

The Old and New Covenant Addendum

The topic of the Old and New Covenants is a complex teaching because so much history of the times is forgotten. In addition, many Christians have misunderstood the writing of the Apostle Paul because they didn't understand events taking place in Judea at Jesus' time due to the distance.

THE TRADITIONS OF THE JEWISH ELDERS



t, and spirit of the teaching that guided his decision. In this way, it brings the practice of the *mitzvot* as presented in the Bible and aims to clarify when, serve as an example for future judgments, and, most importantly, exercise of the Biblical command which was much neglected since the Second Temple was destroyed (70 CE). The Mishnah does not claim it of new laws, but rather the collection of existing understandings of the Lord's commandments in the Torah.

When to fast and how long
To be circumcised or not to be
A Sabbath's days walk
Washing hands
Clean and unclean meats
Corban

The Jews during Jesus' time had many oral rules and regulations added by the elders throughout the years to their law practice. These added traditions that often caused the Jews to nullify the Law of God.

“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus, you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that” (Mark 7:8-13).

Jesus tried to correct them, but they would not listen. The Jewish priests had fallen into exercising the principle of Self-knows-best, working hard to impose more and more rules to force good behaviour. Their added restrictions moved the pendulum all the way off centre to rest against the most outer edge.

The Jewish priests accused Jesus of being unlawful. "At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath'" (Matthew 12:1-2).

Jesus' "unlawful" behaviour was him breaking the established rules and regulations of the elders on how to keep God's Sabbath. None of these rules and regulations are in the Bible. They are the traditions added by the elders that Jesus referred to as obstacles for the incoming, repenting Gentiles, which were burdens also for the Jewish congregation.

Jesus said to his disciples, "So, practice and observe everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, burdensome loads and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. All their deeds are done for men to see. They broaden their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love the places of honor at banquets, the chief seats in the synagogues, the greetings in the marketplaces, and the title of 'Rabbi' by which they are addressed. But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters" (Matthew 23:3-8).

Jesus explained how the Jewish priests had fallen into the trap of self-glory reveling in practices that they used to exalt themselves over their congregation. Humility was not found by them. Deceived by their pride and arrogance, they taught the law but did not keep it. They enforced the traditions of the elders as if they could successfully enter God's kingdom through their own works.

Interesting is the statement of Isaiah, "Each of us has become like something unclean, and **all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;** we all wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind" (Isaiah 64:6).

The filthy rags referred to by Isaiah are menstrual rages. The spiritual meaning of this reference is pointing to the failed spiritual conception. Throughout the Bible, God refers to the theological body as a woman, His church. Women were considered unclean during their menstrual period due to a failed conception. The priests and the Christian ministry have the role of conceiving and birthing a congregation fit for His kingdom. In the case of filthy rags, this ministry has only the human spirit and no matter how righteous they are, they cannot conceive, let alone birth a congregation fit for God's kingdom. Isaiah knew human perfection cannot qualify for eternal life in God's kingdom because human perfection remains pocketed with darkness. Only through God's Holy Spirit can true transformation take place where the heart of mankind is genuine, true and freely desires to obey and love Him.

CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

While the Jews have their traditions, the Christians, too, have their own. All of the names of the days of the Christian week come from pagan worship.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sun's day	Moon's day	Tiw's day god of war (Norse Tyr)	Woden's day, Anglo-Saxon god (Norse Odin)	Thor's day	Frige's day, wife of Woden (goddess of love) (Norse Frigg)	Saturn's day, god of agriculture

Christmas, too, has pagan roots. History.com provides the background to the traditional winter celebrations of today. "In Rome, where winters were not as harsh as those in the far north, Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, enslaved people were given temporary freedom and treated as equals. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could participate in the holiday's festivities." (<https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas>)

The birth of Mithra, the son god, was celebrated by pagans on December 25. During this time the shortest and darkest period in December, known as the winter solstice, was celebrated with lights anticipating the end of winter and the soon coming spring of life. The repenting tribes of Israel who became known as Christians did not know Jesus' birthday, so incorporated their pagan practices by assigning Jesus' birthday on December 25.

The Christmas tree tradition is the worship of the god Woden. The evergreen tree is symbolic of the eternal life of the gods worshipped by the people in ancient times. Decorating the tree is tree worship common among pagan Europeans.

Many of the special symbols of Christmas have a pagan origin. The yule log, Christmas tree and decorations of lights, gift giving, wreath, bells, and mistletoe to name a few.

