
THE REAL NEW COVENANT

God's
GRACE

DON GERRITY

The Real New Covenant, Grace

By Don E. Gerrity

Copyright © 2018 by Donald E. Gerrity

Revised © Feb. 2019

All rights reserved. Ontario Canada

BIBLES CITED...

[KJV]: (Unless otherwise marked the KJV is implied.) King James Version Publisher:
Public Domain. Biblegateway.com Web.

Original Greek Meanings From This Great Online Ministry:
Blue Letter Bible. Web. 11 Jul, 2016. (www.blueletterbible.org)



SeekKnockFind.org

Gospel Of God's Gift Of Grace

Salvation and Justification with God are not based on anything that we do before nor after the moment of our Salvation by belief in the only atonement for sin; trusting in the finished work of Christ crucified.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And BY HIM ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:38-39 KJV)

*"For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" (Philippians 3:9 KJV)

"Now to the one who WORKS, his wage is NOT RECKONED on the basis of GRACE, but as what is DUE. But to the one who DOES NOT WORK, but BELIEVES in Him WHO JUSTIFIES the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Romans 4:4-5 KJV)

The Gospel Of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Table Of Contents

I. THE OLD COVENANT VERSES THE NEW COVENANT

CH.1: The Old Covenant Participants.....	6
CH.2: Why Christians Believe Jesus Was The Foretold Messiah.....	13
CH.3: The New Covenant Participants.....	20
CH.4: When Did The New Covenant Actually Start?.....	24

II. TWO MAIN GOALS OF JESUS EARTHLY MINISTRY

CH.5: Propheying About The Soon Coming New Covenant That Will Replace The Old Covenant.....	31
CH.6: Burying The Jewish People Under The Impossibility Of Perfect Law Keeping.....	33
CH.7: The Real Purpose Of The Law Of Moses And Ten Commandments.....	39

III. IS CHRISTIANITY ABOUT RULES AND LAW FOLLOWING?

CH.8: Living Under The Law As Believers Is Falling From God's Grace.....	47
CH.9: The Doctrine Of The Two Natures <i>In The Mind</i> Of A Believer.....	53
CH.10: The Believer's Number One Goal: Renewing The Mind.....	58
CH.11: What Does The Bible Say About Repentance?.....	62
CH.12: What must I do to be saved? Did Jesus Have To Die On The Cross?....	74
About The Author.....	81
Bibliography.....	82

The Old Covenant Of
Following
The Law Of Moses

VERSES

The New Covenant
Through The Finished
Work Of Christ

Chapter One

The Old Covenant Participants

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.”

(Deuteronomy 30:15-18 KJV)

The Old Covenant was made between God and the Israelites. What exactly is a covenant anyway? The word *Covenant* that we use today comes from Latin word *convenire* and it has a meaning of ‘*agreeing upon*’. A covenant is made between two or more parties and is used in a legal manner as an agreement. Two or more people agree to terms, stipulations, promises made and responsibilities to uphold between the parties signing. For example, a marriage is considered by the Bible to be a covenant between a woman and a man, as they agree to commit to each other in vows.

In Biblical usage a covenant is made between parties who mutually agree and promise terms. Just as people use the saying ‘*my word is my bond*’, a covenant is a bond between the parties in the covenant agreement. In 1 Samuel 20, we see such a covenant between David and Jonathan that swearing was involved. They swore an oath to each other for a bond not to be broken.

In the Old Testament, the Covenant was *between God and* the Israelites. In 1 Samuel 12 we read God stating as part of the Covenant,

"If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers." (1 Samuel 12: 14-15 KJV)

This passage starts with the word 'IF' and that makes it *a conditional promise* by God. God promised and the Israelites were to keep their side of the covenant (which was not so easy it turns out). God also provided The Law written on stones by the very hand of God which is known today as *The Ten Commandments*. The Israelites were to keep this Law and in return God would protect Israel and bless them. God made promises in this Covenant that He promised to keep (and keep He has), yet man has failed to keep the commandments. God is perfect and trustworthy and has kept all His promises in the Old Covenant and some promises will still be fulfilled in the future. The problem is not God. The problem is humankind. We have failed miserably in keeping the Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments which consists of not just 10 but 613 Laws. The Israelites failed to keep the Law as the Covenant stipulations clearly show.

The Old Covenant also required animal sacrifices be made daily, and in specific detail in how to do this. This was done as a reminder of the people's sins. Then, once per year, on the *Day of Atonement*, the High Priest would enter what the Bible calls '*The Most Holy Place*'. This place is within the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Jerusalem. Inside the Temple was the Ark of the Covenant and on the Mercy Seat the High Priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrificed animal

as a *temporary covering* for the sins of the people. These sacrifices were done as a temporary covering for the sins of the people. This was in understanding that one day, The Christ (the anointed one of God) would give His *one sacrifice* which would be sufficient with God to atone for the sins of the people. Hence, the day this happens is known by the Israelites and today's Jewish people as *The Day Of Atonement*. The High Priest of the Old Covenant, with the shed blood of animals '*without spot nor blemish*', would sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat of the *Ark Of The Covenant*. Yet, *this* did not fully atone for all the sins of the people but it *covered them as the people believed* this was in foresight of the one day Christ who would appear and atone once for all (Hebrews 10:10) completely for all the sins. The Mercy Seat was a foreshadowing of Christ crucified by His shed blood in God's mercy; dying on the cross as the *once for all* sacrifice for the sins of the whole world just as the Apostle Paul shows us in Romans 3:24-25. This is why Jesus is known as our High Priest; He is the ultimate High Priest and *The Christ* who atoned for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD COVENANT WITH THE ISRAELITES

The problem with the Old Covenant for us humans is that we have this sin nature that the Bible calls *The Flesh*. That is, we have a strong inclination toward sinning. We simply cannot fulfill the whole Law. We are not perfect like God. God abhors sin and that is why the Tabernacle had outer rooms and why only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy room, without windows or covering, where God's presence was *veiled* from those outside (Leviticus 16:2). And even then, only the High Priest who followed very strict terms and rules could enter, just ONCE per year. God cannot look at sin as it is so wrong and evil (Habakkuk 1:13). And this is the problem. We are all sinners and there is a gaping hole between us and God

because of our '*sin problem*'. Even just one sin and we are separated from access to God's throne and presence in our lives.

The Biblical truth is that the Ten Commandments were not given to us by God so that we would obey them to make up for our sins. No, it is just the opposite. We were given the Ten Commandments so that we would ***recognize our sin as sin***. Look at Romans:

"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become EXCEEDING SINFUL. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." (Romans 7:12-14 KJV)

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED in his sight: for by the law is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN." (Romans 3:20 KJV)

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence MIGHT ABOUND. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:" (Romans 5:20)

"The sting of death is sin; and the STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW." (1 Corinthians 15:56 KJV)

Now do you see the misconception that most people have about the Ten Commandments? It does no good to try to match up to the Commandments in order to make up for our sins against God. If you break one ... you break them all in essence because you have broken the Law (James 2:10) . Only one sin is enough to keep us from entrance to Heaven and right standing with God because He is so Holy. We could never have kept them all.

No person , except Jesus Christ, has ever kept the 10 Commandments. God gave the Commandments so that we would see that we could never regain

fellowship with God through our own works and deeds done in self righteous pride. He wants us to know that this can only produce sin and death. Only the blood atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross can save us and forgive us from our sins. That is where the New Covenant comes into play by Jesus, the Christ crucified for the sins of the whole world.

Another important point to realize today is that The Law of Moses was never given to the gentiles (non Jews). They were given directly and only to God's chosen people; the Israelites and Jewish people. Yes, The Law contains moral laws that are right and that we should adhere to such as *Thou shall not commit murder* and *Thou shall not steal* etc. The Ten Commandments are Holy and true. Absolutely. The thing is, just as with the Israelites, the Law can never make us Holy. We fail miserably in comparison to God's Holy Laws and His very own Holy righteous perfect nature. What we today call The Law Of Moses is also more than just the Ten Commandments. Following Moses in the Bible we see that there were more than just the 10 moral laws and there was in fact 613 laws to follow. That is quite a list isn't it? Obey them all to be protected and blessed is what the Israelites were to do under the Old Covenant and so how man obeyed, or not obeyed, made the Covenant promises of God conditional. We should also understand that following the Law of Moses in it's entirety was not given to any people except the Jewish people. The Israelites looked forward, *in faith of God's promise*, to the prophesied time when *The Christ, the Messiah*, the final sacrifice for all our sins would arrive and be the *once for all sacrifice* so we could all be forever forgiven our debt of sins against our Holy God Almighty.

