Unlike the Faithful Berean Christians

Can you not visualize, after God had ordained the salvation of those whom He had chosen, that He looked down through church history, and saw that most Christians, though they heard and read the exact scriptural wording of the gospel, by which God made them Christians--that instead of believing the literal gospel, let themselves be deceived by the preaching of a perverted interpretation of it, that now prevails in churches, and evangelical ministries throughout the world?

With all the instruction God has given in His word, i.e., in the case of the Berean Christians, who received the word gladly (readily) that was preached to them, but afterwards went home and searched the scriptures, to see if those things be so! STOP! This is exactly what most Christians today do not do, or they wouldn't be indoctrinated with false gospel doctrine, thinking it is the truth!

If it was right for those early believers to do what they did, wouldn't it be an implied necessity for every Christian to take heed to, and follow their example? In fact, it should have the weight, and compulsion of a mandate, or command-ment! What other way could one be sure of his beliefs.especially in the early, formative years?

Every Christian is personally responsible for what he believes, no matter how he learned it, whether he was taught it, or concluded it by himself from the bible, etc. A pastor, or whoever preaches, and teaches interpretations of scripture, is responsible for his output, whereas, every Christian is solely responsible for his intake! So, don't look for any excuse, now or when God confronts you with it, at the judgment seat!

The burden of knowing the truth, is upon the believer! "Study to show thyself approved (or, right, in your beliefs), a workman that needeth not to be ashamed (for false beliefs)". 2Tim. 2:15. In case you still don't think you are on the wrong side of that injunction, it applies to the great majority of the church, who believe the modern, radical misinterpretation of the gospel!

It is only false comfort, or security to have confidence in the general consensus of that misrepresentation of the true gospel; it being the word of <u>man</u>, and Satan, instead of the word of <u>God</u>!

I think there is a common trait among Christians to think that there is some room, or allowance for variance of interpretation of the language of certain biblical doctrine, in the way of opinion, or theory, or technicality!

Because some scriptural subjects, or principles are more difficult to understand with complete certainty, or in the strongest sense of meaning, it may be assumed that the Lord did not expect them to be carried to the maximum, or ideal extent.

But such thinking is dangerous, and may limit our ability to arrive at the literal meanings God intended. And, even though the study may be difficult, we ought to believe at least two things that are certain, (1) God's truths, or principles are an <u>exact science</u>, to be fully interpreted correctly, and to the extent of <u>unity</u> of knowledge in the church, and (2) God will give us the grace to understand whatever he has revealed, when we fully apply ourselves to the task of learning His truths, and will give us the resultant conviction, and confidence, when we have succeeded!

The level of doctrinal knowledge may be different according to need, or calling, but will be fundamentally the same with all. A pastor, or teacher has to have a greater depth of scriptural knowledge than many of their flock, to be more able to fully preach, and teach various doctrinal subjects to them, and others, as well as defend and confirm the truth against opposition, as required.

The present day gospel controversy is an example of the need of the latter, but to their shame, the great majority of pastors, evangelists, etc., are not qualified to perform their duties, because they are in serious error, with their free will, Arminian theology! And so, they pass on the false teaching, and perpetuate the gospel corruption of the church!

Most of the church, therefore, cannot personally claim the truths of many

scriptural principles which should apply to them. For example, if one believes "another" gospel, how can he claim the whole truth of Rom. 8:2, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death"?

That is, (1) free from eternal condemnation, the decreed consequence of original sin, which is a permanent unconditional fact and (2) potentially free from the earthly problems that sin can cause, if we faithfully act upon, and use the power of that assurance that, "sin shall not have dominion over us", if we do not let the law of sin and death operate, which is our old nature's domain.

But, just as soon as a Christian who was saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ, believes a false interpretation of it, he forsakes that secondary freedom, not heeding the warning of Gal. 5:1, to "Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage".

From slavery to freedom, and back to slavery! That is you, Arminian, free will believer! "The truth shall set you free", but, accepted false doctrine will make you captive again, to the Liar behind it!

Imagine the following scenario, though I doubt if you care to, or dare to, your having been a Christian for 10, 30, 50 years, and believing in the Arminian, free will gospel, and, most of you don't even know that it is controversial! An estimated 95% of your fellow Christians believe like you do, and think that such an overwhelming majority can't be wrong in their gospel beliefs.