The Mistletoe has pagan roots that began when the ten tribes of Israel chose to serve the gods of the nations, instead of their God of Israel. They wanted to be like the nations around them, like Egypt, with their grand pyramids, temples, powerful army, wealth and riches. The God of Israel declared His people to be a kingdom of priests serving Him. Their focus would not be the drive to become a superpower on earth, rather a humble kingdom of priests. The ten tribes were not allowed to return to their homeland in the Middle East because they did not repent. God sentenced them seven times their punishment; they will wait 2,520 years before they can return after their captivity.

The ten tribes worshipped Woden (Odin), Thor and Loki. They became like the nations worshipping fallen sons of God who opposed the Almighty God.

The Mistletoe is parasitic plant. Its importance in winter festivities stems back to the ten tribes worshipping Woden and their introduction to the infamous trickster god Loki. Another god named, Baldr was driven to paranoia by visions of his own death. His mother, the goddess Frigg, feared him dying and forced every earthly object to never harm him. Baldr became known for his invincibility until Loki challenged him using weapon out of mistletoe, which was one earthly object that apparently did not make the vow. Baldr was killed, and Frigg's tears of woe were caught on the mistletoe's branches, as the story goes, turning into the white, pearl-like berries, symbolising her love for him." (<https://www.history.co.uk/article/the-pagan-roots-of-christmas>)

The legend continues where mistletoe was used by the gods to resurrect Baldr. His rejoicing mother, Frigg, made the plant a symbol of love and vowed to kiss anyone who passed under it. This celebration is an accepted practice giving license to men to kiss any woman standing under mistletoe, and if the ladies refused, that meant bad luck. The practice of hopes of luck and wishes all come from the worship of these fallen gods ruling over the nations. They abused their power and left the people hoping for help and living to please these fickle fallen rulers.

God let the ten tribes go to worship fallen sons of God, but only for a time. Many of them repented during Jesus' time on earth, but many still live by the Self-knows-best principle. God will confront the rebels in the very last days, after the great tribulation. "Go and

serve your idols, every one of you! But afterward you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols. For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them... I will bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will show myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to your fathers. There you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourself for all the evil you have done. You will know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name's sake and not according to your evil ways and your corrupt practices" (Ezekiel 20:39-40, 41-43).

Repentance from both houses of the ancient kingdom of Israel into the 21st century will take place at the same time, unlike in times past. Jeremiah recorded their humbled state still yet to be fulfilled, but visible on our near horizon.

"In those days and at that time, declares the LORD, **the children of Israel and the children of Judah will come together, weeping as they come, and will seek the LORD their God**" (Jeremiah 50:4).

"In those days **the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel**, and **together** they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage" (Jeremiah 3:18).

There is hope in this prophecy that all of the pagan practices of these Christians will be removed; they will be cleansed and loathe themselves for supporting fallen, ruling gods who oppose and rage against the Almighty God, the Great Creator—their God.

God's plan is to first bring all of people from all of the twelve nations of Israel in the 21st century into repentance, hence the reason for Jacob's trouble—the great tribulation. God will bring them back under His rule to obey His Law.

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws" (Ezekiel 36:24-27).

A time is coming when people will make idols of fallen ruling gods over the nations in the 21st century. The book of Revelation reveals the making of a large idol that has the power to kill as well as idols made of gold and silver. While people today, may mock

the ancient people for their belief in “mythical” ruling gods over the nations, Apostle John wrote, “Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon... he made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants on the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:11-17).

Worshipping idols and fallen gods is returning to earth in the 21st century. Supernatural activity will return and imbed fear in mortals who don't serve and trust in the Almighty God for protection and saving.

God's people that He is addressing in Ezekiel 36 are a stubborn and confused people. They are not everyone, but a significant portion. They remain rebels against God to the last moment. They will go into captivity and become the great scattering among the nations and their slaves. Great distress will fill their lives before these people will awaken to their sins and loathe themselves, submit to God and obey His Law willingly and lovingly.

Before the captivity, the two witness of Revelation will warn them and all of mankind of their treasonous sin worshipping Satan and the beast. They will identify the people of God who think they are only Gentiles and ignite a great religious revival. God will use the upcoming great distress to awaken His wayward people and test, strengthen and purifying the awake. The parable of the ten virgins is the prophecy of the people of God who are asleep and wayward and those who are awake but weak.

