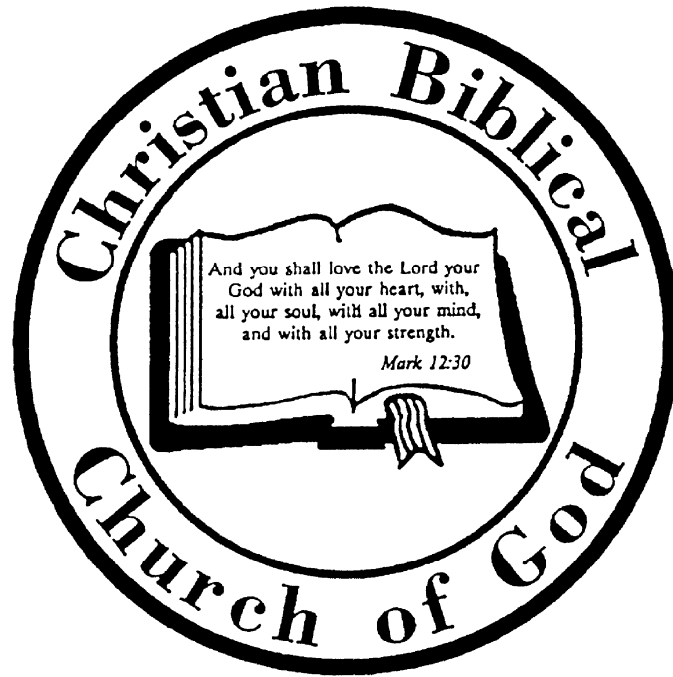


# **False Prophecies, Works of Law And Justification**



**Transcript Book**

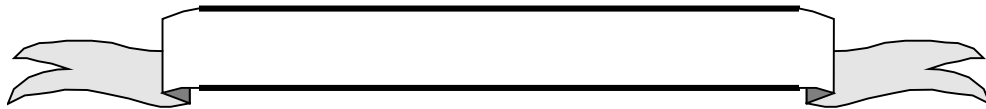
By Fred R. Coulter

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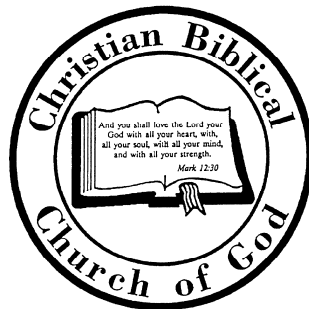
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## **False Prophecies, Works of Law & Justification**

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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- False Prophecies, Works of Law & Justification I Date completed \_\_\_\_\_
- False Prophecies, Works of Law & Justification II Date completed \_\_\_\_\_
- False Prophecies, Works of Law & Justification III Date completed \_\_\_\_\_
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# False Prophecies, “Works of Law,” & Justification I

## How the deception of this world’s Christianity compares to the Truth of God

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath services.

- we’re living in a world of over-information
- we’re living in a world of confusion
- we’re living in a world where everyone does what is right in their own eyes

That can be good, if it’s done properly to use free moral agency *to know and understand God, to choose His way*. God has given every one of us independent free moral agency (IFMA). Constantly every day we have choices to make. We have things set before us. We have to understand truth from error, right from wrong.

How is it that we are able to protect ourselves, or be on guard against false prophets? Jesus told us the very first warning He gave His apostles was to beware:

Matthew 24:4: “...‘Be on guard, so that no one deceives you. For many shall come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ”; and they shall deceive many”” (vs 4-5).

That’s the very first thing He told them when they wanted to know when the end of the age would come. Then He went on to explain all the things in Matt. 24, and the key thing toward the end-time to watch for is when they actually begin building the temple. When that happens, know that the end is near.

He also told us, v 24: “For there shall arise false Christs... [saying they are the Christ] ...and false prophets, and they shall present... [or show] ...great signs and wonders... [miracles] ...**in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**”

- What is your protection?
- What do we need to do?
- How will God respond to us?

Those many false prophets will come saying many good things, even quoting Scripture. You have to ask:

- How can we identify them?
- What is our protection?

First of all, the easiest category is other gods and other religions. We can dismiss them. The next one is Christianity. There are many brands of Christianity in the world, even among Sabbath-keepers. What is it that we do? What is our protection, because we must prove all things? Isa. 8

tells us ‘to the Law and to the Prophets. If they do not speak according to this word, it’s because there is no light in them.’ So, that’s one way.

Paul tells us to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Let’s see something else that comes along in the end-time. Acts 20—we’re also confronted with this today. This is the one that we have to be more careful for than anything else. We already covered about Jews and Judaism, Messianic Jews, etc. Here we find what the Apostle Paul said. We’ve also seen this; we’ve also gone through this.

- How many start out but fall by the wayside?
- How many say good and right things, only later to change it?

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. He called for the elders of the church of Ephesus down to meet him in Miletus. So, Paul told them:

Acts 20:25: “And now behold, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the Kingdom of God, will see my face no more; wherefore, I testify to you on this day that I am pure from the blood of all, for I have not held back from preaching to you all the counsel of God” (vs 25-27). First protection!

- Do the Law and the Prophets agree with the words of God?
- Do they teach all or do they teach part?

That’s very important to understand, because as we saw in #7 *Christ and Our Calling: TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love*, we need to discern between the Spirit of Truth—which is the Word of God—and the spirit of deception, or error.

Notice the warning here from the Apostle Paul and then we will see what Peter said about this. Verse 28: “Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.”

Very important: Every minister, elder, and deacon, and everyone in the Church, needs to know that we have been

- purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ
- purchased out of the debt of sin toward God
- bought back from Satan the devil

That is a tremendous thing we need to understand and realize. Let’s see what the Apostle Paul said. After he had been there, he taught them everything like that.

Verse 29: “For I know this: that after my departure grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” We’ve seen that too, haven’t we? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 30: “And from among your own selves men will rise up speaking perverse things... [We’ll see what perverse things are] ...to draw away disciples after themselves.” (v 30).

Notice what Paul commanded the elders to do. This is what every minister and elder needs to do every day, because all thoughts are not good thoughts, and all thoughts are not from God. As we will see, we’ve got to be strong in the Lord. That’s important to really grasp.

Verse 31: “Watch, therefore, remembering that *for* three years I ceased not to admonish each one night and day with tears. And now I commit you, brethren, to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (vs 31-32).

- How do we do that?
- What is the first thing that we need to do?

***Watch out for twisting and turning and perverting the Word of God!***

What happens when a minister of God, supposedly, goes bad or seeks his own brand, separate from the Word of God?

Peter had all the Epistles of Paul; 2-Peter 3:14: “For this reason, beloved, since you are anticipating these things, be diligent... [you have to be zealous, diligent] ...so that you may be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.”

This is what we need to chose every day. This is why study and prayer. So, in proving things—to the Law and the Prophets—study and prayer, as well as keeping the commandments of God.

Verse 15: “And bear in mind that the long-suffering of our Lord *is* salvation, exactly as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has also written to you; as *he has* also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them concerning these things; in which are some things *that are* difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable are twisting *and distorting*, as ***they also twist and distort the rest of the Scriptures to their own destruction***” (vs 15-16).

We’ve covered some Scriptures that they’ve twisted and distorted, but we’re going to look at some more today. We need to understand:

- What is it that we need to do?
- What is it that we need to have,?
- What is it that we need to keep in mind?
- What is the way that we do it?

*We look to the Word of God.* That tells us.

Verse 17: “Therefore, beloved, since you know this in advance, be on guard against *such practices*, lest you be led astray with the error of the lawless ones, *and* you fall from your own steadfastness.”

We’ve seen that too. Yes, can some of them repent and come back? *Of course!* But these are the things that we need to be practicing every day. Now this is speaking of difficult Scriptures, this is one of the reasons why we have Appendix Z: Paul’s Difficult Scriptures, in the *Faithful Version Bible*, explaining of Paul’s difficult to understand Scriptures. They are easily twisted and turned! People especially do not understand where there are mistranslations. They do not understand Judaism and the way that it operates. So, they can be easily led astray.

Here is the thing we need to be doing constantly, v 18: “Rather, be growing in *the* grace and *the* knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and into *the* day of eternity. Amen.”

The Apostle John reveals another very interesting truth. 1-John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

What is this telling us? When there are false teachings—though they may sound nice and sweet and good, though they may even read some Scriptures—what if they’re twisting and turning like the Apostle Peter said? Here’s what we are to do: ***not believe until you have proved and proved by testing!*** How do you test? *You use the Word of God and compare what they say with the Truth!*

Verse 2: “By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the* flesh is from God. And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not from God. And this is the *spirit* of antichrist, which you heard *was* to come, and even now it is already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them because greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world” (vs 2-4). It has to be the Word of God!

Verse 6: “We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us...” You have to know God. How do you know God? First and greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your being.

1. **with all your heart** means that you do not let your emotions get carried away on something that someone says, trying to take you away from God.

*People are too emotionally led today!*

2. **with all your mind** means you study and you learn and you know and you understand the Word of God.

You *think* and you use your free moral agency to constantly be growing in grace and knowledge. When you *think* the Scriptures of God, with His Spirit helping you to think, then you can see where the false prophets are wrong, even if they give you a sign or a wonder.

Verse 5: “They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them.”

This also verifies what Jesus said. Jesus said, ‘Enter in at the narrow gate, the straight gate. For narrow is the way and difficult is the way that leads to life. But broad is the way and easy is the way that leads to death and **many** are those who go in that way.’ So, keep all those things in mind.

Verse 6: “We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us. By this *means*... [a test] ...we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception.”

The Spirit of the Truth begins with God, His Word, His commandments, His Sabbath, His Holy Days, and how we can grow in grace and knowledge to fulfill our destiny to become the sons and daughters of God. All of that comes together. That’s why we are to do it this way.

Let’s see what Titus says. Here’s the instruction to Titus, who is a minister. This is instruction for all ministers. We need to watch ourselves and we need to discipline ourselves. We need to repent, change and grow on a day-to-day basis, all the time, just like everybody else.

Titus 1:7: “For it is obligatory that as God’s steward an overseer be blameless...” What is a steward? We work for someone—in this case God, we are working for God—and what are we to do? *A steward is to increase for his master!* It’s not his own.

Just like Paul wrote to them in Acts 20, that God has made the elders overseers to see that everything is done in order, not overlords, and not overbearing, but to teach. Everyone has to learn to love God and to run their own lives exactly as God has shown in their own way, in their own circumstances, that are in accordance with loving God and keeping His commandments. That’s what we’re to teach.

- we are to watch ourselves
- we are to guard the flock
- we are to guard the Word of God
- we are to teach the Word of God
- we are to stand for the Word of God
- we are to properly interpret the Word of God

“...be blameless, not self-willed... [that’s when trouble begins] ...not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not a bully, not greedy for material gain; But hospitable, a lover of good, sound-minded, just, Holy, self-controlled, **holding steadfastly**... [never wavering] ...**to the faithful Word**...” (vs 7-9).

That’s what we have. That’s why we call this Bible a *Faithful* translation, because it conveys from the Hebrew in the Old Testament, and Greek in the New Testament, the proper translation that it needs to be and making sure that it is correct.

Notice why, v 9: “...so that he may be able both encourage with sound doctrine... [help brethren grow in grace, knowledge, Truth and understanding] ...and to convict those who are gainsayers.” Convict them that their ways are wrong.

Verse 10: “For there are many rebellious, and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the* circumcision party... [bringing in a Judaism] ...whose mouths must be stopped; who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain” (vs 10-11).

What happens here? *We need to be alert to these things that they don’t come upon us!* Let’s see why there are so many versions of Christianity in the world, because everyone is doing his own thing.

2-Timothy 3:1: “Know this also, that in *the* last days perilous times shall come; for men will be lovers of self...” (vs 1-2).

Stop and think. What is one of the first things that happens when someone starts going astray? *They get all involved in ‘me, myself, and I.’* Remember what happened to Solomon. You couldn’t have started out any better, but think about it. Why did Solomon go astray? *The secret is found in the book of Ecclesiastes, chapters one and two!* He began to take to himself credit for what God gave him. You go back and read ~~the second chapter~~ Ecc. 2:1,1,1. Is that not

lover of self? Promoting self as some great one? Isn't that what Simon Magus did? Was he a false prophet? *Yes, indeed!*

How about Eliamus bar Jesus, the Jewish false prophet? *Sorcerer!* They begin promoting themselves instead of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

“...lovers of money, braggarts, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, despisers of those who are good, betrayers, reckless, egotistical, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (vs 2-4).

If you love God with all your heart, mind, soul, all your being, and your neighbor as yourself, and the brethren as Christ loves us, and even our enemies, then we avoid this pitfall and do not become self-serving. What we just read here is what we see in the world and what is happening everywhere.

Verse 13: “But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, deceiving *others* and being deceived *themselves*. But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*” (vs 13-14). Then he says *the Scriptures*.

Here's another way. Remember this, *all Scripture agrees with itself when properly understood!* You can't have misinterpretations because that's exactly how those false ministers who left the Churches of God do, as well as Protestant ministers.

We've read 2-Tim. 4 before, but we need to read it here into the record so we know. After telling Timothy that every Word of God is God-breathed (2-Tim 3:16), then he says:

2-Timothy 4:1: “I charge you...” All of us who are elders and ministers need to take this. This is a charge from Paul, from Jesus Christ. Listen carefully to what it says:

Verse 1: “I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the Word!**....” (vs 1-2). That's what we are to preach!

If you examine Rev. 2 and 3, and the seven churches there, what was the problem with these churches in one saying? *They left off preaching the Word and got into themselves and false doctrines!*

Verse 2: “Preach the Word! Be urgent in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine. For there

shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine ...” (vs 2-3).

We've gone through that, and that's repeated over and over again. So, when there come along false prophets that do miracles and signs and wonders, and they say this has to be of God, you have to *look at what they do*. Jesus said you'll know them by their fruits.

Also, all the brethren need to be careful. This is why we all need to study and pray. We all need to keep learning and growing in grace and knowledge. That's what it means when Peter said, ‘But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ How do you do that?

- by study
- by prayer
- by life
- by choices
- by everything that we do

But look at this. We've seen this fulfilled, too; v 3: “For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts...”

Remember what is in Rom. 7. What starts all sin? *Lust!* What does the commandment say? *You shall not covet!* Think about that; that means you shall not go against the Word of God for things and ideas that are not in accord with what the Bible teaches us.

That's why Paul said he didn't understand the commandments. He was a leading rabbi and he didn't understand the spirit of it. He didn't understand how the carnal mind really, really works and the depths of its own self-deception. Then Paul said, ‘When the commandment came to me, then I understood.’

“...they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of* teachers, having ears itching to *hear what satisfies their cravings*; and they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths. But *as for* you, be vigilant ... [Peter said to be on guard] ...in all things, endure hardships, do *the* work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry” (vs 3-5).

Tremendous things we need to understand so that we are not ensnared into a clever-sounding satanic trap. Some of the doctrines of Protestantism, in fact nearly all of them, are clever-sounding traps. They read part of the Scriptures and then draw conclusions. They misinterpret the Bible or use bad translations.

Let's review very quickly Rom. 1-7. I'm not going to get into too many detailed Scriptures here,

but we need to see the flow of it so then we can understand more in Galatians.

- Rom. 1 shows the condition of the world in rejecting God and how God abandons them to their own lusts and it comes into self-destruction.
- Rom. 2—God gives repentance as well as judgment. When there’s repentance, you must start keeping the Law.
- Rom. 3 talks about justification by faith in the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Big thing to remember here, most important to understand, which is this. ***Nothing***:

- no work
- no thought
- no idea
- no whatever
- no law

*except the Law of God, but that comes after repentance!* There has to be repentance for sin.

- no law of ritual
- no law of man

That’s why all Catholics are deceived, if they are told by their priest, ‘You do so many hundreds of Hail, Mary, and so many Our Fathers, and your sins are forgiven.’ *No man can forgive sin!*

- no work
- no man
- nothing

***but the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ, and your complete repentance and acceptance of that shed blood can bring you justification to God!***

- Rom. 4 shows how we are to continue walking in the truth.

The end part of Rom. 3 says after our sins have been forgiven, we establish law because when we repent and stop sinning, we are to walk in the way of God, *in newness of life*.

- Rom. 5 shows the sacrifice of Christ
- Rom. 6 shows the covenant of baptism

Christ died, shed His blood, now then in order to be part of the New Covenant, you must bring your sacrifice, *which is water baptism*. Paul speaks of that as dying, because we have been conjoined to the death of Jesus Christ. So therefore, we are not under grace in our relationship with God.

Before that, ‘under law’ means *everyone who is not baptized and have the Holy Spirit is under law, under judgment. The law rules over a man and woman as long as they live!*

- Rom. 7—when repentance comes and *we’re under grace*, we are now to keep the commandments of God in the Spirit

Not in the letter, *but in the Spirit*. We are to have them written in our heart and in our mind. That is how we change, grow and overcome. We still have to fight against sin, as Rom. 7 shows us.

Gal. 1 becomes very profound in speaking about false doctrines and false prophets, wrong teachings, assumptions that are not true and in particularly Judaism.

The first part becomes very important, because if someone comes along and they’re self-centered, self-willed, and they are not yielded to God to teach the Word of God, or any member in how they live, and so forth... This is why Gal. 1 and 2 is so important.

I want you to listen carefully to these words and I want you to let them sink deep into your heart and mind.

Galatians 1:6: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel!”

Everything about Catholicism and Protestantism is *a different gospel*. There are some Protestants who are for Jesus, but the question is, will they repent and really get on His side, rather than wanting Christ to come on their side. Likewise in the Churches of God. That’s why you need to understand about the churches in Rev. 7. Look at all the pitfalls and things. Everything that took place there was because of the teachings of men, a different gospel.

Verse 7: “Which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ.”

Put in your own ideas. ‘I think this, I think that, I think the other.’ That should be substituted with ‘the Word of God says this, the Word of God says that, the Word of God says the other.’

This is why I have the cowbell for speculation. When we’re trying to think something through that we don’t know, and come to how the Word of God defines it for us, we can’t put in our own ideas and force them to work, because it’s not of the Word and the Spirit of God. That’s why I have the cowbell. It’s not absolute doctrine.

Notice how important it is to stick with the Word of God, v 8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” Notice, *an angel*.

1-Kings 13—this is important to understand. This is when a prophet of God was sent by God from Judah to warn Jeroboam<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup> that his establishment of the new state religion of Baalism in the ten northern tribes was contrary to the will of God and that he needed to repent. Jeroboam acted as a high priest himself.

1-Kings 13:1: “And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the Word of the Lord, to Bethel. And Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar by the Word of the Lord... [notice how he conducted himself] ...and said, ‘O, altar, altar, thus says the LORD. “Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and upon you he shall offer the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and men’s bones shall be burned upon you.” And he gave a sign the same day, saying, ‘This *is* the sign which the LORD has spoken. “Behold, the altar shall be torn apart, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.”’ Then it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God who had cried against the altar in Bethel, he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, ‘Lay hold on him!’ And his hand, which he put forth against him withered up so that he could not pull it in again to himself. The altar also was split asunder...” (vs 4-5).

Verse 6: “And the man of God prayed to the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him again and became as at the beginning.”

Did Jeroboam learn a single thing from that? *No!* Look at the self-centeredness that Jeroboam had. Verse 9 shows you how important it is to always stay with the Word of God, regardless of what anyone may say. This means you must understand the Word of God and rightly so, so that your stand will be true.

Verse 9: “For so was it commanded me by the Word of the Lord, saying, ‘Eat no bread nor drink water, nor return again by the same way that you came.’” That was in answer to, after healing the king, ‘Come and eat.’

(go to the next track)

Verse 10: “Then he went another way... [as God told him] ...and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. And a certain old prophet was living in Bethel...” (vs 10-11). This is interesting, because this man claims to be a prophet of the Lord, just like there are many ministers who claim they are ministers of Jesus Christ. Let’s see what happened:

“...and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. The words, which he had spoken to the king they also told to their father. And their father said to them, ‘Where *is* this *man*? What way did he go?’ For his sons had seen what way the man of God had

gone, who came from Judah. And he said to his sons, ‘Saddle me the donkey.’ And they saddled the donkey for him, and he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. And he said to him, ‘*Are* you the man of God who came from Judah?’ And he said, ‘*I am.*’ And he said to him, ‘Come home with me and eat bread.’ And he said, ‘I may not return with you nor go in with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place” (vs 11-16). He knew the instruction of God. This becomes important because notice what he did:

Verse 17: “‘For a word was *given* to me by the Word of the Lord, “You shall eat no bread nor drink water there, nor return again by the way that you came.”’ And he said to him... [the old prophet] ...‘*I am* a prophet also as you are. And an angel spoke to me by the Word of the Lord, saying, “Bring him back with you into your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.”’ But he lied to him” (vs 17-18).

How many people have gone astray who have been in the Church of God because those who claim to be ministers or prophets of God lied to them? That’s going on right today.

To make a long story short, he went back with him. He ate, and then so God sent a lion to kill him, didn’t eat him, because he disobeyed God. That’s why Paul says here, let’s read this again:

Galatians 1:8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” That means cut off from God first. If there is no repentance, then that means ultimately the Lake of Fire.

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!”

Here’s why and this is the dedication that we all need to have toward God. All elders and ministers need to have in their mind toward their stewardship and responsibility with the Church and with the brethren.

Verse 10: “Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Think of that! You don’t do things and preach things to please people. That is political, that is wrong, that is against the Gospel, that is against God. Doesn’t matter who it is. Remember our Church experience in the past. Everything I’ve talked about in this sermon also came in, in degrees, some in greater degrees than others. What did God do to that Church? *Scattered it!*

Remember about Peter: he was the first one to go to a Gentile: Cornelius. He said, ‘I see that God is no respecter of persons and that even those who are Gentiles, who do righteousness, God accepts. He stayed and ate with them, and so forth. All of those things were against the ‘works of law’ of Judaism.

Peter said, ‘You know that it is not lawful for a Jew to come into one of another nation to visit with, to associate with them, to talk with them, or any of those things.’ So, he knew better. But Peter had a political streak and it came out here.

Galatians 2:11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned.” This was a public act that Peter was doing.

