

The following are a number of articles I have written about a variety of subjects for my Face Book page. Feel free to copy them.

Pastor Art Watkins

E-Mail – artwat@hotmail.com

The 39 Hebrew Epistles

We have all heard for years that the book of Hebrews is not for us today because it is written to the Hebrews and we are not Hebrews. They say we cannot base doctrine on the book of Hebrews for it is not written to us gentiles. But what these folks ignore are the other Hebrew epistles that Paul quotes and based his doctrines on in his epistles. I am referring to the books of Genesis through Malachi. All of these epistles or books are written to the Hebrews also. The book of Hebrews is not the only epistle or book written to the Hebrews in the Bible. The 39 books of the Old Testament are also Hebrew epistles. But even though they are Hebrew epistles Paul quotes them nearly 200 times in his epistles and bases at least 60 church doctrines on these Hebrew epistles. For example the following doctrines in Paul's epistles are based upon the Old Testament Hebrew epistles; The gospel of Christ, justification by faith, righteousness by faith, the indwelling Spirit of God and even our hope of resurrection. These are 5 major doctrines in Paul's epistles that we believe and preach today that are all based upon the Old Testament Hebrew epistles. If so, how can anyone say that the book of Hebrews does not contain doctrine for us today? Keep in mind also that the Jews to whom the book of Hebrews was written were saved Jews who were in Christ and Christ was in them. They were members of the same church as us gentiles. The book of Hebrews was written to get them to move away from the Old Covenant Law into the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant, especially the one all sufficient sacrifice of Christ.

6 Reasons Why Salvation Is Free According To Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: *it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Salvation is free:

Because it is by grace.

Because it is through faith.

Because it is not of ourselves.

Because it is not of works.

Because it is the gift of God.

Because lest any man should boast.

All True Saints Of God Are Preserved Forever

New Testament Saints

2 Timothy 4:18: And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Old Testament Saints

Psalms 37:28:

For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

The Nation That Made Israel Jealous

Romans 10:19: But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are no people, and* by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Who is this nation that were no people that provoked Israel to jealousy?

Romans 11:11: I say then, Have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

The nation of Romans 10:19 were the gentile nations according to Romans 11:11. Notice also this was prophesied by Moses in Deuteronomy 32:21.

We Have The “Key”

Did you ever notice that all the isms and schisms and religions and cults claim to have “The Key” that unlocks the Bible and that they alone understand the deep mysteries of the Bible and that everyone else is confused but them?

ARE PAUL’S EPISTLES THE ONLY BOOKS FOR DOCTRINE TODAY ?

We are told over and over again by dispensationalists that Romans through Philemon are the only books for doctrine today. But is this true? Let’s ask the man himself. Paul, are your epistles the only books for doctrine today? Paul says no. We then ask him; what books of the Bible should we use to teach and preach doctrine to God’s people today? Paul answered that question years ago in 2 Timothy 3:16: In this one verse Paul told us what books of the Bible we should use to teach doctrine today. **He said: ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

Do you see what books of the Bible are profitable for doctrine today? According to Paul the apostle of the gentiles, ALL SCRIPTURE is profitable for doctrine. He did not say my epistles only as these hyper dispensationalists teach. He said ALL SCRIPTURE is profitable for doctrine.

This is why he quotes the Old Testament between 150-200 times in his epistles. This is why he uses the expression, as it is written, referring to the Old Testament, 33 times in his epistles. This is why he bases at least 60 church doctrines on the Old Testament scriptures. This is why major doctrines of the church are based upon the Old Testament scriptures such as: the Gospel, Justification by Faith, Righteousness by Faith, The Promise of the Indwelling Spirit of God and the Resurrection of the Dead and Translation of Living saints at Christ’s coming and many more.

Another fact is this; when Paul preached and taught the word of God during his life time what books of the Bible did he have in his possession? Some people think he had all 66 books of the Bible in his hands like us. But the fact is, the only books of the Bible that Paul and all the apostles and Christ

preached and taught from were Old Testament books especially the prophets like Isaiah the most quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament.

So who are you going to believe? The hyper dispensationalists who say Romans through Philemon are the only books for doctrine today or the apostle Paul who said ALL SCRIPTURE is profitable for doctrine today? I think I will believe Paul. How about you?

Christ Is Now The High Priest Of The Church

The following verses make it absolutely clear that the New Covenant took force when Christ died and that he is NOW our High Priest and the mediator of the New Covenant. Pay attention to the tenses of these verses.

(Heb 8:6) But now (present tense) hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is (present tense) the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

(Heb 8:1) Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have (present tense) such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

(Heb 9:11) But Christ being come an high priest (past tense) of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

(Heb 9:15) And for this cause he is (present tense) the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Heb 10:9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (past tense) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Heb 10:21) And *having* an high priest (present tense) over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Question

After Jesus Christ suffered bled and died and paid for our sins in full, do you think God would turn around and send a man to preach salvation by works?

Galatians 2:21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, (Or works of any kind) then Christ is dead in vain.

DID PETER AND PAUL AGREE OR DISAGREE?

By Pastor Art Watkins

Many overzealous dispensationalists would have us to believe that Peter and Paul preached two different and opposing gospels at the same time. Is this true? Did they really disagree with each other? Let's search and see.

The Gospel According to Paul

1 Corinthians 15:3-4: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Romans 5:8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Gospel According To Peter

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Redemption According To Paul

Ephesians 1:7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Redemption According To Peter

1 Peter 1:18-19: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Salvation By Grace According To Paul

Ephesians 2:8-9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation By Grace According To Peter

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

Dispensationalists tell us that the Bible means what it says and says what it means. If that is so, then Peter and Paul preached the same gospel, the same redemption and the same grace. They both preached the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ as the gospel. They both preached redemption through the blood of Christ. They both preached salvation by grace and not by the works of the law.

I have little kids in my Sunday School and VBS who have no problem understanding and believing these verses, but I know of many dispensationalists who can't. Why? Because they bought into the false doctrines of dispensationalism that says, Peter and Paul preached two different and opposing gospels. Their false theories of dispensationalism have blinded their eyes from seeing these simple facts of scripture that a little child can see.

The Church Is The Wife And Bride Of Christ

Ephesians 5:31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Who was Paul speaking of in this verse? Next verse tells us:

Verse 32: ***This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*** The man and wife in verse 32 is Christ and the church. There is no doubt about this for look at this verse in Romans 7.

Romans 7:4: 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.

This verse plainly says the church is married to Christ. If the church is married to Christ what does that make us? His bride and wife.

DID PETER PREACH THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS?

Some of the posts I read on Face Book never cease to amaze me. I just read a post written by a man in Chattanooga, Tennessee who has been preaching for over 35 years who wrote that Peter did not preach that Christ died for our sins. He said; no one can show where Peter ever preached that Christ died for our sins. I was so amazed that I had to read it twice. But that's what he said. How could a man who has been preaching for over 35 years make such a dumb statement? What is even worse is that a number of people agreed with him and said he was "preaching the truth". Here are 3 verses that prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Peter preached the death and shed blood of Christ for our sins. Read them and see for yourself.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 1:18-19: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

After reading these verses ask yourself this question; How could a man who has been preaching for over 35 years say that Peter did not preach that Christ died for our sins? I will tell you why; He bought into the false doctrines of hyper dispensationalism that says that only Paul preached the cross for salvation. This is an example of how it blinds people's minds from seeing the truth and forces them to deny what the Bible plainly says. I once bought into this doctrine myself but God in mercy saved me out of it.