EPHESIANS 2



<https://nazareneisrael.org/book/genesis-35-alliance-v2/what-is-the-genesis-35-alliance/>

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by **abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might **create in himself one new man in place of the two**, and so making peace, might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby **killing the hostility**” (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Key points to understand in Ephesians 2:

- Who has made US both ONE
- Broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
- By abolishing the law of commandments EXPRESSED IN ORDINANCES
- Create in himself a new man in place of two
- Making peace, reconcile US BOTH to God in one body through the cross
- Killing the hostility

Who has made US both ONE: US refers to both houses: Judah [the Jews] and Israel [the Gentiles, the returning repentant ten tribes of Israel] will become ONE body of people with God’s Holy Spirit—a single body of believers, which will also include repentant people from the nations.

Broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility: The dividing wall was the barrier caused by the many man-made rules and regulations. Issues on when to fast and how long, should we wash our hands or not, how to honour your father and mother, to circumcise or not, what can be eaten and what should be avoided, can meat offered to idols be eaten or not, who you can and cannot associate with, who is and who isn't part of the covenant family. The love written in God's ten commandments was invisible by the grand man-made rules that reinforced the teachings of man over the teaching of God.

By abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances: The word "ordinances" used in Ephesians 2 in Greek is "dogma" meaning an opinion—a public decree, an ordinance, like the traditions of the elders.

An opinion? Everyone has opinions, how is it that some have been enforced into law?

Jesus said, "**Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Teacher, and all of you are all as brothers [equal members of the same religious community]**" (Matthew 23:8).

Jesus Christ is our only Teacher. He has always only supported the Law of God and spoke against the additional rules and regulations added by the Jewish elders and we can add the changes and additions made by bishops hundreds of years ago that effected the practices of the Christians. In addition, as the repenting Gentiles were re-entering the covenant family, the Jews tried to force them to keep their practices.

Life in the first century is long forgotten. Two thousand years later, Judo-Christians have accepted each other as both have waned from their religious fervor.

Create in himself a new man in place of two: Through the Messiah, God's Holy Spirit births a new being with Christ in them. Jesus said, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him" (John 14:19-21). Total unity will be achieved.

Strong's Concordance

dogma: an opinion, (a public) decree

Original Word: δόγμα, ατος, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: dogma

Phonetic Spelling: (dog'-mah)

Definition: an opinion, (a public) decree

Usage: a decree, edict, ordinance.

Making peace, reconcile US BOTH to God in one body through the cross: Jesus brought the repentant tribes back into the covenant family. Under his redemptive sacrifice, both houses are a cleansed people where God is offering them grace, along with the whole world.

Killing the hostility: The barrier between the Jews and Gentiles has been dissolved over the past two thousand years. The Christian Gentiles were given the baton to take the gospel to the whole world; the Jews rejected the offer. While they accept each other, their re-union has not taken place yet. A complete healing will bring them together and they will both come to God, weeping. “In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, **the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God**” (Jeremiah 50:4 and Jeremiah 3:18).

In summary, what has been nailed to the cross are all of the man-made rules and regulations imposed by the Jewish priesthood at Jesus’ time caused the people to nullify God’s Law. The divorced house of the ten tribes have been cleansed and regrafted back into the covenant family. Through Christ’s sacrifice, both houses have access to God’s Holy Spirit and eternal life by God’s grace. Previous barriers and disagreements have all now been dissolved.

THE SIDE NOTE

God is working to mold a whole planet of humble and sensitive, deeply repentant people who recognize the generosity of God’s grace and His love despite the ugliness of sinners on earth.

On a side note, the Gentiles referred to in Romans 9:30-32a are the divorced house of Israel, the ten tribes. What bothered the Jews the most was not the Gentiles from the nations whose gods taught them worship them and live lawlessly. The Jews understood the words of Apostle Paul when he said, “That the Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith, but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.” The Jews knew their brothers of the ten tribes had been cast out of the covenant family and yet, why is it that **they** could be brought back **those who did not pursue righteousness taught by the God of Israel all through their ancient times now obtain it [righteousness before God]**.

All this has been difficult teaching for the Jews. It was a complete reversal in their minds of what God wants from His people. God wants obedience to His law. Their brothers, they knew were **not** pursuing righteousness. They were divorced! The Jews, like the older brother in the story of the prodigal son, were obedient to the point of pushing the pendulum so far to the outer edge, that they became sinfully self-righteous. Hence, they did not obtain it [righteousness before God] because the righteousness of man is but filthy rags. It can manifest itself in self-righteousness twisting the simplicity and purity of God’s Law of a humble people. Human righteousness in its purest form is filthy compared to God’s righteousness. It is impossible to acquire the righteousness before God

without a deep plea for forgiveness and the humility of the woman who washed Jesus' feet loathing her sins. God's grace and His Holy Spirit are the two critical components to spiritual growth into righteousness. God's standard is very high.