This is here in the Bible to always have a reminder and safeguard against Judaism and their practices, and should never be admitted in the Churches of God. That means no phylacteries, no prayer cloths, no 15<sup>th</sup> Passover, no washing of hands, no separating yourself; because Peter reverted back and what he was doing was sinning and sinning his own conscience and sinning what he was shown by God directly concerning the Gentiles. So, Paul withstood him to the face because he was to be condemned.

Verse 12: “For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles.... [just like he did with Cornelius and all those in his household] ...However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the* circumcision party.”

Here is the truth of the matter: In Jerusalem they still adhered to too many of the commandments of Judaism. They had a circumcision party, which was that the Gospel was for them and not for the Gentiles.

The Gentiles could come, like it was with the synagogue. If they would be circumcised they could sit over here in this part of the synagogue. ‘But all of us mighty uplifted Jews, we get to sit right up front in the synagogue. But you Gentiles stay in your place.’ That’s what Peter was doing here, being afraid of the circumcision party, *political*.

Verse 13: “And the rest of *the* Jews joined him in *this* hypocritical act...” *If Peter’s going to do it, we better do it too.* You see how people are led astray and how they get themselves in trouble.

“...insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy” (v 13). That’s something!

This was going to wreak havoc in the Churches of God from that time forward, all the way down to today, if that would have been allowed to stand. Same way today; *we cannot allow Jewish traditional practices to become part of our way of worshiping God, and part of our way of fellowshiping together!* That’s the heart and core of it here. Many people are being assaulted today with Messianic Judaism.

But Paul writes, v 14: “But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel... [the very Truth which Peter was the first one to have it revealed to him in Acts 10] ...I said to Peter in the presence of them all...”

This was a mighty confrontation. You can imagine, here’s the Gentiles sitting over here and here are the circumcision party and the Jews and Peter and Barnabas over here. Paul walks in and he says to Peter in the presence of them all:

“...‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles... [eating with them, not following the laws of Judaism] ...and not according to Judaism... [this had nothing to do with the law of God] ...why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize?’” (v 14). *Why do you make them obey the laws of Judaism?*

Verse 15: “We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—knowing that a man is not justified by works of law...” (vs 15-16).

There it is again. Bad translation in the *King James Version*. They translate it ‘*the* works of *the* law.’ The two definite articles ‘*the*’ are not there in the Greek. This is a direct reference to a work of law of Judaism to seek to make themselves right with God ‘because we are better and we can’t associate with these Gentiles.’

This had nothing to do with the laws or commandments of God. Therefore, the translators who put the definite articles there regardless of the translation are giving a mistranslation and misleading people into believing that the Law has been abolished. That’s what was going on here.

Verse 16: “Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law...” No, it doesn’t bring you into right standing with God. What it does, it makes you sin against God and sin against other people. How is that loving the brethren as Jesus said, ‘As I love you?’ *It’s not!*

“...but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” (v 16). Justifying only comes through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood. It’s for Jew and Gentile, all who repent. So, you see how heinous a thing this was that Peter was doing, and he should have known better.

“...but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” In the Greek it is *Jesus’ very own faith*. That means if you receive the Spirit of God, which you do, if you receive the Spirit of the Father and Christ, and They are dwelling in you—which they should be and are—then that makes you justified before God, not separating yourself to eat food by yourself.

And condemn the Gentiles and think, ‘We’re better than they are. After all, we’re Jews.’ God says they’re not better than anybody else, because *all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*. In fact, God says that all the world is under law and judgment of God by law, so that the whole world may become guilty before God.’

The only way to be in right standing with God is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins. We’re to ask God to forgive us every day. That’s what we found out in Rom. 7. We are to keep the laws of God, yes. Where are they to be kept? Starting right in our minds, written in our heart and in our minds, and the love of God written in our hearts, written in our actions, written in our thoughts. I hope you understand how absolutely just devastating that this was.

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...” (v 16). Why is it the sacrifice of Christ? *His faith!*

- Did He believe the Father? *Yes!*
- Did They have an agreement? *Yes!*

It was that He would voluntarily lay down His life for the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. So, it is His faith in His act of being crucified that He gives that to you *as a gift IF* you repent. There is an initial repentance before baptism, but there is continual repentance (1-John 1). When we sin we still need to repent.

“...justified by *the* faith of Christ, and not by works of law...” (v 16)—to separate yourself, to wash your hands, to wash your feet the way that the Jews did. Foot-washing for Passover is what Christ commanded. That’s not in there.

Everything that they have contrived as traditions or oral law, separate from the Bible—Old Testament and New Testament—any work that is done there is null and void and cannot put you in right standing with God.

“...not by works of law... [again the translators put ‘*the* works of *the* law’—incorrect] ...because by works of law shall no flesh be justified” (v 16). Because by doing that you are trying to replace the sacrifice of Christ and His whole work of coming to this earth and preaching the Gospel, and being offered as the sacrifice for the

sins of the world. You’re trying to replace that with *your own works*.

Think about that in relationship to what the Catholics call the Eucharist, the sacrifice of the Mass. Jesus never commanded that. That is a counterfeit. That comes straight out of Egypt and straight out of Babylon, and straight out of Rome. You must have *the works of faith*. What Peter was doing was diametrically opposite of faith.

Here comes the circumcision party from Jerusalem. Peter is eating with the Gentiles. What should Peter have done? Instead of saying, ‘Oh, they’ve come from James. I don’t want to get on the wrong side of James, the half brother of Jesus. I better eat separately.’

No, Peter should have said, ‘Hey, guys, remember I went to Cornelius. What did God reveal and teach us with that episode? Wasn’t it that God is no respecter of persons? These are all brethren with the Spirit of God. Let’s all sit down together and let’s enjoy the feast meal that we have here together without all of the carnal self-serving, self-centered arrogant uplifting religious laws of Judaism.’ Or we can say today, of Catholicism, or we could say of any other religion today.

Today we’re confronted with a problem of a ‘work of law’ that the radical Islamists do and that is to go out and kill people. They think they’re going to go to heaven. Just wait until the resurrection and they’re all going to be raised up. They’re going to say, ‘Where are the 72 virgins?’ Going to tell that was a lie. *What am I doing here?*

‘Jesus Christ has raised you from the dead because you were so deceived in serving Satan the devil and killing other people that you ignorantly thought you were doing service to God that He’s now going to offer you repentance. So now, that which you hated in your first life, you’re going to have to learn to love.’ That will be something!

Verse 16: “...because by works of law shall no flesh... [Jew or Gentile] ...be justified”—because only the sacrifice of Christ can do that, *nothing else!*

Verse 17: “Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ, *and* we ourselves are found to be sinners, *is* Christ then *the* minister of sin? MAY IT NEVER BE!”

Here’s the lesson. You cannot take a humanly devised practice and put Christ’s name on it and say He approves of it. Why? *Because you’re trying make Him a servant of sin.*

All of you Sunday-keepers out there, listen up!

- Is that not what you are trying to do with Sunday-keeping?

- Is that not what you are trying to do with holiday-keeping?
- Is that not exactly what you are doing? *Yes!*

Therefore, you’re living in sin and your assumption that you are under grace is null and void. **Your understanding of grace is contrary to the Word of God**, because grace never gave anyone any freedom to sin, to do away with the Law of God, to misconstrue and misinterpret and twist and turn the Scriptures to your own selfish carnal satisfaction. “...MAY IT NEVER BE!”

Verse 18: “For if I build again those things that I destroyed...” When Paul repented, he repented of all the laws of Judaism. If he starts building that again, like Peter and the Jews were:

“...I am making myself a transgressor...” (v 18)—rather than making Christ the minister of sin. No one can make Him a minister of sin.

- think of that with Sunday-keeping
- think of that with holiday keeping
- think of that with the sacrifice of the Mass
- think of that with the ‘Lord’s Supper’

Do you even have a clue concerning what the Christian Passover really, really is? I don’t think the Protestants and Catholics realize how far they are from God in actual fact.

Verse 19: “For I through law... [wages of sin is death] ...die to *works of law*...” What does that mean? That doesn’t mean that you are free to transgress the commandments of God. He died to the traditional ‘works of law.’ He no longer did it because it was sin:

“...in order that I may live to God” (v 19). How do you live to God? What did Jesus say? *‘Man shall live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’* Since Christ was God manifested in the flesh, every word that He preached. That’s why Paul died. How did he die? *Through water baptism!* Water baptism conjoins you to the death of Christ, because Christ died for your sins.

So again, to the Protestants, pray tell, why is it that you no longer baptize? Just a profession of belief in an emotional setting does not forgive a single sin unto eternal life. It is complete burial in water, emersion. You die! You are buried! *It’s a symbolic death!* That’s what Paul is talking about here.

Verse 19: “...for I through law died to *works of law*...” Forsook all the traditions of men. But he also wrote that we are to have the laws and commandments of God written in our mind and in our heart.

“...in order that I may live to God. I have been crucified with Christ... [through the operation of baptism] ...yet, I live.... [because he came up out of the watery grave] ...*Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me...” (vs 19-20).

That’s the whole thrust and purpose of Christianity. That’s the whole operation of grace on a day-to-day basis: ***Christ living in us with His Spirit, helping us to grow in grace and knowledge and overcome and learn the Word of God and live by the words of Jesus Christ, the words of God!*** There’s the difference.

“...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20).

When you repent, God takes that fantastic sacrifice of Jesus Christ and applies it to each one of us personally. It’s not like confession in a booth and it’s sort of a rub-a-dub thing between the priest and the confessor, and go do this work of law and you’re forgiven. No, repentance comes on your knees, with tears, with crying, with seeing that sin has killed and crucified Jesus Christ. That’s what it’s all about! There is nothing, *nothing, nothing* that can substitute for that. Nothing else can forgive sin; no other way. Doesn’t matter what they say or do.

“...Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20). You need to understand God loves you; the Father loves you. All of these things are fantastically important. You need to understand it.

You have to understand what Paul was dealing with in Gal. 1 and 2. Gal. 3 is also important. So many people, especially Protestants, what do they do? They take new converts in and they get right into the book of Galatians.

- they know nothing about the Bible
- they know nothing about the traditions of Judaism
- they know nothing about ‘works of law’
- they know nothing about the correct translation of it

They give the appearance that if you just believe in Christ, you are no longer ‘under law,’ and you can just do anything that you can do and you won’t be sinning and everything will be fine with God. *Not so!* That is the spirit of deception, as we read in 1-John 4.

What happens when you revert to doing things of men and traditions of men?

Verse 21: “I do not nullify the grace of God... [that’s what you do if you do it] ...for ***if*** righteousness *is* through *works of law*, **then Christ died in vain.**”

Think on that! Now you know why Jesus said, ‘When the Son of man returns, will He find the true faith on the earth?’ **Will there really, really be enough people:**

- who believe Him?
- who love Him?
- who have dedicated their lives through repentance and baptism to live by every Word of God?
- How many will there really, really be?

This is why this is so mightily important.

So, Paul had to put up with this. We’re going to see in Gal. 3 and 4 that what God has called us into is so far above any religion. Religion in the world is really not worshipping God. It’s to conform to a certain set of standards which may have some things that come from God, but mostly it’s just men’s devising to try and make themselves better, try to appear to be really good and Christian.

The house they are building is on sand and not on the Rock, Who is Christ. Their house that they are building may on the outside look just beautiful, wonderful, attractive, but when you open the door to go in you realize that this is just a counterfeit front, like it’s straight out of Hollywood. The beautiful building on the street, but you open the door and it’s only a front for the movie. Behind it is nothing. That’s exactly what Christianity in this world is today when you really come to understand it, how it compares with the Truth of God.

A little caveat: Because they follow some of the precepts of the Bible, they actually do some good things. But those good things then are ‘works of law,’ that have nothing to do with the true Jesus Christ and the true sacrifice that He gave.

***It’s important that we understand these and know how to detect the false prophets!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 24:4-5, 24
- 2) Acts 20:25-32
- 3) 2-Peter 3:14-18
- 4) 1-John 4:1-4, 6, 5-6
- 5) Titus 1:7-11
- 6) 2-Timothy 3:1-4, 13-14
- 7) 2-Timothy 4:1-5
- 8) Galatians 1:6-8
- 9) 1-Kings 13:1-6, 9-18
- 10) Galatians 1:8-10
- 11) Galatians 2:11-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 8

- Ecclesiastes 1; 2
- 2-Timothy 3:16
- Revelation 2; 3
- Romans 1-7
- Revelation 7
- Acts 10
- 1-John 1
- Galatians 3; 4

Also referenced:

Sermon Series: *Christ & Our Calling: TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience, Truth*

Sermons:

- Overview of Romans 1-6 (Special Services)
- Meanings of “Law” in Romans 7 (Special Services)

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:  
Appendix Z: Paul’s Difficult Scriptures to Understand

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 1-24-17

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## False Prophecies, “Works of Law” and Justification II

Understanding Galatians 3, a most difficult chapter in the Bible to understand

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! This will be more like a Bible study because we’re going to go from the simple to the complex. We will start before the beginning. Note sermons in which this is covered:

- *Overview of Romans 1-6 (Special Services)*
- *Meaning of “Law” in Romans 7-8 (Special Services)*

Now I know that we have reviewed part of Romans again. But one of the things that’s important to understand is that once you get into the details of things, which we have verse-by-verse in the book of Romans: sermon series *Epistles of Paul to the Romans*. Then you step back from it and then you get an overview.

One of the greatest problems of Protestantism is they don’t understand the Bible or Paul or salvation, because they don’t keep the Sabbath. There are two very important things to always remember:

1. the Sabbath—that put you in contact with God. That gives you understanding of His Word.
2. God’s Word is understandable if we apply ourselves to it and if we love God and keep His commandments

The Protestants believe that if you keep the commandments you are *under law*. They missed one very important verse, which we’ll get to in Rom. 2.

- Rom. 1 tells us the condition of man and why man will never be able to understand God while he is in rebellion of God.
- Rom. 2 talks about sin and repentance and that God is going to judge.

Protestants have this: *no baptism, you just profess that you believe in Christ*. If you do that with the emotion you have no substance to it. Of course, professing Christ is a first step, but you have to believe in the Father, you have to believe many things and you have to understand the New Testament. So, the first step is not a conclusion. It’s like this:

A child learns how to ride a bicycle that would be likened to the beginning of conversion. Grown men know how to make and build many things and even go to the moon and back. Would you not say that’s complicated? *and* That a child on a tricycle could never understand that? *Likewise with*

*us!* We start out like the child on the tricycle we learn certain things from the Bible, but we have to learn them correctly.

In Rom. 2 God says this after showing that there is repentance, *which comes from God*. God grants repentance.

Romans 2:13: “Because the **hearers of the Law are not just before God...**” That’s a key thing for anyone who is living in sin.

What is sin? *The transgression of the Law!* If you don’t keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> commandments you’re violating all the Laws of God. You can never be justified before God while you live in sin. Repentance means stop sinning, confess your sins, turn around and go the way of God instead of the way of man.

Now then, does repentance have to happen before baptism? *Yes!* That’s what Peter said; ‘repent and be baptized.’ What happens when you repent? *You find out what sin is and you stop sinning!* What’s one of the first things you need to do? *Keep the Sabbath!*

I give brand-new people a test. If they don’t understand, then I say to take a month, in some cases two months, and keep the Sabbath every week from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown, and study about the Sabbath in other parts of the Bible. At the end of that time you’ll understand why you need to keep the Sabbath. In 99% of the cases that’s true.

What this tells us here is very important. Verse 13 is key to the whole thing: “Because **the hearers of the Law are not just before God...**” A person could *hear* a law.

What happens when the Protestants talk about Sabbath? *They say, ‘Well, it’s on Sunday now. We keep all the rest of the Law.’* But they don’t read what James wrote, *that if you breaking one point, you’re breaking the whole Law!* They don’t understand what Paul wrote, that all sin starts with covetousness, which is lust in the carnal mind. They’re not aware of any of these things.

- What does it mean to be just before God? *You are in right standing with God!*
- How do you get in right standing with God?

“...but the **doers** of the Law... [who have repented] ...shall be justified” (v 13). What does this tell us?

- you have to stop sinning

- you have to start obeying
- you have to be keeping the Law

Otherwise you have no forgiveness! Forgiveness is what brings justification. That’s the whole story of Romans. What is the place of law and how are you justified. How are you forgiven?

Verse 14: “For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* Law, practice by nature the things contained in the Law, these who do not have *the* Law are a law unto themselves.”

Then Paul goes on to show that there some Gentiles the keep parts of the Law, and God acknowledges the part that they keep, even though He’s not dealing with them. Then Paul talks about the Jew. The Jews say, ‘We have the Law and we are circumcised,’ but they’re not in right standing with God. How do we understand that? We understand it this way: ***The only thing that can justify from sin is forgiveness by God the Father through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!*** That is separate from law, that’s what’s so important.

Let’s see what Paul says concerning circumcision. Because with the covenant with Israel, being circumcised as a male on the eighth day, made you a member of the community. That does not have any standing with the *spiritual operation* of the plan of God. Because whenever there is a change in the Law it’s *from the physical standard to the higher standard*. This is what Paul is bringing out here.

Verse 25: “For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the* Law; on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the* Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. Therefore, if the uncircumcised is keeping the requirements of the Law, shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision?” (vs 25-26).

Why? *Because circumcision has been elevated to the requirement of the **circumcision of the heart and mind**, not in the flesh as Paul explains!*

“...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law, judge you, who, with *the* letter and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of *the* Law?” (vs 26-27). Very interesting statement! Here’s the key; here is what God wants.

- Where does all sin begin? *Right within the mind!*
- Can you solve the problem of sin without something happening within?

Remember when Jesus was talking to the Jews at the temple, and there were Jews who professed belief in Him. He said, ‘If you don’t

believe that I am, you’re going to die in your sins.’ These were circumcised Jews who said, ‘We’re the children of Abraham.’

Listen carefully to what Jesus said. What did He tell them? *You are of the seed of Abraham! But if you were the children of Abraham you would not seek to kill Me!* What is the difference?

- *unconverted* are the seed
- *converted* are the children

Is that not what we are to be? children of God? children of Abraham?

Verse 27: “And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law... [not breaking it, not putting it aside] ...judge you... [a Jew] ...who, with *the* letter and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of *the* Law?”

Here is one of the most profound statements in the New Testament, v 28: “For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision which *is* external in *the* flesh”

What does an infant child growing up, or a man, even know about the eighth day experience of circumcision? *Nothing!* That was just in the flesh for the community.

Verse 29: “Rather, he is a Jew...” What did Jesus tell the woman at the well? *Salvation is of the Jew!* Which one?

“...**he is a Jew who is one inwardly**, and circumcision *is* of *the* heart, in *the* spirit *and* not in *the* letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God” (v 29). That’s very profound to understand.

In the first part of Rom. 3, in review, shows the futility and evil of men. Has there ever been a time a real peace on earth? *No!* I’ve got a book called *Langer’s Encyclopedia of History*. All it is a chronicle of war all the way through.

- What kind of nature do we have as normal human beings that’s described in the book of Romans?
- What is a called? *Carnal!*
- What does that consist of? *Human nature!*
- What does that consist of? *The law of sin and death!*

To receive eternal life—and that’s God’s plan—as a human being what can you do to forgive your sins? *Because only God forgives sins! **Repentance is a start for God to forgive!***

- What work of what law blots out your sins? *There’s only one work and that’s **the sacrifice of Christ!***
- Can anything substitute for the sacrifice of Christ? *No!*

This is the whole substance of the first part of the book of Romans. Remember we’re just taking an overview.

Romans 3:19: “Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

Now let’s put this together with Rom. 7:1. Can a man, invent a law that he can tell another person to do that forgives sin before God? Let’s look at the Roman confession: You confess what you want to confess; you never tell all the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Then the priest says to do 100 ‘hail Marys’ and 100 ‘our fathers.’ What happens if you miscount and only get 98? *That can’t do anything!* So, the question is: Who is under the Law of God?

Romans 7:1: “Are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law)... [all law ] ...that the Law...”—the Law of God and every law concerning the operation of human existence.

“...rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?” (v 1). *Every human being in the world is under law!* That’s why it says there in Rom. 3:19 that the whole world is guilty before God.

- How did human beings get the Law of sin and death within them? *That was part of the judgment against Adam and Eve when they sinned!*
- Who put it there? *God did!*
- Is it inherited? *Yes!*
- Who alone can remove it?
- How does He remove it?
- All at once? *No! A bit at the time through conversion!*

Everything about a human being operates by law, everything about your physical existence. It’s dependent upon oxygen, which is a law God created. The number of times you breathe per minute, your heartbeat, your eyesight—everything about you—is governed by law.

- What happens when you get sick? *One of those laws is broken!* The first notice of it is and the first measurement of it is temperature.
- What’s the first thing your mom did to you when you were a kid or when you go to the doctor’s office? *Take your temperature!*

No one can live if the temperature goes above 106; I don’t know what the lower number is, but I would assume it would be 90 or below. You can’t live!

Same way with blood pressure, you need blood pressure to get blood all around your system.

That’s quite an amazing thing! Yesterday Jonathan and I were moving some furniture and he cut his finger and there was blood right on the end of the finger. How far away is that from the heart? *A long way!* How did it get there? *Blood pressure!* So, you put a band-aid on it.

God put the Law in there that if you cut yourself, automatically the body starts reacting and sends the coagulant that it generates within the system to make a scab and then it begins to heal. Well, I knocked my wrist, the same thing. So, I had to put a band-aid on that. A law was broken; a physical law.

- How about spiritual laws? *Spiritual laws involve the mind, the emotions and the body!*
- How do you correct those transgressions? *By repentance!*
- How are they forgiven? *Through the sacrifice of Christ!*

Romans 3:20: “Therefore, by works of law...”

Verse 19: “...all the world may become guilty before God.”

***Every man and woman is under law!*** Protestants confuse being under law with keeping the commandments. ***No! Everybody’s under law whether they keep the commandments or don’t keep the commandments!*** That has nothing to do with spiritual salvation. Yet, because spiritual salvation involves repentance and then something else called baptism and a conversion of the mind, because all are in that condition:

Verse 20: “Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him; for through *the Law is the knowledge of sin.*” Now then, were going to understand this little more when we get to Galatians.

Verse 21: “But now... [after the sacrifice death and resurrection of Jesus Christ] *...the righteousness of God...*”

Righteousness is justification. If you have your sins forgiven upon repentance and you are in right standing with God, you stand before Him sinless through his righteousness, love and mercy. But you are not righteous in the sense that you are now loving God and keeping His commandments that comes after repentance and forgiveness.