DOES THE CHURCH PARTAKE OF ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS?

We are told over and over again by dispensationalists that the church has no claim to the blessings God promised Israel in the Old Testament. They even tell us that if we claim the spiritual blessings God promised Israel we are guilty of, "wrongly dividing the word of truth". But is this true? Let's ask Paul who is the authority on this matter. Brother Paul, does the church partake of Israel's spiritual blessings promised to them in the Old Testament? Brother Paul answered that question years ago in Romans 15:27. This is what Paul the apostle of the gentiles said about the spiritual blessings God promised Israel in the Old Testament. He wrote:

It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

There you have it from the pen of Paul. He says in clear, easy to understand words, that gentile believers partake of Israel's spiritual things. What are some of their spiritual things and blessings that gentiles now partake of?

The Gospel of Christ

The indwelling Spirit of God

Our Hope of resurrection

Our Inheritance in the Kingdom of God

Justification by faith

Righteousness by faith

Citizenship in the heavenly city New Jerusalem

Freedom from the law

A New nature

A New Birth

A divine Great High Priest
All sufficient, once for all sacrifice for sin
A divine heavenly mediator
An eternal heavenly intercessor
A heavenly hope
A heavenly temple
A divine mercy seat and propitiation
A divine spiritual altar
Divine Spiritual understanding
Eternal salvation
Eternal redemption
Eternal perfection
Eternal Inheritance
A heavenly calling
A throne of mercy and grace
Reconciliation for sin
Spiritual blessings
Heavenly citizenship
Peace of God
The grace of God
Adoption as children
Habitation of God
Light and salvation
Spiritual circumcision

All of these promises have two things in common. (1) They are all church blessings we now enjoy. (2) They were all originally promised to Israel in the Old Testament.

Dispensationalists tell us we have no claim to the spiritual blessings God promised Israel in the Old Testament, but Paul the apostle of the gentiles says we do. Who are you going to believe? I believe Paul. How about you?

Don't Lecture Me

I don't need the BLM or the NAACP lecturing me about "discrimination" while at the same time their own people are murdering 6000 to 7000 black people a year.

Christ Is Reigning Now

Just a reminder to all the saints that Jesus Christ is busy today reigning as King and is slowly but surely putting all his enemies under his foot stool and he will not fail. Read these verses:

Psalms 110:1: The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

1Peter 3:22: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

1Corinthians 15:23-26: But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

Christ is now reigning in the heavens and defeating his enemies and bringing all angels, authorities and powers and enemies under his subjection. The last enemy he will defeat is death.

But when will death be defeated and how? The answer is in the same context:

1Corinthians 15:52-55: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

Death will be defeated when Christ comes and raises the dead saints from the grave. One verse says the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death the other verse says: DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. At Christ's second coming those alive in Christ will say: O death where is thy sting? (Death will never touch them) The dead saints will say: O grave, where is thy victory? (The grave can't hold them) So Death will be defeated at the second coming of Christ and when the dead are raised from the grave and those alive caught up without dying. And until that day the Lord is slowly but surely putting all his enemies under his foot stool. Be patient saints God has this world under control and he will soon subdue all his enemies including death itself, bless God!

Eternal Security

Those who oppose us who believe in eternal security often accuse us of giving people a license to sin. They say, if you believe in eternal security then you must believe you have a license to live anyway you want without fear of losing your salvation.

First, men do not need a license to sin for they have sinned without a license from the beginning of time.

Second, no Christian has a license to sin, for the gospel declares that Christ died TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS not for us to continue in sin according to Romans 6:1-2.

Third, every Christian is a child of God and God treats his children the same way we treat ours when they sin. We chastise our children when they sin and so does God. In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 God put a Christian to death for committing fornication and incest, but yet it says his spirit will be saved in the day of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 11:29-32 some of the Christians in Corinth were punished with weakness, sickness and even death for turning the Lord's Supper into a feast of drunkenness and gluttony. God chastens his children for sin just like us, but he does not cast them in a fire and burn them forever.

What would you think of a father who would take his own son and cast him into a fire and burn him to death because he misbehaved? He would be a monster and yet those who say a person can lose their salvation actually believe God will cast his own children into hell and burn them forever if they sin after he saves them!

Some of these people who accuse us falsely are nice people but they have a twisted, perverted idea of God and are totally blind to the cross-work of Christ.

Why The Israelites Purged Their Homes

Exodus 20:3-5: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

Notice that when fathers allowed idols or anything satanic into their home that his children unto the fourth generation suffered for his iniquity. This is why they were told to go through their homes and purge out any satanic leaven they found that God hates.

The First And Second Adam

The redeemed have gained more through the last Adam than they lost through the first Adam. They occupy a more exalted position. Before the Fall Adam dwelt in an earthly Paradise, but the redeemed have been made to sit with Christ in heavenly places. Through redemption they have been blest with a nobler nature. Before the Fall man possessed a natural life, but now, all in Christ have been made partakers of the Divine nature. They have obtained a new standing before God. Adam was merely innocent, which is a negative condition, but believers in Christ are righteous, which is a positive state. We share a better inheritance. Adam was lord of Eden, but believers are "heirs of all things," "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." Through grace we have been made capable of a deeper joy than unfallen

spirits have known: the bliss of pardoned sin, the heaven of deep conscious obligation to Divine mercy. In Christ believers enjoy a closer relationship to God than was possible before the Fall. Adam was merely a creature, but we are members of the body of Christ—"members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones." How marvelous! We have been taken into union with Deity itself, so that the Son of God is not ashamed to call us brethren. The Fall provided the need of Redemption, and through the redeeming work of the Cross, believers have a portion which unfallen Adam could never have attained unto. Truly, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of peace.

The word wonder or wonderful is an emotion we experience when something new, unusual, strange, great, extraordinary, or not well understood is presented to our sight and mind. It's something we see or hear which gets our undivided attention by its greatness and grandeur. It's something that is amazing. For example; In Acts 3 after Peter healed a lame man at the gate of the temple it says the people were filled with *wonder and amazement*. (Acts 3:10) They were astonished at what happened. Christ's name is wonderful and that name fits him perfectly because everything about Christ is wonderful, amazing, great, extraordinary, astonishing and unusual.

His birth is wonderful and amazing

His birth was one of a kind. No one has ever or will ever experience a virgin birth like his.

His nature is wonderful

He is God and yet he is man. He is the Son of God and the Son of man. No one has ever had a nature like his.

His life was wonderful and amazing

He is the only man who has a perfect record against sin and temptation. Even though tempted under the worst conditions he never once yielded to temptation. (Heb.4:15) He is the only man who kept every precept of the law perfectly and he is the only man the law could not condemn.

His miracles were wonderful and amazing

They were real, verifiable, physical, visible and instantaneous.