The divorced house of Israel were the lawless rebels in the family. That was the big reason for their divorce and the Jews knew it. Their frustration was, how was it that the lawless obtain righteousness by faith? The Apostle Paul's teaching was clear. This once-divorced house fell under the many curses of disobedience because they didn't obey God's Law; they suffered. Like the prodigal son, when they reached their limit, they fell to their knees and decided to return to God. They were once the powerful ten tribes of Israel while the house of Judah was the vulnerable house of two tribes. The ten tribes were sentenced seven times their original punishment after their captivity because they were not remorseful after they were released. They had craved to be like the nations around them striving for superpower status, self-reliance, self-direction and self-glory. When they returned to God, Jesus made them wait to test their sincerity.

This wait is revealed in the feeding of the 4,000 people. Jesus made them wait three days before he performed the miracle of the multiplication of bread and fish. The miracle was a mirror of a spiritual feeding/teaching of God's word that they ate/understood. He healed them and they gave glory to Almighty God. He then acknowledged their repentance. They bent their knee before God grateful for nothing more than His covering as servants. God gave them grace. God gave them sonship. God gave them His Holy Spirit. God trusted them and gave them the task of taking the gospel to the whole world. What God is molding is a people obedient to His Law of love, a humble people deeply grateful for His gift of grace.

The fracture of the ancient kingdom of Israel is a mirror of what happens when the righteous are not ruling. Solomon failed during his reign. The ten tribes of Israel begged for grace, relief from the oppressive taxes imposed by Solomon. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, listened to his younger advisors and said, "Whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions" (I Kings 12:11).

That tyrannical response burned into the hearts of the ten tribes and a declaration of war was made, a separation took place. God said to the ancient Israelites, do not go to war, so the ten tribes separated to remain a fractured kingdom to this day.

A future event will bring them together. They will join together and return to God weeping, seeking God with all their heart. King David and Jesus Christ will rule in love not tyranny.

"The envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim" (Isaiah 11:13). Ephraim was the leader of the ten tribes of Israel. Peace will come to the two houses and a reunification will take place.

THE LAW—UNSEEN FORCE

Because the word “law” tends to ignite a reaction from Christians, the descriptor of “unseen force” invites curiosity that may bring insight into God’s engineering within His creation. Unseen forces hold creation in its place. Without the unseen forces, like gravity, creation begins to collapse. The ten unseen forces that bind the Great Creator to His creation are all expressed in love. The visible reaction of these unseen forces at work is harmony, honour and respect for one another, peace and an intense love for the All-Powerful Creator who is the ultimate expression of love.