There’s no law that God has designed, there is no law that man has designed, which can justify you before God. It’s that simple! Therefore, it has to be something of your whole being. Your heart, your mind, and your body, *everything about you.*

Verse 20: “Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him; for through *the Law is the* knowledge of sin. But now *the* righteousness of God *that is* separate from law has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets” (vs 20-21).

And you know it took me well over 20 years to understand that verse. Why? Because the *King James*, which was said, ‘This is the most faithful translation there is,’ says, 21 (KJV): “But now the righteousness of God **without the Law...**”

*Separate from* is different than *without*; ‘without’ tells you *the absence of*. This is were the Protestants go completely head over heels in cartwheels, because they don’t grasp the point that the sacrifice of Christ is *a spiritual operation separate from law-keeping*. Law-keeping is required, you find it all the way through the Bible. Law-keeping for people in the world is ‘the letter of the Law.’ Do they become guilty before God if they commit sin? *Yes*—robbery, murder, mayhem—*that’s all sin before God!*

Spiritually, for us, we are now not to have the commandments on a plaque hanging on the wall, as we have over here, which is fine nothing wrong with that. But where are they to be? *In your heart and in your mind! That’s how you have justification!*

Instead of having something out here and it stays out there, you have it like from the Bible, the Word of God, *then spiritually it is put into your mind and in your heart and we love God!* So, the whole operation of forgiveness of sin and justification is *separate from the Law* and the Prophets. It’s by:

- repentance
- forgiveness
- baptism

Now we will look at some other things. Did we not see about the Gentiles that if they are fulfilling the Law they can be justified? ***No sinner can be justified without repentance and belief in the sacrifice of Christ and His shed blood!*** Paul answers the question:

Verse 31: “Are we, then, abolishing *the Law* through faith?...” Jesus said he didn’t come to abolish the Law (Matt. 5:17-19).

“...MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the Law*” (v 31).

How do you establish law? *By having it written in your heart and mind* so it’s the way that you operate—the way that you think—rather than having laws external, which are looking to avoid and not do. I hope that helps you understand it.

Christ died at the appointed time for sin (Rom. 5:6 [transcriber’s correction]).

How was it *and* what is it that God requires that we do? *Repent and be baptized!* Were going to see how this applies when we get to Gal. 3.

There are two parties in a covenant, always. Both parties have to show the evidence of death. The Old Testament was sacrificial animal. That was that if you did not fulfill your word you would become like these dead animals. Furthermore, a covenant is never in force until there is a show of death. In the New Covenant we have that God’s part in it is the death of Christ.

Think about what God gave up to become a human being for that to save through God’s plan all of mankind that repent. That’s why there was that death. We’ll just review that a little bit later. Now then, what is our part in it? Once we come to God and say:

- Lord God, forgive my sins
- I’ve really been a terrible person
- I’ve broken Your Law
- I’ve done this
- I’ve done that
- I’ve done the other thing
- I’ve ruined my life
- I’ve ruined family

Whatever it may be!

How do I get myself squared around? God’s says, ‘Okay I’ll help you. But I provided Christ to blot out your sins. What are you going to do? I tell you what I require. This is My faith to you that your sins are forgiven with the death of Christ. What is your faith back to Me?’ *Because it takes two parties to make covenant valid.*

Rom. 6—Baptism is very simple but profound in its meaning. It is a show of death. It is a commitment unto death; a pledge unto death. Just like if you have animal sacrifices, that’s a pledge if I don’t fulfill it, I’ll be like these animals. So, likewise *we pledge our death!* What does God do with that when we are baptized?

This is a distinct thing to remove you *from under law to within Christ*, and *within law and the keeping of the commandments of God spiritually* through the Spirit of God. That is what baptism is all about. So, Paul says this:

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound?”

Grace is the description of our covenant with God after baptism. He’s given us direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven above. *That’s grace!* People in the world don’t have it.

**Only those with the Spirit of God are under grace!**

Now they think that if they’ve asked Jesus to forgive them for their sins and they’re not baptized and are in this particular church and they’re Sunday-keeping... They don’t realize that they are continuing to live in sin and this is why they have a tremendous dropout rate in churches. There is no conversion or real lasting change. So, Paul says:

Verse 2: “MAY IT NEVER BE! We who died to sin...” That’s what baptism is all about, a pledge, *a solemn pledge of your life unto death* that you’re not going to live in sin.

“...how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?” (vs 2-3)—joined in covenant.

The Indians used to have a covenant pledge where you make a deal and you promise you’ll fulfill it. Cut the hands and you join blood. Each one is saying, ‘I’m guaranteeing my death if I don’t do it.’

Christ has already died; He’s already done that *first*. So, when we’re baptized, *were baptized into His death!* We are pledging our future death if we are not faithful to the end.

That’s why only the blood of Christ can forgive sin and bring us into this covenant relationship with God. Nothing else can do it. Granted, in the world there people who keep parts of God’s Law like Paul said. That’s fine, that’s well and good. God is happy; God is glad when any society is at least reasonable and decent.

Sidebar: A report comparing childrearing in Japan to America is really a different thing. Do you know what the Japanese teach them the first three years in school? *Ethics behavior: conduct, obedience, respect!* Look at the American system!

And furthermore, the Japanese do not allow Muslims, so don’t anyone get all mad at Donald Trump if he says to ban Muslims. They cannot come into the country to stay. They cannot live, they cannot take up citizenship of that country! Do they have peace in their society? Did they learn the lesson of WWII? Let’s put it that way. Look at how bad they were. *Yes!* That’s out in the world. How are we to be?

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into **the death**...”—that’s how it is in the Greek. Christ’s death was *the death* the only single One to pay for all human sin, because He was Creator of all human beings. He took that death upon Himself because He judged all human beings beginning with Adam and Eve to be burdened with ‘the law of sin and death’ because of disobedience.

“...so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death...” (vs 4-5).

That is quite a thing! That is spiritual and legal terminology of being conjoined, because a covenant death is important. Why am I making this point again so hard? *Because that’s the whole key to understanding Galatians!* You cannot understand it, and you cannot understand:

Verse 12: “Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof.” This also tells us that we are to be in an attitude of repentance. Can the carnal mind without the Spirit of God and with out the Laws of God being written in their heart and mind, stop from sinning? *No!*

“...by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead... [because you died in the watery grave of baptism] ...and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not rule over you...” (vs 12-14).

- Why? *You still have ‘the law of sin and death,’ but it won’t rule over you!*
- Why? *Because as God writes His laws and commandments in your heart and mind, it also with this power of the Spirit of God gives you the strength to overcome from within to recognize sin!*

To say, ‘Oh no!’ Then what you do? *You repent of it, and God cleans you up again!* The whole process of conversion and being perfected is through the power of God’s Spirit and grace.

Verse 14: “For sin shall not rule over you...” That means sin is still there. But it is not to be your master. Lust is not to be your commander.

“...because you are not under law, [out in the world] but under grace... [covenant relationship with God] ...What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? MAY IT NEVER BE!” (vs 14-15).

Then he goes on to show that **you need to yield to God**. For Rom. 7 see sermon *Meaning of “Law” in Romans 7-8 (Special Services)*.

We understand that **no law** that man can make or that God has given can forgive sin. But you must be obedient upon repentance to keep the Law in order to have your sins forgiven. That is just completely the opposite as the Protestants.

(go to the next track)

I’ve done three reviews of Romans, there’s a reason that I did it. So that we can have it clear in mind:

- **under law** are all human beings in the world with no relationship with God
- **under grace** is having a direct relationship with God through:
  - ✓repentance
  - ✓baptism
  - ✓loving God
  - ✓obeying God
  - ✓receiving His Holy Spirit

This is what Jesus meant when He said, ‘Enter in at the narrow or straight gate, for difficult is the way that leads to life and few are those that find it. But broad is the way that the majority of the people go and many go and many go in at that gate.’ That’s the difference.

- **under law** in the world
- **under grace** with God’s Spirit or relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ

We’re going to do an overview, and let’s start with **Abraham**. We’re not going to be turning to many Scriptures. I’ll be referring to some of them because we’ve gone over those, too. This is much like how we need to approach and understand Gal, 3, the most difficult chapter in the book of Galatians.

Remember the covenant of Abraham in Gen. 15, ‘You’re going to have a son from your own loins.’ Then God took him outside and showed him all the stars in heaven and said, ‘If you can number the stars so shall your seed be.’ We have two elements of God’s plan; two elements from that one covenant. And remember, *once a covenant is made, you can’t add to it or take away from it!*

God had to establish several sub covenants in order to fulfill His promise concerning the physical children. We find in Gen. 17 that that’s when God gave the promise that Isaac would be born and he would be the father of many nations and Sarah would become the mother of nations and kings, and so forth.

Then we come to the birth of **Isaac** a year later, and when Isaac was 15-years-old we have Gen. 22, the second half of the covenant of Gen. 15. The first half of the covenant is what God did in pledging His death. In both cases there had to be a pledge of death in order for those covenants to be fulfilled and a pledge of death by God in order to terminate the one with Israel. That’s what Rom. 7 is about.

What was Abraham told to do? *Take your son your only son whom you love...* Though Ishmael was a descendent of Abraham through Hagar, he’s

not counted in the promise. God said to Abraham to take Isaac out and offer him for burnt offering. This was to test Abraham. I mean, *all of God’s plan from that time forward hinged on what he and Isaac would do!*

When Abraham built the altar, tied up Isaac, laid the wood, put him on it ready to offer him as a sacrifice, God provided a substitutionary sacrifice through a lamb. Much like when we enter into covenant with God, Christ has done the first half. We have to do the second half; our death in baptism is symbolic, but literal. It is a quick death, *because you’re dying to sin*; but pledging that if you live in sin you’re going to die. So, after Abraham did that we have something really tremendous that took place, which is this:

All the places where God shows His power and His promise, He verifies it by the heaven and the earth. Even Jesus said of His Word, ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall never pass away.’

What did God say after Abraham offered Isaac but God intervened to rescue him? *‘Now I know that you fear Me!’* Then He said, *‘I swear by Myself!’* That’s greater than the heavens and the earth—think on that—because God created the heavens and the earth! When He swears by Himself there can be no greater pledge than what He promised *He will fulfill!* That becomes very important. That also means that He would fulfill to the coming of Christ for the sacrifice to forgive sin. That He would fulfill that the spiritual seed would be like the stars of heaven. This plan was proposed by God before the creation of the world.

Here we have something very important concerning Abraham. Remember what happened, we’ll just review a little bit here the first part of Galatians.

Let’s talk about what Paul said concerning perverting the Gospel. We’ll just review this again, because this is so important. The false prophets who come within the Church of God, come with Judaism practices, or a minister who says, ‘I had a dream...’ Remember Deut. 13, that if a prophet comes along and says, ‘I had a dream...’ if he doesn’t keep the commandments of God or if he’s exalting himself *it’s not from God!*

Galatians 1:6: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are **desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ**” (vs 6-7).

How do you do that? One of the major ways that comes along is:

- attacking the Passover
- attacking the Sabbath
- attacking the Holy Days

Always remember that *Satan is the most clever and cunning of all!* He starts out with just a little bit. How do you think they got crosses into the churches? *‘Well, we need to identify who we are. Why don’t we put a cross up because Christ died on the cross! What does it say about leaven? A little leaven leavens the whole lump!’*

What is the perversion? *It can be anything!* The leader saying, ‘I’m the only apostle in the world.’ We’ve gone through that. Whatever it may be. Saying that you have to do this man-made tradition or law in order to be saved.

Verse 8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven...” That’s all the apostles or an angel from heaven.

Remember why I went back to 1-Kings 13? God sent this prophet to go witness against Ahab, and he did. But then a false prophet came and said, ‘An angel told me that I can invite you in to eat.’ But the instructions to that prophet was that:

- you’re not to eat
- you’re not to drink
- you’re to go
- you’re to do what I said and come back a different way
- you’re not to stop and eat or anything

What happened to that prophet that God sent to witness against Ahab and his arm and the destruction of the altar and everything like that?

Whatever God says **do not modify it** for convenience of human nature. There may be some judgments that need to be made, but as far as what God has said never, *never, never* change that; *only He can*. What did Jesus say about the Gospel that He preached? *They are Spirit and Life!* He said, ‘The flesh profits nothing; **the words that I speak to you** they are Spirit and they are Life.’

That’s why the condemnation here is so great, v 8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED!**” *No salvation!* He repeats it again in v 9.

What happened here with Peter and the Jews in Gal. 2? What were they doing? *They were perverting the Gospel of Christ by bringing in a law of Judaism, which demanded separation between the Jews and the Gentiles!* The Jews thought they are more righteous and more justified if they do it, and Paul said, ‘You are sinning against God, and that you Jews ought to know that a man is not justified

by works of law.’ What was that work of law? *Separation, man-made perversion of the Gospel!* So, Paul said if you do that, you’re against Christ.

Galatians 2:16: “Knowing that a **man is not justified by works of law...**”—not “the work of *the law*” (KJV). That’s a bad translation out of the *King James* and unfortunately there are people who still use *King James*. If you have that scratched out in your King James do it. Scratch out *the* for works and *the* for law, because it’s not there in the Greek.

“...works of law, but through **the faith of Jesus Christ...**” (v 16). The whole operation of His coming:

- living in the flesh
- preaching the Gospel
- dying through crucifixion
- being in a grave three days and three nights
- being resurrected from the dead
- returning to the earth
- teaching the Apostles

“...through *the faith...*” and you believed in that!

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by **the faith of Christ...**” (v 16)—*Christ’s own faith!*

He came to forgive sin, to justify sin, and nothing else can do it but *His* death and *His* shed blood, and He did that by faith. I might give a sermon, *What was the Agreement Between God the Father and Jesus Christ?* It says that ‘it’s written in the *Scroll of the Book concerning Me*’ (Heb. 10). Remember Dan. 10:21? That the angel came to revealed to Daniel what was ‘written in the Scripture of Truth in heaven.’

Think of that! How much of everything that’s in the Bible here was already recorded in heaven long before. Amazing! “...*the faith of Jesus Christ...*” So, if you think *a work of law* will forgive your sins before God and put you in right standing with God, then what you are doing is denying the coming, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His shed blood. That’s what Paul is saying here.

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the faith of Christ...* [Christ faith in us and His faith to do what He did] ...and not **by works of law...** [not *the work of the law*, plural] ...because **by works of law** shall **no flesh** be justified.... [no one] ...Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ, *and* we ourselves are found to be sinners,... [which Peter and the Jews were] ...*is* Christ then *the* minister of sin?...” (vs 16-17).

You can tie in there other things. What agreement is there between God and idols? *None!*

“...MAY IT NEVER BE! For if I build again those things that I destroyed... [because Paul was a leading one in Judaism] ...I am making myself a transgressor. For I, through law, died to *works of law*... [the wages of sin is death, so he died] ...in order that I may live to God” (vs 17-19)—Rom. 6, we just covered that. Come up out of the watery grave and ‘walk in newness of life.’

Verse 20: “I have been **crucified with Christ**...” Notice that. That’s quite a statement! How does he say it in Rom. 6? *We been conjoined to His death!* What are we to do to overcome flesh? *Crucify the flesh!*

“...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me. For *the life* that I am now living in *the flesh*, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness *is* through *works of law*, then Christ died in vain” (vs 20-21). Anyone can write any law and *claim* that this makes you right with God.

*Now we’re ready for Galatians 3.* All of this is leading up to here. It’s kind of like this: Remember the little kid on a tricycle who becomes the astronaut to go to the moon? How much did he have to learn through all those years of learning and studying and putting it together before he could say, ‘All right, I’m willing to do this. I understand how it’s going to happen. I will, if everything works, come back.’

Galatians 3:1: “O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...” Very interesting terminology. Who has enticed you with hypnotic words, would be another way of putting it.

“...into not obeying the Truth...” (v 1). What is the Truth? *The whole Gospel, plus the fact that nothing can forgive sin except the sacrifice of Christ*, which was done through His faith and the faith of the Father. This next sentence is really very interesting, very profound. I remember the first time I understood it going through the Greek. I’ll tell you about it.

“...before whose eyes Jesus Christ, crucified, was set forth in a **written public proclamation**?” (v 1). That’s not what the *King James* says. But why did I put “...written public proclamation”? Because the root of this word is ‘*graphe*’ meaning *writing*. What does that do to those who say they had oral tradition for 300 years before they wrote anything down? How can we trust the New Testament? *Well, what we’ll do we’ll readjust it according to our thoughts and our age.*

I gave sermons on the Jesus Seminar also on Church at Home {churchathome.com} all about that. How they want to do away with Christ. That’s why

God put it in writing.

Sidebar on Bibles again: There’s a website called Faith Comes by Hearing {faithcomesbyhearing.com}. They are reading, because there are over 1000 languages that people speak that do not have any form of the Bible, and most of them are just verbal, they do not have much of a written language. They’re translating it into those languages. Combined with that, they have a separate solar player, digital, that they put in there the reading of various versions of the Bible and it has a little solar panel on the top.

So, anywhere in the world you put it out there and get the power, and whatever your language is that no one else in the world knows, in its small number of people, you play it and you hear the Word of God. When you consider that all of the various smart phones, dumb phones, computers, whatever... And just on smart phones alone there are over one-billion people that have a version of the Bible on their phone!

I want you to take how great God is. Now these people who are doing it, there dedicated to God and I’m sure God is helping him do it, because God said that ‘this Gospel—before the end—shall be preached in all the world to all nations.’ Didn’t leave out any. Maybe the penguins in Antarctica. ‘And then the end shall come.’

He also said in the book of Mark, ‘and this Gospel shall be *published*.’ Why is one of the most desired books, yet, one of the most hated books, one of the most condemned books in the world, the most popular book and everyone is going to have a copy available to them, especially if they put it on their phone? How close can you get the Word of God to you? So, you better keep your batteries charged up.

I thought that was interesting with that player, a nice little solar panel right on the top. So they have different ones translating into the native languages. How about that? “...a written public proclamation”! Amazing! When I read that I thought, boy that’s fantastic. I was reading about how some of these theologians were saying, well it was all transmitted orally. **Written!**

Verse 2: “This only I desire to learn from you: did you receive the Spirit of God by works of law...”

Yes, go to Jerusalem 100 times in your lifetime and you’ll receive the Holy Spirit of God. Be circumcised in the flesh and you’ll receive the Holy Spirit of God. Separate yourself from the Gentiles, you’ll receive the Holy Spirit of God. **No!**

“...or by *the* hearing of faith?” (v 2). What also has to happen with that? If you hear with faith and you desire it, then God has seven spirits under

the control of Jesus Christ. What do they do? *They’re sent forth into the whole world seeking those who are seeking God!* That will come with you, and if you continue in the desire then that’s the thing that made you do and me do, what everyone does, when they first come to the knowledge of the Truth. God is dealing with us.

“...or by *the* hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in *the* Spirit...” (vs 2-3). To repentance and baptism receiving the Holy Spirit of God. Believing the Gospel.

“...are you now being perfected in *the* flesh?” (v 3)—by fleshly means! Let’s sit in a different area of the building, so we don’t have to sit near these Gentiles. To have Peter, one of the leading apostles, do it. Think of the impact that would have had on the Church if Paul hadn’t corrected him.

Verse 4: “Have you suffered so many things in vain, if indeed it *has been* in vain? Therefore, *consider this*: He Who is supplying the Spirit to you, and Who is working deeds of power among you... [through prayer and through healing and things like that] *...is He doing it* by works of law or by *the* hearing of faith? *It is* exactly as *it is written*: **‘Abraham...** [now you know why I went to Abraham] **...believed God...**” (vs 4-6). Well, that’s quite a statement.

- What is the difference between believing *in* God or that there *is a* God, and *believing* God?
- Did Abraham obey God?
- Why were the promises passed to Isaac?
- *Because Abraham obeyed My voice, kept My charge My commandments My statutes and My Law (Gen. 26:5)!*

He *believed* God. So, what it is *believe*, you believe and trust in Him and you do what He says because God said to do it.

“...and it was reckoned to him for righteousness.’.... [or *right standing with God*] ...Because of this, *you should* understand that those who *are* of faith are the *true* sons of Abraham” (vs 6-7).

What was it that he believed God that was so profound? God said, ‘Look at the stars and if you can number them so shall your seed be,’ and Abraham believed that God would do that. Everything else flows from there.

Verse 7: “Because of this, *you should* understand that those who *are* of faith are the *true* sons of Abraham. Now *in* the Scriptures, God seeing in advance that He would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed!’” (vs

7-8).

When did He give that promise? When he was circumcised? *or* uncircumcised? *Before he was circumcised!*

Verse 9: “*It is* for this reason that those who are of faith are being blessed with the believing Abraham.” Isn’t that interesting how God puts it this way. Constantly going on now. Here’s the comparison.

Verse 10: “For as many as are *relying* on works of law...” That’s contrary to the commandments of God. These are works of men’s laws.

“...are under a curse...” (v 10). Why? Because works of law do not forgive sin, nor can they replace the sacrifice of Christ.

“...because it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things that have been written in the Book of the Law to do them’” (v 10).

Now that’s another one of these very difficult verses here. Protestants believe the Law is a curse. *No!* There is the curse of the Law because of disobedience.

Can we, today, do everything written in the Book of the Law? *No!* There is no temple. Yet, Jesus said, ‘Man shall live by every Word of God.’ How can you justify this when it says, ‘cursed it is everyone who does not do all things written in the Book of the Law to do them’? *Because when the Gospel came, all the laws were raised to a higher level:*

- a spiritual level
- a spiritual circumcision of the heart and mind
- a spiritual keeping of the Law within

Jesus said, ‘You’ve heard it said in ancient times you shall not commit adultery. I tell you don’t look on a woman to lust after her because you’ve already committed adultery in your heart.’ That’s not written in the Book of the Law. Anything short of murder or anything short of adultery would not be murder or adultery.

Now we have a higher standard to live by then just by the Book of the Law. Can you go to the temple to offer sacrifices? *No! God took it away!* That’s where Judaism really gets all wrapped up in its own self, because they reject Christ. What they did they took all their oral traditions and after the temple was destroyed they made the Mishnah and the other writings that they have of their traditions so that they could make each individual in his own life as pure as a priest. That’s impossible to do, and this is what Judaism was bringing in to the Galatians.

