, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from

my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles:" Was it when it was the good pleasure of Paul to accept Jesus as his personal Savior? Or was it like the scriptures said? We do not have to make up your mind, for you. We just have to witness to the Truth we have received. If you have Christ in you, you have the power to make up your own mind and believe the scriptures. **If Christ is not in you, you are yet none of His, and can't believe.**

Let us examine Galatians 2 a little in passing. Some of the reputed pillars in the church of Christ at Jerusalem went out and tried to break up Paul's teaching but they could add nothing to the gospel Paul had received and when they saw that the Lord had given this gospel to Paul they gave in. Gal. 2:9, "And when they perceived the grace that was given unto me, James and Peter and John, they who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the Gentiles, and they unto the circumcision;" Later Paul had to resist Peter to the face because he couldn't stand up to the circumcision people and even carried Barnabas backward with him. Paul ends Galatians 2 with these words, "**I do not make void the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law then Christ died for naught.**"

And in Galatians 3, Paul asks them questions all Christians should ask themselves. "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This only would I learn from you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?**"

Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now perfected in the flesh? Did ye suffer so many things in vain? If it be indeed in vain. He therefore that supplied you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?**"

(Now before anyone gets all worked up and forgets the scriptures we have given, remember, '**Jesus is the author and the finisher (or perfecter) of our faith;**' [Heb. 12:2] and, '**God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus** [~ Rom. 6:23] And do not forget the many places

where Jesus said it was impossible to believe in Him until it was granted by the Father. [John 6:67, Rom. 11:32])

We will take a little more of Galatians 3 beginning with the 10th verse, “For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone which continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them. Now that **no man is justified by the law in the sight of God**, is evident: for, **The righteous shall live by faith**; and the law is not of faith; but, He that doeth them shall live in them.”

(No wonder Paul called the Galatians foolish! If they were willing to put themselves back under the law of Moses, they had to take the curse that was written in the law, no matter if they kept it 99 & 44/100% pure. (Which no man can do.) For the scripture says if you break any one of them, you have broken them all.

Many people do not have the weakness of stealing, or adultery, or other flagrant immoralities but that is not the whole law. There never was nor ever will be an Adam man able to keep the whole law therefore anyone who puts himself under the law is under a curse.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus: that we might **receive the promise of the Spirit through faith**.” [Gal. 3:13-14]

The reason we are dwelling on this law question is because the present day scribes and pharisees have bewitched today’s professing Christians into going back under the curse that Christ died to redeem us from. And that is why Paul dwelt on it in his epistle to Galatians. In the last part of Galatians 3 Paul brings out that God’s promises were made four hundred and thirty years [430] before Moses gave out the Ten Commandments and so the law couldn’t make the promises of none effect. **The law was given as a tutor, or school teacher until Christ should come** and now that Christ has come we don’t need that school master any more.

You read Galatians 3 and see for yourself. And another point, the law wasn't a mistake on God's part either. He knew they couldn't keep it. They begged Him for the law so they could show Him they could be righteous. **He gave them the law to prove to man that He couldn't be righteous.** That is what God wanted the tutor to teach His people.

The law can't make anyone righteous. Jesus will make His people righteous as it becomes His pleasure to draw them. Read the 4th chapter of Galatians and ask yourselves, am I a child of Hagar who represents the old covenant from Mt. Sinai and brings forth children into bondage or are you under the new covenant which is from Jerusalem that is above and is free.

Galatians 5:1 tells us, 'that in **[For] freedom did Christ set us free; stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.**' Why is the world church still teaching this **ministry of death and condemnation**? Why is it opposing the ministry of the final reconciliation of all men to God? Why do they want Jesus to fail as the savior of all men? Because they still can not die to themselves and live for Christ. Ego!

What a death blow Paul strikes at this ego as we go into his epistle to the Ephesians. Chapter 1:3-11, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ: even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before Him in love: **having foreordained us unto adoption as Sons through Jesus Christ unto Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will**, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved: in whom we have our redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses [sins], according to the riches of His grace, which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Him, unto a dispensation of the fulness of the times to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things upon the earth; In Him, I say, in whom also we were made a heritage, **having been fore ordained according to**

[the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His will.](#)"

If a Christian would study that much scripture for a whole year and the Lord would permit him to believe half of it; he could never sit still in Church again and listen to the perversions that are flowing from the pulpits today. They tell you, 'You are a free moral agent' or 'You have a free will', or 'you have to accept Jesus as your personal Savior' or 'you must make the decision to believe or not,' 'accept Him before it's too late.'

Such rubbish! Go back and read that scripture again! If the Lord is working in you, you will shout for joy. If we were **chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and fore ordained according to the pleasure of His will**; it sort of punctures the ego of man who wants to stand up and boast of all the sins he quit so Jesus would save him. Doesn't this bear out that salvation is the **free gift of God** like the other scriptures have said? How can an educated man with a college degree and a seminary diploma stand up and tell the people that they must choose Christ or be eternally lost?

In the last two verses of Ephesians Paul says, "**And He has put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the church [congregation], which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.**" The real church then is made up of the **members of his many-membered body** and is the fulness of Him who fills all in all. By what authority do they, who pride themselves as being members of Christ's church and therefore members of His body, go around teaching that Christ is only going to fill some in some?

As we have brought out before, the so-called Christian Sunday schools all over the world teach the little ones that they must be good to go to heaven, and if they are bad they will be left in hell forever. They are being saturated with the **leaven of the pharisees**, and it is very hard to get it back out when they grow older. Today's church going adults prove it.

After all, how much gospel scripture do you hear? And how much of man's precepts do you get? '**Man does not live by bread alone,**

but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' [Matt. 4:4] Do you believe these verses and glorify God for them? Or, do you resent the idea of Jesus being the Savior of all men? And do you really prefer to worship at the feet of some slick, glib talking, personality that leads you away from the scriptures?

But, on to Paul's gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the ministry of reconciliation of all men in their order. Read Ephesians 2:1 thru 10 and when you get to verse 8 you will read, "**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God, not of works, that no man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.**" Now just how much of the work of God are you going to take away from Him and give man the glory for?

In Ephesians 3:6-9, Paul tells us, "to wit, that the Gentiles are **fellow-heirs**, and **fellow-members** of the body, and **fellow-partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of that grace of God which was given me according to the working of His power. Unto me, who am the least of all Saints, was this grace given, to preach unto the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches of Christ**; and to make all men see what is the dispensation of the mystery which from all ages hath been hid in God who created all things."

Now you know that the teachings of the present day religious leaders was no mystery, and was never hidden in God. Everything they teach was always taught by the very ones that are later called enemies of the gospel of Christ; and by the ones who **murdered the prophets, stoned the Apostles and crucified Jesus**. They are still teaching the **old covenant** that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai.

But let us go on with the things that the Lord revealed to Paul and showed to him right in the old scriptures; but hidden. Eph. 3:10-11, "to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church [congregation] the manifold wisdom of God, according to the

eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Notice! He purposed this.

Well, you are a member of that church. Are you qualified to make known any mysteries to principalities and powers in the heavenly places? Paul says, ‘**now**’ in verse 10. Do you think God will change His plan to suit you? Or, isn’t it more likely **God will change you to suit His plan?** ‘**He knew the end from the beginning.**’ [~Isa. 46:10] ‘**He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.**’ [~Eph. 1:11] So we must conclude that God gave Paul the gospel for the heavenlies, to be carried out by the church.

In Ephesians 4:4 to 10 he says, “**There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call [calling], one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.**”

Don’t consider that as a limiting measure that is greater in some and lesser in others. His gift to each of us is **Spiritual life in Christ**. And it must be given ‘**to every man in his order,**’ [~1 Cor. 15:23] ‘**His whole creation must be delivered into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God.**’ [~Rom. 8:21]

We will go on with Eph. 4:8, “**Therefore it is said, when He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. (Now this, He ascended, what is it but that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)**”

These hireling shepherds that teach that you must save yourself before you die or it will be too late and you will burn forever, makes one sick at the stomach. As our beloved Brother Owen used to say, “It made him want to vomit”. What do they do with these scriptures? ‘**Jesus went to the lower parts of the earth and led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.**’ These were captives who had died in their sins. He led them with him when He ascended. **He had given them Spiritual life in Him.** Why? Why? It tells you why. “**That He might fill all things.**”

So in Ephesians 1, 3 and 4 we learn that Jesus is going to unite in Him all things in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth and to this we will add the words of many more scriptures. Grace does not rule out judgement. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. All dross cleansed from every one, but it will be for the purpose of **fitting them for the spiritual life God has promised as the final destiny of all of His creation.**

Grace believers are far too prone to use grace as an excuse for loose conduct and just plain spiritual laziness. Paul warns us of this in many of his exhortations. **While he teaches us that there is no condemnation to them in Christ Jesus; he also teaches that God scourges and chastens every Son He receives.**

8. PAUL'S TEACHINGS

- To the Philippians, Colossians, Timothy & Titus -

Let us take a little out of Philippians 1 starting at the 27th verse, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your state, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the gospel; and in nothing affrighted by the adversaries: which is for them an evident token of perdition, but of your salvation, and that from God; because to you it hath been granted in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, **but also to suffer in His behalf:** having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me."