 And, that is the false doctrine that has been preached, and taught to untold multitudes, and responded to by millions that either openly, or silently accepted its claims, and appeals, and have been content, or complacent in their belief of it ever since.

Therefore, being such a one, you have been unfaithful to the truth of the gospel for your entire Christian life! How, then, can you know, or safely conclude that you have been actually faithful in anything else?

I am not dogmatically saying that a false gospel belief renders one unfaithful in

everything of his Christian life.   But, I am, at least implying that it is very difficult to isolate, or separate such a failed major doctrinal requirement, from the other areas of a Christian's responsibility of obedience.   What a Christian believes affects his faithfulness to the Lord, and nothing is of such signifance as the gospel!

Two Christians, having materially different interpretations of the gospel, (1) cannot each be right, and able to stay in fellowship with the Lord, or (2) they could both be wrong, with the same result of unfaithfulness, and a broken relationship with the Lord.

The question of good intentions, or assumed innocence, are not extenuating fators. There is zero tolerance for any material variation in the meaning of any doctrine. Put simply, you can't just believe what you want to believe, or even risk unproven assumptions. But, that is how it is, with the status quo church situation. It is as if they take passages of scripture on the subject involved, and see if they can put a plausible spin on certain words, or a little tweaking here and there, or benefit of the doubt choices, as needed--so then,""grammatically", you can believe that they support your wishful thinking!

And, whether you convince yourself of that superficial method of study, or irresponsibly accept the interpretation from someone else, you are a party to the unscholarly formulation, and establishment of false doctrine! And, you would probably never admit, or hardly suspect, that that whole system of interpreta-tation is produced by the unspiritual thinking, and reasoning of the old nature, or the "flesh". Whereas, the Spirit, which is in you if you are a genuine believer, and is allowed to act, can only produce truthful answers, and explanations!

How crucial it is for every Christian to learn early what it means to "walk in the Spirit" (our new nature), and not the flesh, our natural mind, which cannot think, and act spiritually.

Think of it this way, before we became Christians we could not understand the things of God! They were not real to us, nor could they be, until we were converted, and a whole new way of life began for us. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ: he is a new creature (creation); old things are passed away; behold, all

things are become new". 2 Cor. 5:17.

   Old things are forgiven and gone, but our old nature, itself, is not gone from us! That must be continually dealt with by yielding to the Lord (purposely "walking in the Spirit") for His resources, and power to overcome the ways of the "old man". The bible speaks of, "putting off the old man, with his deeds (acts and ways), and putting on the new man, by the constant renewing (making new) of our mind"! The latter is a composite paraphrasing.

   In this whole controversy, the Calvinistic contention for gospel truth is a reactionary attack against the Arminian deviation from it! That false concept of the gospel has engulfed the church in its radical departure from the original true doctrine, referred to scripturally as the "apostles' tradition", which must be interpreted literally, with the same integrity that they had, and which the Calvinist system faithfully represents!

   As for the Arminian false gospel's hold on most Christians' minds, it is because of the failure right from the beginning of their Christian lives, to have been taught, or otherwise having learned the necessity of letting their new spiritual nature be their normal mode of living (thinking, and acting), or as scripture states it, "walking (conducting one's life) in the Spirit",which is letting God, who is the spiritual dynamic of our lives, work in us!

   Which means that we may not act independent of God, as we did before we were spiritually converted. But, then, having received a whole new way of life from God, complete with a perfect book of instructions (the Bible) on what to believe, and how to live the new life, most of God's people have turned instead to a corrupted interpretation of the holy book's gospel doctrine--without testing, and proving whether or not it is authentic, or actually the word of God.

   How has Satan outsmarted most Christians? First, by capitalizing on them "walking in the flesh", and not in the Spirit. To repeat, walking in the flesh, means continuing to live by the same unspiritual nature you had before you became a Christian; under the "law of sin and death", from which you have been unconditionally set free eternally, and temporally(Rom. 8:2), if you use that

freedom.

The natural mind has no ability to understand things of the Spirit! And, of course, Satan knows that, and probably what we are doing all the time, so he waits for an advantage to use against us. And, in our natural state, we are no match for his superior, or supernatural intellect, and powers!