We see this *once for all* sacrifice for sins in many passages of the New Testament under the New Covenant. Peter put it this way:

"Who his own self BARE OUR SINS in his own body on the tree, that we, being DEAD TO SINS, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were HEALED." (1 Peter 2:24 KJV)

Peter goes on to say,

"For Christ also HATH ONCE suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" (1 Peter 3:18 KJV)

We see the same **'once for all'** sacrifice for the atonement of the sins of the whole world by the writer of Hebrews where it reads,

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can NEVER TAKE AWAY SINS:" (Hebrews 10:10-11 KJV)

Does this passage sound familiar to you? It does to me! This passage in Hebrews could be written about a large majority of present day Christian religion groups who are teaching a *'works for Salvation'* false gospel message. This is the very reason for me deciding to write this short e-book. To clear the confusion many pulpits are teaching these days regarding the New Covenant verses the Old Covenant. It is vitally important to understand the difference between the Two Covenants of God and how it affects us humans.

The Bible shows that the Old Covenant has passed away and we are now under the New Covenant of God.

"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath MADE THE FIRST OLD. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready TO VANISH AWAY." (Hebrews 8:13 KJV)

You see here that the New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant was not made for the righteous but the unrighteous as we see in First Timothy:

"Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;" (1 Timothy 1:9-10 KJV)

Chapter Two

Why Christians Believe

Jesus Was The Foretold Messiah

The Old Covenant was a foreshadowing of the final Covenant that God would bring forth through the foretold coming Messiah, the anointed one of God; *The Christ*. The Jewish people looked forward to the time when *The Messiah* would come and make one final sacrifice to atone for the sins of the people. A permanent sacrifice and atonement. Today Christians have found that this Messiah has come in whom we know historically as Jesus, The Christ. This sacrifice is what we today call The New Covenant through Jesus Christ Crucified.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

For those of you that do not know, Christ was not Jesus' last name. Today people are identified by their last name; their family name. In Jesus day, this does not seem to be the case. Instead, throughout the New Testament we can see that people were known by their family members and sometimes by what they did as an occupation, or a certain 'pointer' to help people know who they were identifying. In fact, when you read the Bible you will see people referred to as 'Matthew, The Tax Collector', 'John The Baptist', etc. This distinguishes who the writer is writing about. For example, there is John the Baptist and there is John the Disciple. Two different people with the same first name. Even when Jesus went to the Temple and clearly announced that He was the fulfillment of the coming Messiah, the people murmured, '*Is this not the carpenter?*' (Mark 6:3) They referred

to Him as Jesus, the carpenter because his Earthly father was a carpenter and so Jesus was likely instructed in this profession growing up. Apostle Peter's name before Christ renamed him Peter (the rock) was 'Simon'. Now there were many men with the name Simon. Even one of Jesus' half brothers was named Simon. So the disciple Simon Peter is referred in the Scriptures as 'Simon Bar Jonah', which literally means 'Simon, Son of Jonah' (John 1:42) and later Jesus renamed him 'Peter, The Rock', identifying him clearly in Scriptures as one of the Apostles. And in Matthew 10, again we see reference to 'Simon, the Zealot'. This was the writer making it clear he was writing about someone other than Simon, Bar Jonah. This Simon was a known Zealot and not a disciple.

The reference of CHRIST identified with 'Jesus, Of Nazareth' is a term that refers to the long awaited Messiah from Old Testament prophecies. When we refer to Jesus Christ, we are really saying Jesus THE Christ, or 'Jesus , the anointed one', or 'Jesus, the Messiah'. The CHRIST part of Jesus Christ is a title showing readers who He is; the prophesied Messiah, the only begotten Son of the living God in human form. He is the God-Man.

WHY WE BELIEVE JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

There are many believers who were born into families and brought up in the Christian faith and who attend church religions who worship Jesus Christ as Lord. They take that Jesus is Lord by faith. However, there are many who do not know *why we believe* Christ is God Himself in the flesh. They read in the Bible that '*The Word*' from eternity past became 'flesh' and that Jesus is *God in the flesh*, and they believe it by faith. Let me take a moment to increase our faith regarding Jesus being the Messiah, God in the Flesh. Let me answer the question of WHY we believe Jesus is the Messiah and God Himself. Three words suffice to sum it up and they are ***Bible Prophecy Fulfilled.***

The vast majority of Christian church religions rarely even touch on the topic of Bible Prophecy. When is the last time you heard your pastor or priest discuss Bible prophecy? If you have, count yourself lucky because the vast majority of church organizations do not teach Bible Prophecy nor even discuss the topic with even a general mention other than *Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead*. Many do not realize the importance of Bible Prophecy but the fact that it comprises 30% of the Bible should send a signal to all of us. How can we know that the prophecies of the Bible are true and will occur? If we look at the prophecies from the past that have already been fulfilled we can see just how accurate God's prophecies are. If we look at the Old Testament it is clear that the Jewish people (God's Chosen People) looked toward the Messiah's first coming and His one sacrifice for the sins of the world. This is because of the prophecies about His first coming found in the Old Testament. We now look back at Christ's first coming and death on the cross because of the precision with which the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. The fulfillment of Bible prophecies in determining that Jesus is the Christ are so overwhelming that it is hard to understand why people reject Him as God in the flesh. God gave us Bible prophecies so that we can have full assurance that the Bible is the one true word of the one true God of the universe. God even tells us this straight out in Isaiah where it reads,

"I am God, and there is NONE ELSE; I am God and there is NONE like me, DECLARING the beginning from the end, and from ancient times the things that ARE NOT YET DONE, saying, My counsel SHALL STAND, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV)

"I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them;"
(Isaiah 48:5 KJV)

God gave us the prophecies of the Bible to prove to us that He is the one true God and that the Holy Bible is the one and only true inspired Word of God. And the prophecies fulfilled regarding the coming of the Jewish Messiah as Jesus of Nazareth, are enormous and impossible to overlook.

Prophecies Of The Messiah; Fulfilled By Christ Jesus

The list of prophecy fulfilled regarding the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is an overwhelming proof that the Bible is the true word of the true God and that Jesus is the Messiah who atoned for the sins of the whole world; the one final sacrifice for our sins. Here are *just some* of the amazing prophecies fulfilled in Jesus:

1. He would be born of a virgin.

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 1:18-23

2. He would come from the tribe of Judah (one of the 12 tribes descended from Jacob.)

Old Testament: Genesis 49:10

New Testament fulfillment: Luke 3:23-24

3. He would be born in Bethlehem.

Old Testament: Micah 5:2,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 2:1

4. He would be preceded by a messenger.

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:3,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 3:1-2

5. He would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt.

Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9,

New Testament fulfillment: Luke 19:35-37

6. He would be betrayed by a friend.

Old Testament: Psalm 41:9,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:47-50

7. He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver.

Old Testament: Zechariah 11:12,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:15

8. He would be beaten and spit upon.

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:6

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:67

9. He would be wounded and whipped by his enemies.

Old Testament: Isaiah 53:5,

New testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:26

10. His hands and feet would be pierced.

Old Testament: Psalm 22:16,

New testament fulfillment: Luke 23:33

11. He would be crucified with thieves.

Old Testament: Isaiah 53:12,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:38

12. Men would cast lots for his clothing.

Old Testament: Psalm 34:20,

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:35

13. He would not answer, or speak, to His accusers.

Old Testament: Isaiah 53:7

New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:12-14

14. He would live again after dying.

Old Testament: Job 19:25,

New Testament fulfillment: John 2:19, Matthew 12:39, 16:3

With such specific and detailed Bible Prophecies coming to pass, the odds are too great to dismiss the truth of God's prophecies. Some skeptics go as far as to say that Christ simply read the Old Testament prophecies and then did what they said. But how could anyone predict where he would be born and under what circumstance he was born? How could anyone predict that exactly two thieves would be crucified with him, or that men would cast lots for his clothing? And why would any man actually want to die such a horrible death on a cross? These are only a few of the prophecies of the Bible that have been fulfilled to the letter regarding Christ's first coming. There are in fact over 300+ prophecies fulfilled for Christ's first coming alone!