We wanted to bring out once more the scriptural evidence that salvation is of God, and **ability to believe on him must be first granted by God.** But don't leave those adversaries in perdition too long either. Don't be found guilty of shutting up heaven to them in their order. **God has promised to grant them the ability to believe at the proper time.** He is going to be all in all.

Philippians 2:9-11, "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that in the name of Jesus **every** knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that **every** tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

If everyone is going to do that **everyone is going to be saved.** Anyone dare to tear those scriptures out of the word of God? That is why we can believe that if **anyone believes with their heart and confesses with their own mouth they will be saved. Everyone is going to be granted power to believe. And every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord,** even though scripture says it can't be done except by the Holy Spirit. **So the Holy Spirit is going to be in everyone in God's good time.**

Where the Christian should examine himself is in the area of how

it sets with him. Does our mind resent and complain about such a manifestation of God's goodness? Or, do we glorify and praise the Lord for it?

We read in Colossians 1:11-20, "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the Saints in Light. He has **delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him were all things created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - **All things were created through Him** and for Him. **He is before all things**, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; **He is the beginning, the first born from the dead**, that in everything He might be pre-eminent. For in Him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him **to reconcile to Himself ALL things**, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross."

Praise be to His Holy Name.

In Colossians 2:13-15 we read, "And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, **triumphing over them in Him.**"

He did this by raising Jesus from the tomb and letting Him walk around among people in His **resurrected body**. He will continue to do it until He has fulfilled His promise to all men. "**And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**" [John 12:32]

1 Timothy 2:3-7, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior**; who **willeth that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.** For there is one God, one mediator

also between God and men, Himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself **a ransom for all**; the testimony to be borne **in its own times**; where unto I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth, I lie not), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." Remember Paul testified that God had committed unto him the message of **reconciliation for the world**.

1 Timothy 4:9-11, "Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we labor and strive, because we have our hope set on **the living God, who is the Savior of all men**, specially of them that believe. These things command and teach." Why are these sayings not accepted, and why are they not commanded and taught?

2 Timothy 1:8-12, "Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but **suffer hardship with the gospel** according to the Power of God; who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before times eternal**, but hath now been manifested by the appearing of **our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore suffer as I do."

Can you imagine the world causing any of the high and mighty potentates of the so called Christian churches to suffer for what they teach? **They are glorifying man and satan**. They teach that satan is going to end up with every man that doesn't accept Christ before he dies; and as we see by scripture no man can accept Him – they shut heaven to themselves and every one else. There is no real difference in their teaching than in that of the ones who had Christ crucified.

Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of **ALL MEN.**"

Titus 3:3-8, "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another; but when

the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, **He saved us not because of our deeds** done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of **His own mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and **renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire you insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds, these are excellent and profitable to men.”

9. MORE SCRIPTURES

- In Hebrews, Peter & Revelation -

In Hebrews 2:8-15 we read it again, “Thou did put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He subjected all things unto him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we see not yet all things subjected to Him. But we behold Him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God **He should taste death for every man**. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the **author of their salvation perfect through sufferings**. For both He that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are all of one: for which cause **He is not ashamed to call them brethren**, saying, ‘I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise.’ [from Psa. 22:22] And again, ‘I will put my trust in Him.’ [from Psa. 18:2] And again, ‘Behold, I and the children God hath given me’ [from Isa. 8:18]

Since then the children are sharers [partakers] in flesh and blood, He also Himself in like [similar] manner partook of the same; that through death He might bring to nought him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver all them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Just how many does that let you exclude from deliverance? And how many can be excluded from the ‘ALL’ in Hebrews 9:11 & 12, “But Christ having come a high priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, **entered in once for ALL into the Holy place, having obtained eternal redemption.**”

1 Peter 3:18-20 tells us who some of the prisoners were that Jesus went into Hades [Sheol] and brought out. “For **Christ also died for sins once for ALL**, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but **made alive in**

the Spirit; in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the Ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water." Be careful to note that Jesus went to the ones who were disobedient, not to the eight who were on the Ark.

Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 mentions the people being baptized for the dead. And he also told the Corinthians to turn one sinful brother over to satan for the destruction of his flesh, **that the man's spirit would be saved in the day of Jesus Christ.**

What does scripture say about evil men who were living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels carousing, and lawless idolatry and abusing the Christians? 1 Peter 4:5-6, "But they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why **the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the Spirit like God.**" His mercy endureth forever.

Now we will give you a scripture from Rev. 5:13 and it doesn't leave anyone out either. "And **every created thing** which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying, 'Unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever.'"

Now it is quite evident that we have not given all the scriptures on every subject in the Bible. We first wanted to bring out the glorious, gracious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of ALL men. We will take up the subjects of judgments, chastening and scourging in a future publication.

In the mean time this has been a long exhaustive study to show that scripture teaches the eventual salvation and reconciliation of every one ever born into this world. If these scriptures were unknown to you before you will know them now if you study this book.

God does not judge a person for things they do not know. But they

are judged according to what they do know. Not to condemn or save them **but to perfect them**. Please read Heb. 12:4-11 [following] about that.

“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto **children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord**, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with **sons**; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: **shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?** For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless **afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Now that you know about the scriptures in this book you will be called upon to make some decisions. When your preacher or teacher continues to preach that God is a failure and Jesus died for nought; you should stop supporting such teaching for yourself or your children.

There is nothing in scripture that teaches the **judgments of God** are too easy or too light to get the results God wants. Both the **goodness and the severity** is plentifully witnessed to in the Bible. But do you know how many times David wrote ‘**For His mercy endureth forever?**’ [for example see Psalm 136] Or have you read the scriptures that tell us **His mercy triumphs over His judgment?** [James. 2:13] Or **His judgments are unto victory?** [Matt. 12:20]

When God chooses to judge a man, whether living or dead, that man will know he is being judged and he will know what it is for. And when God completed His judgment and has given the man life so he can **live in the Spirit like God**; that man will be so thankful and will be **completely reconciled to God** and aware of His

righteousness.

But God never gave that man or you or any one else a chance (neither a first or second chance) to accept Him. He is not God of chance. **He is a God of order**, and He knew the end from the beginning.

In closing we would like to call your attention to a few more scriptures on the subject of reconciliation of all men. Nehemiah 9:6, "And. Ezra said, 'Thou art the Lord, thou alone; thou hast made heaven the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; **and thou preservest all of them**; and the host of heaven worships thee."

With so many scriptures attesting to the **grace and mercy** of God's plan we realize that even the scribes and Pharisees will be brought in but only after the harlots, the adulterers, the robbers and the murderers because according to scripture those sinners of Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected and stand in judgment ahead of the self-righteous. S. M.

10. OTHER WITNESSES

Introduction

To the best of my knowledge, and from my memories of these many years, I can say the first one in our group to receive the grace and reconciliation message was my great-aunt Lulu May Holmes. God showed her that a good potato never chose to be firm and solid, nor did a bad potato choose to be rotten. God told her this was also true of this **Adamic creation**.

I know that it was before 1913, from the conversations between my father, Jesse Lee Michael, my mother, Margery, and Lulu Holmes.

She disclosed it by letter to my father and mother and said God had promised to send a man to them preaching that message. This came about shortly thereafter when the Lord sent a young preacher, William Owen, who had been ousted by the U.B. Church because the Holy Spirit had fallen upon him and he spoke in an unknown tongue. They said they wanted nothing to do with spirits that peep and mutter.

Brother Owen arrived on the scene of what is now about S.E. 72nd and Knight St. where a little group of Christians were meeting in the back room of a little store building. They had been watching and praying for the Lord to send them a man preaching grace.

It was not long before the Lord was pouring out the reconciliation and grace message through him. He, himself, had not recognized it yet, and he even argued that he was not preaching it. Before long the Lord revealed it to him; and he never swayed from the reconciliation message in his long and fruitful ministry for the Lord.

Brother and Sister Michael got in touch with Lulu Holmes and she came to Portland and confirmed the fact that he was preaching the message she had received from the Lord. God had shown her that **Paul was the chosen vessel through whom He would send the light of the gracious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth.**

In other articles she has pointed out that God did separate Paul from the other apostles and they returned to teaching only the circumcision.

We welcome your support in scattering this gracious gospel to all nations. Send us the name and address of every one whom you think will benefit by the message in these books. Please be very painstaking with each name and address as it saddens us very much when a set of books is being expected by some one and they are returned because we were unable to decipher the name and address correctly. Use printing letters if you can.

S.M.

AN EMENDED ARTICLE

In this place in the early editions of Book One, we printed an article by my great aunt Lulu Holmes, because of the wonderful testimony it gave to the gracious gospel of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, and of the **eventual reconciliation of every man to God in his own order**, as foreordained by God before the world was.

Because of some extraneous material in the article, not pertinent to the reconciliation message, we received some letters which indicated those portions could not be supported by scripture; even as she had admitted in the article itself. We then made a study of those teachings and we were forced to agree with the letter writers.