His death was wonderful and amazing

By one act of disobedience (Adam's) all men became sinners. But by one man's death (Christ) all men can be justified. As God counted Adam's sin as the sin of all men, God counted Christ's death as the death of all men. By the death of one man all men can be saved. You may sacrifice your life and save a few people from dying, but Christ's sacrifice is sufficient to save all men from sin and hell for he bore the sins of all men. God can save billions and billions of men today because of the sacrificial death of one single man. (Heb.10:12)

His resurrection was wonderful and amazing

He was the first to be raised from the dead never to die again and the first of many to be raised from the dead never to die again. His resurrection made it possible for millions to be raised. (Rev.1:18)

His salvation is wonderful and amazing

He can save all sinners and forgive all sins. There is no such thing as an unpardonable sin or sinner with him. (Acts 13:38)

His word is wonderful and amazing

There is not one mistake or error in it. I can't speak 5 sentences without making a mistake. He wrote sixty six books without one error or mistake. Every word he spoke was the truth. He never had to correct himself. The word he divinely inspired he also preserved for what good is inspiration without preservation?

Salvation By Grace In All Ages

When you consider what God says about the moral condition of all Jews and Gentiles throughout history, the only way possible for them to be saved is by grace in ANY AGE.

Romans 3:9-18: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

This is God's moral indictment of all Jews and gentiles throughout history. After reading this, it is only by grace that God saves any Jew or gentile in any age. There was not a time in history when God began to save men by grace; the only way God can possibly save any sinner in any age is by grace, past, present or future.

Christ's Eternal Priesthood

Hebrews 5:5-6: So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another *place*, THOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER after the order of Melchisedec.

Jesus Christ was made a High Priest FOREVER. If so, do you think God will reinstate the Levitical priesthood after the order of Aaron again in the future? Of course not.

How Did The Health, Wealth and Prosperity Gospel Work Out For Paul?

He wrote: 1 Corinthians 4:11-13: Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we

intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.*

A Teacher Who Lied To Me About Evolution

I went to Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama in the 1960's. I had a biology teacher by the name of Fulcher. In his class we were required to draw a picture of what they call a one cell amoeba. It looked like baby vomit to me. Fulcher taught us that life began with a one cell amoeba. I was lost at that time but I was taught that God created life and God created man. I raised my hand in class and simply asked him if he was saying that God did not create life but it all came from the evolution of a one cell amoeba? His countenance suddenly changed. He became visible angry and mad and he said God did not create life or the earth and then told me to leave the room and stand outside. After class he came out and chewed me out for asking him that simple question. I was amazed and confused. Fulcher was a deceived liar, but what he taught us back in the 1960's is still being taught today in public schools. Your kids are being talked out of what they are taught at home and in church and by the Bible. God said he created the heaven and the earth and the public schools say he didn't. They teach evolution is a fact and the Bible is a lie. I wish I knew then what I know now. I would have called him a liar and tried my best to make him prove the fairy tale of evolution which of course he could not do.

I Am Thankful That Salvation Is a Gift and Not a Reward

Ephesians 2:8-9 says that salvation is; ***the gift of God not of works.*** God never calls salvation a reward. He calls it a gift. And there is no way that salvation can be a gift and a reward at the same time. Salvation is by grace and you cannot be saved by grace and works at the same time. Romans 11:5-6 says: ***That if salvation is by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.***

Grace and works cancel each other out. If salvation were by works then it cannot be by grace. If it is by grace it cannot be by works. That is why salvation is never called a reward for rewards are earned works. Salvation is by grace and that is why it is called the gift of God for grace is the free unmerited favor of God.

Because salvation is the free gift of God anyone can be saved just as they are. You do not have to become good enough for God to save. It is impossible to become good enough for God to save. You and I are already guilty of breaking everyone of God's laws and commandments. No amount of cleaning up can undo what we have already done. Plus, if you had to become good enough for God to save that would make salvation a reward earned by good behavior. But salvation is the free gift of God not of works lest any man should boast, which means he can save anyone regardless of their behavior for which I am very thankful. Hebrews 7:25 says ***that God is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.***

The income and job that you work so hard for now will mean nothing to you in eternity. If you had a million dollars in the bank it will be meaningless to you in eternity. But salvation as a gift of God will mean everything to you. Without it you would end up in hell.

How The Apostles Knew They Were In The Will Of God

1000's of books have been written about how to know you are in the will of God or not. The apostles were in the will of God and they knew it. Why? Read this: **And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. Acts 5:40-41**

They knew they were in the will of God because they were beaten and persecuted. That may seem strange but it's true. It's true because of what Jesus told them in John 15. He said to them;

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye

are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. John 15:18-21

Jesus said the true followers and servants of Christ will be hated and persecuted like him. Therefore, when the apostles were hated and persecuted by the political and religious system of their day they rejoiced, because it was a sign to them that they were loyal and faithful servants and followers of Christ. They knew they were in the will of God because they were persecuted like their Lord and master. Think about it.

Salvation Is The Free Gift Of God

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

Notice what God counts for righteousness. Our faith in the gospel and not our works.

(Gal 2:16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

We are justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the law or the works of any law such as the laws of some church.

(2Ti 1:9) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

He saved us past tense according to his grace and not our works as he planned to do before the foundation of the world. Grace is the unmerited and undeserved favor, blessing and salvation of God he bestows on sinners who do not deserve it or earn by works of any kind or any religion such as Catholicism.

(Tit 3:5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

In this verse we are saved by the mercy of God and not by works which we have done or ever will do. Mercy is God withholding from us what we really deserve and earn which is the wrath of God.

(Gal 2:21) I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

If righteousness and salvation comes by the works of the law or religion of any kind then Christ died in vain. Why would God allow his Son to suffer the awful death of the cross if we could be saved by the works of the law or the works of Catholicism? The law was the greatest religion in the world and if no one could be saved by that religion then no one can be saved by any religion Catholic or Protestant. Also, if we could be saved by works it would frustrate and bring to naught the grace of God.

Faith alone in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ is what saves us now and keeps us saved forever. But between now and the second coming we should be occupied in serving the Lord because we love him. Stop trying to save yourself by works. That is what Paul did before he was saved. He was like many Roman Catholics today. But finally he ceased from the works he was doing to be saved and put 100% of his faith in Christ alone to save him and that is when God saved him.

He said: (Php 3:8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, (Php 3:9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

The same is true of my wife. God saved her when she stopped doing the works that the Catholic church told her she had to do to be saved. The night she was saved she put 100% of her faith in Christ alone to save her and keep her saved. She turned from works to faith alone in Christ and that is when God will save her and you too.

Also don't mix verses concerning service and salvation together. Of course God expects us to go to work for him after we are saved but our service to him has nothing to do with salvation for if it did Christ died in vain and the Bible and God is a liar when he said salvation is free over and over again.

READ THESE VERSES AND NOTICE THE WORD FREE GIFT

(Rom 5:15) But not as the offence, so also *is* the FREE GIFT. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and THE GIFT BY GRACE , *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

(Rom 5:16) And not as *it was* by one that sinned, SO IS THE GIFT : for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but THE FREE GIFT *is* of many offences unto justification.

(Rom 5:17) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

(Rom 5:18) Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one THE FREE GIFT *came* upon all men unto justification of life.