Now then, this is why Protestants come here and read this and say, ‘Therefore we don’t have to keep the Law.’ This does not mean that at all. This means that *the things written in the Book of the Law, which apply to the physical covenant between God and Israel, cannot be fulfilled in the New Covenant!* If you tried to, you must do all of it, or what you are doing is absolutely in vain.

Verse 11: “Therefore, *it is* evident that no one is being justified before God by *means of works of law...*” It’s only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood, which is separate from the Law and Prophets.

“...because *it is written*, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (v 11). Not external actions of law that you can do. In other words, it has to be by:

- loving God
- praying to God
- studying the Word of God
- living by the Word of God

All of those things put us into relationship with God.

What happens when you have the laws and commandments of God written in your heart and in your mind? When you begin to sin, you’re alerted. Shouldn’t do that, and you stop it!

This is why there’s repentance every day. Because God, and we’ll project forward a little bit here, God is cleansing the mind and the heart with *the washing of the water by the Word!* That’s a completely different thing than having a religion with rituals and exercises and idols and things like this. I hope you grasp that.

Verse 12: “Now then, the Law is not based on faith; but, ‘The man who practices these things shall live in them.’ Christ has redeemed us **from the curse** of the Law...” (vs 12-13). He has not redeemed us *from* the Law. Very important to understand, because that’s the way Protestants read it.

“...having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree’) in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, *and* that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (vs 13-14).

I hope you all grasp it! This part of the Galatians is the most difficult to handle, especially if you are new. Especially if you’re just starting to keep the Sabbath Day, and you think that ‘if I can’t do everything you’re cursed.’

***Your relationship with God is by belief in Christ and keeping the commandments of God from the heart through loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!***

How many Jews today keep the Sabbath? *Well the majority of them reject it*, because it didn’t do anything for them, because they didn’t accept Christ. But those who do, what does it do for them? *Very little!* It’s like milk comes with two substances: milk and cream. So, if you separate out all the cream and you drink skim milk, you only have half the value. If you get all the cream and do things with the cream you don’t get the benefit of the milk. So likewise, you can’t take half and expect the results of a whole.

Jack and I were talking about hamburger. What does that have to do this? He said that hamburger today doesn’t really taste like hamburger. Why? *Because they don’t grow the beef the way that they should!* They don’t take care of it the way that they ought to. So, I suggested, get good beef and have them grind it up and make it ground round for you, or ground chuck for you, right on the spot. And some of these hamburger outlets they put in 10% soybean flavored like beef.

This is difficult to understand, especially if you are just beginning to understand the Bible, and then someone takes you immediately to Galatians. Closes everything down.

What we need to do, I know there are a lot of political things going on, but we’ll just have to wait and see how those develop. We won’t get into those. But just one interesting thing, the inauguration is on Friday, January 20, and Donald Trump said himself that they are going to have all day church services on Saturday! *He said that!* It’s been deleted from the news. Very interesting!

Maybe the hand of God is there in a way for the nation that we don’t understand. But if that’s the case and things do improve and there’s more time, then we better be about really preaching the Word of God and growing and developing the best we can individually and together.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 2:13-14, 25-29
- 2) Romans 3:19
- 3) Romans 7:1-
- 4) Romans 3:20, 19-21, 31
- 5) Romans 6:1-5, 12-15
- 6) Galatians 1:6-8
- 7) Galatians 2:16-21
- 8) Galatians 3:1-14

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 1

- Matthew 5:17-19
- Romans 5:6
- Romans 7
- Genesis 15; 17; 22
- Deuteronomy 13
- 1-Kings 13
- Galatians 1:9
- Hebrews 10
- Daniel 10:21
- Genesis 26:5

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *Overview of Romans 1-6 (Special Services)*
- *Meaning of “Law” in Romans 7-8 (Special Services)*

Sermon Series *Epistles of Paul to the Romans*

Book: *Langer’s Encyclopedia of History*

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## False Prophecies, “Works of Law” and Justification III

There is no work that you can do that is going to justify you before God

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

Let’s look at the world the way God looks at the world, and let’s understand that *no one*, not even atheists, can get along without God. Men like to sit around and talk, have philosophies, give their ideas, write books, and today they can do videos and all this sort of thing with it, or they could do cell phone activity whatever it is.

After they [those in Athens] wanted to know what Paul was teaching—this was quite a session that he had—because right at Mars Hill was where all of the top philosophers gathered together to discuss philosophy, religion, gods, ethics, mathematics and all of this sort of thing. So, they were really into it. For him to be invited there was quite a thing.

Acts 17:22: “Then Paul stood in *the* center of Mars Hill *and* said, ‘Men, Athenians, I perceive *that* in all things you are very reverent to deities.’”

That’s interesting! Ecc. 3 says that God ‘put eternity in the heart of man.’ What does that mean? *That means that God gave us capacity to think beyond ourselves ahead, and to think backwards in time also*, but to have a sense—whether they know the Truth or not—that there must be something beyond the physical life we’re living. The only way to discover the Truth is to come to God.

However, since God created all men and women... It’s interesting there when you read Jer. 1; God said to Jeremiah, ‘I formed you in the womb.’ How did all human beings get here? *God created Adam and Eve!* He put in them the reproductive process that is passed on in every generation. So in a sense, God is actually really creating all human beings, because he formed the first man and woman and everything is passed on from there.

You read the genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3; it goes all the way back to Adam, which says, ‘The Son of God.’ What we’re going to see is that all human beings have a category of relationship with God. *No exceptions!* Even those who are following Satan the devil.

“...you are very reverent... [or superstitious] ...to deities; for *as* I was passing through and observing the objects of your veneration, I also found an altar on which was inscribed, ‘To an unknown God.’...” (vs 22-23). To them who knew everything, all the philosophers there, this is quite an admission.

“...So then, He Whom you worship in ignorance... [think of these top philosophers, well-educated, thinking they’re the wisest in the world] ...Whom you worship in ignorance *is* the One *that* I proclaim to you” (v 23).

Think of that! Because here’s Mars Hill, they have all the gods carved in the top of the Parthenon. The temple of Zeus was right on the inside, and that was quite a spectacular thing, as well.

Verse 24: “He *is* the God Who made the world and all things that *are* in it...”—and there’s no way getting around it. You cannot prove evolution—*period!*

Sidebar: I was watching a special program on NatGeo Wild, that’s one of my favorite ones, and they show the discovery—when it was done about 30 or 40 years ago—of a fish that was supposed to be extinct. But it was exactly as the fossil, no evolution. They found that with various other things, as well. So, the question is: ***If*** there’s evolution and things evolve, how is it that some things don’t evolve. So, this was a conundrum for Paul, standing there speaking to these people.

“...Being *the* Lord of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples made by hands... [and men being religious, like to make temples] ...nor is He served by the hands of men, as *though* He needs anything, *for* He gives to ***all*** life and breath and ***all*** things” (vs 24-25).

Every human being who’s ever lived, or who are now living, or will live in the future, all come from the creative power of God. They can’t get away from it, because that’s what God has done. When God gives free moral agency, which he does to everyone, then they have to choose which way they are going to live.

If you’ve been watching the news lately, you see how strong free moral agency is! There are people who make up their mind, they don’t care whether it’s true or right or wrong, it’s what they believe; so therefore, if it’s what they believe, they believe it must be true because they believe it! ***God made us to believe***, so all of these things come together here.

Verse 26: “And He made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth...” When Trump gave his inauguration speech he said, in war it doesn’t matter what color you are, you all bleed red.

“...having determined beforehand *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling” (v 26).

Now that is also an interesting statement. I think some people who want no borders and no nation, they ought to read that. So, you don’t want borders, you don’t want a nation, *you’re going against God!* Here’s why:

Verse 27: “In order that they might seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and might find Him; though truly, He is not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being...” (vs 27-28). Paul also wrote in another place: *we have nothing we didn’t receive!*

Verse 29: “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead *is* like that which *is made* of gold, or silver, or stone—a graven thing of art...” Here he is standing right there where all of those things are. I mean, that must’ve been something for them to hear him say that.

“...a graven thing of art *devised by the* imagination of man; for *although* God has indeed overlooked the times of this ignorance, He now commands all men everywhere to repent” (vs 29-30). Then Paul tells them about the judgment day. Let’s look at what God wants.

- He’s given free choice to everyone
- He’s given life
- He’s given death
- He’s given blessings
- He’s given cursings

Those are all automatic. He provides for all, because in the final analysis—as we know God’s plan—He’s going to take care of all of these things.

Man has rejected God and, therefore, has chosen the way of evil and Satan. That’s why he has human nature that is evil from birth. It needs to be trained. We have today a perfect example of young people who have not been taught, they’ve not been trained, because it goes clear back to when Cain brought his offering. In his offering he chose not to bring what God said. So, God said, *‘If you did well you would be accepted, but if not sin lies at the door.*

This shows that God has set the standard on how we live. He could’ve chosen to repent and bring a proper offering, but he didn’t. He chose to kill his brother. So, free moral agency really gets very powerful. We see it manifested today, whenever people don’t like something that is being done to try and straighten out all the evil that’s going on, they start rioting, looting, burning and saying ‘this is a free expression that we have,’ protected by First Amendment rights.

Well how soon does that get to killing? So, human nature is very evil! Let’s see what Jesus said about human nature. This is why we need God, we need repentance, and we need it *His* way. We’re going to see how that is. *Man has his way* apart from God. But he still has a relationship with God, because God gave him life.

God has provided everything for them to live. He gives rain, air, water and food to all human beings, provided that they work and produce, whether they know the true God or don’t know the true God. And because of the sin of Adam and Eve, human nature is very sinful, and Satan the devil is the ruler of the world.

It is interesting when you read Mark 7. The first part of the chapter starts out with the *traditions of men*. What are the traditions of men of the Jews? Their way of having ‘a religion’ is to try and put themselves in right standing with God. No man can put himself in the right standing with God through their own works, because those are *works of law*. Let’s put this all together here.

Mark 7:21: “For from within, out of the hearts of men go forth evil thoughts...”

Sidebar: What is the purpose of conversion? *The purpose of conversion is to convert the mind so that you are not led by your evil thoughts!* A lot of thoughts that people have, that appear good, are actually evil. But they don’t find that out until later, because they failed to obey God. God gives them plenty of time to repent so that they won’t have to suffer the penalty. But the penalty will sooner or later come.

“...evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders...[that’s where all the trouble starts] ...thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness... [all of these things are found in Washington, DLC: District of Liars and Corruption] **...all these evils go forth from within, and these defile a man**” (vs 21-23).

This is why no work of any law that you do can put you in right standing with God. Any of the things that you do that are commanded by God, that’s fine. But for eternal life it requires **repentance, baptism, conversion!** “All these evils go forth from within, and *these* defile a man.”

This is why we have Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death.”

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are clean... [or right] ...in his own eyes...”

Ezek. 7—very important because we get to a point, how evil can evil get, and people still put up

with it? All you have to do is look at the Middle East.

Ezekiel 7:1: “Moreover, the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘And also you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel, ‘An end!.... [God will put up with it to a certain point, but an end comes] ...The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end has come upon you, and **I will send My anger upon you and will judge you according to your ways, and will lay upon you all your abominations**’” (vs 1-3).

Stop and think! Remember when the ten tribes separated from Judah. Jeroboam was made king. Jeroboam was offered, that if he would keep the commandments of God and teach the people that, that God would give him a dynasty like He promised David. But Jeroboam didn’t do it.

How long did God put up with Israel and all of their ungodliness? *Two hundred and thirty two years before He sent them off into captivity!* They had various wars, various plagues, various famines, various times of blessing, etc. But there comes a time when the end comes, and we also know that there’s an end coming on the whole world. Always remember that whenever there is repentance, God will honor that.

Today there seems to be a good degree of repentance, coming back to some of the aspects of God, in the nation in the letter of the Law. That’s how God judges the nations, in the letter of the Law. ***We’re judged spiritually!*** So, the standard for us is a lot higher. He says that the end is coming.

Verse 4: “‘And My eye shall not spare you, neither will I have pity. But I will repay your ways upon you, and your abominations shall be in your midst; and you shall know that I *am* the LORD.’ Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘An evil: Behold, an unheard of evil has come!’” (vs 4-5). As we get down toward the end of the age, that’s sure true.

Verse 7: “The encirclement of doom has come unto you, O dwellers of the land. The time has come, the day of tumult *is* near, and not a joyful shouting upon the mountains. And I will soon pour out My fury upon you, and fulfill My anger upon you. And I will judge you according to **your ways**, and will repay you for all **your abominations**” (vs 7-8).

This is how God deals with all nations. This is how He deals with Israel. Jer. 18 shows that God raises up nations, puts them down and judges them.

Let’s see the transition point here, and God’s promises if there is repentance, because God always honors it. Then we will tie that together with what is in the New Testament, and we will see what the true justification is, then with that we can examine the

little more of the book of Galatians.

Isa. 55—here is New Testament doctrine in the Old Testament. Remember when the apostles started preaching, how did they preach the Gospel? *From the prophecies of the Old Testament!* Here’s one of them. Here’s what He offers today.

Isaiah 55:1: “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who *has* no money, come, buy and eat.... [How do you buy when you have no money? *By repentance and your attitude!*] ...Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what* is not bread?.... [that which really leads to life] ...And your labor for *what* never satisfies? Hearken diligently to Me...” (vs 1-2).

That’s the call that has always gone out: *listen to God!* Notice how He says here. Hearken means *to listen to obey*. How to obey? *Diligently!*

“...and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Bow down your ear, and come to Me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David” (vs 2-3). That is New Testament doctrine right there. We’ll see how that has been expanded.

Verse 4: “Behold, I have given Him *for* a witness to the people, a Prince and Commander of people. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know; a nation *that* did not know you shall run to you because of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you” (vs 4-5).

This is talking about conversion of the Gentiles. Here’s the key: individual basis. Just like Paul said, ‘God says now to repent of these vanities’ (Acts 17).

Verse 6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” Here’s what has to happen with this seeking: ***there has to be repentance!*** Repentance means

- a change of thinking
- a change of action
- a change of living

Verse 7: “Let the wicked forsake his way... [not cling to part of it] ...and the unrighteous man his thoughts... [goes right back to Mark 7] ...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

Here’s where we get to the New Testament doctrine of grace, and our relationship with God. That’s what becomes so important. It says, ‘seek the Lord while He may be found.’ The question is: Does

there come a time when you can't find Him? **Yes! When there is no repentance!** What happens if they seek God just before their head his lopped off by a guillotine? *O Lord!*

- **If** they haven't committed the unpardonable sin *they'll be in the second resurrection!*
- **If** they've committed the unpardonable sin *all their seeking will do no good!*

Verse 8: “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD.”

- What is the point of conversion? *The point of conversion is to change our thinking and our heart!*
- What does the Proverbs say? *As a man thinks in his heart so he is!*

What's really important in it, no one can really read anybody else's mind. Sometimes husbands and wives can make pretty good guesses, because they been around each other for so long. But you still don't know what's in the mind of the individual.

If you want an interesting thing to watch, go watch on Headline News, *Forensic Files*. Then also go to CNBC and watch all of the pilfering of money from people through various financial schemes, and buying and selling and stocks and bonds and different financial schemes. Look how devious and evil those things are.

How do you change a carnal mind? *First of all, they've got to come to a point in their lives that they recognize the Truth! The first Truth they recognize is there has to be a God, and 'I am in terrible trouble!'*

Let's see what has to happen to everyone. We'll talk about some of the other things concerning Christ and how we learn and all that sort of thing.

Luke 15:11: “Then He said, ‘A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to *his* father, ‘Father, give me that portion of the property which falls to me.’ And he divided to them *his* living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together *and* departed into a distant country....’” (vs 11-13).

‘I'm leaving home, I'm going on my own, I'm going to do what I want.’ Doesn't every young person come to that point? *Yes indeed!* Here is the operation of free choice.

“...And there he wasted *all* his substance, living *in* debauchery.... [sort of like some of the western movies you see you know] ...But after he had spent everything, there arose a severe famine throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

Then he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine” (vs 13-15). For a Jewish young man, that's pretty awful job, don't you think?

Verse 16: “And he was longing to fill his stomach with the husks that the swine were eating, but no one gave *anything* to him. And when **he came to himself...**” (vs 16-17).

That's the key important thing here. Even though we have a carnal mind that is evil, we can still come to choose right from wrong. Even though we may live under Satan's sway, God is there to bring us out from under that, **if** we come to this point, “**...he came to himself...**” Everyone of us coming to the point of conversion, man or woman, has had to do this.

“...he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have *an* abundance of bread, and I am dying of hunger? I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned...’” (vs 17-18).

*That's repentance!* Repentance continues after that, and as we've already discussed, **God is the One Who grants repentance!** So, when you come to yourself, that's a very important thing. Notice the change in attitude.

“...‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; and I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose *and* went to his father....” (vs 18-20).

A lot of people think they've done so bad that God can't forgive them. Well, if you really repent, God will forgive you:

- stop and think of Ahab
- stop and think of Manasseh
- look at what David did

Did God forgive them? *Yes!*

“...But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and ran *and* embraced him, and ardently kissed him. And his son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servant, ‘Bring out a robe, the best robe, and clothe him, and give *him* a ring for his hand and sandals for *his* feet; and bring the fattened calf and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry. For this my son was dead, but is alive again...’” (vs 20-24).

You can stop and think of other Scriptures. What did Jesus say to the man who said, ‘I'll follow You, but let me go bury my father.’ Jesus said, ‘Let the dead bury their dead,’ because all human beings without God, even though there living, are as good

as dead. Everyone comes to the point that they die, some sooner, some later.

Verse 24: “‘For this my son was dead, but is alive again; and he was lost, but is found.’ And they began to be merry.” Then we had the problem with the other son who was self-righteous. Which sin is worse? *God is the One Who has to judge that!*

Now let’s see how this operation works. We’ll cover about the sacrifice of Christ when we get closer to the Passover and so forth, but Christ came for the very purpose of bringing repentance. The very first thing He said when He was preaching in Galilee was, **‘Repent and believe the Gospel! Change your way, seek God while He may be found!’** That’s a way of initiating people to respond to Isa. 55, and **believe the Gospel!**

This is why no work of any man, apart from repentance and obeying God, can bring you to the point that you can be justified. *No work!*

- it doesn’t matter how much you give to the poor
- it doesn’t matter what kind of work you do
- it doesn’t matter how many cathedrals you build
- it doesn’t matter what kind of religious office a person may hold

I mean, think of all the religions in the world now, because men are religious creatures. Even atheists are religious, because they believe in their atheism. Think of that! Here’s why *no work of any man, apart from God, can bring them to God!*

John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the Way... [there’s the way of man, there’s *the way of God*] ...and the Truth...’” You have to come to the point of Truth, **real Truth**:

- not part of the Truth
- not some of the Truth
- **all of the Truth**

“...and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me” (v 6).

So, it doesn’t matter what people may do in a religious sense to think that they can make themselves right with God, unless there’s repentance and you come to Christ and you let that sacrifice pay for your sins. Why is that sacrifice necessary? *Because God made us, He created us, He gave us the law of sin and death within our members!* There is in every human being an aging process. We look before the Flood, they lived long time, a long, long time.

Then God said He is going to limited it to 120 years. And it gradually came down so that, and even David died at 70 years. The reason it came

down gradually is because there had to be repopulation of the earth.

We have to come through Christ. He took on human nature and became a man, and as Creator—since He lived a perfect life—His death covered the sins of all human beings who repent. **There must be repentance first!** When we come to the point of conversion, John 6:38 is where we need to come; you don’t come to this all at once.

John 5:30, Jesus said: “I have no power to do anything of Myself...” Think about that for just a minute!

What’s one of the popular things that they have at Christmas time? that they put out in the public? *A nativity scene!* Do you know how that started? *That started because Francis of Assisi thought it was a good idea to have a nativity scene!* So, the pope authorized that he could do it, and now look what is happen to it. What does that have to do with bringing people to God? *Nothing!* He probably felt really good. He probably felt excited as he was making the little doll, or putting up the little manger scene or whatever it may be. Look at today what people have with lights. My, my! All the competition in the neighborhood, who’s got the most lights! Does that make them righteous? *No!*

John 6:38: “For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me.” We do have to do the will of God instead of our own will. What did Jesus say to those false prophets that used his name? *You didn’t do the will of my Father Who is in heaven!*

“...but the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me: that *of all* whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day” (vs 38-39).

Now, that’s very interesting. A lot of people think that’s the Last Great Day. *No!* What is the last day of the count to Pentecost? *The 50<sup>th</sup> day! That’s the first resurrection!* These are the ones that the Father gives Christ.

Verse 40: “And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life...” There’s much more to it, because **if** you believe:

- **you hear**
- **you do**
- **you follow**

“...and I will raise him up at the last day.’ Then the Jews were complaining against Him, because He said, ‘I AM the Bread that came down from heaven.’ And they were saying, ‘Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? Why then does He say, “I came down from heaven”?’ For

this reason, Jesus answered them and said, ‘Do not be complaining among one another. **No one...**’” (vs 40-44).

This is the key as to why only justification can come from God through Christ and His sacrifice, because that’s what God determined to do. No law, no board of trustees, no action by men can do it.

Verse 44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Think about this! The reason we are here and the reason why there are true Christians wherever they are, is because the Father was the One Who led them to repentance because of the circumstances, just exactly like the prodigal son. You look back at your circumstances. I can look back and look at mine, and yes, it would just about like that. Notice what else:

Verse 45: “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me. No one has seen the Father except He Who is from God; He has seen the Father” (vs 45-46).

Those are the parameters.

(go to the next track)

I’ve summarized Romans several times so I’m not going to get involved in summarizing it, but just quickly go through it. Anybody remember from the last one what was the most important verse in Rom. 2. Where does it start?

Romans 2:13: “Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God...” A lot of people hear it. How many people know the Sabbath? ‘*Yes, I know the Sabbath, but my church keeps Sunday.*’

“...but the doers of the Law shall be justified” (v 13). This tells us very important thing. First repentance, coming to yourself, then recognizing sin, then ceasing to sin and beginning to obey. Then you have your sins forgiven through Christ.

The most important thing to remember on that is this: ***No human activity or philosophy or work, can substitute for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!*** Those in the Old Covenant had the animal sacrifices, but as Paul writes, that’s not able to take away sins spiritually before God. They were forgiven to the temple that is true.