Therefore not desiring to aid in the spreading of a delusion which God has chosen for blinded Israel, until their order arrives; we are going to take the liberty of reprinting her article with those extraneous portions deleted. To any Christians who have copies of the original article, who might wish to know what we found in scripture to cause us to delete those portions; we will gladly answer any questions you may have.

We would like you to study the difference between what God **promised as wages** for work performed; and what He promised as the **gift of grace**. Please read Romans 4:4: “**Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**”

S.M.

The FOUNDATION TRUTHS of RECONCILIATION

BY LULU HOLMES

In studying any subject in the Bible, it is always well to go back to the beginning and get the foundation truths first. That the subject may be grasped as a whole, we will take our foundation scripture, “...**God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself: not imputing their trespasses unto them: And hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**” [2 Cor. 5:19]

While these words were spoken by Paul, unto whom were revealed all the mysteries since the world began, we can expect him to take us back to the very beginning. He does this, saying ‘**the creation was made subject to vanity** (or sin) **not willingly, but by reason of himself** (God) **who subjected all things in hope.**’ [Rom. 8:20]

So we see that the first creation was not a Spiritual creation, neither was it made a perfect natural creation. But it was made good in that it would bring about the subjection that was in God’s plan all the time, to prepare the way for the **new creation to be brought about in Christ, their hope.**

Many of God’s people have taken **good** to mean **perfect**, but we all know better than that. We learned in school that the word good is way down the line, for after it comes the word better, and then best. Best could mean perfection, Had the creation been made perfect it could never have fallen into such a state of degradation as it did.

Perhaps the first symbol of Christ dying on the cross to pay the penalty of man’s sins, was the blood of animals being shed and their skins being used to cover the sin or nakedness of Adam and Eve. Then as they were being driven out of the garden, we have God’s plan set forth in the judgments He set forth.

No doubt all God’s children have read that third chapter of Genesis over and over again without noting the final triumphant note, for it not only tells how the seed of the serpent would bruise the heel (or walk) of **the seed** of the woman; but **the seed** of the woman (which seed is **Christ**) would bruise the head of the serpent. As we follow

on in God's plan, we find that Christ was to come and destroy all the works of the devil.

Again Paul goes back to the beginning and reaches forward to the end when he says, "**As in Adam all die, even so, in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order.**" [1 Cor. 15:22-23] Here we see **it was never God's plan to save all people in the same order or time.**

If we read on we will find that in God's plan there are three different orders of salvation:

1st, "**Christ the first fruits**" which we know includes His own body the church, which is also called a kind of first fruits.

2nd, They that are Christ's at His coming.

3rd, Then cometh the end when Christ shall have delivered up the kingdom to the Father, for Christ must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** This means death of every kind. **There will be no more spiritual death nor alienation from God.**

Christ is one with God, will always be one with God, but the time is coming when he will lay down His redemptive work and God will be all in all.

We all know that this is the **church age**. The church is being called out now and prepared that she may be used to the praise of the glory of His grace in the ages to come. They are an elect people, **electd for a special purpose**. No one can be in this body who is not especially called of God.

Israel knew nothing about this church. Israel knew that finally all nations are to be saved. In Isaiah 45 [22-25] the prophet had told Israel, and Paul has told the church in Phil. 2 that "**Every knee of things in heaven, things in earth, and things under the earth shall bow, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God, the Father.**"

Paul says that **his message of grace shall be heard by all men**. God is a God not only of the living but of the dead, that is dead

in trespasses; whether they are on this earth or in the realm of the unknown. His plan is perfect and it cannot fail. Part of it may still be a mystery to us, but the more we study Paul's revelation, the more it will open up to us.

We are living in the last days, when it is prophesied that knowledge shall increase. We have a right to believe that the Spiritual knowledge of the church shall increase as well as material knowledge. Paul says till all the men of the earth shall hear it. What we would bring out here is that God knows how to even swing judgment so that it will finally bring about **victory** and lead unto **truth**. As we read in the word where Isaiah [42:3] says "**judgment is unto truth**": The Apostle Paul [Matthew?] says that '**judgment is unto victory.**' [Matt. 12:20] So we are bound to believe that God's plan is leading forth to final **victory and truth to all men**.

Judah was given the first privilege of the Spiritual promise, for out of and unto Judah first came the Christ, who gave his life, not for Judah alone, but for the whole world. "**He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**" [John 1:11-13] We know that every one of them were of the elect, the called of God, else they could not have believed; for it is impossible for the natural man to believe.

This of course caused a division. For as many as were called were given eternal life and became a part of Christ's body. This very division brought judgment upon the others and they have suffered ever since, and are still suffering as we know. God is still working under it all, and even in **their suffering is preparing them** for the glorious place they are to fill; after judgment has led unto victory and unto truth.

We read that judgment (that is **Spiritual judgment**) shall begin at the house of God, or the church. And we find that even among the Christians there is division that takes care of their judgment. The most faithful Christian may **suffer persecution for the word's sake**; but **that suffering with Christ is to the glory** and is not counted as

judgment.

Legal Christians and rebellious Christians do suffer judgment along the way. The Lord is working even under that to have them ready to be presented with the rest of the body of Christ as a “glorious church, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” [Eph. 5:27]

So it goes on and on until we see that God is leaving no outlet of escape for any man, but will finally have all to be saved. So instead of blaspheming God’s loving character, it behooves us to **prayerfully** search out His plan and purpose not only for the church and for Israel, but for the whole world.

Lulu May Holmes

STILL ANOTHER WITNESS

The following articles were written many years ago by Harold R. Stone, the eldest son of Lulu Holmes. He is now past 80 years old and if the Lord had a crown to award and the two finalists were Harold and I, it would no doubt be for the most stubborn, hard headed, knot headed man in the world who is thoroughly in love with the Lord. If any one thing was too hard for the Lord to do, it probably would be to make that choice between us.

I can say that without meaning any disrespect to the Lord or Harold; and without meaning it as any compliment to myself. If you want either one of us to believe something different than what we think we have received from God, you will have to get a bigger hammer and convince us that what you have is better and glorifies the Lord more than what we have. And we do not see eye to eye on many things yet. But we both know we will by the time the Lord is satisfied with us. We will then speak the same thing.

S.M.

11. IS MAN A FREE MORAL AGENT?

To break it down to its actual meaning, did God cut the umbilical cord between himself and Adam, leaving it up to Adam whether he would serve God or Satan or thirdly, to serve himself?

Starting with the premise in mind that the Supreme Being we worship is and always has been omnipotent to the extent that he is referred to as the All mighty God. The creator of all things including both man and Satan. We understand that this All mighty God formulated a set of rules for man to live by, and if we are to accept the orthodox version, posted them in a number of conspicuous places so everyone could plead ignorance to no avail. Having done this God dusted off his robe and sat down to see what would happen. At this point the Devil in the guise of the serpent got into the act. Taking advantage of the weaknesses left in man's character he caused man to violate the code "Oh me! Oh my!" At this, God becomes very angry biting his fingernails in frustration. Right away he metes out punishment on man, even to the death penalty. Then having literally put the fear of God in man, he climbs back up on his throne, charging his angels to watch zealously for further transgressions.

Now this sounds quite irreverent, and if true, it would be. It is false, and based on the supposition that God hoped to be able to save a small percentage of dedicated humans who would aid and protect him in his old age, while the greater portion went down the drain, or to an unending torment in Hell. In fact it gives the impression that God was not very sure of himself, man being created as a sort of last resort to offset God's enemies.

This will not wash. Better to be an infidel than to put one's trust in a God that does not know what he is doing: One whose supremacy stands in jeopardy.

What do the Holy Scriptures say of God? **"KNOWN UNTO GOD ARE ALL HIS WORKS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD."** (Acts 15:18) And what do the Holy Scriptures say of man? **"Oh Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man to direct**

his own steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23) And again, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him.” [1 Cor. 2:14]

So we are forced to conclude that **God knows, and always has, just what he is doing.** That **he is not dependant on men in any sense.** That the “Law” given to Moses, was indeed the **schoolmaster** that brings us to **Christ.**

A final question, Is a school boy a free moral agent?
H.R. Stone

I cannot let this space go without asking a few questions myself. Jesus said to the Father in Luke 22:42, “**Not my will, but thine be done.**” Why are these preachers saying that man must have his own free will? Ask yourselves that question about John 1:13, 5:30, 6:38, Ephesians 1:11, Philippians 2:13 [below]. If ‘**God worketh all things after the counsel of His will**’; and, “**It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure;**” just why are they trying to entice you to build on the shifting sands of your own free will?

“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.**” [John 1:13]

“**I can of mine own self do nothing:** as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but **the will of the Father** which hath sent me.” [John 5:30]

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but **the will of him that sent me.**” [John 6:38]

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of **him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**” [Eph. 1:11]

“**For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**” [Phil. 2:13]

S.M.

12. GUN STOCKS

Whatever do you suppose becomes of the vast numbers of the human race that fail to meet the standards and qualifications set up by the critical self-righteous minority, that do with some narrow minded effort, walk a straight and careful path in this admittedly sin-cursed world?