IS JOHN 3:16 THE GOSPEL OF OUR SALVATION?

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Most of you reading this will agree that the gospel of our salvation is in John 3:16. But believe it or not there are some who actually teach that John 3:16 is not the gospel of our salvation today. They say 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 is the gospel, because it says Christ died for our sins. They assume that John 3:16 is not about the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, but what they ignore is John 3:14 which says: ***And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.***

When and where was Jesus lifted up? He answers this in John 12:32-33: ***And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.***

In John 3:14 Jesus Christ was lifted up on the cross where he died for our sins, so in the context John 3:16 is all about the sacrificial death on the cross. Those who believe he was lifted up on the cross for their sins in John 3:14 have everlasting life according to John 3:16.

John 3:14 is not the only reference to the cross in the book of John. In John 1:29 John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus: ***The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.***

How did Jesus the Lamb of God take away the sin of the world? By dying for their sins according to 1 Peter 1:18-19 which says: ***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.***

In John 6:51 Jesus said: **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

When and where did Jesus give his flesh for the life of the world? On the cross of Calvary.

In John 10:11 Jesus said: ***I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.***

In John 10:15: ***As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.***

John 10:17: ***Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.***

John 10:18: ***No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.***

Five times in this chapter Christ said he would die for us.

John is not the only writer in the four gospels that recorded what Jesus said about his death on the cross. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said: ***Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.***

Paul quotes this verse in 1 Timothy 2:6 which says: ***Who (Christ) gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

In Matthew 26:27-28 Jesus said concerning the cup of the Lord's Supper: ***And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***

Throughout the four gospels Jesus said over and over again that he would be lifted up on a cross and die for our sins and shed his blood for our sins and give his life a ransom for sinners. So, John 3:16 is the gospel of our salvation. God gave his Son up as a sacrifice for our sins and anyone who believes he was lifted up for them on the cross according to John 3:14, has everlasting life according to John 3:16.

Hypocrisy

Years ago in the 1960's before I was saved, I worked at Delchamps in Mobile. There was a man I worked with who played the guitar and sang with a rock band in Mobile. At night he played in the night clubs and bar rooms throughout Mobile. But he also played with a small "gospel group" in churches on Sunday morning. He told me one day that he saw many people on Sunday morning sitting in the pew singing and at "the altar" praying that he just saw the previous Friday and Saturday nights at the clubs he played music in. He said he saw them "cutting a rug" on the dance floor and drinking in the bar rooms Saturday night, but lo and behold there they were in church Sunday morning at the "altar" praying and in the pew singing and even in the choir. He said they did not recognize him for all the joints he played in were dark but he could see them. He hated Christians and believed they were all phony's and so did I before I was saved. At the time he told me this story I thought it was funny and laughed about it because I was lost. Today, I hang my head thinking about it. Isn't it any wonder that Jesus said 7 times in Matthew 23; Woe unto you hypocrites! A Christian can be a hypocrite but God will make their life miserable. A lost person will justify it and defend it without any conviction.

IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME

It never ceases to amaze me of the some of the dumb statements some Christians make about the cross of Christ on Facebook. Just read an article

posted on Face Book that said that Paul was the first to preach the cross for salvation and that the 12 apostles did not know about or preach the cross for salvation. Anyone who believes this nonsense is highly deceived and no one should ever take them serious when they speak or write about the Bible.

It's true when Jesus told the 12 apostles that he would die and be resurrected in the four gospels they did not understand it for it was hidden from them. (See Luke 18:34) But after his resurrection he opened their understanding to see and understand why he died. Luke 24:44-47 says: And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

What was once hidden from them before the cross was revealed to them after the cross. What they did not understand before the cross in Luke 18 they understood in Luke 24. The Lord opened their understanding to understand the scriptures that prophesied of his sacrificial death such as Isaiah 53. Therefore, they understood the cross long before God saved Paul. They not only understood it, but they preached it for salvation.

1 Peter 1:18-18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 John 1:7-2: 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 2:2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Revelation 1:5: And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

Any person who reads these verses and still insists the 12 apostles did not preach the blood of Jesus Christ for salvation and redemption is either deceived by the devil or just plain lost or a combination of both for it's the devil who blinds people's minds to the gospel according to 2 Cor. 4:3-4.

Religious Insanity

In Acts 15 all of the apostles held a meeting to discuss the issue of gentile salvation. The Pharisees said the gentiles had to be circumcised and keep the law along with believing to be saved. In other words they were preaching salvation by faith and works.

Peter stood up and demolished what they said by saying that both Jews and gentiles are saved by grace, through faith, without the law or circumcision. (Acts 15:7-11) And yet there are hyper dispensationalists today who say that Peter preached salvation by faith and works! How could he condemn the Pharisees for preaching salvation by faith and works and then turn around and do it himself? This is religious insanity.

IS THE "RAPTURE" OF THE CHURCH FOUND IN PAUL'S EPISTLES ONLY?

We are told repeatedly by many dispensationalists that the "rapture" as they call it, is found in Paul's epistles only. I have heard this all my life. But is it true? Let's ask the foremost authority who is Paul. Brother Paul, is the "rapture" you wrote about found in your epistles only? Paul answered that question nearly 2000 years ago in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 and 1 Corinthians 15:54-55.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:15 when Paul wrote about the coming of Christ for the church and the resurrection of the dead and the translation of living saints,

he wrote in verse 15: ***For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.***

Do you see what Paul said about Christ's coming for the church? He said; THIS WE SAY UNTO YOU BY THE WORD OF THE LORD. What Paul said to them about Christ's coming for the church was based upon the word of the Lord, which was the Old Testament.

If so, the next question is, where is this found in the Old Testament? Paul answers this question in 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 where he wrote: ***So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?***

Notice carefully that when Jesus comes again to change these corruptible bodies into incorruptible bodies verse 54 says; **THEN SHALL BE BROUGHT TO PASS THE SAYING THAT IS WRITTEN.** Written where? In verse 55 Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14. Therefore, the word of the Lord in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 according to Paul is Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14. When Jesus comes again and the dead are raised and the living caught up without dying Paul said, THEN will Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 be brought to pass.

When they wrote; ***O grave where is thy victory?*** they prophesied of the dead saints at Christ's coming who will be resurrected from the grave. When they wrote; ***O death where is thy sting?*** they prophesied of the living saints at Christ's coming who will never taste the sting of death. These two prophecies will come to pass when the Lord comes again for the church.

The mystery in 1 Corinthians 15:51 is not Christ's coming or the resurrection. The mystery is according to Paul: **WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP.** This means those alive when Jesus comes will never die. They will be caught up without dying. But yet this was written down in the prophets Isaiah and Hosea. In Paul's day most people thought all saints would be dead by the time Christ came again, but Paul shows us some will be alive and will never die when Jesus comes. But this mystery is like many others; it's hidden in the Old Testament according to 1 Corinthians 15:54-55.

Dispensationalists tell us that in Paul's epistles alone is found the coming of Christ for the church, but Paul the apostle of the gentiles tells us that it was prophesied in the word of the Lord 100's of years prior to him in Isaiah 25:8

and Hosea 13:14. The hope of the church is found in the Old Testament just like the gospel we preach, justification by faith, righteousness by faith, the indwelling Spirit of God and our inheritance in the kingdom of God many other doctrines. My advice is believe what Paul said and ignore what dispensationalists say about Christ's coming for the church. Paul was infallible in his writings and they are not.