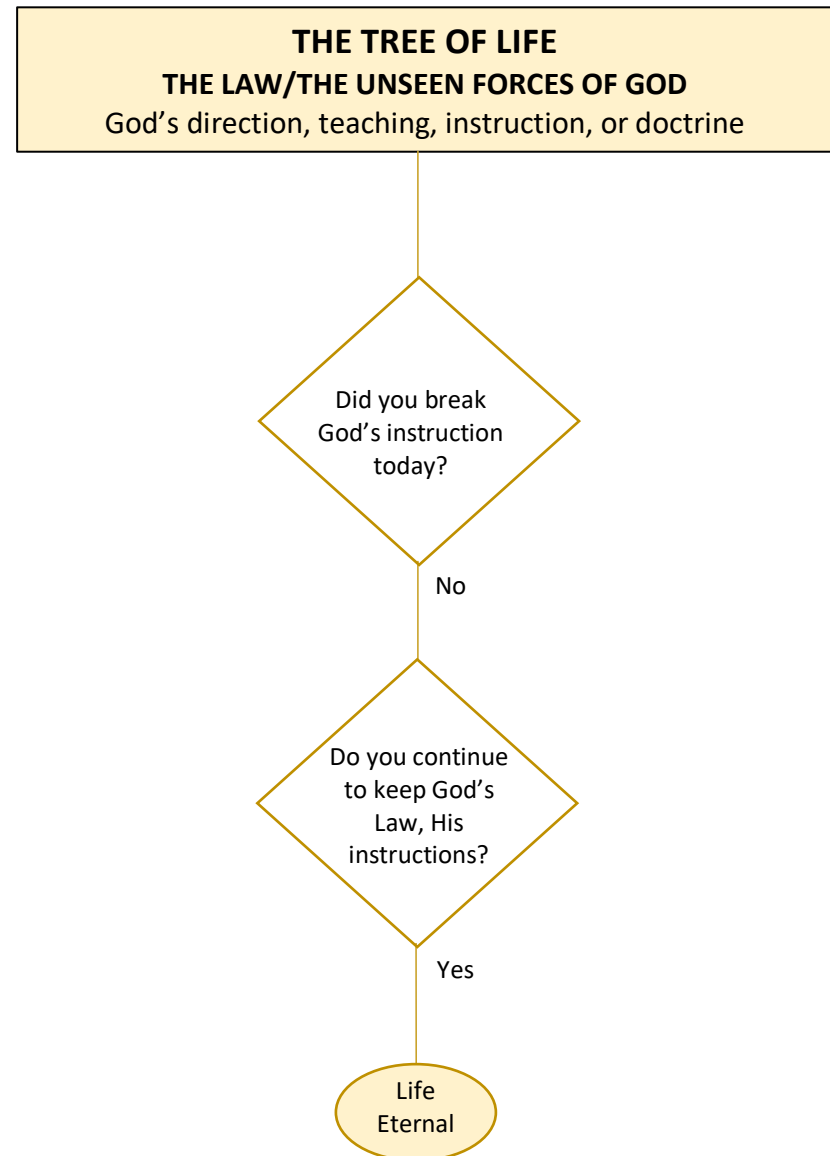
FOLLOW THE PLAN

Follow God’s plan of salvation. The Apostle Paul was a highly trained scholar of the Law. He was taught by the best, Gamaliel. Then, brought to his knees by Jesus Christ and then, taught by him and his disciples and then even taken in a vision to God’s throne where he was taught directly by God through Jesus Christ. His legal language is a difficult teaching for 21st century Christians.

Adam and Eve followed God’s plan until Satan introduced a different set of unseen forces.

They were “eating” that is, listening and acting on the word of God, that is, living by God’s direction, His instructions, His teachings, His doctrines from the Leader of life symbolized in the tree of life. God always uses the symbol of a tree to represent a spiritual leader, hence God’s use of the cedar tree, olive tree, fig tree and others.

Unfortunately, they left God’s instructions and ended up under the Law of Sin that brings spiritual death.



“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Adam and Eve knew the Law of God, but they chose to sin, which spread to all of mankind, bringing us all under a different law—the Law of Sin.

Paul addressed these battles. “But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me **a prisoner of the law of sin** which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

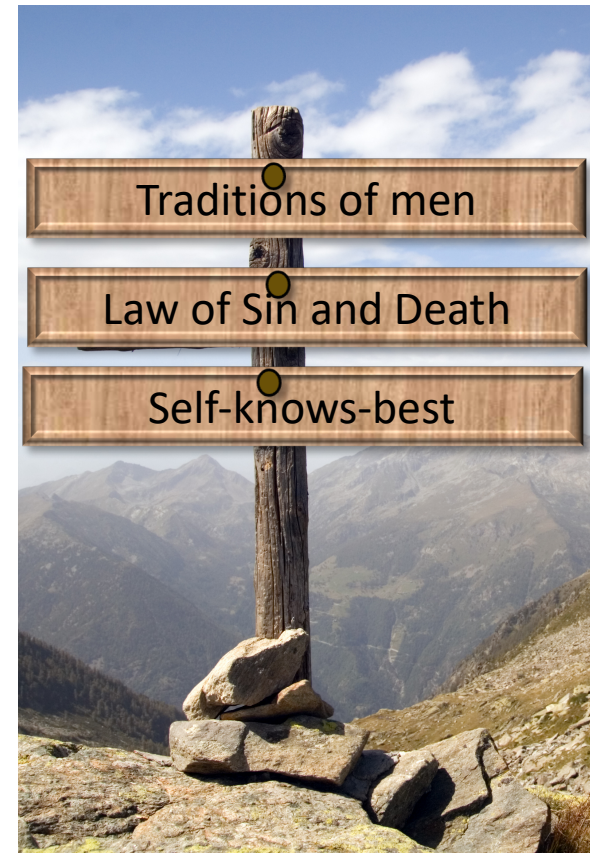
(Romans 7:23-24)

No longer under God’s law of love for Him and others, mankind is sentenced to die under the law of sin that leads to spiritual death. All of mankind have sinned. The big question is, does mankind have a legitimate Saviour who can pay the price for their sins?

LAW/UNSEEN FORCES OF SIN AND DEATH

The Apostle Paul is teaching the Christians God’s process of rescuing them from the grip of Satan’s unseen forces that bring death. The consequence of our sins is death. Under the Law of Sin and Death, the guilty will die a **second death unless the penalty of sin is paid.**

Fortunately for mankind, the Son of God paid the price and the door is open again for eternal life.