Then the Jews, after they came back after the captivity said, ‘All right, what we need to do to keep from breaking the Ten Commandments, is to put a fence around it.’ The fence around the Ten Commandments are *all the traditional laws of the*

*Jews*, which if they kept these, they wouldn’t be breaking the Ten Commandments. Which ended up that they kept all of these, which *were breaking* the Ten Commandments, because that became their idol, which means ***that became their god***. So, when Christ came, they didn’t recognizing Him.

This is what Paul is getting to. The Father Himself has to get involved in our lives. When does that happen? *When we come to ourselves!*

Now then, to be put in right standing with God means that ***you have had your sins forgiven, which is justification!*** When you have been justified, you’re in right standing with God. Now, to finish the covenant relationship with God, it requires two things in the way of sacrifice.

1. the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His death; then His resurrection to be our High Priest  
That’s half of the covenant; *that’s God’s part!* What is *our* part?
2. repentance, obedience and baptism

That’s why it starts out here, Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!...**” (vs 1-2).

Where does grace start? *Grace starts when the Father Himself begins dealing in your life to lead you to repentance!* Now He puts you in a relationship with God. Remember where we started, where everyone has a relationship with God? There are three categories:

1. truly converted
2. those who are good citizens in the world, who are not dedicated sinners  
They have not committed the unpardonable sin, they will be there for the second resurrection.
3. the incorrigible wicked who will never repent under any circumstances

Everyone in the world is under law. We’ve covered that. Now when we are baptized, we are put in what is called, under grace. Now, under grace does not mean an absence of law. Under grace is a description of God:

- working in your life
- giving you the Holy Spirit
- opening your mind to understand the Word of God

*That is a relationship of grace!*

- Do you still sin? *Yes!*
- What do we do? *Repent!*

That’s why the daily prayer has *forgive us our sins*, daily. Why do we still have evil in our minds? *Because conversion is a process! Just like obedience is a process!* The whole world is under law; *we’re*

*under grace!*

What standard do we have for keeping the commandments of God that the world does not have? *God judges them according to the letter of the Law!* When you are baptized that is your symbolic death. Then God gives you the Holy Spirit and you are in covenant with Him, and you are in relationship with God *under grace*. If you want to know the limits of how far people can go and that God will correct them—and if they yield to the correction and repent God will still work with them—study Rev. 2 & 3, the seven churches.

That’s important because those are the direct words of Christ to every church member down through history. You want to know what Christ says? You want to know what He thinks to you personally? Well, not only the Gospels, not only the epistles, but in particularly the seven churches showing how you live your life.

Heb. 10 shows that sacrifice and offering does not forgive sins before God in heaven above; they forgive sins to the temple. That’s it!

Hebrews 10:5: “For this reason, when He comes into the world, He says, ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire...’”

After the temple was destroyed, what is God going to do? But even that, He said that if someone ‘has a broken heart and trembles at My Word, that’s more than all the offerings and sacrifices.’

“...but You have prepared a body for Me. You did not delight in burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin. Then said I, ‘Lo, I come (*as* it is written of Me in *the Scroll of the Book*) to do Your will, O God.’” (vs 5-7).

Daniel 10:21: “But I will show you that which is written in the Scripture of Truth....”—*in heaven above*, and that’s what this is talking about right here in Heb. 10:7.

Hebrews 10:8: “In the saying above, *He said*, ‘Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin (which are offered according to the *priestly law*) You did not desire nor delight in.’

Why? *Because people are hypocritical!* The same thing happens with Catholics. ‘I’ll make a pilgrimage to Rome, and I will get indulgences.’ People would come and offer a sacrifice, but there was, in some cases, no real repentance.

Verse 9: “Then He said, ‘Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.’....” The only way you can do the will of God is through the grace of God and the power and Spirit of God.

“...He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant*” (v 9). The second covenant is the New Covenant of the

New Testament. The standard for everything is higher. That’s why when Jesus began preaching—Matt. 5-7—He gave the higher standard: hatred becomes murder; lust becomes adultery, etc.

Then He said we’re to ‘become perfect like our Father in heaven is perfect.’ Right at the very beginning of His ministry He told us the ultimate outcome of what God is doing.

Verse 10: “By Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Can any man produce anything that is greater than the sacrifice of Christ? *No!* That’s why *no law* and *no sacrifice* justifies you. But you must be a *doer of the Law* to be justified.

Verse 11: “Now, every high priest stands ministering day by day... [the temple was still standing when he wrote this] ...offering the same sacrifices repeatedly, which are never able to remove sins... [only got forgiveness at the temple] ...but He [Christ], after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at *the right hand of God*” (vs 11-12).

How much greater is this? You’re coming to God the Father who’s in heaven above, with Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, rather than going to:

- a physical temple
  - a physical priest
  - a physical Levi
- and bring*
- physical gold
  - a physical oxen
  - a physical lamb
  - a physical turtledove
  - an offering of bread
  - an offering of flour

*and the priest does whatever he does with it! The sacrifice of Christ, Who is the Creator of all mankind, is supreme; nothing can replace that!*

Verse 13: “Since that time, He is waiting until His enemies are placed *as* a footstool for His feet.... [read the book of Revelation to see how that’s going to be] ...For by one offering He has obtained eternal perfection *for* those who are sanctified” (vs 13-14).

Now, you must take that and add to it; remember that *you have to add the Scriptures together*:

- repentance
- overcoming
- the washing of the water by the Word
- keeping the laws of God
- loving God
- loving each other

All of these things expand from that. Just like when

God brought them to Mount Sinai, what did He ask them? He said, ***‘If you will obey My voice, you’ll be My people.’*** They said, ‘Yes, we’ll do it.’

But when they heard all the rest of the voice, and everything else that Moses wrote, they said, ‘What have we gotten ourselves into? *Because they really didn’t want to do it!* But in the presence of God they said, ‘Yes, we’ll do it.’ But when God spoke they said, ‘Oh no, Moses you talk to us.’ Yes, you have to have a fall guy. So, here’s what it will be:

Verse 15: “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, “*This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord...*” (vs 15-16).

That is the days of *the coming of Christ, His ministry, His life, His death and resurrection.* This covenant was not established until Pentecost (Acts 2).

“...I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds” (v 16).

That’s what’s the important thing. Before conversion and the Holy Spirit, if you did something that was wrong, yet look right, we did something that was sin, which you thought was right, you had no compunction about it, none at all! So, just a little hint of the sermon I’m going to give, which is why we still have evil thoughts in our mind—*How to Control Your Thoughts.* We’re not yet perfected, and the Word of God has got to be placed in there to remove those things; *that is a lifelong process!*

You didn’t experience those things before you were converted, because you didn’t have God’s Holy Spirit so you can overcome. God is working with us:

- with His grace
- with His Spirit
- with His Law
- with His Word

We’ve got a fantastic combination today with the whole Bible and everything we have today.

Let’s go back, let’s examine what happened there when God told Moses, ‘All right, the people said *yes*, you confirm the covenant with the sacrifice, you sprinkle half the blood on the on the Book of the Law and half on the people. You come up here for 40 days and 40 nights, and we are going to get all the details.’ What happened? *The people said*, ‘Where’s Moses? You know we saw the volcano going off up there on top of the mountain, what if he fell in and burned up?’

I’m just kind of giving you little scenario, as to why they justified what they did. So, they came to

Aaron. It makes you wonder what Aaron did in Egypt, because they came to Aaron and said, ‘Look, this Moses, we don’t know what happened to him.’ Aaron should have said, ‘Have faith, God is there; wait! Moses will come back.’ No, they came to Aaron and said, ‘What’s happened to him. Now make us gods. We’ve got to have a god. So, what did Aaron do? *He fashioned a golden calf!* He may have had others working on it, but he supervised it. This always put a question in my mind: In Egypt:

- Was Aaron an idol-maker?
- Were some of the people idol-makers?
- What did that bring them?

Look at all the work that they did, then they had a big feast. And Aaron said, ‘The gods that brought you out of Egypt.’ ***In the presence of God!*** That’s why:

- coming to yourself
- repenting
- coming to God
- abhorring your sins
- asking forgiveness through the sacrifice of Christ in baptism
- receiving the Holy Spirit

*is so much superior!*

Here’s what He will do, v 16: “*This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,*’ says *the Lord*, ‘I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds... [For what purpose? *So that you develop the mind of Christ!*] ...and their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again.’ Now, where remission of these *is, it is no longer necessary to offer sacrifices...* [of animals] ...for sin” (vs 16-18).

Remission means *forgiveness*, and forgiveness means *repentance*. So, you have all of that that you add in to it as well. I can tell you one thing that the Protestants always make the mistake on, they bring Galatians to new people to try and substantiate that the laws don’t have to be kept anymore. They don’t have a clue as to what it really says.

Now, in light of what I’ve said here, can you now understand even more of Gal. 2 where Peter and the Jews separated from the Gentiles to eat separately, because that’s what Judaism prescribed before, which was never a Law of God. This is why it’s in here. It’s not in here to tell us to not keep the commandments of God. It’s here to tell us ***we’re not to follow the traditions of men!*** and ***That there is no work that you can do that is going to make you right before God,*** unless you love God and keep His commandments and obey Him.

Did that make them better separating? *or*

Did it make it worse? *Made it worse!* Can you imagine what was going on in that congregation? Can you imagine the Gentiles coming to Paul and say, ‘Look over here, Peter and all of those from James came down from Jerusalem the headquarters church.’ Well we know how headquarters works, don’t we! Remember when Paul went up to Jerusalem, James and the elders said, ‘Look at how many thousands believe.’ Well, they all didn’t really believe. Good lesson: *Never get involved in political schemes to make it right!*

What did James do? He was the half-brother of Jesus. ‘Everybody up here in Jerusalem says that you’re telling the people out there, especially the Jews, that you don’t have to circumcise their children anymore, and that the sacrifices up here really don’t account for very much. Now then, why don’t you do this: we’ve got some brothers over here who believe, who have taken a vow, and they need to finish off the vow. So, why don’t you go pay for their sacrifices so that other people who will see you, will understand that, no, you haven’t thrown away the Law.’

So, Paul agreed. He should have done what he did here in Gal. 2, but he didn’t. Did it backfire? Did that political move do one thing spiritually for anyone? *No, it exposed all the carnality of others, and almost cost Paul his life!* Now you know why Paul told them that *works of law do not justify before God!*

Galatians 2:21: “I do not nullify the grace of God...” If you go back and have your own rules, your own regulations, and turn your back on the Truth and love of God, the grace of God, *you nullify it!*

“...for if righteousness... [true righteousness comes from God’s Spirit] ...*is* through *works of law*, then Christ died in vain” (v 21).

We’ve covered Gal. 3, but we want to cover just a little bit more here. Without all of the background coming up to what we’ve already covered, it’s very hard to understand some of these things.

Galatians 3:1: “O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you... [deceived you] ...*into* not obeying the Truth...”

That’s what we were always to keep, *the Truth*, the spiritual Truth of the spiritual revelation of Jesus Christ, of all the commandments and laws of God. *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.*

- What about all those sacrifices and things back in the Old Testament? *You have a greater sacrifice; you have Christ!*
- What about the temple and all the things

there? *We have a greater temple in heaven above!*

Furthermore, you’re better off because you have the Spirit of God. With the Spirit of God dwelling in you, *you* are a mini-temple of God.

- Isn’t that higher?
- Isn’t that greater?
- Isn’t that better?
- *Yes!*

*All of that is the grace of God!*

Verse 5: “Therefore, *consider this:* He Who is supplying the Spirit to you...”

Consider the Spirit just like electricity. It’s got to keep coming, and you use it, and it comes. What if you turn to switch off the electricity? *No more light!* You do something to turn off Christ, then you’re walking away from the Light.

“...and Who is working deeds of power among you, *is He doing it* by works of law or by the hearing of faith?... [you believe and God does] ...*It is exactly as it is written:* ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness’” (vs 5-6).

You believe but you respond and you obey. What also does it say concerning Abraham in Genesis 26:5: “Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” *All of it!* What do we do? *Same thing!* Will Abraham be in the Kingdom of God? *Yes!* Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, ‘You’ll see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God, and you yourselves shut out.’

Galatians 3:7: “Because of this, *you should* understand that those who *are* of faith are the *true* sons of Abraham. Now *in* the Scriptures, God seeing in advance that He would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying,* ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed’” (vs 7-8).

- Did God have a plan from the beginning? He is not like us, we start out on the trip and all we have is a map. *God had the whole thing all planned out!*
- When was Christ officially slain before the act ever took place? *From the foundation of the earth!*
- When was it publicly announced that He was going to go through that? *Right after the sin of Adam and Eve!*
- How many of the prophecies down through time?

What God wanted first, was regardless of the condition, He wanted lots of human beings,

because He is reproducing Himself through human beings. He is not doing it through any other means. That’s why we were made in the image of God.

Verse 9: “*It is* for this reason that those who are of faith are being blessed with the believing Abraham. For as many as are *relying* on works of law... [rather than belief and faith and loving obedience] ...are under a curse, because it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things that have been written in the Book of the Law to do them’” (vs 9-10).

- Are the Ten Commandments there? *Yes, the Ten Commandments are there!*
- Is that the only place that they are? *No!*

They’re codified there. But you see, if you don’t know the things that we know concerning the Law, you can read that, and say, ‘Yes, I guess we don’t have to keep them.’

Let’s analyze this little bit.

- When was Galatians written? *About maybe 55 A.D.!*
- Was the temple still standing in Jerusalem? *Yes!*
- Were they still offering sacrifices there in Jerusalem? *Yes!*
- Were the Jews still keeping all of their traditional laws and rituals and things like that? *Yes!*

The Gentiles couldn’t keep everything written in the Book of the Law because they were excluded from the temple, and had to stay in the court of the Gentiles. The Galatians were Gentiles, uncircumcised. Think of this: *After the temple was destroyed, no one could keep any of those things.*

Therefore, it is evident that no one is being justified. Justification comes through *the sacrifice of Christ, the forgiveness of God and the remission of sin!* Only God can do that, and that only comes through Christ, and that only is applied upon real repentance, and add in baptism.

Verse 11: “Therefore, *it is* evident that no one is being justified before God by *means of works of law*; because *it is written*, ‘The just shall live by faith.’.... [belief, conversion, God’s Spirit] ...Now then, the law is not based on faith; but, ‘The man who practices these things shall live in them’” (vs 11-12).

For what? *For physical blessings!* Today we can see the same thing. Are there decent good law-abiding people in the world, who live within the letter of the Law of much of God’s Law, and the laws of society? They live in it. Many live long lives. The ones that don’t live long lives are the ones

who sin.

Verse 13: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law...” *The Law* is not the curse; ***the curse is the transgression of the Law.***

- Have you been a transgressor? *Yes!*
- What is the wages of sin? *You’ve earned it: death!*
- Do you need to be re-deemed off of death row? *That is only by the sacrifice of Christ!*

“...having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree’) in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles by... [or through] ...Christ Jesus, *and* that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (vs 13-14).

You don’t receive the promise of the Spirit by a traditional act of Judaism or Catholicism or any other religion. You don’t receive justification and receiving of the Spirit of God by idolatry, or by Sunday-keeping. ***You don’t!***

Let’s go one step further; we have the Jews. Are they justified with Sabbath keeping? *No, because they reject Christ!* Faith only comes through Christ. That’s where we are in this whole situation here. Now then, Paul begins to explain something very important:

Verse 15: “Brethren (I am speaking from a human perspective), even when a man’s covenant has been ratified, no one nullifies *it*, or ***adds*** a codicil to it.” Can’t be changed. I want you look at the word *add*.

Let me read it in the *King James*, Galatians 3:15: “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannuls, or ***adds thereto.***” I want you to think about the words *adds to it*.

Verse 16 (*KJV*): “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise” (vs 16-18).

I did not understand v 19 until I was a minister well over seven years; v 19 (*KJV*): Wherefore then serves the law? ***It was added...***”

How can you add it when it says that you don’t add. The correct translation is how we have it in the *Faithful Version*. It was placed ***alongside.***

“...it added because of transgressions...” (v 19 *KJV*). Now, the Church of God Seventh Day and Worldwide Church of God said the sacrifices were added because the children of Israel sinned. *Nonsense!* God commanded the sacrifices before the children of Israel sinned with the golden calf. Did He not? Whether or not sacrifice is required for the confirming of the covenant. Didn’t Moses sprinkle the blood on the Book of the Law and on the people? *Yes!* There were sacrifices.

I had to work my way through that. So, I went through every place in the Old Testament about sacrifices. Did God intend sacrifices? *Yes, He did!*

Verse 19 (*KJV*): “Wherefore then serves the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”

So, let’s read the correct translation: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

Verse 15: “Brethren (I am speaking from a human perspective), even when a man’s covenant has been ratified, **no one nullifies it, or adds** a codicil to it. Now, to Abraham and to his Seed were the promises spoken. He does not say, ‘and to *your* seeds,’ as of many; but as of one, ‘and to your Seed,’ which is Christ. Now this I say, *that the* covenant ratified beforehand by God to Christ **cannot be annulled by the Law**, which was *given* four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make the promise of no effect” (vs 15-17). This goes clear back to Gen. 12 & 15.

What was the promise that God made to Abraham in Gen. 15? You have two things to come:

- 1) physical seed and then the children of Israel

When the children of Israel came, there was another covenant given for them. It didn’t annul, it didn’t change anything that God said to Abraham.

- 2) the promise of Christ to come is throughout the Old Testament

When He comes, it did not nullify the promise given to Abraham, *it fulfilled!*

“...which was *given* four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make the promise of no effect.... [of course not] ...For if the inheritance *is* by law, *it is no longer by promise*” (vs 17-18).

God promises something, and there are always conditions to the promise: ***Obey My voice! Love Me!*** What is the greatest commandment? ***Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!*** So, in order to go through these Scriptures, you have to bring the whole Bible to bear on these things, otherwise reading it in a vacuum and having no

knowledge of those things, you can look at it superficially and say, ‘Yeah, I guess that’s right.

That’s what the Protestants do. I know this becomes a little complicated. Just because something comes later, *doesn’t mean it’s added*. The word means ***placed alongside***. You can’t add to the covenant that God gave to Abraham.

Where it says the Law, that doesn’t mean just the Law. The Law in this case means ***the entire covenant given to Israel***. That’s the mistake. Not just the Ten Commandments, and then we added all of the sacrifices to it. This is referring to—and this is where the confusion comes in—the Law means the whole covenant given to Israel. The laws and commandments of God were in force in every covenant:

- the Adamic covenant
- the ‘Noahasian’ covenant
- the Abrahamic covenant
- the Israel covenant
- the Church covenant

***Laws and commandments are always there!*** You get someone new, or say that they come to a Protestant church for three or four months. Then you hear a sermon like this, it was added so therefore, when Christ came it was done away. *No!* It was raised to a higher standard. Sacrifices were fulfilled. How? ***The sacrifice of Christ!***

It says in Isaiah 42:21: “...He will magnify the Law...”—meaning to *expand it and spiritually make it more binding* than in the letter of the Law.

The other thing that is the great mistake they make is *they assume that those under the covenant with Israel that God gave, that they likewise received a promise of eternal life*. No, they didn’t! There was no salvation given to them for spiritual salvation. There was physical salvation, physical blessing. That’s why you have the blessings and you have the cursings.

All of those things are there for a physical people. Because like it is today, God is not central. God is kind of on the sidelines. Look at the liberals today. Atheist and everything! There is no God there, except ‘the god of this world’ Satan the devil. What makes people want to have law and order? When there becomes so much crime and death and slaughter, the people get sick and tired of it!

I saw a statistic on the news. Just in Mexico last year, there were 20,000 murders in Mexico. There were 15,000 a year before, 20,000 this year. So, when Trump says are sending their crooks, murderers, rapists and ‘druggies,’ it’s true! In Chicago during the eight years that Obama was an office, there were 4,200 murders. He didn’t visit

once! Not once to his hometown! Look at it. People are crying out: ‘We need law and order!’

All right, that is for physical people. That is a type of returning to law and order, which is a type of repentance. But not repentance to God for salvation. I don’t know what they are going to do with Chicago; I have no idea.

***You cannot solve the problems of mankind without God, without His laws, and you find no purpose in life until you understand what Christ has done!*** This shows you the entire principal. Simplest way to put it is this: ***Nothing can substitute for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—period!***

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All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 17:22-30
- 2) Mark 7:21-23
- 3) Proverbs 14:12
- 4) Proverbs 16:2
- 5) Ezekiel 7:1-8
- 6) Isaiah 55:1-8
- 7) Luke 15:11-24
- 8) John 14:6
- 9) John 5:30
- 10) John 6:38-46
- 11) Romans 2:13
- 12) Romans 6:1-2
- 13) Hebrews 10:5-7
- 14) Daniel 10:21
- 15) Hebrews 10:8-18
- 16) Galatians 2:21
- 17) Galatians 3:1, 5-6
- 18) Genesis 26:5
- 19) Galatians 3:7-18
- 20) Isaiah 42:21

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- Ecclesiastes 3
- Jeremiah 1
- Luke 3
- Jeremiah 18
- Acts 17
- Revelation 2; 3
- Matthew 5-7
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- Genesis 12; 15

Also referenced: Sermon: *How to Control Your Thoughts*

FRC: po/bo  
Transcribed: 3/1/17

## False Prophecies, “Works of Law” and Justification IV

God’s promises are sure, but we have to do it *God’s way, not our own way*

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

I have a couple of things to cover here. First of all, the book *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin {amazon.com} Where we got this years and years ago, the Hebrew Publishing Company, had closed down. It is a book that governs every minute of every day of every thought and every action. This is why the Jews, though they have the Word of God...

It’s quite a testimony. They have the Old Testament; they have faithfully preserved it, and they have faithfully preserved the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. But they hold to *their traditions* above the laws of God. They keep the Sabbath, but they regulate the Sabbath by their traditions. It’s interesting when you think about it, the apostles when they started preaching, had only the Old Testament. Everything in the Old Testament is sprinkled with things that would become the heart of the New Testament.

I use sprinkled because in order to understand, how does it tell us to understand the Word of God? *‘Line upon line precept upon precept’!* So, you need to look at it this way: The Old Testament brings us the:

- physical aspect for Israel
- prophecies
- future spiritual aspects of the New Testament

Then Christ comes! And it’s interesting that the #4 is associated with Christ. Just a quick review on that:

- God established the appointed times on the 4<sup>th</sup> day
- Jesus was crucified on the 4<sup>th</sup> day
- He started His ministry on the 4<sup>th</sup> day
- He ended His ministry on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, physically
- His ministry was 44 months long
- He had 40 days of fasting to begin,
- He had 40 days of instruction to the apostles to finish
- the 4 Gospels are about Christ and His teachings

The book of Acts is very similar to the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy combined.