Defining John 3:16 By John 3:14 And Matthew 20:28

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:14: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

Matthew 20:28: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The LOVE of John 3:16 is found in John 3:14. The greatest demonstration of the love of God is when he GAVE his only begotten Son into the hands of ungodly men to die for ungodly sinners. When Christ was lifted up on the cross according to John 3:14 this world saw the proof that God is a God of love and that there is no love higher than his.

The WORLD of John 3:16 is all men without exception and distinction. John said in 1 John 2:2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*. There is no such thing as limited atonement. His atonement is UNLIMITED for he died for the sins of the whole world.

The faith and BELIEVING in John 3:16 is believing that he was lifted up on the cross in John 3:14 to pay the ransom for your sins according to Matthew 20:28.

The promise of EVERLASTING LIFE to all who believe in John 3:16, is based upon the death and shed blood of Christ on the cross in John 3:14.

Don't hesitate to preach John 3:16, but make sure you define it by John 3:14 and Matthew 20:28.

There Is One Body And No Schisms Between Jews And Gentiles, Bond Or Free

1Corinthians 12:12-13: For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1Corinthians 12:25-26: That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Hebrews 13:3: Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Peter And The Gentiles

Act 15:7-8: And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago GOD MADE CHOICE AMONG US THAT THE GENTILES BY MY MOUTH SHOULD HEAR THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL AND BELIEVE

KNOWING CHRIST AFTER THE FLESH VERSUS KNOWING HIM AFTER THE SPIRIT

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 Paul wrote;

(14) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

(15) 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.

(16) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

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

A bad habit that many Christians have is lifting verses out of their contexts to make them say something different than what they mean. Many dispensationalists lift verse 16 out of the context in which it appears and they tell us it means we cannot follow Christ in his earthly ministry after the flesh today. They say the flesh in verse 16 is Christ's flesh and refers to his earthly ministry in the flesh as recorded in Matthew through John. Even though Paul himself said that he was a follower of Christ (1 Cor.11:1) many dispensationalists have such phobia about Christ's earthly ministry that some go as far as to say it is wrong to follow what Christ said and did while on earth. They believe that Paul completely ignored everything that Christ said and did in his earthly ministry as recorded in Matthew through John.

I have actually heard them say that they do not follow Christ, they follow Paul! But I ask you dear reader, do you see any reference to Christ's earthly ministry in these verses or this chapter? Neither do I. Whose flesh is Paul writing about in these verses? In the context in which it appears it is our flesh not Christ's. In verse 14 Paul says that when Christ died we all died with him. His death was counted as our death. That agrees with what he wrote in many other places. In Romans 6:6 he wrote; **Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.** In other words the old man, which is called the flesh throughout Paul's epistles (Gal.5:16-21), is crucified with Christ which means he is dead. And being dead we are free from sin. We are free from the power of the flesh the old nature.

In Colossians 2:11 he wrote; ***In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.***

In physical circumcision a small part of the flesh is cut off, but in spiritual circumcision the whole body of the sins of the flesh is cut off. We are free

from him and do not have to follow him any longer. So, in the context of 2 Corinthians 5 the flesh Paul wrote about is not Christ's flesh, it's our flesh. We are no longer in the flesh, for the flesh, the old man was cut off and crucified with Christ.

That is why Paul said in Romans 8:9; But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. The flesh, the old man's history, ended at the cross and now we are new creatures in Christ according to 2 Cor.5:17. Being new creatures in Christ all things became new to us. We see and know things differently now. We see and know all things in a new and better way. When we were lost and still in the flesh, we knew all men including Christ after the flesh and our knowledge was very limited, for the flesh has no spiritual discernment. In 1 Corinthians 2:14 Paul wrote; ***But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.*** But now that we are new creatures in Christ we henceforth see and know all things and all men and especially Christ in a new and living way.

The point is, Paul is not saying that we don't know Christ or follow Christ in his earthly ministry. That is totally foreign to the context! In the context the flesh is our flesh and it was crucified with Christ and now henceforth we see and know Christ as well as all men in a new way, in the Spirit. We don't know Christ or any man after the flesh anymore. We know them in and by the Spirit. All things have become new. We see Christ in a new way and what we see is the most lovely, wonderful person in all the universe who is worthy to follow.

In the flesh I did not see Christ as I see him today. When I was in the flesh Christ was not a wonderful person to me, he was a menace. In the flesh I did not see men as I see them today. In the flesh I thought that men were basically good when in fact there is none that doeth good no not one.

All lost men and woman know Christ after the flesh. Satan has blinded their eyes from seeing who he really is. Many see him as a religious leader or a prophet or a revolutionary or a mystic. But they see Muhammad the same way. They fail to see what a wonderful person Jesus Christ is and how he paid for their sins in full at the cross. They fail to see him as the Christ and Messiah and as God manifest in the flesh. Only those who have the Spirit of God in them know and understand Christ the right way.

Dear reader always interpret a text by the context in which it appears. Notice what is written before it and after it. When you do you will not be led astray.

Quotes From Martin Luther The German Preacher

1. Faith without works is sufficient to salvation, and alone doth justify.
2. Justifying faith is a sure trust, by which one believeth that his sins are remitted for Christ's sake; and they that are justified are to believe certainly that their sins are remitted.
3. By faith only we are able to appear before God, who neither regardeth nor hath need of our works; faith only purifying us.
4. No previous disposition is necessary to justification; neither doth faith justify because it disposeth us, but because it is a means or instrument by which the promise and grace of God are laid hold on and received.
5. All the works of men, even the most sanctified, are sin.
6. Though the just ought to believe that his works are sins, yet he ought to be assured that they are not imputed.
7. Our righteousness is nothing but the imputation of the righteousness of Christ; and the just have need of a continual justification and imputation of the righteousness of Christ.
8. All the justified are received into equal grace and glory; and all Christians are equally great with the Mother of God, and as much saints as she.

These were some of Luther's propositions which required to be confuted. That they looked wonderfully like the doctrines of the Apostle Paul, only made the confutation more necessary. That "faith justifies," the Catholic bishops said, we must admit, because the apostle has said so; but as to what faith is, and how it justifies, is hard to say. Faith has many meanings (some said nine, others fifteen; some modern Protestants have said the same); and then, even admitting that faith justifies, it cannot do so without good dispositions, without penance, without religious performances, without sacraments. By introducing all these ingredients into faith, they easily turned it into a work; or by placing them on the same level with faith, they nullified (without positively denying) justification by faith. Ingenious men! Thus to overthrow the truth, while professing to admit and explain it. In this

ingenious perversity they have had many successors, and that in churches which rejected Rome and its Council. "Christ crucified" is the burden of the message which God has sent to man. "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures." The reception of this gospel is eternal life; the non-reception or rejection of it is everlasting death. "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." The belief of the gospel saves; the belief of the promise annexed to that gospel makes us sure of this salvation personally. It is not the belief of our belief that assures us of pardon, and gives us a good conscience towards God; but our belief of what God has promised to every one who believes His Gospel, -that is eternal life. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and THOU SHALT BE SAVED.