THE TREE OF LIFE
THE LAW/THE UNSEEN FORCES OF GOD
God's direction, teaching, instruction, or doctrine

THE TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL
Law of Sin and Death
The way of the flesh – Self-Knows-Best

Uh Oh!
You have made a mistake

Yes

Did you break
God's instruction
today?



Death

No

Is there a payment
acceptable by God for
your sin?

Yes

Death

No

Did you accept
Christ's sacrifice as
that payment?

Yippee!
Freedom out of Satan's grip of death has begun.

OUR SAVIOUR PROVIDED STEPPING STONES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

Most Christians do not argue the point that Christ died for our sins. Paul wrote in Colossians 2:13-15 that the Law of Sin and Death was nailed to the cross because God accepted Christ's sacrifice as payment for our sins. **We are no longer under the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.**

"When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses, having canceled the debt ascribed to us in the decrees that stood against us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross!" (Colossians 2:13-14)

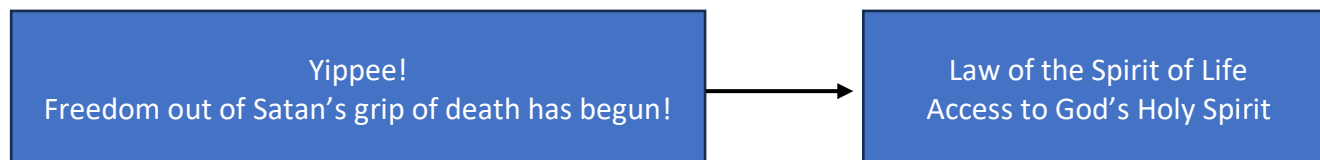
After Jesus, our Messiah paid the price for our sins, repenting people move out from under the unseen forces of sin and death. Christ then made possible additional unseen forces to help Christians grow spiritually. He gave us the Law of the Spirit of life.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For **the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death**" (Romans 8:1-2).

Christ made it possible for us to return to the Law of God, which is spiritual and good. **"So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good.** The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin" (Romans 7:14).

Now, after repentance, God gives us His Holy Spirit, which gives us the desire to follow the Law of God willingly—from the heart. When we keep His law, He knows that we love Him. "If you love me, obey my commandments" (John 14:15).

Working to obey laws without a willing heart and love for Almighty God is worthless and has no lasting strength. "No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, **it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit.** And **a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people**" (Romans 2:29).



THE LAW OF FAITH

At the time that Jesus was on earth, the Jewish priesthood was exceedingly self-righteous and arrogant. They relied on doing outward acts, with the intent to earn their way into salvation. They were very proud that they remained the only covenant people and they were determined to keep it that way. Many times, Jesus uncovered their deviation from God's law, but they would not listen. Paul's task was to reteach the Jews and the Gentiles the Law of God, which is spiritual because it requires God's Holy Spirit in order to keep it as God has intended. The next process Paul taught was the element of faith.

"Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? **The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith.** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law" (Romans 3:27-28).

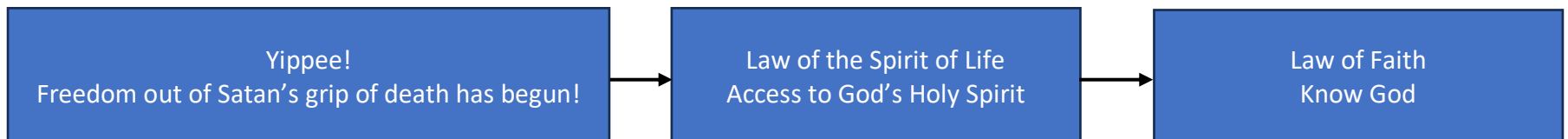
In ancient times, God was visible to the Israelites in His great miracles He performed before them, His presence in the cloud by day and fire by night, His decisions made through the practice of casting lots, His messages through the prophets, Him speaking directly to people as He did with Gideon and Elijah; yet, ancient Israel still didn't remain faithful to God.

"**And it is impossible to please God without faith.** Anyone who wants to come to him **must believe that God exists** and that **he rewards those who sincerely seek him**" (Hebrews 11:6).

Belief in God is knowing Him and trusting that He will do all that He has promised. God's grace is a gift that cannot be earned because all of mankind have sinned. Our Father in heaven is gracious and perfect.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast**" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Now, the believer through God's Holy Spirit receives truth and conforms to the word of God, hence a new man begins to form. From the core outward, the believer values the peace and happiness that comes from keeping the Law of God and develops an intimate relationship with the Creator, desiring to please Him and become at one with Him, striving to keep the Law of Righteousness.