- the first five books of the Bible called the Pentateuch
- the first five books of the New Testament

are the *spiritual* Pentateuch

There Jesus Christ, right at the beginning, says, Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect... [Not good, not nice, not exemplary, but perfect. How?]: ...**even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect.**”

***That’s the whole goal!*** Only God can take us, with what we are, and transform us through conversion by His Spirit and His Word to perfect us and ***the final perfection does not come until the resurrection!***

So, the book *Code of Jewish Law* will show you why the Jews never understood. They are going to claim that they’re 100% right, because when they build the temple they’re going to say, ‘Messiah is going to come.’ Well, He already came and talked to them once. Since then, with so many different kinds of Christianity in the world, I’m going to use two analogies.

First of all, and this is true, absolutely true. Why is it that people have the Word of God but don’t understand it? I’m going to give a sermon on that. They’re blinded, because they don’t want to obey, and it’s because they want to improve upon God. That’s what the Jews have done, and what the Catholics have done, and what the Protestants have done. All the other ‘religions’ have had their own way of doing it, to improve upon what they could have learned from God,

The only way you can understand what God wants and what He wants of you, and what he’s going to do with you, for you, to you, and how He’s going to save the world, ***unless you have the Spirit of God there is no way you’re going to understand,*** and here’s why:

1-Corinthians 2:9: ...*‘The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’*”

Now take this last sentence and go backwards. For those who love God, and God loves them:

- they will know in their hearts what to believe
- they will be able to hear and know the Truth
- they will be able to see and recognize righteousness from sin

So, you just take it backward sometimes.

Verse 10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God.”

In the New Testament the three deepest books are Romans, Galatians and Hebrews. In order to understand those, you have to study backwards: Hebrews, Romans, then Galatians. Why is Galatians so hard to understand? We’ve been covering that, we’ll get to it. But here’s what has to happen.

Verse 10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God.” So, God has to do it.

John 6:45: “It is written in the prophets, ‘And **they shall all be taught by God.**’....”

How is that? You haven’t seen God, you haven’t heard God! **Because He has sent His Word!** And as I’ve mentioned recently, with all the modern devices, everyone is going to have it in their hands.

Sidebar: I’m going down to Pasadena this week, and I’m going to stop by Randy’s as I always do. He has ordered a little player that will play a memory stick of four gigs. We can put the whole Bible on that memory stick. You plug it into this machine, it’s got a little screen on it, and you can figure where you’re going to go, and what you’re going to listen to.

Now think about this company that we talked about, **faithcomesbyhearing.com**<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup> and they’re translating it into all the languages that have never had a printed Bible or a printed language. Now, think of that! That’s an amazing thing when you put that together as we’ve covered: ***‘This Gospel is going to be preached in all the world, as a witness to all nations.’*** We’ll just go back 200 years, to the early 1800s Because there were Churches of God. I wonder what they thought when they would read that? Quite an amazing thing!

This tells you how God fulfills things. Because what does it say here, *the eyes not seen the ears heard neither has entered into the heart of man the things of God has prepared for those who love Him.* Or for those who are going to be witnessed to, when there are billions of people. You look at it this way, too: when the Church of God is so little compared to the rest of the world.

1-Corinthians 2:11: “For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man, which *is* in him?....” That’s why we have intelligence. We have thoughts, we can make decisions, we have life and all of this sort of thing.

“...In the same way also, **the things of God no one understands except by the Spirit of God**” (v 11).

What are the words of God? *Spirit and Life!*

So, God’s Spirit has to come and be **with** you to help you start, and **in** you so that you can finish. Same thing with understanding Galatians. Let me use the analogy. Because understanding the difficult Scriptures concerning law in Hebrews, Romans and Galatians, is the definite article in the Greek. Now the definite article in the Greek, I’ll give you an example of what it means:

I’m going to give you **a** car. You want me to give you **a** car? I’m going to give another person **the** car. So, what do I give you? *A little toy!* I gave you **a** car! **The** car is the greatest, finest, most wonderful car in the world, with the best of everything, but you need the right key.

Now likewise, if I say to the other person, I’m going to give you **the** car, and you think it’s like the second one I said, and I hand you a toy, have I cheated you? Have I lied to you? Have I misrepresented? *Yes!*

Same way with Galatians and Romans and Hebrews, concerning **the Law**. Now you can read that in Appendix R and Appendix Z in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*. And those who were supposed to properly translate, ***improperly translated and misrepresented Galatians and Romans.***

What is the one and singular only means of forgiveness of sin? *Jesus Christ!* His perfect sacrifice, His death and His shed blood; Who was the Creator of human beings. Therefore, His death can cover the sins of all human beings, and nothing else can.

Is there any work of law that anyone can do that can even match that? *No!* Therefore you can never be justified by works of law. The sin comes this way in the translation, which has misled the whole Protestant world. You need to be sure and study appendix R and Appendix Z.

The *King James* reads this way... Concerning the Greek, when there is no definite article, if you put one there because it *could* be there, you should put it in *italics* so that the reader will know that you put it there. But in all of the Bibles, it reads this way.

Romans 3:20 (KJV): “Therefore by **the** deeds [works] of **the** law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight...”

So, they say that you don’t have to keep the commandments of God. All you have to do is believe in Jesus. If they just hear the name of Jesus they won’t burn in hell forever. But if they don’t hear the name of Jesus, they are going to burn in hell forever.

It does not read **the** works of **the** law. It is

works *of law*—any work. This is full of works to justify yourself. The Catholic catechisms are full of works to justify yourself. The Protestants have certain things—not like either the Jews or the Catholics—but they think they are justified by Sunday-keeping, and allowance for keeping all of the pagan holidays. That all they have do is believe in Jesus; ‘once saved always saved.’

If that’s the case, why are we told in the book of Hebrews, that if once you have had the Truth of God and you live by it, and then you willfully, willingly continue to sin, you are going to die? No such thing as ‘once saved always saved.’ Those two things have caused the greatest misunderstanding.

Let’s talk about sin for just a minute. When you sin, it begins in the mind. So, the thought becomes the sin. You carry it out, and now you have the actual sin. Isn’t that what Jesus said concerning adultery? concerning murder? *Yes!* Also, concerning thievery, concerning idolatry, concerning the true God; it applies to all the Law. Now then, what has to happen? *Because God gave us our mind, and we have within our mind and on every cell of our body, the law of death, and in our mind the law of sin!*

Sidebar: The law of death is in every gene you have, it’s called a telomere, and every time your cell reproduces the telomeres gets a little smaller, and you get a few more wrinkles. Your body is constantly rebuilding, renewing and changing, and if you have longer telomeres, you’re going to live longer. If you have shorter ones, barring an accident or something like that, you can live shorter. They know this.

Remember years ago I said scientist were trying to find the death gene so they can they can help get rid of the death gene to live forever. Well God has it, that you’ve got to change every single cell in your body, and every single chromosome in your body, in order to get rid of the death gene that’s on every cell, because every cell has the telomere.

That’s why God came and died, and He forgives sin through His sacrifice, but only *past* sins. When you think a thought, and you don’t control and reject it, you keep it there, what happens when you have an evil thought come in your mind? BOOM! You’ve all had that, haven’t you?

Because God has given us choice, we need to choose. If a thought comes along—an evil thought—does that mean you’re unconverted? *No! It means there’s an evil thought in your mind!* How many things are in your mind? Dolores and I were talking about—since were getting older, which we don’t like to say—our childhood. Isn’t it true that when you get older you think about what was when you were younger? She was talking about this poor

little boy in her class who was always picked on by everyone, and wondering how he thought. Wondering where he is.

It’s harder for us today. Because every time you see something on television, or hear an evil thought... Do you suppose David had troubles with his mind out tending the sheep in the pasture? *Of course not!* But he was watching out for the lion and he was watching out for the bear, and knew how to take care of them. Just think about how much garbage gets in our mind today. So, we have a greater burden. Now then, here’s how the thoughts come:

James 1:13: “Do not let anyone who is tempted say, ‘I am being tempted by God’... [it’s God’s fault; no it’s not God’s fault] ...because God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one *with evil.*”

What does God do? *He sets before us life-and-death, good and evil, and He says to choose!* So, a thought comes along. What are you going to do? Say that’s an interesting thought and start thinking on it?

Verse 14: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and is enticed by his own lust.” The mind is full of lust.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins... [Why? *Because you have the law of sin and death in you!*] ...in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air...**” (vs 1-2).

Satan is there to throw these fiery darts at us (Eph. 6), and you’ve got a lot of helpers today. Just driving up here for church, here comes a guy and he’s got his low set pickup. We are halfway country and halfway town, and he comes with his pickup. And he’s got his radio going, and everyone within 200-feet can hear it. Boom! Boom! Boom! And the words going into his mind and he’s sitting there driving along, and he’s fully captured! I wonder what would happen if he stopped, and you could get him to think long enough to say: What do you think God thinks of this? He’d probably say, ‘It’s cool, man!’ Or, whatever! So, here’s how the human mind works: ***Satan is there to inspire it!***

“...prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience”(v 2). Everyone who breaks the laws of God, they’re living in sin:

- sin in thoughts
- sin in heart
- sin in mind
- sin in attitude

It’s combined with good and evil, so there’s enough good in there, that it looks really good. Christmas is wonderful, because we get presents for the kiddies. Forget about the fact that you lied to them. Forget about the fact that God says, ‘Don’t do it.’

‘But we are doing good! We’re so good that every Christmas we get 500 turkeys for this church. We cooked the biggest meal in town, and we feed the homeless.’ You look at the lines of the people, and they’re pretty well-dressed. They came for a free meal, *because they have the law of sin and death in them!* ‘Well why not, I’ll get a free meal. I don’t have to cook today!’

This is how human beings are. Are human beings, even though they’re sinful by nature, capable of doing good things? *Yes!* But does that mean they’re Christian? *No!* I remember one time, after going through all the stuff we were going through in the Church, I went by that Buddhist Temple up there in Watsonville. I thought I’d just stop by and look in it. Here came this Japanese man, he was really nice, he was friendly, he was kind, and he was really good to me.

I thought that back were I’m attending, the Church of God that is supposed to be the home of love and Truth, I’m hated, I’m despised, I’m denounced. I thought, here look, he’s better to me than some of the people sitting in the congregation. They don’t want Truth. He doesn’t know, but he knows how to be good.

Sidebar on the Japanese:

1. they don’t allow any Muslims into their country; they’re smart
2. when children go to school, the first three years are spent in teaching courtesy, obedience, deference, telling the truth, as much as possible

What do we do with our children? *From the time that they’re able to look at a screen, they have cartoons flooding into their mind with all sorts of evil and things, humorously!* Remember the #1 thing: ***Satan always introduces sin with humor!***

Verse 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the children of wrath*, even as the rest of *the world.*” But then God intervened in v 4, and He calls us.

James 1:14: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and is enticed by his own lust.” That’s where you stop the thought, right there. ***Expel it! Ask God to help get rid of it!***

Verse 15: “And after lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin...”

Go watch [Forensic Files](#). How do all of those crimes, most of them ending in murder and death, begin? Right here in the mind:

- by lust
- by disobedience
- by choice
- by deliberation

Even though you may be motivated by emotions to do it.

“...gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death” (v 15).

Dolores and I’ve talked about this, too. It’s almost impossible to get away with any crime today, because they have got it down to a science of things that are true. Same way with DNA. Everybody has DNA. So, remember this: with DNA, you can never get away with it, and you can never get away from God, because *He gave you the DNA*, and that all came from Adam, all the way down the line. So, here you are.

It’s quite a fantastic thing to be able to see your own children born. The first thing you do is look at them. Oh, they’re all here (fingers). 1,2,3,4,5 yea they’re here. And you know they’re here, because the first thing they need to do is cry. Why? *Because they have never used their lungs and they’ve got to pump them up and get them going!* Sweet wonderful and nice. Wouldn’t it be good if everyone would be as innocent as that? That would really be something. God wants us to be loving and kind and innocent toward evil, But on guard, fighting against evil, overcoming sin.

“...and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death. Do not deceive yourselves, my beloved brethren” (vs 15-16).

We’re all self-deceptive. ***Only the sacrifice of sacrifice of Christ can forgive sin!*** Nothing, ***nothing, nothing***—anywhere, any act, any thought anything else—can forgive sin. Now for people in the world, if they come up and say ‘forgive me,’ *forgive*, that’s fine. But were talking about *forgiveness of sin in heaven above before the throne of God!* If I offend Jonathan I can go to him and say ‘I’m sorry.’ He says, ‘Well, that’s fine. Let’s pass it on and forgive it. The masters of that our politicians—aren’t they? *But that has nothing to do with forgiveness before God in heaven above!* You can be a decent person in the world, but that doesn’t mean that you’re a Christian waiting for eternal life. That means you’re a decent person in the world, and there a lot of them. Just think what the world would be like if they were all, fighting, hatred of Muslims. WOW! What a thing that would be!

Gal. 3 is one of the most difficult chapters in the whole Bible, especially if you have been in the

Church, and you have been keeping the commandments of God. You have a *King James Version* of the Bible, and you are told that you need to keep the laws of God, and you read that only ‘the doers of the Law shall be justified’ (Rom. 2:13). But they don’t understand that, because that means first you repent, then in repentance you start keeping the laws and commandments of God, and then you repent so you can be baptized. *That’s when they’re all forgotten!*

The first time you Gal. 2 this after you been in the Church of God, it makes your head swim.

Galatians 2:11: “But when Peter came...” Peter was the leading apostle, he and John worked as a pair.

Verse 11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned; for, before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles. However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the* circumcision party.... [political; should be no politics] ...And the rest of *the* Jews joined him in *this* hypocritical act... (vs 11-13)—because of separating for eating.

How do you think it would go over if I said, ‘All right, this Feast of Tabernacles all the women eat over here, and all the men eat over there, and all the Gentiles eat in the back, because that’s pleasing to God. God accepts us because we do that.’ *That’s a lie!*

So likewise here; Peter knew better, really knew better because of the incident with Cornelius (Acts 10), *should call no man common or unclean*. He did the great sin that the elders in Jerusalem could hardly believe that he even had the Gentiles baptized and stayed with them many days, probably three or four or five days in Cornelius’s house. Just think how contaminated he was when he came to Jerusalem. Yes, he had to run down and jump into the Pool of Siloam to get cleaned up. *Nonsense!* Do you understand it up to this point?

“...insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles, and not according to Judaism...’” (vs 13-14). ‘That is the word, and there is the law, and separate from them.

Did you know that they even have a prayer, if you see a giant, you say one prayer; if you see a midget you say another prayer; you see an elephant, you say another prayer. I don’t know what they say about seeing a mouse or rat, but they have prayers for everything. They even have: What do you do

when you miss praying? How do you make up for that?

“...why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize? We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—“ (vs 14-15).

I’m going to read v 16 to you the way the *King James* version has it: “Knowing that a man is not justified by **the** works of **the** law...” Those two definite articles **are not in the Greek**. It should be: **By works of law!**

It doesn’t say anything about the commandments of God. These are works of law. This was a Jewish work of law and it says Judaize right there. And that’s the whole problem with the book of Galatians. Someone who doesn’t know anything, and starts reading Gal. 3 and works of law, and you heard that you should keep the Sabbath and maybe were partly convinced that you ought to. Then you run into a Protestant who puts under your nose Gal. 3, *by works of law no flesh shall be justified*.

Do you know what justified means? *Justified means have your sins forgiven through Christ!* Nothing can replace that. If you keep the commandments of God, you’re not seeking to be justified by your commandment-keeping. **You’re seeking to live the way that God says to go, by obeying His voice!** But here you are a ‘newbie,’ and you don’t know the difference. And you read this:

Verse 16 (FV): “Knowing that a man is not justified **by works of law**, but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...”

*Oh yes, I believe in Jesus.* ‘Do you believe in Jesus? Yes, well you don’t have to keep the commandments because you believe in Jesus.’

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...” (v 16).

That’s interesting, because it’s *Christ faith*. Did Christ have to have faith to come and live and die? *Yes!* Remember, you find this in three places. You find in *the Scripture of Truth is written in heaven* (Dan. 10:21). You find *it’s written of me in the Scroll of the Book* (Psa. 40). Where? *In heaven! It’s written of Me in the Scroll of the Book* (Heb. 10).

So, God the Father and Jesus Christ had this all planned, because when was Christ, destined to die? *From the foundation of the world!* So, the agreement was written down. Isn’t that going to be something? We’re resurrected from the dead. We’re going to be able to see the Scroll of Truth written in heaven above. Guess what that’s going to be like. *All of human history laid out ahead of time!* That’s going to be amazing!

“...but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ, we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...” (v 16).

Who gave Himself for the sins of the world, willingly voluntarily, laid Himself down to die. And the agreement was, that God would resurrect Him after three days and three nights. That was the agreement, because ***nothing, no other law***, could forgive sin. And not by ***the*** works of ***the*** law (KJV).

“...and not by works of law; because by works of law shall no flesh be justified” (v 16).

Why? ***Because nothing substitutes for the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ!*** Now, after you are baptized, do you still sin? Where did we start? What is the goal? Remember where we started? ***Be perfect*** (Matt. 5:48)!

Now then, we’ll find out that ***being perfected is a process!***

(go to the next track)

Part of the difficulty that those who are converted go through is—and we answered part of it about evil thoughts that come in—that there are a lot of thoughts registered in your mind that have not yet been purged from your mind or overwritten with the Word of God over where the evil used to be. So remember perfection is the end result, the process is what we’re talking about now.

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses... [all the Word of God] ...let us lay aside every weight... [we have to choose this] ...and the sin that so easily entraps *us*... [What do you do when you sin?] ...*and* let us run the race set before us with endurance... [showing the process] ...having *our minds* fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith... [we are justified by the faith of Christ] ...Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds. You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin” (vs 1-4).

This is why in the model prayer we are to ask God to forgive us our sins daily. There are times it may be in your mind many times daily, because of just what’s going on in your life and around you. Once we’ve been baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God we have the Spirit of God.

You need all three of our in-depth sermon series on grace:

- *Grace of God in the Bible*
- *Commandment-Keeping and the Grace of God*

- *Grace Upon Grace*

Grace upon grace—I’ll just summarize—the direct relationship that each Christian has with God the Father. That’s what’s important to remember. Jesus said, *‘I tell you don’t pray to Me; pray directly to the Father because He loves you, but you pray in My name’* (John 16:26-27)

Remember what I said was the most important verse in John 14, that we received the Spirit from the Father and the Son. Jesus said, ‘We will make Our abode or dwelling place with that person.’ That’s the most important thing! That’s part of grace upon grace.

1-John 1:3: “That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—*is* with the Father and with His own Son Jesus Christ.”

That is only through the grace of God and grace upon grace. In order to maintain that relationship with God is where prayer and study comes in every single day. Another great thing to remember is that *Spiritual things are not retained in the physical mind, they must be renewed!*

That’s why we have the Sabbath every seven days. Every seventh day we have a Sabbath. Our minds are made to learn and to develop and to grow constantly through our whole lives, but we need to have that fellowship with God all the time. Now then, he gives a warning. This was probably written either sometime just before the destruction of the temple or sometime just after the destruction of the temple.

Verse 4: “These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full. And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is Light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. ***If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness...***” (vs 4-6)—living a life of sin.

Who is the author of darkness? *Satan the devil!* What did Jesus say of the eye? *The eye is the light of the body!* And if the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness? ***We’re walking in darkness and that is living in sin!***

“...we are lying to ourselves...” (v 6)—self-deception. Remember this: *No one can cause you to lose salvation!* You *choose* to lose it by your own self-deception and rebellion against God. Remember it comes a little at a time. When Satan comes along and says, ‘Look at this benefit and look at that benefit, and just think how it will work out. Now last time we covered about the prodigal son. Every person has to come to him or herself and come to God.

“...we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth.... [Your Word is the Truth] ...However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin” (vs 6-7).

That is on a continuous basis every day, because sin is always *past* sin. There’s no way God is going to forgive anything that hasn’t happened. If you have a bottle of cold water, which I just took a swig of and it tasted very good, that’s now. The water that I just drank is already in my stomach, that’s a past action. Likewise when something comes along that’s sin. It takes place, the thought occurs, you cut it off through prayer, whatever the situation may be.

Maybe there are some sins like fornication, what does it say? *Flee fornication!* You have to do like Joseph, only don’t leave your coat there. Comment was made, that’s like the pope and the Crusades. The pope would bless all the troops and tell them, every Muslim you kill is a blessing from God. You’re authorized to do this and no sin. I remember, and I’m sure Delores remembers it, the movie *Elizabeth*. The pope was instructing the assassin to kill Queen Elizabeth. He said, ‘God is going to bless this assassination.’ Well, he got caught and got blessed with the sword.

Verse 7: “However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin” If we say that we do not have sin... [‘we’re good people we don’t sin’] ...we are deceiving ourselves...” (vs 7-8)—lying to yourself and deceiving yourself. So, if you believe your own lies you’re in trouble!

“...and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our own sins...” (vs 8-9). Notice that John is including himself. How long was he converted? If he was converted in 30<sub>A.D.</sub> and this was written in 70<sub>A.D.</sub> that’s 40 years. What if he wrote this in 90<sub>A.D.</sub> that 60 years.

Verse 9: “If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins... [there you have it] ...and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

This is what we need to understand about conversion. Conversion is that we have the war against sin in our minds in the world in our actions, and everything about our lives we have to sort out the right and wrong, the good and evil and the sin and the things that comes upon us and *the sin that so easily beset us*.

Verse 10: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar... [you’re not going to

make God a liar] ...and His Word is not in us.”

1-John 2:1: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin....”—*if* you’re loving God, keeping His commandments and rebuking these thoughts as they come in your mind, and repenting of your sins as you do them, you have to repent to God.

“...And *yet*, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous” (v 1)—to forgive us.

Does Jesus know *how evil* evil is? *Of course!* That’s why He came. Because no man can comprehend *how evil* evil is and the destructiveness that it does. If you expand that out on a spiritual basis and what Satan the devil has done, I mean, we don’t even understand the slightest thing about evil really. But Jesus does!