Meditating on this question brought to mind an article I had read in a copy of The American Rifleman magazine many years ago. It seemed the editor had sent one of his writers to interview a gun smith whose gun stocks were masterpieces of workmanship, custom made for very expensive firearms.

After some description of the man and his shop he tells with amazement of the actual process of turning out one of these beautiful pieces of work. As near as I can recall his words, they were about as follows. "The guy went over to a bin filled with bolts of hardwood, tossed aside what looked to me like some very nice smooth straight pieces, finally selecting a rough twisted piece that only looked good for firewood.

Taking this over to a chopping block he seized a heavy hand axe which he used vigorously for several minutes before placing the result in a vise and turning to more intricate tools." The writer described each step in detail, each more time consuming than the one before, ending up with the painstaking inletting for the action and barrel of the rifle it was being made for. At this stage the gunsmith's pace became even slower yet. A few strokes with sandpaper, a trial for fit, a few more strokes, another trial, over and over. Infinite patience. The result, a perfect beautifully grained and polished stock. One a sportsman's friends would envy. One that a man would be proud to pass on to his son when his active days were over.

There seems to be a similarity between this gunsmiths methods, and the way our Creator goes about his business. In the scheme of things we humans are the bolts of hardwood in the bin. Having personalities, the straight smooth bolts feel much superior to the

rough twisted ones and as the latter fail to conform, the smooth pieces can see only firewood future in store for them.

However God looks at the heart, and not at the outward appearance. He alone knows whether the concealed grain of wood is suitable for his purpose. To carry our comparison farther, the dirt, mud, and disfiguring scratches, the bolts have accumulated prior to having been placed in the bin, in no way detract from their value as potentially perfect finished products. The roughage is cleared away in a few sharp cuts before we ever leave the chopping block of this life for the next stage in **our journey toward becoming conformed to the image of His Son**, and a member of the body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head. Then, and then only can we hope to leave the gunsmith's shop to enter into the purpose of our being created. Hang in there Brother! The chopping will soon be over.

Harold R. Stone

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that (Faith) not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10.

13. THE GRACIOUS GOSPEL

By S.M.

Before you, or I, of any one else can properly spread the **gracious gospel of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ**; we must know just what scriptures are included in that gracious gospel; and what scriptures were meant to be a part of that gracious gospel. Notice! I underlined 'resurrected'.

Only that gospel is the good news, glad tidings of God for every created man, whether that man is on the earth or in the principalities of the heavenly places, or in the principalities of the unseen world of Hades [Sheol]. That gospel was always the gospel of God. It was alluded to when Eve was promised the saviour who would bruise the head of the serpent. It was mentioned when Abraham was promised that his '**one seed**' would bless every family and nation on earth.

How the serpent's head was to be bruised and how every family was to be blessed was never revealed unto the sons of men through all the ages and generations. **It was kept a secret, hidden mystery.** It was never revealed to Enoch, Noah, Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, nor to any of the prophets. **David** was given a glimpse of it when he had sinned so bad that under the law of Moses he should never have been allowed to live, but **God showed him grace and mercy and forgiveness.** God had shown him that righteousness had been imputed to him without the works of the law. But God did not show him that **He would in due time impute righteousness to all men.** Just before Israel was to have Jesus crucified, Jesus prophesied that if they lifted him up on that cross and put him to death; '**he would draw ALL men unto himself.**' [~John 12:32] But He did not reveal how. He did tell them that the **Spirit of truth** who had been with them, would be in them; but they must wait until that '**Spirit of truth did come and then he would lead them into all truth.**' [~John 16:13] As late as the ascension, 40 days after the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus told them that '**it was not for them to know the times and the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.**' [Acts 1:7] But '**they would receive power, after the Holy Spirit [Ghost] was come upon them.**' [Acts 1:8] Jesus had earlier told them that he '**had many things to say to them but they could not bear them yet**' [John 16:12] '**because the Holy Spirit had not yet**

been given.’ [John 7:39]

The point behind all this is brought out by Jesus when he said ‘no man born of a woman was any greater than John the Baptist and the least one in the kingdom of God is greater than John.’ [~ Matt. 11:11, Luke 7:28] **The gracious gospel had not only been kept secret from the world but it had been kept hidden from all the fathers, prophets, apostles and disciples of Jesus of Nazareth. The gospel is Spiritual.**

Abraham was born of a woman, and the Holy Spirit had not yet been given, therefore he could bless nobody Spiritually. He was blessed by Melchisedech, who was not born of a woman. Melchisedech was a **Spiritual man**. “And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.” Hebrews 7:1-7.

The apostles and disciples of Jesus had all the teachings of the fathers, Moses and the prophets. The apostles had been with Jesus several years before the crucifixion. They were with him several times in those 40 days before the ascension. Yet they could not receive nor believe one Spiritual thing because they had not yet been given the **Holy Spirit**. The same applies to the fathers and the prophets of the old testament.

If Jesus was telling the truth and his own apostles could not bear to be told any thing Spiritual: where does that leave all those fathers and prophets of Israel. If those ‘apostles and disciples of Jesus were seemingly pillars and appeared to be somewhat in conference, could add nothing to Paul and the gospel which had been entrusted to him’ [~ Gal. 2:6]: ‘why should we tempt God by putting a yoke on the neck of our children, our families, our friends and neighbors, which Peter said neither the apostles nor the fathers of Israel were able to bear?’ [~ Acts 15:10]

Just as it was impossible for Abraham to bless Melchisedech; so too it is impossible for Abraham or anyone else to bless or add anything to us, Spiritually. Every promise they had (except the promise of that ‘one seed’ which became **Christ**; was for earthly things, **IF** they kept all the commandments, statutes precepts and laws of Moses. IF they failed (and you know they did) they were to lose not only the blessings which they were attempting to buy with their own righteousness, but they also would bring on curses that were so

severe that God in His mercy never paid any attention to them all the time Israel was swearing they would not transgress the law. God made the nation pay. But any individual who would take himself out from under the law and humble himself before God, always received **mercy and grace**.

We want to make clear to every one who reads these books that we do not, and neither did Paul, teach men to sin or be unrighteous. From Adam to this day, every man has been unrighteous. It is something that needs no teaching. It comes natural to man. There is something that needs no teaching. It comes natural to man. There is great difference between our teaching of the grace of God toward unrighteous men (“**There is none righteous, no not one.**” [Rom. 3:12]) and the teaching of people to be unrighteous; which we have never done. Any accusation that we teach men to sin and be unrighteous, is the same lie that blinded Israel used against Paul, after **the Lord had revealed to him all the previously kept secret mysteries and hidden wisdom of the gracious gospel of reconciliation for every man in the heavenlies, on the earth, and under the earth** [Col.1:20], **all in God’s foreordained order**. [1 Cor. 15:23]

Blinded Israel (whom the scriptures state are ‘**enemies as to the gospel**’ [Rom. 11:28]) could not believe Paul’s gospel then; and they cannot believe it to this very day. They cannot be blamed. Peter says ‘**they were ordained to stumble and be disobedient.**’ [1 Pet. 2:8] God has not yet granted it unto them to believe the gospel.

If you press the gospel committed to Paul upon those who are still priding themselves on being children of Israel, after the flesh; they will invariably come up with the statement (which we have heard for over 60 years under this gracious gospel), “I don’t care what Paul said. I want what God said.” What they really want is the old covenant teaching of Moses in the ‘law and the prophets’; rather than the new covenant teachings of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ as they were revealed to Paul.

The least they will settle for, is a constant mixture of the two teachings which is called adultery in Romans 7:1-6 comparing it to a woman who wants to hold on to her old husband while she marries another. “**Wherefore my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we**

should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now, **being dead, we are released from the law, wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of Spirit**, and not in the oldness of the letter.” Our flesh prefers the old.

Meditate on that scripture and ask God to show you the simplicity of it. For **you have become dead to the law by the body of Jesus on the cross**; that you might be married to Him who was raised from the dead without being the same as an adulterous woman. You must not try to remain alive to the law after you have been married to Christ.

Paul says in Galatians 1:8, (after some had come from the council of the apostles in Jerusalem and were perverting the gospel of Christ by trying to force the Gentile Galatians who had received Christ, to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses), “**But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**” Could it be any clearer that **the two teachings are not to be mixed?**

Whenever you read the letter of either the old or the new testament, examine every word and every statement to find out if they can be built and stand on **the foundation of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ**. That foundation, scripture tells us, no other man but Paul was ever commissioned by God to lay. And ‘**other foundation can no man lay than that Paul laid, which is Jesus Christ.**’ [1 Cor. 3:11] ‘**Christ in you, your hope of glory.**’ [Col. 1:27]

If Christ be in you, you are not part of blinded Israel. You are either one of those elected out of Israel by grace, or, you are a Gentile who must first be brought in before all of blinded Israel shall be saved as it is written. Romans 11, Just because you are not part of blinded Israel does not keep you from being deluded with their teachings.