THE LAW OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

In keeping the Law of Righteousness, tangible behavior becomes visible. Paul struck down the wicked ways and urged the Ephesians, “So, I tell you this, and **insist on it in the Lord**, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do... They are darkened... because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts... **put off the old self... put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness...** speak truthfully, work doing something useful, build up others, do not grieve the Holy Spirit... get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **BE IMITATORS OF GOD**” (Ephesians 4:17-5:1).



James added to Paul’s teachings, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead**” (James 2:14-16).

“So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. **Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God**” (1 John 3:10).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

THE LAW OF CHRIST

The Apostle Paul recognized the stepping stones toward spiritual growth and applied the Law of Christ to its fullest. “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law [those are the people under the law of sin and death as well as those still practising the oral laws and traditions of men] I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not

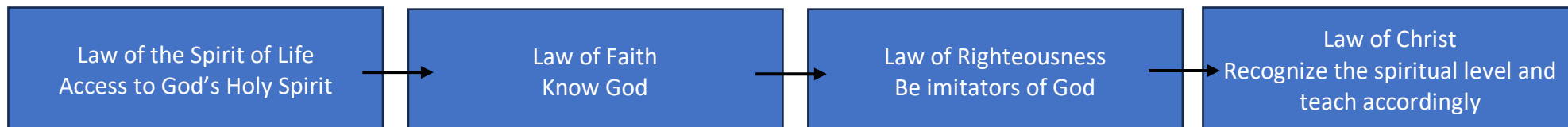
having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (I Corinthians 9:19-23).

The Apostle Paul was saying that because he was under the Law of Christ, he could work to recognize where each babe in Christ, each converting Gentile, each repenting individual was in the spiritual growth. He worked to bring them closer to Almighty God by connecting with them, without violating God’s Law, he taught them without judgement or condemnation.

Christ did not come to do away with the law or do away with some of the law. "Don't ever think that I came to set aside Moses' Teachings or the Prophets. I didn't come to set them aside but to make them come true” (Matthew 5:17).

Christ came to amplify the law. To merely refrain from adultery is obedience to the “letter of the Law,” but to obey both the spirit and letter of the Law, self-control must be exercised where even lusting becomes a violation of the spirit in keeping the Law of God.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who **looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart**” (Matthew 5:27-28).



THE LAW OF GOD

By the Law of God, sin is defined. “What shall we say, then? **Is the law sinful? Certainly not!** Nevertheless, **I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.** For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet’” (Romans 7:7).

If you repent, get baptised and receive the Holy Spirit, then “If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law [the Law of Sin and Death]” (Galatians 5:18).

It is time for Judo-Christians to follow Jeremiah’s instructions, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; **ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls**’” (Jeremiah 6:16).

The Law of God is truth, perfect, and good. It is evident in the unseen forces that bring people together and establishes an intimate relationship with the Great Creator and their Saviour. Paul delighted in God's Law. "For in my inner being I delight in God's Law" (Romans 7:22).

Jesus warned against becoming lawless. "Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven**" (Matthew 5:19).

It is ever so simple! The Old Covenant did not include the payment of our sins only the awareness of sin and the need for payment; nor did it give us God's Holy Spirit, so that we can have the desire to obey God's Law as He intended.

The lesson of history is that we cannot earn salvation by works; our righteousness is but filthy rags at best compared to God. Know the Almighty God and accept His generous gift of grace and love Him. The New Covenant makes it possible for us to return to the Law of God because we are no longer under the Law of Sin and Death; it was nailed to the cross by Jesus. The payment has been accepted; the Holy Spirit is now available. Through faith, we believe and trust God that He will do all that He was promised. Discipling our human spirit and allowing God's Holy Spirit to flow within us through Jesus Christ is essential to growing into living righteously. The Law of Christ is the wisdom of God who has the ability to teach one another with patience, kindness, and enduring love as Christ did, all of this is the working of the Law of God.