I would also mention that it was not one person who wrote the Bible. In fact, there are 66 books in the Bible with 40 authors that span 1500+ years . These authors were from different time periods, cultures, and occupations. From the highly educated like Moses to simple fisherman like Peter. They wrote in different time periods spanning thousands of years. Many did not even understand what they wrote such as Daniel who did not understand the end time prophecies God told him to write down (God told him it is not for him to know but those in the last days would understand – and we do understand them today!). From Genesis to Revelation the entire Bible tells a factual and detailed consistent story about historical events, who we truly are, why we exist, why there is evil and why there is so many problems and wars and ultimately with the main theme being our need for salvation through Jesus the Christ. This is not in dispute and is the facts. The Holy Bible is the ONLY inspired Word of the One True God of the universe.

Chapter Three

The New Covenant Through Christ Jesus

"For the law was given by Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17 KJV)

God foretold that a New Covenant was coming to replace the Old Covenant in the book of Jeremiah. A New Covenant where our failures would not prevent the Covenant stipulations and promises from being broken. In previous chapters of this booklet we have seen that the purpose of the Old Covenant was actually to show humankind that we cannot save ourselves from our sin debt against God through self righteous good works, deeds nor Law following and that we have a real bent toward sin that Apostle Paul calls *The Flesh* (our Sin Nature). However, we see in Scriptures that God is not done with us yet! This is really good news!

*"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive***

their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34

KJV)

What a promise! We notice a few things reading this promise of God that are very significant. First, it does not start with the word 'IF' as the Old Covenant did. This is promising a New Covenant where it is not conditional on humankind! It is simply a fact and promise by God and does not rely on the other party (the Israelites / humankind) to be maintained and kept in effect. It does not mean we do not have responsibilities but it means the Covenant is a statement to us humans. However, as a Covenant, there must be more than one party involved. So the New Covenant is also more than just a promise to us. It must be a promise made between more than one party or it would not be called a Covenant. The question is, who is the other party if not us humans?

THE NEW COVENANT IS BETWEEN GOD AND?

The New Covenant is between God and Jesus Christ! But wait a minute... Jesus is God in the Flesh. Jesus is the person called 'The Word' in the Trinity Godhead. Jesus is co-equal with God and is God. Confused yet? The Bible is clear that God is a Trinity. God is far above what we humans currently are. The Bible is clear that God is a Trinity of persons who are Co-equal. Each person of the Godhead are equally God and together are One God. It is hard for our human minds to grasp and there are whole books dedicated to try and explain the Trinity characteristic of God Almighty but the fact of the Bible is that it teaches that God is three persons in one God; The Father, The Word, and The Holy Spirit:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." (John 1-2 KJV)

In the beginning was the **W**ord. Notice how the 'w' is capitalized? The reason is because this is an actual NAME. We see further clarification in this Scripture:

*"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word**, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (1 John 5:7 KJV)*

Who Is *The Word* in this verse of Scripture? Who is *the Word* in the Trinity Godhead? It is none other than Jesus, The Christ. John the Baptist testified that,

*"...**the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, **He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me**. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 14-17 KJV)*

John the Baptist was making way for the first coming of the Lord God who has become flesh. The prophesied Messiah and Christ (means anointed one of God) who was to come and be *the once for all* final sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. We see further on in the book of John that this person, the Word of the Trinity of God, has become flesh in none other than Jesus.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I

*said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: **for he was before me.**" (John 28-30 KJV)*

John states that Jesus was '*before me*' because Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, from the seed of God Himself. Jesus is God, in the flesh. God lowered Himself below that of an angel and as The only begotten Son of God is equal to God. Jesus the Christ is God who became flesh and walked among us, as one of us. The long awaited Messiah had come to testify to the truth and to shed His blood as the only God-man, paying for the sins of the whole world in a once for all sacrificial payment to save all whosoever will believe (John 3, 1 John 2:2). *The Word* is Jesus, the only begotten Son of God.

The New Covenant was fulfilled by Jesus Christ our Lord and so the New Covenant made is not between man and God. The New Covenant is between God the Father and God the Son; **between GOD and GOD!** Now we can see why there is no IF/THEN statement in the New Covenant. Unlike the Old Covenant where God kept His promises and man failed to uphold his part of the covenant, in the new covenant both parties will keep the promises perfectly with 100% accuracy! And the good news is that the subject and purpose for the New Covenant is the Salvation of us humans from our debt of sins. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news we all can become a part of through faith and belief in what Jesus, as the only begotten Son of God, accomplished on the cross for us all.

Chapter Four

When Did The New Covenant Begin?

Did the New Covenant come into effect at Jesus birth or did it start at Jesus' death on the cross? This is a very important question to answer and understand clearly. Otherwise, when reading the Gospels you may find it very difficult to understand some of what Jesus was teaching. Knowing the answer will open your eyes to the understanding of some very tough verses and passages of the New Testament Scriptures that many Christians struggle with and in many cases end up misinterpret to mean something quite the opposite of the grace of God through Christ Jesus and the true Gospel. Not understanding this has caused so much confusion among believers and it is the very reason I wrote this booklet. So, let's clear up this confusion right now.

There are many things Jesus has said during His Earthly ministry that just makes sense to the New Covenant of the Grace of God. In John 3, Jesus makes it very clear that to be saved and forgiven our sins we are to BELIEVE on Jesus as the only begotten Son of God who is God in the flesh, who came to take the punishment for our sins and to free us from our debt of sins against God. And that by believing on Christ alone is how we become saved.

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

***hath not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:15-18 KJV)*

Although many '*Christian Religions*' teach that Salvation is by good works and being a good person they are wrong and not teaching the Biblical Gospel through Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that all our best efforts to be good and do good works are in the eyes of God as 'filthy rags'.

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)*

JUDGING OURSELVES AGAINST GODLY STANDARDS – NOT HUMAN STANDARDS

Salvation is not through our own efforts to be a good person, nor by keeping the Ten Commandments, nor by any religious rituals. We should not be comparing our 'goodness' to the 'goodness' or 'badness' of others. That is not a method to know our level of goodness and righteousness. We are all equally UNRIGHTEOUS in the eyes of God. We can see this clearly only when we look into the mirror that shows us the Holiness and righteousness of God Almighty; The Ten Commandments. No person that ever existed (other than the Son of God, Jesus) has ever been able to keep all the commandments. And if you break just one commandment, you have broken them all in that you have broken God's Holy Law. James puts it this way,

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." (James 2:10 KJV)

That is why God made the New Covenant through Jesus Christ crucified. We cannot and are UNABLE in our fallen state, with our Flesh, our sin nature, to never sin nor to atone for our own sins with self righteous deeds and works. Having a very nature of sin, we sin and are found to be sinners. In other words, we sin because we have a Sin Nature called The Flesh. We do not have a sin nature because we sin, we sin because we have a sin nature. Important to understand that. I mean, tell a dog to act like a cat. Good luck! It is not in their nature to act like a cat you see?

THE PHARISEES OF JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY

During the time of Jesus' Earthly ministry the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees and Scribes, believed in their own self righteousness and they taught others to follow the Law of Moses in order to be saved from their sins. These self righteous leaders were what we would call today, '*very full of themselves*' and their *own ability* to be Holy before men and God. They knew of the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah and the Christ, yet they misinterpreted that He would come and take rule, ignoring the many Scriptures about how He would suffer and die. They were looking for a King to rule with immediacy but Christ came in a very humble manner and as a servant king. As the people started to follow Jesus in larger numbers these Pharisees became very worried that they would lose their own power and that all this change would bring down the punishment of the

Roman rulers of the time upon them. And so, they sought to trip up and discredit Jesus of Nazareth whenever they could, even trying to trap Jesus in His own words to speak against the Law of Moses. Yet, the more they did, the more Jesus' popularity grew. Think about it, Jesus wrote the Ten Commandments! The ultimate expert right?