His techniques to draw us away from obeying, and living for God, are the same as he used with Adam: (1) rationalizing the word of God by casting doubts, and raising questions about God's terms and conditions. For example, "Hath God said"?, deceiving them about God's commands concerning eating of the trees of the garden, and "Ye shall not surely die", but be as gods--interestingly, like Satan's own rebellion against God, when he said, "I will be like the Most High".

So, as long as Christians believe anything of scripture that has been misinter-preted, and propagated, especially as fundamentally important as the gospel, they continually give Satan access to their minds, and lives, in general. Not possession, but access and control!

Do you dare to think that as long as you, in that circumstance, are serving the cause of the devil (whether ignorantly, or not), that you can faithfully worship, commune with, or otherwise serve God? It is not logical, but against principle, which God would never allow, or excuse! So, how can we justify any such doubleminded, deviant action?

Arminian Christians appear to think they cannot be wrong about their gospel beliefs, and therefore they would be offended, and angry at the charge that they are guilty of serving Satan, in any such serious way.

But, you who are in that majority category, must, at least, agree that one side of this long-standing gospel controversy is wrong, and is serving the cause of Satan, by betraying God.

I was an Arminian gospel believer for the first ten years, or so, but, after diligent, and thorough study of related scripture, proved that the prevalent gospel concept is radically wrong! The deprogramming process took a while, but once I

learned the essentials of the literally true gospel, it was a thoroughly transforming experience to come to the true meaning of all the gospel principles that God has established for His church to be united in the knowledge of, and perpetually faithful to the doctrine involved.

It is not boastful, but an expression of thankfulness to the Lord, that I am fully convinced, and confident that my gospel theology is incontrovertibly true, and, that, furthermore, every Christian is required to be of the "same mind".

Do you think God approves of anything less; especially such a radical distortion of His word, as the Arminian, free will false concept represents, that has turned the church into an unfaithful, failed institution?

Yes, the church, established by God, and corrupted by the disobedient, fleshly mind of man, under the tutelage, and controlling influence, and power of Satan! That is the "lukewarm" universal church, further critically described in the Revelation prophecy of the end-time church, and sadly not indicating any major repentance, and reformation!

The cause of the church apparently never seeming to know the plight it is in, nor why it wouldn't make any serious attempt to extricate itself from its doctrinal bondage for centuries, can only be attributed to their continuing failure to live by the spiritual, life principle of their new nature. Why that condition has remained, is still a mystery, despite the reality of the church's fallen state, of which, to their detriment, and shame they are virtually ignorant, but inexcusable!

Recently, Rush Limbaugh said he never thought the day would come, but that he had to say, "I am ashamed of my country". He meant he is ashamed of its failed leadership, and of its constituency that has become disloyal to the nation's constitution, defying and circumventing its established authority of principles, and agreements, and its governing rules, and citizens' rights!

By the same token, along with all the others who believe the literally true biblical gospel, I am ashamed of the church! That is, because the church has--similar to our systemic failed government administration, and congress, and the

cultural corruption of society--departed in a very serious way from the truth, and authority of its biblical constitution!

All because an overwhelming majority of its members have <u>not</u> learned, and maintained gospel truth. It has, therefore and otherwise, failed God, its sovereign author, and administrator! Their unfaithfulness has left the church woefully deficient in its worship and love of God, its service and prayers, and love for each other!

A disobedient, and defiant son, or daughter does not love his, or her parents with their whole heart, until that obstacle, or impediment has been dealt with, and removed--either by themself, or with the help of someone else.

Likewise, being unrepentant, and unreformed, the church remains in its unspiritual, doctrinally deluded condition, guilty of its fallen, negative description in Rev. 2, and 3, being "lukewarm", "wretched", "miserable", "poor", "blind", and "naked".

Any sadder, and more pathetic prophetic picture can hardly be imagined, and for which, future fitting judgment is yet to come, because the church would not, "judge itself, that it should not be judged", by the Lord, either here or at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

I pray that some may see the truth, while there is yet time! And let no one make the excuse that he believes what he has been taught, as if he is not solely responsible for determining scriptural truth, just like the fairhful Berean Christians did!