Remember the rebuke those Galatians received for allowing themselves to be bewitched and getting themselves entangled with the law after **receiving the Holy Spirit by grace through faith**. We will bring out later about the rebuke Peter took from Paul for the same thing. The professing Christian organizations of today are

preaching the self-righteous ministry of condemnation and death, as given by Moses and the prophets under the old covenant; more than they are the **imputed righteousness of Christ with all the love, grace, mercy and forgiveness for the sinners and the ungodly, which are taught in the new covenant of grace and mercy and reconciliation for all men, in their order.** Yes! Even for those of blinded Israel. They too, in their order, will be brought to Paul's gospel of Christ.

But today blinded Israel have not yet been granted by God to believe that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness ..." though it plainly says so in Romans 10:4. Nor has God granted them to believe that "... righteousness of God without the law has been manifested: ..." though it plainly says so in Romans 3:21.

Paul said in chapter 1:29 of his epistle to the Gentile Philippian, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." **No man can believe on Jesus Christ without the power to believe be given unto him first.** "And no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:3. If Christ has entered your heart, **it has been given unto you to believe.** And you can from your heart say that "**Jesus is the Lord.**"

Blinded Israel still can not believe that the self-righteous ministry of condemnation and death has been done away in Christ. It has been abolished and replaced by a **ministration of the Spirit that is so far exceeding in glory**, that the old now has no glory at all. No Israelite nor Gentile could keep it.

2 Corinthians 3:7-11, "But if the **ministration of death**, written and engraven in stones, was glorious ..." (What was it that was written and engraven in stones? The ministration of death.) "... so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the **ministration of the Spirit** be rather glorious?" (Do you begin to gather an inkling that the old was not the ministration of the Spirit.

"For if the **ministration of condemnation** be glory, much more doth the **ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**" (Where do we find that ministration of condemnation? Written and engraven in

stones.) "For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious." Take your pick; but you can not have both without committing adultery.

If you are open to the truth, instead of stubbornly holding on to those vain conversations, delusions and traditions handed down from the fathers - (Read 1 Peter 1:18.) - with which we all have been saturated; can you truthfully say that you do not know what that ministration of condemnation and death really was which was written and engraven in stones at the time when the children of Israel could not look on the face of Moses?

Let us refresh our memories by reading about it in Exodus 34:28-30, "And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses knew not that the skin of his face shone while He talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him."

Some time ago, here in Portland, a lady who had stumbled onto these scriptures in 2 Corinthians 3 called a radio pastor who was conducting a Bible question and answer program. She was very concerned and asked, "Those scriptures are surely not referring to God's ten commandments, are they?"

The radio pastor assured her that they only referred to some of the other laws, precepts, statutes and ordinances that were of very little consequence. That pastor either did not know and neglected to look it up; or he deliberately deceived her. In any case, she was left in ignorance of this vital truth and undelivered from her first husband, the law of Moses, the ten commandments. But if Christ is in you, there is no need for you to be ignorant of these things. "Christ, of God, is made unto you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption." [1 Cor. 1:30] You can furnish nothing toward those attributes. "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God." [Col. 3:3] "You are God's workmanship." [Eph. 2:10] Have you ever heard of a pot helping the potter mould itself. We are but clay. But "we shall be like Him." [1 John 3:2]

Any time you want to go back under the old covenant and try to show God that you do not need Christ; and tell Him that the cross was not necessary on your behalf because you can be righteous and keep all the law: just remember what Jesus said. Every thing written in the law and the prophets hang on your being able to "... love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; ... and ... thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." [Matt. 22:37-39, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:27]

That is God's royal law. It is spiritual. If you keep every jot and tittle of all other laws, ordinances, statutes, precepts and commandments (and no man can) but still failed to **love God totally and your neighbor just exactly as your self**; You are a transgressor and guilty of them all. And who is your neighbor? Red, yellow, black, brown and white; capitalist, communist, fascist, nazi, Jew and Gentile. "I do not frustrate the **grace of God**: for if righteousness is through the law, then Christ is dead in vain." [Gal. 2:21] "If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law." [Gal. 3:21] "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and **be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." [Gal. 5:1-4] Is that your desire?

God preached the gracious Spiritual gospel to Abraham before there was any nation of Israel or law of Moses. God promised that '**one seed**' of Abraham was going to '**bless every family**' and '**nation on the earth**.' [see Gen 22:18, 28:14] Paul brought it out very clearly that it was not promised that the many seeds of Abraham would be used; Just through that '**one seed**' which is **Christ**. [see Gal. 3:16]

God will not consider that promise fulfilled until '**every man**' has been '**made alive in Christ**,' just '**as in Adam all die**.' 1 Cor. 15:22-23.

And now we will show you a delusion. In order to glorify Israel, after the flesh, many later day versions of the scriptures have been altered so the word '**seed**' has been replaced with the plural word '**descendants**'. The object is to cause all men to believe that God is

only going to bless them through the many seeds of Israel who were scattered throughout all the nations of the world. And blinded Israel has formed world wide associations and federations which promote such teachings. In order to teach that Abraham's many seeds were going to bless all the nations and families of the earth; they must reject and deny the gospel that the resurrected Lord revealed to Paul for all men. They can not accept Paul as the chosen vessel of God to bear His name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel as it is recorded in Acts 9:15. [**But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:**] Therefore they say, "We don't care what Paul said." Do you care? Do you believe Paul was a chosen vessel of God? Or do you think he was an imposter like many of present day Israel have charged?

This is what the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to Paul about that gospel that was preached to Abraham. Galatians 3:8, **"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen [Gentiles] through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed."** [in Gen. 18:18, 22:18. 26:4] And in the 16th verse Paul says, **"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to 'seeds' as of many; but as of ONE, and to thy SEED, which is Christ."**

We believe Paul did receive those words by revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Now you must believe that the promise was not to descendants as of many; but to that one descendant, who is **Christ**. Or, you must end up like blinded Israel does, by claiming Paul is just an egotistical imposter. The changing of that word 'seed' to the plural word 'descendants' was done in this century, about 1900 years after Paul wrote **"He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."** [Gal. 3:16]

Some versions in which the word 'descendants' was substituted, are honorable enough to mention in the margin that literally it said **'seed'**. However when Bibles are read from the pulpit, or over the radio and television, those hearing the word seldom hear or know anything about what is in the margins about the scriptures being read. And later editions of those Bibles come out without any marginal readings till the delusion has been broadcast as the "Word of God". Truly, the **"letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life."** [2 Cor. 3:6] Our present day versions of Scripture have been so amplified,

expanded to, subtracted from, subverted and changed, it would be almost impossible for the original writers to recognize them. But God has kept enough of his Word scattered through them to enable each one of us **through His Holy Spirit**, not only to discern what is God's WORD: but also to rightly divide the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 exhorts us, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**"

Paul told the Gentile Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 3:3-6, "Ye are manifestly declared to be the **epistle of Christ** ministered by us, written not with ink, but **with the Spirit of the living God; not on tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.** And such trust have we through Christ to Godward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of God;** Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for **the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.**" Please note that Paul was speaking of "the new testament, not of the letter, but of the Spirit." **The letter of the new testament killeth; as does the letter of the old.**

Paul also tells us that the '**old covenant from mount Sinai gendereth [brings forth] to bondage.**' [~ Gal. 4:24] **It teaches self righteousness, condemnation and death.** Why should any one, elected by grace, from among blinded Israel, to be a member of the body of Christ; or the Gentiles, called by grace to be in the body of Christ; want to place themselves under Moses and the law; or under the teachings of the law of Moses by the prophets; **by Jesus, after the flesh;** or by His apostles and disciples? After it had '**pleased God to reveal His Son IN Paul,**' [~ Gal. 1:15-16] as Paul's '**hope of glory,**' [Col. 1:27] '**wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption**' [1 Cor. 1:30]; Paul quit teaching the old covenant (of which he had been the most zealous); and began teaching the new. After three years he went up to see Peter and stayed with him 15 days [Gal. 1:18] explaining what the Lord had revealed to him that he was to preach among the Gentiles.

Shortly after that, God gave Peter the dream in which Peter was told to eat all manner [of] four-footed creatures, wild beasts, creeping things, and fowl of the air, which Peter recognized as being filthy, abominable and unclean. They were unlawful for children of Israel to eat, according to the law of Moses and the prophets, such as

mice and swine's flesh. So he argued with God. God won the argument and convinced Peter for the time that those things were no longer unclean and neither were uncircumcised men.

To all of you to whom God has given ears to hear, Hear this! **That makes every prophecy outdated and obsolete, which contain any of those things as unclean and abominations to the Lord.** Do you think God so unrighteous that He would consume men like Peter for "eating swine's flesh, the abomination, and the mouse" After He had told Peter to eat them?, Isaiah, was still prophesying that in his very last chapter. Isaiah 66:17. The 21st verse also places all of that prophecy in the past, "[And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the Lord.](#)" The prophecies of Jeremiah were also for that time, as they linked the continued sacrifice of the blood of animals by the Levitical priesthood. Jeremiah 33:17-22.

The same goes for the prophecies of Ezekiel. After the blood of Jesus was shed, would God build a special place in a temple for Levites to offer sacrifices of animals? Ezekiel's prophecies are also moot because they say no man uncircumcised in the flesh can enter the sanctuary. **Jesus replaced the Levitical priesthood, the temple, and the circumcision of the flesh**, when Israel shed His innocent blood on the cross of Calvary.