Jesus described these Scribes and Pharisees with some very harsh words at times calling them '*vipers*' and '*hypocrites*' and the like. A quick read in Matthew 23 will show you Jesus really attacking them verbally to the Jewish people HE was preaching with. Here are few highlights of Matthew 23,

*"13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation..."*

*15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves..."*

*33 ...**Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?** " (Matthew 23 various verses KJV)*

Strong words indeed. The point is that these Scribes and Pharisees believed and taught it was their own self righteousness and their own efforts that would save them and that it was possible to keep all the 613 laws of the Law of Moses. Well, Jesus knew all this. He seen through their corruptness towards the people. He seen their great sins and with sins they are headed for damnation in hell because no one can enter Heaven with ANY sin. It only takes ONE sin to disqualify a person

from Heaven because the *“wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23) – an eternal death in a real place called hell, and ultimately, the lake of fire.

JESUS HAD A GAME PLAN

What is Jesus to do with these self righteous leaders? What is He to teach the Jewish people who are believing the untruth the Scribes and Pharisees were teaching? Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, God in the flesh, the only person to live sinless and who is living a completely sinless life in thought and deed. How is He going to prepare the Jewish people to believe on Him for Salvation through His death?

One way is to prove that He is who He says He is, God the Son, the Word become flesh. From the very beginning of His Earthly ministry Christ claimed to the Jewish people that He is the foretold Messiah. In the book of Isaiah, in the Old Testament, is a prophecy that is about the coming of the Messiah, the Son Of God, who will save Israel and the whole world. When Jesus started His ministry, He made no small talk, nor did He keep anyone guessing about who He claimed to be. In fact, near the beginning of His ministry He stated, in a extremely clear and direct way, who He was. He claimed He was the prophesied Messiah to His own people, in the town He grew up in. He proclaimed it in the community Synagogue, to those in His town that knew His family and also knew Him. In Luke we see,

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

*And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**" (Luke 4:16-21 KJV)*

The shock and anger from His bold statement quickly turned into mayhem and being it was blasphemy for a person to call themselves equal with God they sought to stone Him. Jesus continued proclaiming who He was throughout His Earthly ministry. So many amazing miracles He performed of raising people from the dead, healing the sick and maimed, casting out demons from the possessed with great authority, feeding over 500 people with just 5 loaves and 2 fishes and so many more that all the miracles could not even be written in the Bible. Only God can do such things.

Jesus backed up His claims! And then He fulfilled around 300 prophecies that only the Messiah could through His life, death and resurrection as we have discussed in a previous chapter. Jesus preached the good news to the people and how they could be set free from their bondage of slavery to sin and the debt of sins we all have.



Two Main Goals Of Jesus' Earthly Ministry.

Chapter Five

Prophesying About The Soon Coming New Covenant That Will Replace The Old Covenant

There was another seemingly harsher side to Jesus' words and deeds in the Gospel accounts and it is this other aspect where many believers today start confusing the Gospel of Grace that Paul taught, turning it into a *Grace Plus Works false gospel*. And it all hinges upon the understanding of WHEN did the New Covenant actually begin. Did it start at Jesus birth? Did it start when John The Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah? Did it start when Jesus proclaimed He was the Messiah in that synagogue in His home town in Nazareth? We have a Bible that divides an Old Testament and a New Testament. The New Testament starts with Matthew. Is that where the New Covenant starts?

The reality is that the New Covenant did not start until Jesus died on the cross, at which time He bore the punishment for the sins of the whole world. This is important because many of the things Jesus said in His Earthly ministry would be hard to grasp without understanding this. Some of the things Jesus said would also seem to be in contradiction to the teachings of Apostle Paul who along with Luke gave us two thirds of the New Testament. Understanding when the New Covenant started is the key that makes all the contradictions disappear and the truth shine through. The New Covenant that replaced the Old Covenant started on the cross and death and resurrection of Jesus The Christ.

*"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us**, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."* (Colossians 2:9-15 KJV)

This is when the New Covenant started and whosoever believes that Jesus was the Christ, God in the flesh, the only begotten Son of God, who is God, and who was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life in thought and deed, and then willingly died on the cross, paying for the sins of the whole world has been freed and saved and has eternal life from the very moment of belief, sealed by the Holy Spirit forever. Salvation is not of works but is through this belief in Christ alone. (John 3:14-18, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:8-9)

This is great news right? YES! But there are some things Jesus said during His Earthly ministry that many are confused about, even to this very day in the Christian community which we will discuss in the next chapter.

Chapter Six

Burying The Jewish People Under The Impossibility Of Perfect Law Keeping

According to Apostle Paul, you are saved by the **Free Grace Gift of God**, Jesus Christ crucified. Salvation is not worked for. It is a gift to be received in acceptance and thanksgiving. Yet, you start to hear some believers asking you about certain verses of Scripture that seem to indicate works are also required. And that Jesus had another side He taught. What do you do with Scriptures like these where Jesus Himself said:

*“Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill;
and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

*But I say unto you, That whosoever **is angry with his brother** without a
cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his
brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say,
Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” (Matthew 5:21-22 KJV)*

*“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not
commit adultery:*

*But I say unto you, That whosoever **looketh on a woman to lust** after her
hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

*And if thy right eye offend thee, **pluck it out**, and cast it from thee: for it is
profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and **not that**
thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

*And if thy right hand offend thee, **cut it off**, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body **should be cast into hell**. (Matthew 5:27-30 KJV)*

Jesus came to forgive all our sins in great love and to free us from the penalty for our sins didn't He? Being angry or looking on someone with lust means hell fire? Pluck out my eyes?! Cut off my hand?! What in the world is going on with Jesus' words here?

Now please do not go get scissors and pluck out your eye nor cut off your hands folks! Let me explain why Jesus is talking like this in many passages of the Gospels. It is because He was teaching to the *Jewish people* who believed that following the Law of Moses, with self determination and having a self righteous consciousness about their own sin, ***that it will not save them***. Sometimes people need to be broken down and shaken before they can change their mind about things. Just as army boot camp redirects a person's motives and beliefs in the army by tearing them down first before bringing them back up, Jesus is literally burying them with the very extreme truth of following the Law of Moses to be saved. Jesus is showing them that IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to keep all the Law of Moses! Again, Jesus is teaching this BEFORE He was on that cross and so before the New Covenant started. By using such extremes of truth Jesus is preparing the Jewish people for the soon to come, New Covenant of *God's Grace Through Jesus Christ Crucified*.

There are also many other Scriptures where Jesus said things that do not conform to Salvation through the Grace of God that Paul taught after Jesus ascended. Yet, when you understand WHEN the New Covenant started you can see the reason why Jesus said what He said. It was to prepare the Jewish people for the ONLY way to be saved and forgiven their debt of sins; BELIEF in Christ

Jesus and the atonement for sins He provided on the cross which is the New Covenant.

BREAKING DOWN A PERSON, TO BUILD THEM BACK UP RIGHTLY

It was hard to break the back of the wrong believing of the Jewish people. Born into a tradition religion spanning such a vast length of time, generation after generation. It had a pretty good stronghold. It still does today and the Jewish community who rejects Jesus as Messiah, is still awaiting the Messiah to come! And many present day Christian religions are teaching a works based salvation which is actually the very thing Apostle Paul fought so hard against as false teaching. Even Jesus warned about it in Matthew 7 very sternly.

Jesus reached many who believed and the disciples started the early Church after His ascension, yet many were still stubborn in their Jewish beliefs. That is why after Christ rose again, He met with Saul on that road to Damascus and Saul turned from a great persecutor and Christian killer into Apostle Paul, one of the great Apostles to the Gentile nations (all non Jews). Paul was an EXPERT in the Law of Moses and this is who God chose to bring the knowledge of Salvation by the Grace of God through belief on Jesus Christ crucified, alone, apart from good works nor religious rituals (Ephesians 2:8-9). Paul fought hard in teaching to the people that Salvation is *not of ourselves*, nor of our self righteous good works and efforts. The New Covenant is not between man and God. The New Covenant is between God and God and the promises of the Covenant *cannot and will not* be broken. The Old Covenant of Law keeping has passed away and been replaced by the better New Covenant of the Grace of God through Christ alone. We are not saved by our goodness, nor by being a good person, nor attending a church religion, nor by performing religious rituals, nor by water Baptism. We are not saved by what we do. Many of today's church religions will tell you that you must

DO THIS and DO THAT, DO not do this and Do not do that, or you will lose your Salvation. They teach that there is no assurance of Salvation nor keeping ourselves saved. DO. DO. DO. It is a bunch of Doo-Doo folks! Apostle Paul actually said that very same thing literally!