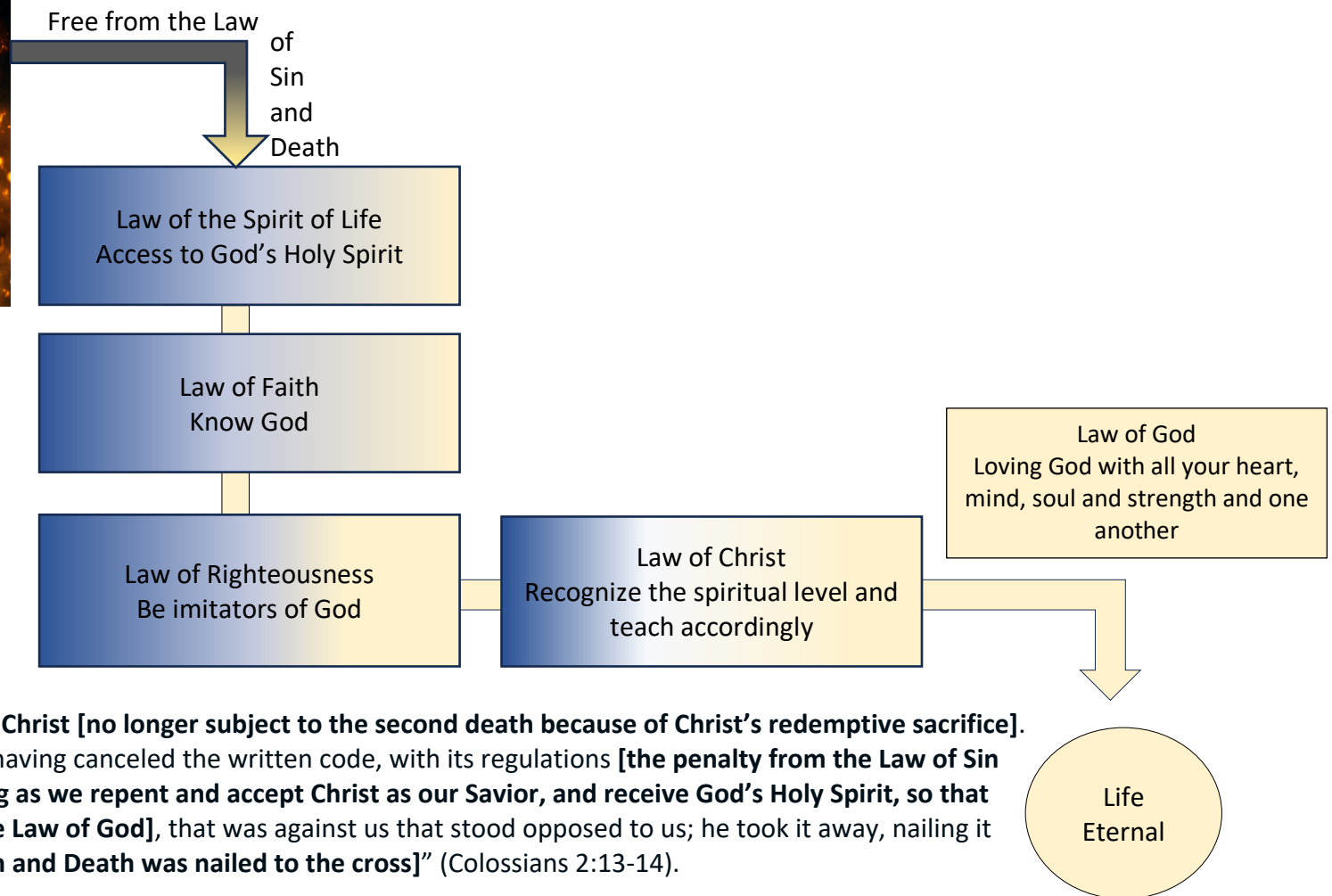
"In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is **becoming** obsolete and **growing** old is **ready to vanish** away." (Hebrews 8:13).

Absolutely, **the old covenant is ready to vanish away because the payment has been accepted**; we have God's Holy Spirit. We are no longer under the Law of Sin and Death.

Law of Sin and Death

- Must obey Satan
- Live in the moment, tomorrow you die
- Hate
- Lie
- Steal
- Kill
- Lust

FOLLOW THE PLAN BACK TO SALVATION



“God made you alive with Christ [no longer subject to the second death because of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice]. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations [the penalty from the Law of Sin has been cancelled, as long as we repent and accept Christ as our Savior, and receive God’s Holy Spirit, so that we desire to live under the Law of God], that was against us that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross [the Law of Sin and Death was nailed to the cross]” (Colossians 2:13-14).

The Apostle Paul re-taught the Jews and the Gentiles the way back to God by identifying the laws along the way. Rejoice that our Creator provided a plan for our salvation for—He loves us! He gave His only Son, His only Heir, so that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life (John 3:16).

“Find out what pleases the LORD” (Ephesians 5:9). Know Him, love Him, serve Him.

The law of sin and death is nailed to the cross. Christ provided stepping stones toward spiritual growth expressed by the Apostle Paul as laws, unseen forces when applied and put to work that produce righteousness, love for God and one another.

Special acknowledgement to 119 Ministries for their comprehensive studies on the Law of God.

<https://www.119ministries.com>

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