Hebrews 7:11-19, "[If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, \(for under it the people received the law\), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedech, and not after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.](#)" Why, then, should Christians saddle themselves with what God has changed?

"For there is verily a DISANNULING OF THE COMMANDMENT GOING BEFORE, FOR THE WEAKNESS AND UNPROFITABLENESS THEREOF.

For the LAW MADE NOTHING PERFECT, but the bringing in of a better hope did; whereby we draw nigh unto God." You cannot draw nigh by the law.

What all Christians should understand, (If they insist on reading Scriptures that are not part of the gracious gospel of the resurrected

Lord Jesus Christ which He committed to Paul), is what God's purpose was, in dealing with people in the periods **before he gave them Christ in them.**

- He dealt with man without any favoritism, precepts, circumcision, or laws from Adam to Noah;
- without favoritism, circumcision, or laws, but with precepts from Noah to Abraham;
- without the law of Moses but with precepts, favoritism and circumcision from Abraham to Moses;
- And with precepts, favoritism, circumcision and the law of Moses, and priests and prophets until they grew so wicked they demanded a king and insisted, even when God told them a king would not be good for them.

They grew still more wicked until God took their kings and their kingdom away from them, and destroyed the temple and Jerusalem.

When the captivity had worked God's will, He restored Israel and Judah as one people and they rebuilt the temple and Jerusalem, as all the prophets had prophesied. **The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles, Esther and Malachi are the only ones written after those prophecies were all fulfilled.** And Israel waxed more evil and wicked until gross darkness covered the earth and gross darkness covered the people. [see Isa. 60:2] When the promised Messiah came, they crucified him. After His resurrection, ascension and glorification, **He next appeared to Paul and revealed His *gracious gospel* of reconciliation for all men past, present, and future; on the earth, in the heavens and under the earth.** (In hades). He never appeared again to anyone, (in the scriptures).

What was God's purpose in all those dealings before Christ? God had no other purpose in all those periods of time, and in all those scriptures, but **to leave an indelible, uncontestable record of the absolute incapability of any man to be righteous, until in God's order He would add the seed of the new creation of Christ into that man.** And you can see that He was never bound by those carnal commandments but extended His marvelous **grace and mercy** to all who humbled themselves. He imputed righteousness without the works of the law. If you expect to find anything more than that you will not only be disappointed, but will possibly be bewitched by your own vanity into trying to establish your own righteousness before God, to put him in debt to you; as Israel and the foolish Galatians tried to do.

God so created Adam man subject to vanity, that the self-righteous teaching of the law by Moses and the prophets, is much more flattering and enticing to our old carnal, egotistical minds than is teaching of grace and reconciliation of every man in the gracious gospel, revealed to Paul by the resurrected Lord. Those born of the Spirit have the **mind of Christ**. Adam is very content with his own mind and will.

Galatians 1:11-12, “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man neither was I taught it, but by the **REVELATION OF CHRIST**.” It pleased God to reveal His Son in Paul. Seventeen years later Paul had to defend the gracious gospel before the council of the apostles in Jerusalem. Peter backed Paul then, telling them not to tempt God by putting the law on the Gentiles when the apostles and the fathers of Israel had been unable to keep it. Peter told them, that in the Cornelius vision, **God had put no difference between those of Israel and the Gentiles**. Later Peter was to fall away and draw the other Israelites with him, even Barnabas who had been separated by the Holy Spirit with Paul, unto the gracious gospel. But earlier James, Peter and John had given Paul the right hand of fellowship, that he was to preach the gracious gospel to the Gentiles. There is no scripture that indicates that James, Peter or John ever joined in the gospel to the Gentiles. Galatians 2:9 “**And when James, Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, [Gentiles] and they unto the circumcision.**” And they exempted Gentiles from the law!

Always remember, you can not be taught grace by anyone not teaching grace. **You can not be taught the gracious gospel by anyone, nor scripture, not teaching the gracious gospel**. Not one of the fathers nor prophets and not one of the apostles of Jesus of Nazareth ever testified that **God had revealed His Son as a ‘new creation’** [2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15] **in them, who of God was made unto them their ‘wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption;’** [1 Cor. 1:30] **and that ‘Christ in them’ was their only ‘hope of glory.’** [Col. 1:27] Nor did they testify that ‘it was God which worketh in them, both to will and to do of His good pleasure’. [**“for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.”** Phil. 2:13] Nor will you find anything

written by them that teaches that “**God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses against them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**” [2 Cor. 5:19] Not one of them wrote to the Gentiles. Every book in the old testament was written to the circumcision but **Job** (Which was written before there was any Abraham, circumcision, Israel, law or Moses.) In the new testament Matthew was an apostle of Jesus of Nazareth. The book of **Matthew** is not a gospel. It is his recollection of the life of Jesus on earth and he only records one meeting between Jesus and the apostles after the resurrection. He mentions nothing of the ascension. His summary of the words of Jesus to the apostles in those forty days required only 60 words. Even so, over 15 centuries later, the translators from the Greek into English mistranslated [in Matt. 28:19] the Greek word ‘**Matheteuo**’ meaning ‘**make disciples**’, and called it ‘teach’.

The Greek words ‘mathete’, ‘matheteuo’ and ‘mathetria’ appear 274 times, They were translated ‘disciple’ 271 times by the same translators. Why did they use the word ‘teach’ in that one verse? They translated the Greek word ‘**didasko**’ correctly, to the word ‘**teach**’ 97 times, so they were not ignorant. Jesus was not asking them to teach or make disciples of Gentiles yet. He was asking them to make disciples of the lost sheep of the house of Israel who were scattered out among those nations. The apostles were all still under the law and Gentiles were unclean to them.

Peter and the apostles were thoroughly shocked over 10 years later, and they almost broke up, when the Lord forced the Gentile household of Cornelius upon them. Even that did not happen until after the Lord Jesus had revealed His gracious gospel to Paul, and Paul had stayed 15 days with Peter explaining it to Peter.

Mark was not an apostle. It has been established that Mark 16:9 through 20 were not part of his writing. They make up the longest of two additions which were added by someone later. Mark’s account ended with the women at the tomb.

Luke was not an apostle, either. He only records two meetings between Jesus and the disciples after the crucifixion. He mentions Him meeting two disciples unto whom, beginning with Moses and the prophets He expounded the things concerning Himself in all the scriptures. Luke also mentioned the meeting with the eleven

apostles and those who were with them. From that meeting they walked to Bethany and Jesus was carried up to heaven. Gentiles were never mentioned.

In **Acts** Luke mentions the meeting at Bethany. The disciples were told that they soon would be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**. They were still concerned with the restoration of the earthly kingdom to Israel, Jesus told them it was 'not for them to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.' [Acts 1:7] But 'they would receive power after the Holy Spirit was come upon them and they would be witnesses unto Jesus both in Jerusalem, and in Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.' [Acts 1:8] But not one word about associating with uncircumcised men of the Gentiles or of a **gracious gospel for all men ever born**. **Matthew** had said Jesus asked them to teach the disciples they made, to observe all the things Jesus had commanded them.

Luke never claimed that Jesus expounded anything new to the apostles concerning himself; only the old things written about him in Moses, the prophets and the scriptures. I am making this point because in John 16:12-15, Jesus told the apostles, "**I have yet many things to say to you, but ye cannot bear them now**. Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he **will guide you into all truth**: For he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come."

Please take notice of that! The apostles of Jesus of Nazareth could not bear the things Jesus could tell them until 'he, the **Spirit of truth** should come, and he would lead them into all truth. And would show them things to come.' Why couldn't they bear them? Because, like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and John the Baptist, they were all just natural men. **The things to come were Spiritual things**.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **Spiritually discerned**." [1 Cor. 2:14] They had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Even after Jesus was crucified, resurrected and ascended, the apostles still had to tarry in Jerusalem until the Spirit of God fell on them, from on high.

They made no claim and neither is it recorded in scripture that

Christ came in them or that God revealed His Son in them or that they received the Holy Spirit in them at that time as a new creation. "The things of God knoweth no man, **but the Spirit of God.**" [1 Cor. 2:11] Consider that very carefully. The natural man cannot receive or know the things of God nor the things of the Spirit of God. They must be **Spiritually discerned.**

That is true of every man from Adam to this day. The Holy Spirit fell on the old testament fathers and prophets and moved them to speak and do the will of God; and then left them. Whatever they said and did at other times was not of the Spirit. Jesus of Nazareth and his apostles were the same. Jesus said, "He gave me commandment, what I should speak." [John 12:49] "The Son can do nothing of himself." [John 5:19] "**I can of mine own self do nothing.**" [John 5:30] "Whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." [John 12:50]

John the Baptist had been told, He, upon whom he saw the Spirit descending and remaining, would be the Son of God. In Luke 3:23 he indicates the age of Jesus as being about 30 years at that time. The Spirit was seen descending from heaven and abiding on Jesus in the form of a dove. It was just before Jesus was to be crucified that he was still saying he could do nothing of his own self. "... **God was in Christ reconciling the world ...**" [2 Cor. 5:19]

If the apostles of Jesus had to be born again of the Spirit before they could bear, receive or know anything Spiritual; where does that leave the fathers, prophets and Moses, as concerning Spiritual knowledge? If Jesus could do nothing of His own self; where does that leave us, if we have not yet been born again? And what possible Spiritual knowledge could we expect to receive from the old testament teachings of Moses? Except the record that **they made nothing perfect.** To get back to the ascension: Jesus said, "**It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto me both in Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." [Acts 1:7-8] But not a word of mention that they should go unto any Gentile and associate, or as Peter said in Acts 10:28, 'keep company, with any one not of the nation of Israel.' They were still considered unclean by the apostles till God told Peter different in that trance recorded in Acts 10:10. Even after that, they fell away again. Gal. 2.