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them BUT DUNG, that I may win Christ," (Philippians 3:8 KJV)

Paul went on to write many Scriptures showing this very truth; Salvation is not by works nor are we kept saved by what we do:

*"For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

"For there is ONE God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself A RANSOM for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2: 5-6 KJV)

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" (Philippians 3:9 KJV)

"Now to the one who WORKS, his wage is NOT RECKONED on the basis of GRACE, but as what is DUE. But to the one who DOES NOT WORK, but BELIEVES in Him (Jesus) WHO JUSTIFIES the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Romans 4:4-5 KJV)

"Knowing that a man is NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, but BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, even we have BELIEVED in Jesus Christ, that we might BE JUSTIFIED by the FAITH OF CHRIST, and NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW: FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED.. But if, while we seek to be justified BY CHRIST, we ourselves also are FOUND SINNERS, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make MYSELF a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY THE LAW, THEN CHRIST DIED IN VAIN."
(Galatians 2:16-21 KJV)

Jesus Christ Himself when asked about how a person is saved from their sins answered with these very clear and very repetitive words, as to be crystal clear how a person becomes forgiven and saved, a child of God, headed for Heaven with eternal life:

"That whosoever BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but HAVE ETERNA LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world THROUGH HIM might be saved.

He that BELIEVETH ON HIM is not condemned: but HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT is condemned ALREADY, because he hath NOT BELIEVED in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:15-18 KJV)

Salvation is only by trusting in the *finished work of Christ* on the cross when He bore our sins and *MADE US* the very righteousness of God, in Christ.

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **MADE the righteousness of God** in him. " (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

This Scripture above shows just how much God has saved such a person for all eternity. To be with God in Heaven we must be without sin debt. In belief, the person actually becomes the very righteousness of God, in Christ. An amazing truth to be so thankful for, yet many believers have not grasped in how powerful our Salvation really is through what Christ accomplished for us on that cross.

Chapter Seven

The Real Purpose Of The Law Of Moses And The Ten Commandments

In this day and age there are many who believe that they can believe whatever truth is for themselves and that *their own personal truth*, and the way they see the world, that is truth for them. There is no good or bad truth. You have your truth and I have mine.

But living without any absolute truth; is that really the way to think and live? Living your life without absolute truth is like walking in a mine field in pitch blackness and not seeing the explosion in your life just ahead. I mean, let's get real a moment here. If a person believes he can fly and that is his truth they are heading for disaster! No matter how much a person believes that to be their truth, the absolute truth is gravity will win if you jump off a building or bridge without a parachute right?

There is such a thing as absolute truth and God provides us with 10 truths, that is ten standards/laws of truth regarding our lives. Without these Godly absolute truths we would be walking in complete darkness spiritually speaking. We would be doing whatever we want and thinking it was all okay and everything is acceptable to God. So the Ten Commandments are the real truth right from God Himself.

But does that mean God just gave the 10 commandments to us so we could use them to live by and avoid trouble? Is obeying them a way to make up for our sins and to look good to God? Or is there more to this?

JUDGING OURSELVES AGAINST GODLY STANDARDS – NOT HUMAN STANDARDS

Logically, God is good so His laws must be good for us as well. These laws must reflect the perfect Holiness of God. And they most certainly do. And a fair way of looking at how good or bad we are must not be by comparing ourselves with others. That is not a fair comparison. We must compare ourselves with God's perfect standard.

We humans have a big problem that God has already provided the solution for. That is the fact that we are all born into sin and have a 'sin nature' in us. And by knowing the LAW, we are exposed as sinners against God. We have a bent toward sinning, a drive toward sinning. We are all SINNERS – EVERY ONE OF US!

THE MISCONCEPTION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Bible makes it clear that we have all sinned against our Holy and perfect God. Many pulpits teach condemnation as a means to stay saved. You must not break one of the Ten Commandments or you will no longer be saved. Other teach that obeying the Ten Commandments is the way to salvation. Both would be severely wrong and have not read their Bibles in context.

The Biblical truth is that the Ten Commandments were not given to us by God so that we would obey them to make up for our sins. **No, it is just the opposite.** We were given the Ten Commandments so that we would recognize our sin as sin. Look at Romans:

*"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become **EXCEEDING SINFUL**. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." (Romans 7:12-14 KJV)*

*"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall **NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED** in his sight: for by the law is the **KNOWLEDGE OF SIN**." (Romans 3:20 KJV)*

*"Moreover the law entered, that the offence **MIGHT ABOUND**. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:" (Romans 5:20)*

*"The sting of death is sin; and the **STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW**." (1 Corinthians 15:56 KJV)*

Now do you see the misconception that most people have about the Ten Commandments? It does no good to try to match up to the Commandments in order to make up for our sins against God. If you break one ... you break them all (James 2:10) . We could never have kept them all. No person , except Jesus Christ, has ever kept the 10 Commandments. God gave the Commandments so that we would see that we could never regain fellowship with God through our own works. He wants us to know that this can only produce sin and death.

Only the blood atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross can save us and forgive us from our sins. That is what is meant by 'God's Grace' in the preceding scripture.

EVERYONE MUST CHOOSE. CHOOSE GOD!

"I call Heaven and Earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Christ took care of our "sin problem" at the cross. And all we have to do is believe and ask for forgiveness. Just as Adam made a conscious choice to sin we must also make a conscious choice to receive the free gift of eternal life. Christ will not force you to choose to accept His salvation.

In Mark 6:45-52 there is a verse that shows that we must use our free will and hand over control of our lives to Christ. Your right to have the freedom to choose is very important to God.

"And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, AND WOULD HAVE PASSED THEM BY. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, AND CRIED OUT: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened." (Mark 6:45-52 KJV)

In these verses Jesus told His disciples to go to the other side of the sea. Jesus then went to pray in seclusion. Once they were in the middle of the sea a

strong headwind made it difficult for the disciples to row. Jesus saw that they were having great difficulty (probably shown to Him by God the Father while He was praying) and began to walk on the top of the water towards them. (Boat? Who needs a boat?)

To their astonishment, the distressed disciples saw Jesus walking on top of the water and coming towards their boat. At first, they thought it was a ghost and they were silent with fear. Just imagine if you thought you were seeing a ghost floating on the water and coming straight towards you! Only when Jesus came close enough so that they could see that it was Christ did their fear change to joyful amazement.

It is at this point, however, where something happens that seems in contradiction to what you might expect. One would expect that Jesus would immediately calm the storm and get in the boat and help the disciples but He does not!

In fact, Mark 6:48 says that Jesus paid NO attention to them and was proceeding to *pass them by*. Only when they cried out to Him did he acknowledge them and save them from their predicament! If the disciples had not submitted the problem to the authority of Jesus it seems like He would have walked right passed them. But once they turned over their situation to Christ He took over with full authority and stopped the headwind!

In Mark 4:35-41 we see a similar occurrence. Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a great storm began to rock the boat hard. The boat began to fill with water and they were fearful for their lives! And what was Jesus doing? Saving them as one might expect? NO! In fact, He was sleeping! The disciples woke Him up and said,

“...Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”(Mark 4:38 KJV)

It is only when the disciples woke Him and asked for Him to save them that Jesus calmed the storm. Jesus knew what was going on. He may have been sleeping but no sleep can be deep enough to hide water pouring all over one's self in a boat swaying harshly from side to side. Many other Scriptures prove this point. It seems that God is trying to get this point through our thick skulls!

We should ask God and He will intervene in our lives. Yes, the Holy Spirit works to bring a person to repentance unto salvation but God gives you and me FREE WILL and it is important to Him that you have that CHOICE.

God wants ALL to be saved but will all be saved? The Bible is clear the answer is no. Christ did everything required for Salvation except one; that a person believe He is the Son Of God who took away the sin of the world through the atonement He provided on the cross. He is always close by (Christ did walk out towards the boat didn't He?) but it is you and me who must give up our free will and ASK for help and forgiveness . God wants you to have FREEDOM OF CHOICE! This is vitally important in order to have a loving relationship with God; that we be able to choose to do something ourselves with, or without, God. Otherwise, it would be called slavery. God does have a sovereign will over our lives, that is true. Yet He also gives us free will to choose. He is right there waiting for you to ask. God loves answering us!