Verse 2: “And He is *the* propitiation for our sins...” Propitiation is the *continual source of mercy and forgiveness* upon repentance.

A comment was made about the people who believe ‘once saved always saved.’ I actually had a man e-mail me and tell me that *he doesn’t sin any longer*. So, I wrote him quite a few things back and told him, ‘Yes, you do sin, we all sin.’ I quoted all these things. ‘No, I do not sin’—*perfect deception!*

‘Once saved always saved, I do not sin.’ That’s another of one of the worst translations in the *King James* in 1-John 3. I won’t take time to go through that here. But the *King James Version* of the Bible and the *New King James Version* of the Bible, and the other translations, when you get down to these critical places like what were covering here, they mislead people away from the Truth, and that’s why there’s the deception that goes on.

I did get a real nice e-mail from a man in the UK. He says, ‘I can see in the Bible that there is no room for Sunday-keeping. I’ve studied Hebrew, Greek, Sanskrit and a couple of other languages going to college, and I go to these churches and no one really knows the Truth.’

That ties in with another e-mail that I got. A person said, ‘I heard about the Bible, *The Faithful Version*, so I checked it online. And I saw, lo and behold, you corrected this Scripture, that Scripture and the other Scripture. I’ve got to have it right now!’

The deceitfulness of sin is that you convince yourself that you’re not sinning:

- it’s okay to kill, I’ll give you permission
- it’s okay to have a thousand wives
- it’s okay to rob people
- I have no sin

Yes, that’s *self-justification!* Yes, be your own god. Have you heard the saying, ‘forgive yourself?’ No, you let God forgive you! You have to cleanse your mind from it, but you can’t forgive yourself.

What if you held up held up a bank. You got the money you went out and you spend it. The police finally track you down, haul you before the judge and he’s going to sentence you. ‘Hey, judge, you can’t sentence me.’ *What are you talking about?* ‘I’ve forgiven myself.’ How do you think that would go over? *Bailiff, get this man out of here! Add another five years to your sentence!*

They can’t forget the sin afterwards. Well, you have to keep blotting it out of your mind. When God forgives you, removes it from Him as far as the East is from the West, that doesn’t mean you won’t have remembrance of it. Why does God allow that? ***That is to teach you to really draw close to God and understand how sinful sin is!*** God doesn’t reach down and remove from us the carnal mind and deceitfulness. It says here, ‘We deceive ourselves.’ Can Christians deceive themselves? *Yes, if they give into sin!*

You want to know what happened to a lot of those people that left the Church when ‘the ship hit the sand’?

- because they believed a lie
- because they never really proved these things themselves
- because the ministry was lazy, weren’t taught and didn’t have a hunger and thirst for God’s Word to teach the people of God so they would be faithful

***That’s why!*** I mean, if you don’t understand there’s a warfare going on out there, *you better understand* that there is.

Now you understand why only the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood can bring you justification, because only His blood can be an atonement for your sin. ***Nothing else can!*** And you have to keep the commandments of God because that’s what God requires of everybody. Salvation is in addition to that.

Galatians 3:10: “For as many as are *relying* on works of law...” I’m not going to eat with those Gentiles, because I want to be right with God.

“...are under a curse...” [Why? *Because they’ve sinned!* Read Deut. 28.] ...because it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things that have been written in the Book of the Law to do them” (v 10).

They are cursed because they’ve sinned. Now then, are people cursed who do not continue in all things written in the New Testament and the

spiritual application of the laws of God? *Yes!*

Verse 11: “Therefore, *it is* evident that **no one** is being justified before God by *means of works of law...*”

I’ll give you another example: I’ve used this one before but I’ll use it again it bears repeating. What if God said, ‘You can receive eternal life if you keep a thousand Sabbaths. You have to do the whole thing.’ What if someone comes along and says, ‘Lord, how about 500?’ *No!* ‘How about 750?’ *Nope!* ‘How about 900?’ *You’re getting close.* ‘How about 999?’ *Nope, the law is the law!* So, you die after keeping 998. ***That’s seeking to be justified by law!***

“...because *it is written*, ‘The just shall live by faith” (v 11).

- you believe God the Father
- you believe Jesus Christ
- you believe His Word
- you believe it is the Truth
- you prove that it is
- you live by that faith

Verse 12: “Now then, the Law is not based on faith... [it’s just right/wrong and good/evil] ...but, ‘The man who practices these things shall live in them.’... [yes, we’re to live in it] ...Christ has redeemed us from **the curse** of the Law...” (vs 12-13). He hasn’t redeemed us *from* the Law, *but the curse* of the Law, which is sin.

“...having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree’) in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, *and* that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren (I am speaking from a human perspective), even when a man’s covenant has been ratified, no one nullifies *it*, or adds a codicil to it” (vs 13-15).

Now the *King James* says, *no one adds to it*. Then down there in v 19 it says, *it was added*. So, that’s another bad translation.

In v 15 the Greek means to set alongside. That means you don’t add to it.

- you don’t put an injunction on it
- you can’t take away from it
- you don’t add to it

*This is covenant law!*

Verse 16: “Now, to Abraham and to his Seed were the promises spoken. He does not say, ‘and to *your* seeds,’ as of many; but as of one, ‘and to your Seed,’ which is Christ. Now this I say, **that the covenant ratified beforehand by God to Christ...**” (vs 16-17). Isn’t that interesting? *That has*

*to be written in the Scripture of Truth in heaven!*

“...cannot be annulled by the Law, which was *given* four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make the promise of no effect” (v 17).

Remember that there were two promises given to Abraham: *physical* seed and *spiritual* seed. The physical seed He has fulfilled and still fulfilling. The spiritual seed was not brought about until the death of Christ.

“...cannot be annulled by the Law, which was *given* four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance *is* by law... [of eternal life] ...*it is* no longer by promise....” (vs 17-18)—if you try and do it by law. *But it’s by promise!* You have to believe the promise because God *is* God and He cannot lie.

“...But God granted *it* to Abraham by promise. Why then the Law?...” (vs 18-19). Now the Greek word here is totally different it is ‘prosethe,’ which means *placed beside* or *alongside*, because you can’t add to it.

“...It was placed alongside *the promises* for the purpose of *defining* transgressions...” (v 19). It has nothing to do with animal sacrifices. That was the temple service until Christ came.

“...until the Seed should come to whom *the* promise was made, having been ordained through angels in the hand of a mediator” (v 19).

Here we have the promise to Abraham: physical seed then the Law given to Israel. That was placed alongside the promise of spiritual seed. The law was also *placed alongside the promise of physical seed. You can’t change it!*

When you get about our age you have to have your last will and testimony. Who is going to be in it? How much are they going to get? *or* How much will they owe! Maybe you didn’t leave anything valuable, but you left a lot of debt! Last will and testimony can be changed at any point from the time it’s written until the death of the individual, the one who wrote it, and he’s the testator; he can change it.

You go along and say you have ten kids and two of them are really rascals, but you promised to give to them in your testimony; however, you can change it. You promised to give them an equal share, but they were so bad that you called up your attorney and said rewrite that section and take them out. I’m not giving them a dime. You can change a testimony. I’ve seen this happen. When that happens then all the ten kids get together and then the two that didn’t have anything sue the eight that received everything, and the attorneys come in and munch nearly all of it up in the lawsuits back and forth.

Now then, a covenant is different. A *covenant cannot be modified!* Once a covenant is made, *it cannot be changed!* It is not enforced until the covenant maker signifies by sacrifice and shed blood that he will fulfill the covenant. There must be a sacrifice given.

When we come to the New Covenant we have the sacrifice of Christ. That’s on God’s behalf. That’s one part of it. A covenant between two parties then the second party must also give evidence of his death, because a covenant is a death pledge. That’s why when you read Gen. 15 about the animals that Abraham sacrificed, and God walked between the parts of them, that was God’s pledge that he would die. He did die! So, the second party also has to have a death pledge.

Abraham *believed* God, and that was counted to righteousness and he accepted God’s part and death pledge (Gen. 15). Abraham’s part to sanctify that to solidify it, to finalize it, was the offering of his son Isaac, his only son of promise (Gen. 22). So important was that, that when God intervened to stop him from sacrificing Isaac, He provided a substitutionary sacrifice through the ram. But then God did something very extraordinary.

- How many times does God say I call heaven and earth against you?
- How many times did Jesus say ‘heaven and earth will pass away but My Words shall never pass away’?
- Who created the heavens and the earth?  
*God did!*

Abraham did offer up his son and was going to slit his throat, because *he believed* that God would raise Isaac from the dead (Heb. 11). ‘If God says so, my only son—and I’m going to have a whole lineage of people from him—if God says do it, *do it!*’ But He’ll bring him back to life. Because of that, what did God do?

How sure then is eternal life for those who come to Christ the way that Christ wants it to be—according to God’s terms and conditions—God swore to Abraham by Himself? He said, ‘I swear by Myself,’ *by His existence!* Is that greater than the heavens and the earth? *Yes indeed, because He made it!* He swore by His own existence. That’s why it’s so important to understand that *nothing*, that *no work* of any law out here, is going to persuade God to do what He promised to do. His promises are sure, but we have to do it *God’s way*. That’s what all of this is about. That’s a fantastic thing!

We’ll get a little encouragement as we go along here; Hebrews 6:10: “For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work, and the labor of love by which you have showed *honor* to His name,

*in that* you have served the saints and are *continuing* to serve *them*. But we earnestly desire that every one of you be demonstrating the same diligence, unto the full assurance of the hope until *the end*” (vs 10-11). We have to have endurance unto the end (Heb. 12)

Verse 12: “So that you do not become lazy... [that’s the biggest problem today] ...but *that you be* imitators of those who through faith and steadfast endurance inherit the promises. For God, after promising Abraham, swore by Himself... [His very existence] ...since He could swear by none greater, saying, ‘Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you’” (vs 12-14).

And the spiritual seed is going to be greater than that, greater than anything. When you add in the second resurrection, when you add in the Millennium. Think of what it’s going to be. Think what a great promise that it is that we have been called to the first resurrection, that we are the firstfruits. Now keep this in mind as we come down toward the Passover time.

Verse 15: “Now, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For indeed, men swear by the greater, and confirmation by an oath *puts* an end to all disputes between them. In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly...” (vs 15-17).

How much greater thing could there be? God applies that to each one of us individually. That’s what the fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ is all about. That’s what *grace upon grace* is all about.

“...desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath” (v 17).

Think of that! How many the Protestants say He changed the Law? Well, in a sense He did; **He made a more binding!** Now:

- instead of the letter, *it’s in the spirit*
- instead of the action, *it’s the thought*
- instead of the deed, *it’s the intent*

**That’s a higher standard**—isn’t it? *Yes indeed!*

Verse 18: “So that by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has been* set before *us*; which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and steadfast, and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil” (vs 18-19).

Think of that! **Direct access to God the Father 24/7!**

Verse 20: “Where Jesus has entered for us as a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec.”

- the inheritance is *the inheritance of eternal life*
- the inheritance is *the inheritance of the universe*

Living here with all rain we’ve had recently where roads are washed out and things are flooded up, but it ended the drought so I guess we can live with that. We’re thankful for that. But think of this: God Who cannot lie, impossible to lie, has promised that ***if you are faithful to the end that:***

- He’ll forgive all your sins along the way through Jesus Christ
- He will help you overcome every difficulty *Even if you go through the difficulty, it’s going to be for your own good in the long run.*
- you are going to live forever in an existence that is almost impossible for us to comprehend

*We talked about the inheritance!*

Galatians 3:20: “Now then, a mediator does not *act on behalf* of one; but God is one.... [read the footnote on that] ...*Is* the Law then contrary... [‘ha nomos’] **the Law** ...the promises of God? MAY IT NEVER BE!....” (vs 20-21)—the Greek there is ‘me ginoito’—***don’t even let the thought come into your mind*** that they are against the promises of God. Because if you say God has done away with His Law you call God *lawless*. Whose inspiration does that come from? *The lawless one, Satan the devil!*

“...For if a law had been given that had the power to give life, *then* righteousness would indeed have been by law” (v 21).

That righteousness means ***forgiveness, justification, the righteousness of God***, and so forth. It’s based on love; it’s based on hope. That’s why in Gal. 5 he has all the fruits of the Spirit.

Verse 22: “But the Scriptures have shut up all things under sin...” That’s what it says in Rom. 3; the whole world under law and under sin, so much so that we have the law of sin and death within us.

“...So that by *the* faith of Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe” (v 22)—and that’s *us*.

- we believe God
  - we believe His Word
  - we believe His Truth
- based upon His existence—
- not just the words we read and hear and see
  - not just by the things we can look and see
- greater than the heavens and earth combined.

Verse 23: “Now, before faith came we were guarded under law...”

So, the Law is good; it keeps you from

sinning even in the letter of the Law. Let’s just use an example here. Just think how easy that this situation with President Trump and the temporary ban of refugees and immigrants from certain countries would have been solved *if* the judges beginning with the one in Seattle would have read the statute. Then likewise the Ninth District Court over here in San Francisco—*the court of Satan the devil!! Lawless!!* They didn’t even read it.

Law is good, but law cannot give eternal life. Law defines what your behavior must be. And our mind, remember, the day we’re born the only thing we know is how to nurse. That’s it! *Nothing! Nothing!* And everything that goes into the mind constitutes what we are as an individual. All the way through our lives.

“...having been shut up unto the faith that was yet to be revealed” (v 23).

This is a fantastic thing. Goes back to how important was the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost at the temple in Jerusalem. And it had to be there at the temple. It couldn’t be any place else on earth, because that’s where God put His name. And it was His Spirit coming Him to those people who were there, as a demonstration of a change that brings you higher than law, *brings you to the spiritual application of the law.*

Verse 24: “In this way, the Law was our tutor to lead us to Christ...”

And it says in the *King James* ‘schoolmaster,’ and people look at that, ‘*Oh, schoolmaster!*’ That’s evil! That’s a curse! **No! A tutor.** A tutor is to train you. First thing you learned was ABC’s. We’ve covered that, and you even know the song. We use the same alphabet today.

“...was our tutor to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (vs 24-25).

Who are we under? *God the Father and Jesus Christ directly!* Not just the Law written down, because you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. *Now that’s something!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:48
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
- 3) John 6:45
- 4) 1 Corinthians 2:11
- 5) Romans 3:20
- 6) James 1:13-14
- 7) Ephesians 2:1-3

- 8) James 1:14-16
- 9) Galatians 2:11-16
- 10) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 11) 1 John 1:3-10
- 12) 1 John 2:1-2
- 13) Galatians 3:10-19
- 14) Hebrews 6:10-20
- 15) Galatians 3:20-25

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ephesians 6; 2:4
- Romans 2:13
- Acts 10
- Daniel 10:21
- Psalm 40
- Hebrews 10
- Matthew 5:48
- John 16:26-27; 14
- 1 John 3
- Deuteronomy 28
- Genesis 15; 22
- Hebrews 11
- Galatians 5

#### Also referenced:

Book: *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin

From: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

- Appendix R: What is Meant by “the Works of the Law”?
- Appendix Z: Understanding Paul’s Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God

#### Sermon Series:

- *Grace of God in the Bible,*
- *Commandment-Keeping and the Grace of God*
- *Grace Upon Grace*

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## False Prophecies, Works of Law and Justification V

Only those who are *called of God* are “under grace”; the world cannot be

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. One of the most difficult things to understand is why are Christians required to keep the commandments of God—as we find especially all the way through the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Epistle of John, but all the way through the Bible.

Whereas Protestantism says once you accept Jesus, you’re released from the Law. Even some say that God’s love is so unconditional that it doesn’t matter what your behavior is you will be saved.

How does all of that confusion come about? It comes about because of a misunderstanding of a fundamental principle, which even the Churches of God have not fully understood, though it’s been in the Bible in plain sight.

What we want to do today is to continue through our short series that we’re going through in Galatians about justification. Let’s review one of the most important things we need to understand, which is in Rom. 6.

Here is where the Churches of God don’t make it over the finish-line in understanding, both of the things that are here. The Protestants don’t understand it whatsoever. The Protestants have a false, costless, disobedient rebellious salvation. They say you can’t do it by your own works—that is true. But they turn around and do it by their own works:

- Sunday-keeping
- holiday keeping
- simple confession of your sins
- and everything is set for you to go to heaven

That is *absolutely false*, because they don’t understand this. We’re going to review a few things before we get back into Galatians so that we can understand it even more.

Romans 6:14: “For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Let’s analyze this verse a little bit more. Sin to rule over you means *to lord it over you*, which is to the extent that it’s impossible to get out from underneath the burden of sin, because every one of us have the ‘law of sin and death’ within us. It takes the Spirit of God to help us have the strength and power so that sin will not rule over us. But ‘under grace.’ What does ‘under grace’ mean? Let’s carry it out step-by-step. We’ve covered this during Unleavened Bread. ***For by grace are you saved, and this is not of your own self. It is the gift of God!*** If it’s the gift of God

- you can’t buy it
- you can’t purchase it
- you can’t work it

*Not our own works*, but ‘we are the workmanship of God so that we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto the good works that God ordained that we should walk in.’ What does that mean?

What we are covering is something that is very difficult to understand until you understand key verses. This is why we are to constantly study and pray, and so forth.

Let’s answer the question: who is ‘under law,’ because the Protestants say if you attempt to keep the commandments of God, you are ‘under law,’ and you are trying to justify yourself to God through your own works. How can that be?

Romans 7:1: “Are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law) that **the Law**... [the entire Law of God] ...rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?”

Romans 6:14: “For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law...”

*compare that with*

Romans 7:1: “...**the Law** rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?” That’s *all* men and women, everywhere at all times. We will see that is true.

- What does it mean to be ‘under grace’? It cannot mean you are free to disobey the commandments of God.
- How can you have your sins forgiven, which are the transgressions of the Law, and come ‘under grace’, so you can transgress the Law? *That doesn’t make any sense at all!*
- How can you have your sins forgiven by grace, so that if you’re ‘under grace’ you don’t have to keep the commandments of God and sin is the transgression of the commandments of God?

Do you see the circular, crazy thinking of the Protestants? But you know, they believe lies.

Rom. 3 talks about the deep-seated sin within men. There is no man who can be righteous before God in what he does, because sin, through **the Law**, ‘rules over a man or woman as long as they may live, and the wages of sin is death.’

- How do you reconcile that with people in the world who are good upstanding people?
  - ✓ they may be nice and generous
  - ✓ they may be helpful to other people
  - ✓ they may be a good husband, a good wife, good father, good mother, take care of their children
- Aren't they supposed to do that?
- Isn't that what God requires? *Yes!*
- What have they done that is so extraordinary that they are not under sin?

*Let's look at it again:*

- they profess Jesus
- they go to church on Sunday
- they take communion or mass
- they keep the holidays of this world
- they break the Sabbath and Holy Days
- whatever else of the laws of God they breaks

These people are still *under the Law*. **All human beings are under the Law to God!** God expects people in the world to be obedient to His laws in the letter of the Law, so that there will be a decent society. That has nothing, *nothing, nothing* to do with conversion or a calling to eternal life! That just means they follow certain of the Laws of God. Others of the Laws of God they reject, but they are not converted, just because they may be nice people.

- Do they lie?
- Do they steal?
- Do they commit adultery?

Some of them do. When they do and get caught, it's a shock. 'Oh, well, they were such a nice family.'

Romans 3:19: "Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law... [read this carefully. All are 'under law'; the law rules over them as long a time as they may live] ... so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

- How do you come out from underneath the Law that rules over you, and yet, keep the commandments of God?
- Do any of these people in the world know that the Law is ruling over them? *No, they don't!*

First, they have to answer the call of God. Next they have to repent. Repentance means turning from your way to God's way. What does that involve?

Romans 2:11: "Because there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law..."—without even the knowledge of God. They're going to live, they're going to die, whatever their lives are: good, bad indifferent, whatever it is.

"...and as many as have sinned within *the Law* shall be judged by *the Law*" (vs 11-12). **"The Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live."**

Here's the key, v 13: "Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified."

- What does *just* and *justification* mean? *That means to be in right standing with God!*
- How is that accomplished?
- Through what *you* do?

*or*

- What *God* has done?
- Through *your* works?

*or*

- The *sacrifice of Jesus Christ*?
- Through animal sacrifices?
- Other religious works?
- Can that reconcile you or put you in *just* standing with God? *No!*
- *It has to be through the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ!*

And then followed up with after you repent. Repentance shows that you understand transgression is breaking the laws and commandments of God, so you stop that in the letter. Then you repent and you are baptized.

The whole operation of God through repentance and baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit of God comes from God *only to those who repent*. The only work we have to do at this point is to *repent and start keeping the Laws of God, so that we can be justified through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by baptism!*

Verse 13: "Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified."

- How come these people are not 'under law'?
- What is their standing with God?
- What does it mean to be 'under grace'?

The Protestants never go far enough to understand what that truly means.

"...but **the doers of the Law shall be justified**" (v 13). Let's analyze this again. You hear the Law and you start doing it. You know God says that you're sinning and you don't want to sin, so you repent. What happens?

Verse 14: "For when *the Gentiles*, which do not have *the Law*, practice by nature the things contained in the Law, these who do not have *the Law* are a law unto themselves."

In other words, the Law of God, if you keep it in the letter or if you transgress it, is still the Law of God. If you keep it, whether you even know about the Bible or God, that brings a blessing because blessings and cursings come automatically to anyone who will do it. But that doesn't mean they are justified before God.

Verse 15: "Who show the work of the Law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also as they accuse or defend one another." Then it shows these people will be in the second resurrection, when you understand the rest of it.

Let's see what else this tells us, and understand a very profound important thing. ***No sacrifice or work by men can forgive sin before God in heaven! It only comes through the mercy and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ and His shed blood!*** Can't come any other way. That's important for us to really understand and grasp.

Because the whole world is guilty before God... Romans 3:20: "Therefore, by **works of law**..."—'ergon nomu'—that includes: sacrifices, teachings of men, everything that you would do yourself.

Verse 19: "Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him..." (vs 19-20). Justification means *put in right standing with God*.

"...for through *the Law is the knowledge of sin*. But now, *the righteousness of God*... [the righteousness of God to bring justification to those who repent] ...*that is separate from law has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; even the righteousness of God that is through the faith of Jesus Christ, toward all and upon all those who believe; for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; but are being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*" (vs 20-24).