They were not instructed to witness to anybody in Samaria even, but those of scattered Israel. The Samaritans were Israelites who had split with the Jews and only accepted the Law (the 5 books of Moses) as being of God. They rejected all other books of the old testament. The old Samaritan text of the Pentateuch and the Greek Septuagint version which came out 3 centuries before Christ are in much closer agreement with the other ancient fragments of scripture than the **Masoretic text** put out in the 14th century after Christ by the Hebrews. The Masoretes were enemies of Jesus and the gracious gospel He gave to Paul. But I am straying from my subject.

The book of **John** was written by the apostle John and He mentioned nothing about the ascension meeting. He mentions three meetings with the resurrected Lord and the Apostles: once without Thomas; once with Thomas; and the last time he mentioned seeing Jesus he said it was the third time. At that meeting Jesus appeared to 5 apostles and 2 other disciples that were fishing with them. The conversation was taken up with Jesus chiding Peter for loving fish more than he loved the Lord. He asked Peter 3 times if he loved him and told Peter what death he was to die to glorify the Lord. He told Peter to feed His lambs and sheep. That meant the children of Israel, not Gentiles. That commission was revealed first to the apostle Paul, God's own chosen vessel to take His name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel. **Paul revealed it to the apostles.**

James, son of Zebedee, brother of John never went to the Gentiles in the records given of him in Acts of the apostles. He is only mentioned two times. Once he was praying in the upper room after the ascension; and the other time was when he was put to death by **Herod** the Jewish proselyte of the children of Esau who was made king of the Jews by the Romans.

The **James** who wrote the epistle of James, was an apostle and became head over the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. After Paul had been evangelizing the Gentiles for many years, He and Barnabas appeared before the council headed by James, to defend the gracious gospel; because certain ones had come from the circumcised disciples at Jerusalem, teaching the Gentile converts that they must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses.

James joined with Peter and the rest of the elders in sending letters to the Gentile Christians. Two faithful disciples of Jesus were sent along to tell them by word of mouth that they were exempted from circumcision and the law of Moses. They were **Judas** and **Silas**. They joined Paul and Barnabas in teaching and confirming the Gentiles. Judas returned to Jerusalem but Silas remained among the Gentiles with Paul, and replaced Barnabas when he was carried away from the gospel by the hypocrisy of Peter and the other Jews.

I never did like the words 'dissembled' and 'dissimulation' used in some translations of Galatians 2:13, to hold people's reverence to the man Peter, after the flesh. It was that same carnal reverence to men that made the Masoretes to change the name 'Moses' in Judges 18:30 to read 'Manasseh'. Who understands what the words 'dissembled' and 'dissimulation' mean? The words Paul used were a combined word including 'hupokrisis'. The phrase meant 'to act hypocritically with'. And the word 'hupokrisis' alone, which meant 'hypocrisy'. Those words can be understood. Those same translators used the words 'hypocrite' and 'hypocrisy' the other 25 times when they came upon the words 'hupokrisis' and 'hupocrisy'. They were not ignorant. If you read the rebuke which Paul gave to Peter to the face, and which Peter accepted, in Galatians 2:11-21, you will understand why the last appearance of **Peter** recorded in Acts of the apostles, was his defense of his own teaching of the Gentile family of Cornelius in Acts 15:7-11 And nothing **Barnabas** did after he fell away, is ever mentioned in scripture.

James along with Peter and John had already given Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship; to go unto the Gentiles: but they themselves were to continue on with the circumcision. The last thing mentioned in the acts of the apostles done by **John**, was to go with Peter to those in **Samaria**. But that was before the conversion of Paul, and before Peter was sent by God to the Gentile home of Cornelius. Samaria was the land of the kingdom of Israel before God scattered them out of His sight in judgment. Many of the children of those ten tribes had returned to Samaria at the time Persians allowed Judah to return from Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem. There is no indication that Philip, Peter or John went in to any uncircumcised people in Samaria.

The book of **James** was addressed by him to the twelve tribes of

Israel, scattered abroad. It was written while Paul was in prison at Rome, years after Paul had written 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, and several years after Paul had written 1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus and Romans. It was in Romans that Paul had insisted **that justification came by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross; and by the faith of Jesus that his crucifixion paid the price for every man.** It is in Romans where Paul said that the election taken out of Israel was by grace, and, "If **by grace** then it is no more of works: otherwise **grace** is no more Grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more **grace**: otherwise work is no more work." [Rom. 11:6]

It was in Romans [4:2] that Paul said, "If Abraham was justified by works, he hath where of to glory, BUT NOT BEFORE GOD." And Paul went on to describe the righteousness imputed to Abraham and David by God, without works. Romans 4:4 says, "Now to him that worketh the reward is not reckoned of grace but of debt." And in Romans 5:8-9, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

In the book of James written several years later, James goes directly contrary to Paul in the matter of justification. His whole epistle is an exhortation for men to maintain good works and refrain from evil works. There is nothing wrong with that; and Paul would approve of that too. But Paul would have added that it is "**God that worketh in man both to will and to do of His good pleasure.**" [Phil. 2:13] And "Christ in man is of God made unto man wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption." [~1 Cor. 1:30] And "**Not man, but Christ in man, He doeth the works,**" [~Eph. 2:10]

What was wrong, was James teaching that Abraham and all other men could put God in debt to themselves by those works? James did not believe the gospel of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ which had been committed to Paul, though he had given Paul the right hand of fellowship to teach it to the Gentiles. James was still trying to remain married to the law after being married to Christ. But it was not his fault. James was never separated with Paul and Barnabas to teach that gospel. Why did he contradict Paul about Abraham earning the promise of God by his own works?

That is very simple. Moses supposedly wrote the 'law' (the first five

books of the scriptures) 430 years after God gave the promises to Abraham. After Moses had recorded that the promises were made to Abraham when God first contacted him, even before Abraham had any chance to obey or to earn anything from God; Moses later writes in Genesis 22:15-18 that Abraham earned those promises by obedience.

Again in Genesis 26:4-5, Moses wrote, “And I will make thy **seed** to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy **seed** all these countries; and in thy **seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, and my statutes and my laws.” What member of the house of Israel, who had not been delivered from the ‘law’, could be blamed for taking the words of Moses over those of Paul?

Therefore James was still trying to be justified by the works of the ‘law’ and was teaching others justification by works. Be sure you understand that it was not the teaching of good works that was wrong. Paul also taught that. It was the teaching of being justified and putting God in debt to you, by those works, which is ‘old covenant’.

Moses in Genesis ignored the fact that **God had already promised Abraham with out works**. In speaking of those promises to Abraham, Hebrews says it was impossible for God to lie. And Paul who was renowned for his knowledge of what the ‘law’ said, tells us in Galatians that the promise to Abraham was to be fulfilled by that ‘**one seed**’ who was **Christ**. “And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God, in Christ, the law, which was 430 years after, CANNOT DISANNUL, that it should make the promise of God of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.” [Gal. 3:17-18] No matter what it says back there in the ‘law’, or in James, **Abraham was not justified by his works**.

Galatians had been written for more than 10 years before James was written, but James could not accept the gospel, delivered to Paul by the Lord Himself, for the children of the circumcision to whom his epistle was addressed. And neither can the blinded ones of Israel today. They make their choice on what God lets them see; and **they must reject Paul to hold on to Israel, after the flesh**. So, they don’t

care what Paul said.

Just as sure as God told **Ananias** in Acts 9:15 that Paul was His chosen vessel to take His name to Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel: just that sure all Israel will be brought to the place where they accept the gracious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as it was delivered to Paul.

The ‘law’ always taught that man’s self-righteousness could put God in debt. Jesus never told James and the other apostles any different. Therefore they all taught, ‘Do this’, or ‘do that and God will owe you a blessing.’ ‘Be an overcomer and God will be in debt to you. “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the fearful, the unbelieving, the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:...” [Rev. 21:7-8] “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they might have right to the tree of life,...” [Rev. 22:14] “If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God, shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.” [Rev. 22:18-19] John was very much still under the law, and that probably explains why no act of his was recorded in the Acts of the Apostles after Paul was converted.