God will not interfere with the decisions you make until you ask Him to take over the situation for you. We are only human. We will mess up in life. No doubt about it – we still have that sin nature within us. But even when we do mess up, the Holy Spirit will make all things work for your good as a believer. However, we must give Jesus authority over our life by our free will and admit that we are a

sinner and believe that Jesus was the Son of God who was crucified so that our sins would be forgiven.

In John 6:28-29 Jesus makes this clear...

"So they asked Him, 'What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?' Jesus answered, 'What God wants you to do is to believe in the one He sent.'" (John 6:28-29)

WHO IS THE ONE GOD SENT?

It is Jesus Christ who died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins and our disobedience to God's Ten Laws. The Ten Commandments are a mirror we can look into and see just how sinful we are against a Holy God and they convict us so that we will turn to God and accept Jesus' act of atonement on the cross and be forgiven.

The purpose of the Ten Commandments is to show you how Holy God is and to show you how sinful we as humankind all are. When you realize that when you die you will face a Holy God. When the moment comes and you think about and realize the truth that even if your good deeds outweigh your bad sinful deeds; you sins must still be judged by a Holy God.

What should you do at that moment of your life? Do not run away from God. DO not deceive yourselves. Accept God's truth and turn to Him. Ask God for mercy and forgiveness through Christ. That is one of the most important reasons the Law was given to us. So that we might believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and because of this have eternal life with God forever and ever.

Is Christianity About
Law Following

Or

Resting In
The Grace Of God?

Chapter Eight
Living Under The Law Of Moses,
As Believers, Is Falling
From God's Grace

*"Christ is become of **NO EFFECT** unto you, whosoever of you are justified
BY THE LAW; ye are **FALLEN FROM GRACE.**" (Galatians 5:4 KJV)*

This one verse of Scripture is very powerful and full of the truth that Salvation will never be achieved by our own self righteous efforts nor deeds nor even following the Ten Commandments of God. Apostle Paul is an EXPERT in the Law of Moses and he knows what he is talking about. After his little meeting with the ascended Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became the main person to teach the Gospel to the gentiles (and that includes you and me). We are saved ONLY by trusting in and believing on the Grace of God through Jesus Christ crucified, having paid for the sin of the whole world.

We see many times in Paul's writings how he is at constant battle between people following the Law verses receiving the free gift of Salvation by belief on Christ alone. The Galatian church members at first believed the true Gospel of Jesus Christ which is Salvation by the GRACE of God (an unmerited favor) through faith (belief) in the atonement for our sins through the ONLY begotten Son of God, Jesus the Christ.

We see in Galatians 2 that soon after establishing the Galatian church some people crept into the church and started teaching others that belief in the atonement for sins through Christ was NOT ENOUGH. They taught that the

religious rituals of the Law of Moses were also *required*. When Paul heard this he addressed the Galatian church to show them just how serious and how false a teaching that is when he wrote,

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, LET HIM BE ACCURSED." (Galatians 2:6-8 KJV)

Later in Galatians 5, Paul continues showing how reverting to following the Law of Moses, a works based system, as a requirement of Salvation is not the true Gospel of Christ. He uses a rule of the Law of Moses that males are to be circumcised as an example to explain. The Liberty Paul speaks of is the Law of Liberty we have in Christ where all our sins have been completely forgiven to those that believe in the atonement of Christ.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

The English word *liberty* in the Greek is '*liberty to do or to omit things having NO RELATIONSHIP TO SALVATION*'. This word *liberty* in the proper definition the Bible itself gives shines light on this great truth that Salvation is not of ourselves in any manner. It is only through trusting on what Christ accomplished *for us* on the cross.

*“Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you NOTHING. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a DEBTOR to do the WHOLE LAW. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are **FALLEN FROM GRACE**. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness **BY FAITH**.” (Galatians 5:2-5 KJV)*

Adding the Law of Moses to the Gospel of Salvation by faith in Christ is putting a person back *into bondage of the Law*. That is the very thing Jesus died on the Christ for! What Paul is saying is that trying to keep one of the Laws of Moses, such as males being circumcised, such a person is now in bondage to keep the ENTIRE LAW OF MOSES, the Ten Commandments and all the rest of the laws. This is the very reason Christ came and was crucified for our sins; no person can keep all of the Law of Moses! Every person has sin! It is impossible!

Paul goes on to say that those teaching this false gospel should be CUT OFF; that is kick them out of the church because they are not true believers but are false prophets twisting the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see Jesus warning us during His Earthly ministry teaching the very same thing in Matthew 7. Paul puts it this way in verse 9, *“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”* This is serious business. Better they be cut off than others be deceived by them.

“I would they were even cut off which trouble you. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Galatians 5:12-14 KJV)

Once you accept the free gift of Salvation through Christ's atonement do not revert to thinking you that you must add good works nor religious rituals as

REQUIREMENTS to be saved. DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LIE! Yes, do good works and help others in Love because it is right to serve others as Christ served us and, well, good works are a good thing right? But NEVER think good works or religious rituals are REQUIRED for Salvation. THAT is the point.

Our Salvation was accomplished 100% by God, *a free gift to be received*, and our belief is our accepting this wonderful gift of the grace of God. Our *Service After Salvation* is important and it is about the works we do, or do not do and will be judged at the Bema judgement seat of Christ when believers are judged *according to their works for gain of rewards or loss of rewards*. Yet, even those with no good works are still in Heaven eternally. In fact the word '*sin*' is never mentioned regarding the judgement of believers in Christ's atonement. Why? Because they were already fully dealt with and paid in full on the cross! Jesus cried out on the cross, IT IS FINISHED.

The problem is some read Paul's words about our walk and service after the moment of our Salvation and try to jam it back into Salvation *as a requirement* and that is very wrong. Salvation was achieved by Christ and not by our own self righteous efforts. Believing on good works or religious rituals for your Salvation in ANY MANNER is called BONDAGE by Paul. Instead, focus on the *Law of Liberty* in Christ which is, all our sins have been forgiven (past/present/future sins). Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself. Love God and love others in both word and in deeds. Not that the good deeds save you nor justify you before God but God loved us and gave His only Son to save us, and the Holy Spirit now resides within us as believers. Walk in the spirit, not the flesh and now let God's love shine through you with gratitude.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:16-25 KJV)

When a person accepts the pardon of Christ for their sins and receives the free gift of Salvation the Holy Spirit indwells that person from that moment and for all eternity. It is our belief in the Gospel that redeems us by what Christ did on the cross.

*“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise**, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-16 KJV)*

At the moment of belief in the atonement Christ provided on the cross, we were changed positionally. We are now 100% righteous in position before God because all the sins we committed, or will commit after Salvation, were ALL penalty paid on the cross in Jesus. When Christ cried out on the cross *“it is finished”* the Greek that

the New Testament was written in says it meant "DEBT PAID IN FULL". And now this is what God says about those who believe on the atonement of sins through what Christ did on the cross,

*"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their iniquities** will I remember no more." (Hebrews 8:12 KJV)*

That is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We are saved 100% by the GRACE of God. Salvation is NOT based on our good works in ANY MANNER, neither before or after Salvation. Paul repeatedly wrote to not mix The Law (10 Commandments) with Grace. It is a false Gospel. The person who believes on Christ alone for their Salvation actually becomes the very righteousness of God, IN CHRIST.

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **made** the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

In the same way, we are in Christ as well. As Paul said, we actually LIVE IN THE SPIRIT and so we should also walk in the spirit. Love God and love others as yourself. Read the Word of God for the Renewing of your mind by the Holy Spirit within. In this you are pleasing God after becoming a child of God through Christ.