It has to come through Jesus Christ, no other way. It can't come by Sunday-keeping. It even cannot come by Sabbath-keeping. Forgiveness of sin is an act of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Therefore, unless we believe in God the Father and Jesus Christ, and accept His sacrifice as payment for our sins, and His shed blood as the perfection of that sacrifice, and then we are to come and walk in newness of life after that, this puts us in right standing with God through His grace.

Now then, what has to happen in order for this to be applied? *We have to repent and be baptized to receive the Holy Spirit of God!* You are not fully 'under grace' until you have repented and been baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God united with the spirit of your mind. That's what's so important to understand.

Let's see something here. I've covered this before, but we'll cover it again because this is essential to understand what it means to be *under law*, and what it means to be *under grace*? Paul answers the question. Since you are 'under grace,' do you have license to do anything you want? Paul answers the questions:

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound?" Continue living the way we have been living, breaking the commandments of God, because we're under grace? Or that grace may abound even more?

Paul says, v 2: "MAY IT NEVER BE!..." Meaning *don't even let this thought come into your mind*. How is it that the Protestants do exactly what God says not to do? Because it goes right back to:

Romans 2:13: "Because the hearers of the Law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified." If you're doing the Law, you are not sinning. Then comes repentance; then comes baptism.

If you come to a point you know that you need to quit sinning, but you don't repent and you're not baptized—which is the state of most Protestants—they're not 'under grace.' They are still 'under law.' Grace is a special covenant relationship with God, *special*.

- How important is God to you in your life?
- How important are you to God?

You need to understand all of this. I'll just give you a little hint on it. How do we come to God? *He sends the information and we are convicted!* He begins to draw us (John 6:44)—*because no one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him!*

To be *under grace* is a special relationship with God that the world cannot have. Why? *Because they are not in covenant with God! You have to be obedient and in covenant with God!*

Romans 6:2: "MAY IT NEVER BE! We who died to sin..." How do you die to sin? *That's what water baptism is all about!* That is a watery grave. I have always raised everybody out of the water.

You died to sin. In other words, you are not to live the way you used to live and you're going to count it as death because Christ died for you. Now

then, let's look at the operation of God in relationship to you and Christ in order to put you *under grace*.

"...how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, **as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?**" (vs 2-3).

A covenant relationship between the individual and God requires the sacrifice of both. Whenever a covenant is made, there has to be a showing forth of a symbolic death by the presentation of sacrificial animals that are split down the middle and a path made between. The one who is making the covenant passes through it. God did that! Christ did that—Who was the God of the Old Testament—pledging His death (Gen. 15).

To finish that covenant sacrifice, thirty years later Abraham was commanded to take his beloved son Isaac, and offer him for a sacrifice and burnt offering. That was done to show the coming sacrifice of Jesus Christ, because the ram was substituted for Isaac, but Abraham was willing and he obeyed. God made the covenant with Abraham by swearing by His very existence. This means that it is sure as the existence of God that the covenant with Abraham will come to pass and God will do it through the sacrifice of His only begotten beloved Son. Isaac was a type of that.

"...as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?" (v 3). The sacrifice of Christ is God's sacrifice for the forgiveness of human sin, because Jesus Christ is Lord God of the Old Testament, made Adam and Eve and put in them the 'law of sin and death.' Therefore, the only sacrifice, the only work, the only thing that can forgive sin before God the Father in heaven above is the sacrifice of Christ as His part of the New Covenant.

Our part of the sacrifice is baptism by full immersion in water. What does that do? Let's look at it here.

Verse 4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him... [like He was put in the grave for three days and three nights] ...through the baptism into the death..."—His very death. In order to have sin forgiven, in order to be justified, in order to be *under grace* the sacrifice of Jesus Christ must be *individually applied to every one through baptism and conjoined into the death of Christ*. This is our death to living in sin. There are the two parts of the sacrifice:

1. by God
2. by you

Sacrifices in the book of Leviticus for the forgiveness of sin to the temple did not put them in a standing of grace with God the Father. They were never offered eternal life, only certain of the patriarchs, kings and prophets. That was it (1-Pet. 1:10).

Notice what we are to do because we're to keep the Law in the Spirit of the Law (Rom. 7).

- How do we keep it in the Spirit of the Law?
- What do you need to keep the Laws of God in the Spirit of the Law?

*Many people can keep parts of it in the letter of the Law, but:*

- What does it mean the Spirit of the Law?
- What does that require?

"...baptism into the death; so that just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life" (v 4)—a new way of living, conforming to:

- the Word of God
- the commandments of God
- the love of God
- the faith of God
- the Truth of God

Verse 5: "For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death..." We're counted crucified. That's what Paul wrote: 'I am crucified with Christ' (Gal. 2). How is that done? *Baptism!* Everyone of us were crucified with Christ, conjoined to His death. How is that done? *Baptism!*

Think about this: The Creator God, the Lord God of the Old Testament Who became Jesus Christ, came to this earth, born of the virgin Mary, grew up just like any other man, carried the 'law of sin and death' within His being, never sinned once, willingly laid down His life as a sacrifice for the sins of all of mankind because He created them.

What work of any man or religion can substitute for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ? *Nothing! Not a thing!* The greatness of Who He was and what He did as a human being, so that sin could be condemned in His flesh as the perfect sacrifice for sin, which then God applies to each one of those who repent and are baptized individually, personally, conjoined and part of the death of Christ. That's something. That's the first step in being 'under grace.' That was by an act of God and your act of baptism. Notice how God made it so plain and simple.

"...we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection" (v 5). That's the end result of grace, the likeness of His resurrection.

If you come to a temple and offer an animal sacrifice, and you're justified to the temple, or as a Catholic or Protestant would do, they would take the Eucharist or they would take the Lord's Supper, whatever it may be, that can never substitute for the sacrifice of Christ. That's why the Passover is so important. We have to do it God's way. Who gave the instructions for it? *Jesus Christ* Who was God manifested in the flesh, actually the Lord God of the Old Testament! Think on why it's so important that we do it the way God wants it done.

"...be in the likeness of His resurrection" (v 5). We'll see about that on Pentecost.

- What is it going to be like to have glory?
- What is going to be like to live forever?
- What did you of yourself do, or I of myself do, that is worthy of living forever?

*The only way it can be is through Jesus Christ!*

Verse 6: "Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him*... [that's why you're conjoined to His death in baptism] ...in order that the body of sin might be destroyed..."

As we've explained, this shows that overcoming sin is *a process*. The body of sin is not destroyed until death. We must be faithful to the end.

"...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died to *sin* has been **justified from sin**"(vs 6-7)—by God the Father through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. All forgiven, all forgotten, and the same way daily.

That's why we now have the daily prayer. 'Forgive us our sins.' Why? *Because we are 'under grace' and God wants us to be perfected, and that the body of sin might be destroyed!* It is a process of overcoming.

Verse 7: "Because the one who has died to *sin*... [through baptism] ...has been justified from sin. Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from *the* dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all... [because He was the Creator of all human beings] ...but in that He lives He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 7-11)—because of the Holy Spirit of God within us.

That begetting of God the Father and the Spirit of Christ in us is the greatest grace we can receive in this life. They are in us; They dwell in us! This can't be read enough, spoke about enough, repeated enough, until we're raised from the dead.

Think of this! You've repented, you've been baptized, received the Spirit of God. We'll see what the Spirit of God is able to do for us.

(go to the next track)

The verses we're going to read are the most important verses for us at this time in the world.

John 14:20: "In that day... [the day that you receive the Holy Spirit] ...you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you."

This relationship is a *spiritual* relationship. Those who are 'under law' cannot have this relationship.

- they don't know God
- they don't understand God
- they don't have the Spirit of God

The Spirit of God is to enable us to love God, to keep His commandments in the *spirit* of the Law, not the letter of the Law, and to have the laws and commandments of God *written in our heart and in our mind*. That is an operation of grace to receive the Spirit of God and have all of the things that I just said happen to each one of us.

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me..."—because now we're to love God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul, and all our being. Not just have a knowledge of God, not just have an opinion of God, but to have the Spirit of God.

"...and is keeping them..." (v 21). That is on an ongoing basis. You can't keep the commandments of God the way they should be kept unless you have the Spirit of God within you and that is directing you to obey in the Spirit of the Law, based upon loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. This is what it means to be 'under grace.'

We can ask the question then. How many people are actually *under grace*? Let's see it further defined here.

"...and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him" (v 21).

To be *under grace* means you know that God the Father and Jesus Christ love you, love me, love all of those who are called to the first resurrection. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love the world, because He loves the world. Yes, He does. It's just like you and your family. You love your family more than other people in the world. *Same way with God!* We've been called through the grace of God for a special purpose to become like Christ, spirit beings, as we will see on Pentecost, and

to rule the world with Christ. What thing in the world could you do to accomplish that? *Can't!* What organization can you belong to, to cause that to happen? *You can't!* You must be in the spiritual Body of Christ, which is His Church.

Verse 22: “Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’” How can God do that? *Through His Spirit!* Actually through the seven spirits of God and then His Spirit.

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘**If** anyone loves Me...’—conditional. That’s why we have to love God the Father and Christ with all our heart, mind, soul and being.

“...he will keep My word; and My Father will love him...” (v 23). Is that your desire? to love God and keep His commandments? Is that your desire? to do so in the Spirit? led by the Spirit of God? Let’s define the Spirit of God that we have.

“...he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We...” (v 23)—together: the Father and the Son. Not only are you loved by Jesus Christ, but you are loved by God the Father *in a special family way* that the world cannot receive, because they haven’t done the things to answer God’s call:

- to repent
- to be baptized
- to receive the Spirit of God
- to walk in newness of life

This is what it means to be ‘under grace.’ If you are *under grace*...

“...We will come to him and make Our abode... [dwelling place] ...with him” (v 23).

There’s an absolute line that has been drawn—an invisible, impenetrable barrier that the world can never get through—that is listed here:

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the Word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, Who sent Me.”

That’s how God does it. The world cannot know. The world cannot do, because they have not been reconciled to God, or justified through the operation of repentance and baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit of God.

This is to be the inner motivation with this, within us, to let the Spirit of God lead us. ‘As many as are the sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God.’ That’s what it means to be ‘under grace.’ That’s by God’s:

- grace
- mercy

- love
- favor
- goodness
- kindness
- blessing

That can’t come any other way than what the Bible teaches us and what Jesus said.

Now you see why it cannot be by any other way than by grace coming from God to us, and us back to God. We will see that we are to develop the mind of Christ through the Spirit of God and we are to become a son or daughter of God at the resurrection, because of the Spirit that is within us.

God is doing the work in us. During Unleavened Bread we saw that it is the Spirit of God within us that points out all the sins that are still in our minds, so we can with ‘the washing of the water by the Word’ have our minds cleansed. God is doing a work in us, a perfect work.

Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith... [you believe] ...and this *especially* is not of your own selves; *it is* the gift of God.”

- the calling
  - the desire
  - the repentance
- God grants repentance*
- our yielding to God
  - our wanting to love Him
  - our wanting to serve Him

*All of that comes from God.*

The reason is, v 10: “For we are His workmanship, being created...” There is a creation going on in your mind through the power of the Holy Spirit by the Father and the Son, both being in our mind. The earnest of the Spirit then becomes a dwelling place of God the Father and Christ within us. That is the grace of God. We’ll see a little bit more about it, because it is fantastic and broad as well as deep and detailed.

“...in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10).

Verse 13: “But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition” (vs 13-14).

What was that? *That was the Jewish traditions and the pagan traditions—both!* When we go back and review Gal. 2 we’re going to see why Peter’s act of separating himself from the Gentiles, when the ones from James came down to Antioch,

why that was so egregious. Paul had to condemn Peter. Look at what God has done to bring people to Himself.

Verse 15: “Having annulled in His flesh the enmity, the law of commandments contained in *the decrees of men...*”—the religious laws of men: Jewish and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, and Orthodox, Hindu, Buddhist, whatever.

“...so that in Himself... [by Himself through the power of His Holy Spirit] ...He might create... [His workmanship, ongoing] ...both into one new man, making peace; and *that* He might reconcile both to God... [the Father] ...in one body through the cross... [the Body of Christ, also the Church] ...having slain the enmity by it. Now when He came, He preached the Gospel—peace to you who *were* far off and to those who *were* near. For through Him we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father” (vs 15-18).

*That is the grace of God* that we can pray anytime asking God for help. That’s why daily prayer on our knees is so important. That’s why daily study is so important. Both are working together. Jesus said that the words that He speaks to us, ‘they are Spirit and they are Life.’ They contain layers and layers of meaning. Every time we study, we learn something new.

Listen, brethren, I’m still learning because there’s so much here. This is all inspired by the mind of God. So, can any one person in this life ever come to the full spiritual understanding of it? *No*, but God can lead us and bring us many things in depth of the spiritual understanding of the Word of God. That’s how it’s done.

Verse 18: “For through Him we both... [Jews and Gentiles, no difference]...have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but *you are* fellow citizens with the saints, and *are* of the household of God. You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone in Whom all the building, being conjointly fitted together, is increasing into a Holy temple in *the* Lord; in Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in *the* Spirit” (vs 18-22). That is *the grace of God*.

The only way that comes, as this is defined here in the Bible. This is why we keep the commandments of God and keep them in the Spirit of God.

Let’s come back here to the book of Galatians. Galatians is by far—especially with the *King James Version*... If you’re still using the *King James Version*, you get *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, A Faithful Version with*

*Commentary*. In doing the New Testament, and in doing the Old Testament, the one single purpose, foundational thing that was considered in the translation:

1. it is the Truth of God
2. God cannot lie
3. it must be faithfully reflecting, by translation, the original Greek and Hebrew so that we understand what God wants us to have

You don’t have that in the *King James Version*, or the *NIV*, or the *ESV*, or any other Bible.

Let’s see what happened. We’re going to review this and then we’ll get into Gal. 3. I hope in the next one or two to finish the rest of the book of Galatians. We will add all of this to our transcript study book in Galatians, verse-by-verse.

Galatians 2:11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned.”

Think about what we’ve already covered. Think about why this is in the Bible, so that we will not have traditions and works of men and add-ons and take-away from the Bible, so that we can have a pleasing religion for people of like minds to gather together. *No, that’s not how it works.*

One of the worst things of the Jewish commandments and traditional laws, if you read *Code of Jewish Law*, you will see how absolutely in finite detail that their lives are controlled by *their traditions*. It also reflects their hatred of other people.

Remember Acts 10? Cornelius in Caesarea and Peter was sent down there. What did Peter say? He said, ‘*I perceive that God is no respecter of persons and those who do righteousness are accepted by Him!*’ First time to any Gentile without circumcision. Then he preached to them, stayed there several days., Peter knew better.

Verse 12: “For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles....” That was a no-no. You could not get in the same room with a Gentile. That’s what Peter told Cornelius. That a Jew who follows Judaism cannot be in company with Gentiles, nor come into their houses. You read *Code of Jewish Law*. That’s the sorriest thing you ever want to read.

“...However, when they came... [political Peter] ...he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the* circumcision party” (v 12).

‘Oh, what would they tell James when they get back up to Jerusalem?’ *That Peter was eating with Gentiles!*

Verse 13: “And the rest of *the* Jews joined him in *this* hypocritical act, inasmuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”

That’s put there for us to know that *no* ‘works of law’ can make us right with God. If we love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being and our neighbor as ourselves, and the brethren in the Church as Christ loved us, this is not to happen. This would have opened the door for Judaism to invade the Church, and Paul knew that.

Verse 14: “But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel...” God is no respecter of persons. Peter said to Cornelius., ‘I see that God is no respecter of persons.’

“...I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles...’ (v 14)—converted Gentiles, associating with them, eating with them, teaching them, having friends with them, etc.

“...and not according to Judaism, why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize?”—by making them separate from the Jews that came down from James, the half brother of Jesus. Apparently in Jerusalem they were still doing that; awfully hard to break away. For a Jew the hardest thing in the world to do is admit:

1. we’re not the chosen people today; we’re in exile.
2. the Jew has no advantage in true Christianity

*That was lost long ago.*

- yes, they did preserve the Old Testament
- yes, they did preserve the Calculated Hebrew Calendar
- yes, they retained the knowledge of the Sabbath
- yes, they did retain most of the Holy Days, but not all

That doesn’t make them special. Paul said there’s no Jew, there’s no Gentile.

Verse 15: “We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—knowing that a man is not justified by works of law...” (vs 15-16). Nothing you can do in any sacrifice or any traditional law of Judaism, or separating yourself from them, trying to make yourself more clean to God, while you look down on others and condemn them.

No, God says *no!* God says, ‘If I call them, they’re My children just like you’re My children. If I give them My Spirit the same way I gave you the Spirit, we are together. It is the Church, it is the Body of Christ.

“...but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” (v 16). Why did he say ‘the faith of Jesus Christ’? Because it was the faith of Christ that He was able to live in the flesh without sinning, the faith of Christ that He was able to lay down His life the way He did at the Passover and crucifixion and death, that He chose to do so and was given commandment by the Father to receive His life back again.

“...through *the* faith of Christ...” That faith that comes from God is from Christ, from the Father to us so that we may believe.

“...we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...” (v 16).

- because of what *He* did
- because of *His* sacrifice
- because of *His* commandments and laws that He has given us to do
- by His love
- by His service
- by His goodness

“...and not by works of law...” (v 16). Originating from us. ‘I’m going to do a very nice thing today. I’m going to do this’—whatever it may be. That’s meaningless unless it’s motivated by the Spirit of God and the love of God. That is vanity, that is human, that is a ‘work of law,’ a work of the carnal mind and *not of God*.

“...because by works of law shall no flesh be justified” (v 16). *No work that any man can do can make you right with God!* You must come to God, led by the Spirit of God, to repent, to be baptized, to then have your sins washed away through the sacrifice of our Creator.

Verse 17: “Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ, *and* we ourselves are found to be sinners... [which Peter was] ...*is* Christ then *the* minister of sin?... [Is He going to accept that? *If He does, then He’s a minister of sin!*] ...MAY IT NEVER BE!” That means *do not let this thought ever enter into your mind!*

Verse 18: “For if I build again those things that I destroyed, I am making myself a transgressor... [going to have to repent] ...For I through law...” (vs 18-19). Not ‘*the* law,’ but law, referring back to the ‘works of law’ of Judaism and possibly the sacrifices at the temple.

“...died to *works of law*, in order that I may live to God” (v 19). How do you live to God?

- loving the Father
- loving Jesus Christ
- keeping Their commandments
- loving the brethren
- loving our neighbors

- loving our enemies
  - ✓ in order to live to God
  - ✓ to keep His Sabbath
  - ✓ to keep His Holy Days
  - ✓ to grow in grace and knowledge
  - ✓ to live unto God in everything

Verse 20: “I have been crucified with Christ... [through baptism] ...yet, I live... [came up out of the watery grave] ...*Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me....” That Christ is doing the leading, the Father is giving us the strength and power. We are being converted. We are living by grace, direct access to God the Father. That’s what’s important.

“...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20). See how that works? That’s what’s so important.

Verse 21: “I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness *is* through *works of* law, then Christ died in vain.”

In other words, if you could be made right before God by something you did independent from the Law of God and the Truth of God and the Spirit of God, then Christ died in vain. You would no longer need that sacrifice, because you could do it. But no man or woman can do it perfectly. Spiritually it’s impossible because we have the ‘law of sin and death’ in us.

Sidebar: Remember when the rich man came to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, Good Master, what should I do that I may inherit eternal life?’ What did Jesus say to him? ‘*Why do you call Me good? There’s only one good and that is God.*’ Why did Jesus say it that way? *Because He was God manifested in the flesh, true, but He was not 100% God!* Anyone who says that Jesus was 100% God, 100% man doesn’t even know the Bible. If He divested Himself of being God to become a man, how can He be 100% God? ***No man can be in the presence of God spiritually and live and see His face!*** Isn’t that what God told Moses? ‘No one can see My face and live.’ *Yes, indeed!*

“...for if righteousness *is* through *works of* law, then Christ died in vain” (v 21). Very important to understand.

I hope this helps you to understand what a great and fantastic thing it is. This is why only those who have been *called and chosen and faithful* are ‘under grace.’ The world cannot be. There are nice people in the world, but that doesn’t mean that they’re called to salvation. That doesn’t mean that they’re going to be in the first resurrection.

Let’s stop and think here for just a minute: The Church of God has been scattered because of sin. Different ones want to jockey for position to proclaim themselves to be more right than that Church, more right than that preacher, more right than this group over here. You have people with calendar propositions, with *their* Holy Day propositions, with *their own little traditions and rules* that they have, fighting among one another.

Listen, brethren, we all better repent and get on our knees and ask God to help us and forgive us. God is the One Who judges every one of us. Are we going to nullify the grace of God in our lives by trying to exalt ourselves and tell everyone ‘this is the greatest Church of God’? *No!*

Those Churches of God and ministers who do so, you know for sure that God’s judgment is going to be upon them for that. Just like you can’t be reconciled to God or justified to God through human works and human actions. It must be by God. Same way with doing the work of God. If you’re going to do the work of God, ***it’s got to be God in you!*** Does it not? *Yes, indeed.*

So this is why, yes, we need to point out sins of individuals who are in the Church. But that is in the same Spirit as the Apostle Paul did here to Peter, in hopes that they repent, in hopes that they quit being carnal and serving themselves, likewise with us.

- we need to love one another
- we need to love God
- we need to live in the grace of God

We need to understand that ***God has given us the greatest grace possible that we have direct access to Him!*** And through the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Son within us, ***They dwell in us and we then become a mini-temple of God!***

- How great is that?
- How gracious is that?
- How wonderful is that?

*Actually, beyond words! So that’s what it means to be justified by faith and grace and we are to walk in it!*

- we ***stand in the grace*** of God
- we ***walk by the faith*** of Jesus Christ
- we ***believe in the hope*** of the resurrection
- we ***live in love***

Scriptural references:

- 1) Romans 6:14
- 2) Romans 7:1
- 3) Romans 3:19
- 4) Romans 2:11-15

- 5) Romans 3:20, 19-24
- 6) Romans 6:1-2
- 7) Romans 2:13
- 8) Romans 6:2-11
- 9) John 14:20-24
- 10) Ephesians 2:8, 10, 13-22
- 11) Galatians 2:11-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Epistles of John
- John 6:44
- Genesis 15
- 1-Peter 1:10
- Acts 10

Also referenced: Book: *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin

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