I submit to you brothers and sisters in Christ; those teachings can not stand on **the foundation of the gracious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as it was laid by Paul**. As Paul said, whatsoever is of works is not reckoned as of grace, but as of debt. If it is of grace it is not of works; and if it is of works it is not of grace.

Man cannot change God’s direction by what man does. **God changes man’s direction by what God does.** God never reacts to man. Man reacts to God; just like a pot on the potter’s wheel. If God has shown us that **we are the workmanship of God**; why are we always trying to do the job a little different than He chooses?

Moses, the fathers of Israel, the prophets, and the apostles are not under any condemnation from God because they did not teach the gracious gospel. It was never committed to them. They were faithful

to what they believed. When they diligently inquired as to when the gracious salvation, which they prophesied about, would come: it was revealed that not unto them, but unto us were those prophecies (of grace) given.

The epistles of **Peter** were addressed to those dispersed disciples of Jesus who were of the circumcision and had been scattered abroad among the Gentile nations by Paul and the leaders of Israel at the time they stoned Stephen to death. Acts 11:19. They were written after all thirteen of Paul's epistles were circulating in Judea and in all the nations around it. Though 2 Peter must have been written about 15 years after Paul wrote about his rebuke of Peter in Galatians; it is the only place where an apostle even recognizes that any man named Paul ever existed, outside of the Acts of the apostles, written by Luke.

As testimony that the love of God had caused him to get over the rebuke from Paul, Peter calls him, "... **even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ...**" [2 Pet. 3:15] Therefore it is not surprising to find a number of scriptures in Peter's writings which are according to Paul's writings. But true to the decision of James that the **gospel of uncircumcision** should be left to Paul while the apostles would continue to preach the gospel of circumcision; Peter never wrote to or for Gentiles.

Jude, because of its similarity in many respects to 2 Peter, has been judged by some as also having been written to the dispersion of Israel, who had become Christians. Near the end of Jude it speaks of, "... **looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**" [Jude 1:21] And, "**Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.**" [Jude 1:24-25]

Dearly beloved that can be built on the foundation. It gives the glory to **God our Saviour**. But Jude never wrote to Gentiles. Nor does he mention that the whole world were to be reconciled to God; nor that **Christ in him as a new creation was his hope of glory**. Natural man cannot do all the things Moses, the prophets and the apostles asked them to do. It is that simple.

In the three epistles of **John** God has scattered several little items that can be built on that foundation of Christ laid by Paul. 1 John 2:2, says, **Jesus Christ is the propitiation for all our sins: and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.** Christians can give a big 'Amen' to that. Jesus took the curse of the law upon himself and thus paid the price for the sins of the whole world by dying on the cross. 1 John 4:4 says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them BECAUSE **greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.**" That gives the glory to the inner **Spiritual man.** "**Christ in You, the hope of glory.**" [Col. 1:27]

1 John 5:11-12 says, "And this is the record, that God hath given us eonian [aiōnios] life, and this life is in His Son. **He that hath the Son hath life, he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" Those are wonderful gospel truths; but nowhere does John say that **in God's order all will have the Son.**

Let us look carefully at 1 John 1:5-10 "God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." That glorifies God. We can say 'Amen'. "If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." Christ, the Son of God has come into my flesh while I was yet a sinner and ungodly (unGodlike). I have fellowship with Him. But if I said I never walked in darkness anymore, I really would be a liar. **It is the fellowship that we have with Him that increases our light.** But we start out as babes in Christ, and grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God, 'until we [all] will come ... to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.' [~ Eph. 4:13] I am on my way, praise the Lord, but I am not about to say there is no darkness in me. Paul said 'we know nothing yet as we ought to know it,' [1 Cor. 8:2] but we know Jesus. [1 John 5:20]

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin." [1 John 1:7] If God waited till we walked in the light as He is in the light, before the blood served its purpose; we would not need the blood or any further cleansing. If we were walking in the light as He is; any further cleansing would make us cleaner than He is.

Man cannot earn the death on the cross and the shedding of his blood by man's walk. That blood was shed **once for all**, while we were sinners and ungodly; the just for the unjust. The blood of Jesus

was a much better sacrifice than the blood of bulls and goats, which had to be sacrificed over and over and could not cleanse anything. Jesus shed his blood once and it avails for every man from Adam through the future. **It justified every man from all the sins from which they could not be justified under the law of Moses. “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses against them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”** [2 Cor. 5:19] If God has not yet prepared you to accept what Paul says; do not fight it. Go back under the law until God shows you those were impossible for you to keep.

Just to summarize these things, everything in the old testament, and in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were records of things that happened up to the ascension and glorification of Jesus. As Jesus was leaving He told them that **‘they would soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’** [Acts 1:5] They were told that it was **‘not for them to know the times and seasons’** of things to come. [Acts 1:7] They were told that **‘they would receive power and would witness unto Jesus in Jerusalem, Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,’** [Acts 1:8] after the Holy Spirit had come upon them. But not one word that they were to go to any uncircumcised person.

The epistle of **James**, written to the 12 tribes of Israel, used the word grace only twice, but preached justification by works. In the 3 epistles of **John** grace is only mentioned once and that was in a salutation. **Jude** only mentions it once and that was to warn against using grace as an excuse for loose living. John opens and closes **Revelation** with a salutation of grace; but grace is not taught in it. It is an exhortation to do things to put God in debt. Not one of the fathers, prophets or apostles ever claimed that the gracious gospel of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ had ever been committed unto them for all men. Jesus said they could not bear it.

It does not matter where you find promises offering pay from God for works or for keeping commandments, whether those wages would be blessings, ruling status, position or rank: you can know that you are not reading nor hearing the **gospel of grace**. You are reading or hearing about wages for work performed.

If God has given you ears to hear; hear this. God is going to write these words on the heart of each man before that man has **“come**

to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of **Christ.**" [Eph. 4:13] All men will eventually be granted to believe this: "Now of him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt." [Rom. 4:4] Also, "And if by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." [Rom. 11:6] "**For we are God's workmanship.**" [Eph. 2:10] "**It is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.**" [Phil. 2:13] "**He doeth the works.**" [John 14:10] Do you have ears to hear that?

Many things were promised to the circumcision in both the old and the new testament, IF they would keep the commandments of Moses, or of God, or of Jesus of Nazareth. That is not the gracious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. There was none of that teaching ever hidden from the sons of men through all the ages and generations. The teaching to do and be blessed; fail to do and be cursed was never kept as a secret mystery from the sons of men, afterward to be revealed. That teaching was an open book from the third chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation; (Except for the gospel revealed to Paul for every man).

And yet, all through the quicksands of that teaching of condemnation and death; God had laid solid foundation stones which were telling man what God always knew, "**It is not in man that walketh, to direct his steps.**" [Jer. 10:23] "**The ways of man are not in himself.**" [Jer. 10:23] And "**A man's steps are ordered of the Lord.**" [Psa. 37:23] Our translators took the liberty of limiting that to 'good man' of which God says '**there are none no, not so much as one.**' [Rom. 3:10-12, Isa. 64:6-7, Psa. 14:1-3]

Commanding a man to '**love the Lord God with all his heart, soul and mind; and to love their neighbor or brother as themselves,**' [Matt. 22:37-39] cannot raise the level of that man's love, one single degree. God did not create us so He could get love or righteousness out of us by commandment. Paul says, "**If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily [truly] righteousness would have been by the law.**" [Gal. 3:21] And, "**The mind of the flesh is enmity against God: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN IT BE.**" [Rom. 8:7] Love is not subject to laws or commandments. God is love. Love is of God. Love is a gift from God to us. "**The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts**

by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.” [Rom. 5:5] God never tries to purchase love from us as though we were a harlot. **God places His love in us.** Our own love is selfish, greedy; thinking only of ourselves, our families, our friends and our possessions. Children learn how to say ‘mine’ before they can say ‘mama’ or ‘din din’. We have a nation today who are hating their own poor and are loving and catering to the rich in the hope they will get rich.

The same thing is true of righteousness. Our righteousness is not worth buying by God. It is as filthy rags. God will write that on every heart before He becomes all in all, **“But we preach Christ crucified”** (not Jesus after the flesh), **“unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the Gentiles foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jew and Greek, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the weak of the world to confound the mighty; and the base of the world, and those who are despised hath God chosen, yea, and **that which is not, to bring to nought that which is:** that no flesh should glory in His presence. But **of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;** that according as it is written, **He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”** [1 Cor. 1:23-31] Praise ye the Lord.

What then is your **“wisdom”?** **Christ in you.** What then is your **“righteousness”?** **Christ in you.** What then is your **“sanctification”?** The **Christ in you.** What then is your **“redemption”?** **Christ in you.** Therefore **Christ in you is “your hope of glory.”** [Col. 1:27] Has the Lord given you eyes to see? Ears to hear? and a spirit of wisdom that you might understand? What makes you to differ from blinded Israel? What have you to glory in, after the flesh? Absolutely nothing, in the flesh.

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.” [Gal. 6:14-15]

Give God all the praise, the honor, and the glory forever. If God has granted unto you to believe this gracious gospel, witness to it and give yourself wholly unto it. You can only do that in Christ.

S.M. for G.C.A.