Chapter Nine

The Doctrine Of

The Two Natures In The Mind Of A Believer

The Apostle Paul is who God chose to give the Gospel Of Grace to the gentiles (all non Jews) and he also taught the doctrine of the Two Natures In The Mind Of A Believer in Romans 7 where we read,

*"14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.
15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but
what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent
unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin
that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,)
dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform
that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the
evil which I would not, that I do.*

*20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that
dwelleth in me." (Romans 7: 14-20 KJV)*

Reading Verse 17 and then again in verse 20 is the truth that so many Christians have skimmed over and not yet grasped. Paul is saying very clearly that inside of us is the Adam, The Flesh Nature, which always wants to sin. It is like a disease since our physical birth. And then there is the New Created Spirit we received at our conversion and belief of the Gospel Of Christ, The Gospel Of Grace that Paul taught. And that when we fail and sin, and believe me we ALL DO (1 John 1:10), it is not the REAL US that does it. It is this old thinking from our old Sin Nature. The Newly Created Spirit within is PERFECT (1 John 3:9) and without sin. It

is of the seed of the Spirit Of God and is perfectly Holy. Yet, it currently still resides in this corrupted Flesh. Our physical birth came long before our born again Spirit and so the MIND still has Fleshly Old Nature thoughts affecting us as believers. This is why the Apostle Paul tells us that our present body, is corrupt, and will never inherit the Kingdom of God. We were reborn in the Spirit but not our bodies – yet.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” (1 Corinthians 15:50 KJV)

It is also the reason why we need a bodily resurrection in our future as Paul continues,

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15: 51-57 KJV)

Heaven is a perfect place and there is no sin there. No one can enter Heaven with a sin nature and sin debt against God. But we cannot stop sinning

perfectly until we receive our new glorified body as Christ has! That is why we need Christ! Paul admonishes that regarding the doctrine of the Two Natures In The Mind Of A Believer in the last verse of Romans 7:

*“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then **with the mind** I myself serve the law of God; but with **the flesh** the law of sin.”*
(Romans 7:24-25 KJV)

Christ paid for all of our lifetime of sins in the flesh on the cross 100%. Even the future sins we may commit were PAID IN FULL by Christ on that cross because all of our sins were future to the cross. He did not give us a partial payment on our fleshly sin debt! Jesus cried out on the cross, IT IS FINISHED! In the Greek this was penned it literally means a DEBT PAID IN FULL. This is what Jesus cried out on the cross! Salvation is eternal and the word eternal means... well... **ETERNAL and FOREVER!**

We do not keep our Salvation intact by our own efforts! It is Christ alone that keeps us saved. Jesus tells us this very clearly:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.” (John 10:27-28 KJV)

In God’s sovereignty, He foreknew everything you and I would do in our life and the sins we would commit and yet He still decided to give every person the opportunity to accept Salvation as a FREE GIFT without self righteous works or deeds required. God still came in the flesh and died on that cross for us so that we

would be forgiven and saved eternally. What a great gift! (Ephesians 2:8-9) And whosoever believes on Christ alone in faith, He gives them eternal life and keeps them saved forever.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Philippians 1:6 KJV)

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.” (Psalms 37:23-28 KJV)

THE GRACE OF GOD IS NOT A LICENSE TO SIN.

Is it fair that we sin and we do not have to pay the penalty of separation from God for all eternity? NO! **That is why it is called the GRACE OF GOD!** Salvation is an *unmerited favor*! There are still consequences for sinning in this life after the moment of our Salvation (steal/jail) and loss of rewards at the judgement seat of Christ for believers after the Rapture. The Loss of Salvation is not a consequence though. Believers are SEALED by the Holy Spirit and given ETERNAL LIFE from the very moment of belief on Christ as God in the Flesh who paid for the sins of the whole world on the cross (John 3:14-18, Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 John 2:2). As believers, we have the Holy Spirit within to guide us into all truth. We should be reading the Word Of God to renew our minds (Romans 12:2, John 17:17, Ephesians 6). We should be striving to walk in The Spirit, the new nature, as this is the NEW US now that we are saved and not by the lusts of The Flesh (The Sin

Nature thoughts) which will one day be gone, replaced by glorified resurrected bodies, incorruptible and without the Fleshly sin bent body we now live within.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ”
(Galatians 5:16, 25 KJV)

Chapter Ten

The Believer's Number One Goal: Renewing The Mind

Do we sanctify ourselves after our moment of Salvation or does the Holy Spirit sanctify us? The Holy Spirit is the one that guides us to the truth and teaches us all things. We do have our part to play though. Jesus prayed for us in John 17 and I highly recommend you take time to read it. It is such a beautiful prayer full of hope and assurance for the believer. Jesus says,

"Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." (John 17:17 KJV)

Jesus has saved all who believe on His atonement for sins. Yet, after our Salvation what do we do now? First, thank God for such an amazing gift! Second, read the Bible because it is God's Word and the absolute truth. The more you read the Bible and the words of the Gospel of God's Grace Through Jesus Christ, the more you are helping the Holy Spirit renew your mind. You will see the truth and be set free from the guilt of your sins and set free from the troubling thoughts of punishment of your sins. You will look at things from God's viewpoint and not the world's viewpoint and that will empower you to accomplish the good works of God through you.

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall **MAKE YOU FREE.**" (John 8:31-32 KJV)*

Notice the word *'make'*. The Bible does not ever say it is our efforts making us saved and righteous before God. And it is not our own efforts that sanctify us completely. Only the Holy Spirit renews our minds and changes us from the inner self outwardly. That said, by reading the truth from the Word of God we are pressing toward the goal of the Holy Spirit. It says over and over again what Jesus said in John 8. It is God alone that *MAKES US positionally righteous and justified*. It is never our works accomplishing this. It is our belief in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29, John 3)

Writing to even the the carnal believers in Corinthians Paul makes this statement,

*"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, **yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**" (2 Corinthians 4:16 KJV)*

And we see in Titus,

*"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should **be made** heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**" (Titus 3:5-7 KJV)*

How a person thinks and believes about the world will determine their actions in the world. A person's viewpoint is an important key factor in how a person lives. How we think and believe is how we will live. We all begin with the world's viewpoint. And who is controlling the world's viewpoint of truth? Apostle Paul says it is our adversary, Satan.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12 KJV)

In Ephesians 6, Paul continues and is telling us to put on the whole armour of God and it is all about knowing the truth in the Bible about the Grace of God and allowing this to transform us. And that means we should be studying the word of God to know the truth. Knowing the truths in the Bible will also protect us from our adversary!

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong **in the Lord**, and **in the power of HIS MIGHT**. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Ephesians 6:10-17 KJV)*

WE HAVE OUR PART TO DO IN THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK OF RENEWING OUR MIND TO GODS VIEW POINT AND TRUTH.

You still have free choice after the moment of your Salvation to walk by the Spirit in truth (by God's word) or to walk by the flesh in carnality as the Corinthians were doing. Are you still saved either way after Salvation? Yes. Paul called the

Corinthians believers. Does that mean there are no consequences for sin and we can just keep sinning and ignoring God's word without consequences? No!

We have our part to do and why would we not want to know the truth from God's word? Jesus redeemed us with His shed blood and has given us all things. Christ says in John 15 to abide in Him and His words and Christ will abide in us. Do not just listen to Pastors or Priests. In fact, do not just read my articles or e-books and believe. Instead, start reading your Bible for yourself after your moment of Salvation, having received this most amazing GIFT from God. Test any Christian teaching that you hear, read or view. The Holy Spirit within a believer will Sanctify you and guide and teach you the truth.

*"And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2 KJV)*

When that happens over time, you will be changed and conformed more and more into the image of Christ. God will place desires in you to accomplish good works He has prepared for you to perform. Start reading the amazing truths of who you really are now as a believer in Christ's atonement for sin. The first three chapters of Ephesians shows us who we really are now, in Christ. Through God's word you will find you are now righteous, redeemed, an ambassador for Christ to others and Heaven bound.

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and **in the power of his might.**" (Ephesians 6:10 KJV)*

And we do this '*be strong*' in the faith of Christ by renewing your mind by the Word of God which gives you confidence in the power of HIS MIGHT.

Chapter Eleven

What Does The Bible Say About Repentance?

It is something that every Christian has done. If you have not done this one thing then you may not be a Christian but only think you are; **Repent**. The Scriptures are clear and Jesus Himself tells us that to be saved one needs to *repent*.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17 KJV)

"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matthew 9:13 KJV)

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5 KJV)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19 KJV)

There seems to be much confusion about what the Bible means when it tells us to *Repent*. Does that mean that we just stop all sins and then we can be saved? Does that mean we must *do penance* for our sins? Does it mean we need to *turn from our sins*? Does it just mean we *feel sorry* for our sins?

John says, *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."* (1 John 1:10). And John was addressing believers here, not

those who do not believe. So if he told believers with faith in Christ, then we can also conclude that to *repent* does not mean to simply stop sinning. That is not to say we should try to not sin. Sin has consequences! However, the word *repent* obviously does not mean to '*turn from your sin*' as a requirement of Salvation.