Bonar, Horatius. The Essential Works of Horatius Bonar (Kindle Location 1494). GLH Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Don't Trade Your Mercedes For A Worthless Volkswagen

A few weeks ago a couple of Jehovah Witnesses came to my house. I asked them, would you trade a brand new fully loaded Mercedes Benz car for a beat up dilapidated worthless Volkswagen? They said no. I then said, that is what you are asking me to do. They said what do you mean? I said, you are asking me to trade my Jesus who is God manifest in the flesh, for your Jesus who is a created being or an angel. You are asking me to trade my salvation, which is by grace through faith without works, for your salvation which is by faith and your works. You are asking me to trade the eternal security of my salvation, which is based upon Christ's works and not mine, for your security which is conditional upon your works and not Christ's. You are asking me to trade my "know so" salvation for your "hope so" salvation. You are asking me to trade my Bible (KJV) which is infallible for your Bible (New World's Translation) which is shot through with

errors. I said, only a fool would trade what I have for what you have. Next time they come to your door ask them these questions.

The Truth About The New Birth

Many cults say the new birth is physical and a future event. The Bible proves them wrong. It is spiritual and a present reality.

First, the new birth is spiritual not physical

Jesus said in John 3:6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

This verse tells you exactly what the new birth is. It's your spirit small "s" being born and begotten by God's Spirit capital "S". It is the same as the regeneration of the Spirit in Titus 3:5 and the quickening of the Spirit in Ephesians 2:1.

Second, the new birth is not a future event but a present reality

Jesus said that unless you are born again you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. This is why every New Testament believer was born again PRESENT TENSE.

Notice the tense of the new birth in these verses.

1 Peter 1:3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again (past tense) unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1John 5:1: Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: (present tense) and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. (present tense)

1 Peter 1:23: Being born again, (present tense) not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Galatians 4:29: But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now. (The saints Paul wrote to were born of the Spirit and were persecuted by those born of the flesh only.)

The new birth is your dead spirit being born and quickened by God's Spirit and it is a present reality and unless you are born again you cannot SEE or ENTER the kingdom of God. This is why I am concerned about people who say they are not born again for the only alternative to the kingdom of God is hell.

This Thanksgiving I am Thankful That God Secures Those He Saves

Ephesians 1:13-14: In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest (Guarantee) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (Our Bodies), unto the praise of his glory.

I am glad and thankful that we are sealed and secured until the day of redemption which is the second coming of Christ. Why? Because this means that it is God's job to keep and maintain our salvation after we are saved. If he didn't, no one would remain saved. If it were up to us to keep and maintain our salvation, it wouldn't be long until we lost it.

Who do you believe is the greatest Christian who ever lived? Most would say Paul. If it was up to us to keep and maintain our salvation as some believe, then surely Paul did. But yet here is what Paul said about his life as a Christian in Romans 7:15-20: **For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

If good works were necessary to keep and maintain salvation Paul would have lost his. What was his problem? The sin nature in him called the flesh according to verses 17, 20.

One reason God sealed and secured us by the Spirit until Christ's coming is because of the sin nature we have in our flesh. That nature is so strong and evil that it caused the greatest Christian who ever lived to say, but what I hate that do I and the good I would I do not. If Paul said these things about himself, what about the rest of us? God did for Paul and us what we could not do ourselves, he keeps us saved. If it were not for eternal security no one could keep or maintain their salvation after they received it. We would all lose and forfeit it because of the sin nature that dwells in our flesh.

The designer clothes that mean so much to you now, will mean absolutely nothing to you in the coming glorious kingdom of God. But eternal security will mean everything to you, for without it you will not enter into the kingdom of God.

Peter's Source Of Revelation

According to Luke 18:31-34 Peter did not understand the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ but later he did according to 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:24, 3:18. How and when did he receive this knowledge?

The answer is recorded in Luke 24:44-47 which says: **And he (Christ) said unto them, (The apostles) These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

What was hidden and concealed from Peter in Luke 18 was revealed to him in Luke 24 and from that day forward he preached and wrote about the cross of Christ. (See Acts 5:30-31) Both he and Paul received the gospel by revelation. It was revealed to Peter by the Lord himself on earth and later revealed to Paul by the Lord himself from heaven in Galatians 1:12.

The R and H Word

For years simple minded people have used the “R word” to cut off any serious discussion about race. If you criticize a black politician like Obama or Jessie Jackson they call you a racist. This is a gimmick to stop you from saying anything critical about them. Today the simple minds use the “H word” to stop debate. When someone does not like what you say about the Bible or about a moral issue they call you a “hater” to stop you from saying anything else about the issue. But don’t pay any attention to these simple minds for when they use the R or H word what they are really saying is they have no answer to what you are saying. It’s a sign they are ignorant and lack the skill to debate the issue.

The Red Letter Words Of Christ

Just when I thought I had seen it all this post appeared on Face book that was written by a woman who is a hyper dispensationalist warning us about the Red Letter Words of Christ. She wrote: It's dangerous to live in the Red Letters (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) when "things were written aforetime were written for our learning." (Rom 15:4). Members of the Body of Christ are supposed to be magnifying the Apostle Paul's office (Rom. 11:13). Following the Red Letters is minimizing Paul's office. The people who are saying they are following Jesus Christ in His "earthly ministry", most assuredly are not.

This was written by hyper dispensationalist and it shows us again how heretical this group has become. Think about it: This woman actually says “it’s dangerous to follow the Red Letter words of Christ” and if you do you are “minimizing Paul’s office”.

Is this true? Is it actually dangerous to follow the Red Letter Words of Christ like this woman says? What saith the scriptures? Take a look at these Red Letter Words of Christ and see if they are dangerous to you.

Matthew 20:28: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

John 3:14-18: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth

in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:37-40: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:47-51: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 10:9-11: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15: I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18: Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 10:27-30: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. I and *my* Father are one.

John 12:32-33: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

John 12:46-47: I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

You have just read a few of the Red Letter Words of Christ. Do these Red Letter words sound dangerous to you? This woman who says these words are dangerous is either lost or highly deceived by Satan. But there is one way she may be right; these words are dangerous to hyper dispensationalists for they destroy their religious system and show us again and again how blind and deceived these people really are. I thank God every day for rescuing me out of this religious system and its lies and false doctrines.

Abraham, Jesus Christ, God Were All Justified

(This was written to respond to a post on Facebook saying that James preached salvation and justification by works)

The word justified has more than one meaning for Christ was justified according to 1 Tim. 3:16 and God was justified according to Luke 7:28-30 but this does not mean they were saved or cleared from the guilt of sin for they were sinless.

The word has two major meanings;

1 (Webster's 1828): To pardon and clear from guilt; to absolve or acquit from guilt and merited punishment, and to accept as righteous on account of the merits of Christ the Savior, or by the application of Christ's atonement to the offender.

This definition of justification does not fit Jesus Christ who was sinless but yet it says he was justified.

But there is another definition of justification that fits Jesus Christ and God and Abraham.

2 It means to prove or to show a person is just, or conformable to law, that he is right, to be correct, to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right or free from blame or error. To provide evidence of a person's claims.

This is the definition of justification that fits Christ. Christ was justified; that is he was proven to be just and right. He was proven to be conformable to the law. He kept it perfectly. He was vindicated as right and free from blame or error. He had the evidence to back up the claims he made about himself.

The same is true of Abraham.

James said Abraham was justified by works just like Paul said Christ was justified. He was justified by works when he offered Isaac on the altar. That event took place in Gen. 22 in 1872 BC when he was a circumcised Jew.

It took place 41 years after he was justified by faith as an uncircumcised gentile in Gen. 15. He was justified by faith in Gen. 15 and justified by works in Gen. 22.

If he was already justified by faith in Gen. 15, in what way was he justified by works in Gen. 22? The same way that Christ was. The faith he had in Gen. 15 was vindicated and proven to be right by his works in Gen. 22. As a matter of fact what he did proves how strong his faith was.

The promise God made to him about the multiplied seed in Gen. 15 required him to have a son but it was not until his body was dead and unable to have a son that Isaac was born. His birth was a miracle. And then God said take the son through whom your seed would become like the stars of heaven and slay him on the altar. Isaac was the promised seed through whom God would fulfill the promise and yet God said take him and slay him. And Abraham did what God said. He would have slain him if God would not have stopped him.

His works in Gen. 22 vindicated the faith he had in Gen. 15. His faith in Gen. 15 was proven to be perfect in Gen. 22. It proved beyond a doubt that his faith was real and genuine. That's exactly what James is saying in this chapter. Our works justify us; that is they vindicate the faith we say we have. No one can see your faith until they see your works for faith is invisible. We did not know how strong or real Abraham's faith was in Gen. 15 until he offered up Isaac in a figure in Gen. 22. His faith was vindicated and proven to be true by the works he did. He was justified by works and so are we if our works match the faith we claim to have.

James preached salvation by the death and shed blood of Christ and no one can preach salvation by works along with the cross for works makes the cross of no effect and useless and vain according to Gal. 2:21. But James says our works prove and vindicate that our faith is true or not and so did Paul. In Gal. 5:6: For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE. He also says that those who seek to be justified or cleared from the guilt of sin by the works of the law are fallen from grace and Christ is of no profit to them in Gal. 5:1-5.

If We Kept This One Law By Albert Barnes

Romans 13:10: Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor meaning it would seek to do him good; of course it would prevent all dishonesty and crime toward others. It would prompt a person to justice, truth, and benevolence. If this law were engraved on every man's heart, and practiced in his life, what a change would it immediately produce in society! If all people would at once "abandon" what is suited to "work ill" to others, what an influence would it have on the business and commercial affairs of people. How many plans of fraud and dishonesty would it at once arrest. How many schemes would it crush. It would silence the voice of the slanderer; it would stay the plans of the seducer and the adulterer; it would put an end to cheating, and fraud, and all schemes of dishonest gain. The gambler desires the property of his neighbor without any compensation; and thus works "ill" to him. The dealer in "lotteries" desires property for which he has never toiled, and which must be obtained at the expense and loss of others. And there are many

“employments” all whose tendency is to work “ill” to a neighbor. This is pre-eminently true of the traffic in “ardent spirits.” It cannot do him good, and the almost uniform result is to deprive him of his property, health, reputation, peace, and domestic comfort. He that sells his neighbor liquid fire, knowing what must be the result of it, is not pursuing a business which works no ill to him; and love to that neighbor would prompt him to abandon the traffic; see Habakkuk 2:15: “Wo unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drink also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness.”

Separating The Wheat From The Chaff.

This one verse separates the wheat from the chaff or true believers from false believers. John 8:47: He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

Who desires to hear God’s word? Who has no desire to hear God’s words? The answers are obvious.

What Kind Of People Did Jesus Save In The Four Gospels?

Jesus said in Mat 21:28 But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

Mat 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Mat 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go*, sir: and went not.

Mat 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Mat 21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen *it*, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Who were the publicans and harlots who went into the kingdom of God? Gentiles. Who was the other group who did not go into the kingdom of God? In verse 23 it was the Jews, the chief priests and elders. This should not surprise us, for after all Paul plainly said that Jesus Christ preached unto the gentiles and they believed on him in 1 Timothy 3:16.

Taking People At Their Word

Jesus said unless a man is born again he cannot see or enter the kingdom of God. But many say they are not born again. If not, will they enter into the kingdom of God?

Paul said that God chastens every son for their sins and if you are without chastisement you are a bastard and not a son. Many say God does not chastise them for their sins and if so are these people sons of God?

Paul said that the bread of the Lord's Supper represents the body of Christ broken for us and the cup represents his blood shed for us and by partaking of the Lord's supper we show his death till he comes again. But many refuse to observe the Lord's Supper today. Are they saying Christ's body was not broken for them and his blood was not shed for them?

The 6 Lies of 1 John

6 Lies That Men Told In John's Day And In Our Day Too. Plus The 6 Answers That John Gives The 6 Lies.

Lie #1 - 1John 1:6: If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Answer to Lie #1 - 1 John 1:7: 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.

Lie #2 - 1 John 1:8: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Lie #3 - 1John 1:10: If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Answer to Lie #2 and #3 – 1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Lie #4 - 1 John 2:4: He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Answer to Lie #4 – 1 John 2:3: And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Lie #5 - 1 John 2:22: Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Answer to Lie #5 – 1 John 2:23: Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

Lie #6 - 1 John 4:20: If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Answer to Lie #6 – 1 John 4:21: And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

The Church Is The Wife And Bride of Christ

One of the major problems I have with modern dispensationalists is how they deny the obvious. I just read an article in Truth Magazine, a dispensationalist publication, concerning the church and the wife and bride of Christ. The author says in his article over and over again, that the church is not married to Christ and is not the wife or bride of Christ. He says Israel is the wife and bride of Christ. But what saith the scriptures? What does Paul say about this issue in his epistles? Paul the apostle of the gentiles tells us in no uncertain terms that the church is in fact a part of the wife and bride of Christ. In Romans 7:4 he wrote: ***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.*** Paul plainly says we are married to Christ who is raised from the dead.

If we are married to Christ what does that make us? Let me give you a clue: It makes us his wife and bride. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure that out does it?

But these are not the only scriptures in Paul's epistles where the church is obviously the bride and wife of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 Paul wrote: ***Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*** This verse plainly says that we are espoused and married to one husband and he is Christ. If Christ is the husband of the church, what does that make the church? Here is a hint: His wife and bride.

Children in my Sunday School have no problem believing this, but some of these hard core dispensationalists can't grasp it. Their private theories about Israel and the church will not allow the church to be the wife and bride of Christ or allow Christ to be the husband of the church. And so what do they do? They deny the obvious by saying Israel is the wife and bride of Christ! But Paul was not writing to Israel in Romans 7:4 or 2 Corinthians 11:1-3. He was writing to the church which is Christ's body.

The author of the article mentioned above says, how can the church be Christ's wife or bride if the church is his body? That's easy; My wife is my body, but she is also my wife and bride for the past 54 years. In Ephesians 5 Paul says that the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He says the wife is under subjection to her husband even as the church is under subjection to Christ. Anybody with walking around in the woods sense can see that the relationship between Christ and the church is that of a husband and wife. This reinforces what Paul wrote about Christ and the church in Romans 7:4 and 2 Corinthians 11:1-2.

To my dispensationalist friends; quit denying the obvious; Your apostle that you brag about says the church is married to Christ and Christ is the husband of the church. And like many of you preach: the Bible means what it says and says what it means. And all this appealing to "right division" ain't going to change Romans 7:4 or 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 either. Practice what you preach!

The Everlasting Gospel Of Our Salvation

The Everlasting Gospel Is The Sacrificial Death and Resurrection Of Christ For Sins Prophesied and Preached In Type And Word From The Beginning To The End Of The Bible.

Revelation 14:6: And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Revelation 13:8: The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:19-20: The precious blood of Christ, ...a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Isaiah 53:5-6: But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he* was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10-11: Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Matthew 20:28: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

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

John 10:11: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:15: As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18: Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

1 Timothy 2:5-6: For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Romans 5:7-8: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 9:12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Hebrews 10: 9-14: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 1:18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Revelation 1:5: And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Revelation 5:8-9: And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Revelation 12:11: And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 22:17: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The Good Shepherd And His Sheep

Did you ever read what Christ the Good Shepherd says about his sheep in John 10? Here is a summary:

The sheep hear his voice

They understand what Christ the Good shepherd says when they hear him.

The sheep follow him

Once they enter the flock their life is spent following Christ the Good Shepherd.

He calleth his own sheep by name,

He knows each one by their names for he chose them before the foundation of the world.

They know his voice

They know the difference between the words of the Good Shepherd and the words of false shepherds.

A stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him

True sheep do not follow false teachers and false doctrines. They flee from false teachers and corrupt religious systems.

They know not the voice of strangers.

They do not give heed to doctrines of devils taught by false shepherds who have seducing spirits. The sheep do not hear them.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Christ loves his sheep so much that he died for their sins. He said he died for them 5 times in this chapter.

I know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

The sheep really know the Lord and can tell you about him and the Lord knows them too.

And I give unto them eternal life

The Good Shepherd gives eternal life to all the true sheep who believe on him and follow him. They have eternal life now and know it.

They shall never perish

The salvation of the sheep is secured eternally by the Good Shepherd. They will never perish. How long is never?

Neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

The sheep are safe eternally in the hands of the Good Shepherd

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The Good Shepherd supplies all the needs of his sheep abundantly above all they ask or think.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep

The difference between the sheep and goats is, the sheep hear and believe the words of the Good Shepherd and follow him and the goats do not.

Today there are two groups of people in the world; the sheep and the goats. Which one are you? Are you one of the sheep the Good Shepherd describes in John 10? Are these things true of you such as verse 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

If you are not one of the sheep Jesus the Good Shepherd says to you: ***I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.***

THE GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION AND CIRCUMCISION IS THE SAME

Galatians 2:7-9 says: ***But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.***

Many extreme dispensationalists teach that Peter and Paul preached two different and opposing gospels at the same time. They say Peter preached salvation by works and warned believers they could lose their salvation, whereas they say Paul preached salvation by grace and eternal security. The verse they use to "prove" Peter and Paul preached two different and opposing gospels is Galatians 2:7 which says, Paul preached the gospel of the uncircumcision and Peter preached the gospel of the circumcision. But does this prove their gospels were different? What saith the scriptures?

When Paul preached the gospel of the uncircumcision to the gentiles what did he preach? He wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: ***For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.***

When Peter preached the gospel of the circumcision to the Jews what did he preach? He wrote in 1 Peter 3:18: ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***

When Paul preached the gospel of the uncircumcision to the gentiles what did he preach? He wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9: ***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

When Peter preached the gospel of the circumcision to the Jews what did he preach? He said in Acts 15:10-11: ***Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.***

When Paul preached the gospel of the uncircumcision to the gentiles what did he preach? In Colossians 1:14 he wrote: ***In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.***

When Peter preached the gospel of the circumcision to the Jews what did he preach? He said in 1 Peter 1:18-19: ***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.***

It is obvious from these scriptures that their message was identical. They both preached the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ for sins and

sinners. They both preached salvation by grace through faith without works. They both preached redemption by the blood of Christ.

Their message was the same; it was the audience that was different. The background of the gentiles Paul preached to were totally different from the Jews Peter was sent to. Paul preached to gentiles who did not know the true and living God and knew nothing of Christ and who worshipped idols most of their lives. See Romans 15:20-21. The Jews Peter preached to came from a very religious background. They spent most of their lives under the Law of Moses observing laws and ordinances and offering animal sacrifices for sin. But, even though their backgrounds were different, they believed the same gospel as you can plainly see in the verses mentioned above.

The Short Step Between True And False

To say Paul was an Apostle of the church is true. To say he is the only Apostle of the church is false. See Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28

To say God revealed the Mystery of Ephesians 3:6 to Paul by the Spirit is true. To say the Mystery was revealed to him only by the Spirit is false. See Ephesians 3:5

To say Paul was an Apostle upon which the church is built is true. To say he is the only Apostle upon which the church is a built is false. See Ephesians 2:20

To say Paul was sent to the Gentiles is true. To say he is the only Apostle God sent to the Gentiles is false. See Acts 15:6.

To say that Paul preached the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ for sins is true. To say he is the only Apostle to preach the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ for sins is false. See 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Luke 24:44-47.

To say that Paul preached the gospel of the uncircumcision and Peter the gospel of the circumcision is true. To say the message was different is false. Compare 1 Corinthians 15:3 with 1 Peter 3:18

To say the new covenant was made with Israel is true. To say Paul was not a minister and preacher of the new covenant is false.

See 2 Corinthians 3:5-11

You see, it's just a short step between true and false. Sometimes its just one word like ONLY.

THE TRUE DEFINITION OF A DISPENSATION

This article was written by Cornelius Stam many years ago. He wrote: Many people have a mistaken notion that a dispensation is a period of time. This is not so, however, for the word "dispense" means simply "to deal out". The word "dispensation", then, means "the act of dispensing or dealing out", or "that which is dispensed or dealt out". There are medical dispensaries, for example, where medicines are dispensed to the poor. Sometimes these dispensations are conducted on a particular day of each week. Such a dispensation of medicine may take a full twelve hours each week, but it does not follow from this that a dispensation is a period of twelve hours! It is rather the act of dispensing or that which is dispensed.

The word "dispensation" is used many times in the Bible, although it is not always translated the same way. In Ephesians 3:2, Paul writes of "the dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you-ward". God had committed to him wonderful message of grace to dispense to others. Thus we read in Acts 20:24 his stirring words, spoken in the face of persecution and death: "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, AND THE MINISTRY WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED OF THE LORD JESUS, TO TESTIFY THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD."

The "gospel" or "good news" of the grace of God: This was the dispensation committed to Paul for us by the risen, ascended Lord. This is always Paul's message. "Where sin abounded GRACE did much more abound...the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His GRACE... justified freely by His GRACE, through the redemption that is in Christ

Jesus...by GRACE are ye saved, through faith” (Rom.5:20; Eph.1:7; Rom.3:24; Eph. 2:8,9).