Is *repenting* something that we must do after we accept faith in Christ? Is *repenting* something that we must do over and over again each time we sin after our moment of our acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Savior? That is, when we sin after our initial moment of Salvation, do we have to repent of each sin by asking God to forgive us for that sin or risk losing our Salvation? There are so many false teachings about the word *repentance* it has made many believe in a false gospel requiring works, which Paul and James disagreed with very strongly.

CLEARING THE CONFUSION OVER REPENTANCE

The confusion over what *repentance* actually means is because modern day dictionaries do not define the word *repent* in the same way that the Bible defines the word. The definition of the word has changed over time and no longer is defined to mean what it meant in the time that Jesus walked on the Earth 2000 years ago. **This is very important to understand!**

Dictionary.com defines the word *repent* as "*to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one's life for the better; be penitent.*" If this were the definition for *repent* in the Bible then the entire Gospel and Salvation in Christ becomes a *false Gospel based on works and our own human effort*. A read through the book of Galatians shows that this cannot be the case.

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”
(Galatians 1:3-8 KJV)

Even a brief review of the Gospel of Christ that Paul taught shows clearly that Salvation is not of human works or effort but that **Salvation is a free gift from God to be received**. Salvation is not something we work towards receiving. It is a gift that we receive. If someone gives you a gift, do they expect you to work or they will take back the gift? If so, it is not a gift right?

Apparently, there were some who wanted to add *works* as a requirement to be saved. This is opposite to the Gospel of Christ. In fact, it is like telling Christ that His sacrifice in blood for remission of our sins was not enough and not sufficient. God forbid a person act like that toward such a loving God! It is such a seriously wrong belief that Paul says,

*“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**”*
(Galatians 1:8 KJV)

THE TRUE BIBLICAL MEANING OF REPENTANCE

The word *repent* in the Bible has a completely different meaning than today's modern dictionary. Once you see the true Biblical meaning of *repentance* you can see how *good* the good news of the Gospel of Christ really is!

The New Testament was originally written in the Greek. This is important information for interpreting the Scriptures to find the true meaning of passages used in context.

The Greek word for *repent* is '*metanoia*' and is defined as "...a change of mind, change in the inner man". You can see clearly now that the Biblical meaning of *repent* is nothing like the dictionary definition (change one's life for the better; be penitent.) True repentance is not a work that WE DO to gain God's acceptance and favour. God reached out to us first and provided a way for us sinners to be forgiven completely, but it is NOT from our own efforts. God gives Salvation to us as ***a free gift to be received. (Ephesians 2:8-9)***

The Bible tells us that BEFORE God created the Earth He established the one and only way for us to be forgiven our sins and that way is by faith in the act of atonement provided by Jesus Christ on the cross. Repentance is changing our mind and thinking about how to be saved. We are NOT saved by our works, which is what the every religion in the world teaches. Even many '*Christian organized religions*' are teaching falsely and misusing the word *repent* and they add works as a requirement of Salvation. But that is NOT Biblical teaching.

We need to change our thinking about how we are saved to the true way of Salvation. It is 100% the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ and the atonement He provided by His shed blood. By believing this we ***have repented and turned towards God*** while He is already reaching out to us! That is a big difference from the false teaching that repenting is the act of us ***turning from our sin*** in our own effort *as a requirement* to stay saved. In fact, God Himself repents

many times in Scriptures. Does God have to turn from sin? No, God does not have sin! REPENT simply means to *change your mind*.

You see this world system and evil world view is not God's view and He wants us to turn from the world's way of dealing with sin and instead accept His way of dealing with our sin; faith in the atonement for our sin provided by the Son of God on the cross. To *repent* is the first step to Salvation in Christ. Repentance does not save a person, but it leads to Salvation as you change your mind about God and your sin debt against Him.

"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing." (2 Corinthians 7:9 KJV)

There are Scriptures that *seem* to convey that to *Repent* is to turn away from and stop sinning. However, the Bible is very clear that Salvation is not of works or human effort. Salvation comes by believing the Gospel, not by *not sinning*. And if you really think about it; if you change your mind (*repent*) about God and how to have your sins forgiven, you may very well change and stop a particular sin you practiced in your life before Salvation.

However, the *repenting* is the change in your mind from the world's way of dealing with sin and changing to God's way of dealing with sin which is believing on Christ for Salvation apart from works of any kind (Ephesians 2:8-9). Stopping the practice of a particular sin is **a result of repenting and changing your mind**. That is, it is not the repenting itself.

THE MAIN BOOKS OF SALVATION PROVES THIS!

The book of John is all about how to be saved. Do you know that the word *repent* nor *repentance* does not even appear once! But the word *believe* on Christ is seen all over the book many times!

The book of Galatians. This is the book fighting against the false Gospel based on works for Salvation right? Again, the word *repent* is not found once in this book contending for the true Gospel! However the word *faith* in Jesus Christ is found all through the book!

The book of Romans. Paul tells us again and again that Salvation is not of works in any manner! And where the word *repent* is found, it is not the same Greek word. It does not mean *turning from your sin*.

The Christian religions need to stop using the dictionary definition of the word *repent*! They are teaching a false Gospel which is not helping people get saved nor know the truth of the Gospel. It is a very serious matter to understand as a believer.

FAILING WAY OF DEALING WITH SIN...

(a) There is no God.

(b) If I do good deeds it will make up for my sins and I will be in right standing with God. Or, I am full of sin and so I will run away from anything to do with God so my sin will not be revealed.

(c) I will make myself look like I am good on the outside and go to church everyday. I will assist in the church committees, I will be outstanding in

religious rituals and these good deeds will make me walk in right standing with God. It is what I DO that determines whether or not I go to Heaven or Hell.

GODS WAY OF DEALING WITH SIN...

(a) God is Holy and He must punish someone that sins. The punishment for sinning is ETERNAL DEATH. (Romans 6:23)

(b) Everyone has sinned, regardless of how good they think they are and no good deeds can every make up for past sins committed.

(c) Jesus, the only Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary (not born into sin as we are), lived a sinless life and freely gave His life on the cross to take the punishment for the sins that we commit and takes our place in punishment so we can be free from the punishment of sin.

(d) As a sinner you and I acknowledge that we have sinned against God. And we ask Jesus to forgive us all our sins (past,present and future) and accept the free gift of salvation from our debt of sin against God. The world's way to God is through works. But the real way to God is by God's grace through faith:

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

This is what true repentance is. We turn from working away our sin debt, or out right ignoring it, (the World's way) to accepting His gift of love and forgiveness (God's way). Jesus, the only son of God who existed before the universe was even created, of His own free will died on the cross and took our place and punishment for sin's we have committed. On that cross He freed us from our sin debt and gave us God's very righteousness, in Christ.

Once you accept this gift from God you are now what the Bible calls positionally *Righteous*. Not because of our works nor our sinless life, but because Christ bore the punishment for all of our sins. It is God who first loved us and reached out to us. God is love and waits for you to return to a relationship with Him. This is the *Good News* of the Gospel. So when Jesus tells us that we need *to repent* it means we need *to believe the Gospel message* and to believe in God's view in how to deal with the sin debt we all have against a Perfectly Holy and Just God.

*"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**'" (Mark 1:14-15 KJV)*

*"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**" (John 14: 5-6 KJV)*

Jesus did not tell Thomas that no one comes to the Father except he *stops sinning*. Jesus said *'but by me'*. When a person asks for the forgiveness provided through Christ. When a person asks Jesus for forgiveness and invites God through the forgiveness provided, then that person becomes a new creation in the spirit. A

new created being. They *have repented* by doing so. They believed on Christ for Salvation. In fact, God lives within every believer as Jesus said,

"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." (John 14:19-20 KJV)

All we have to do is trust in and believe on the finished work of Christ crucified, feel sorry about our sin and ask for His forgiveness and He will forgive us, justify us and set us free. After the moment of a person's Salvation in Christ the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within a believer. And over time the Holy Spirit will make Himself known to you and will teach you all things.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26 KJV)

USING THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF REPENT WITH SCRIPTURES

Understanding the Bible definition of the word REPENT as simply '*change your mind*' we can replace the word with 'change your mind' and then reread the passage and the context becomes more clear. A person repent and changes their mind TO BE SAVED by belief on Christ. Also, AFTER SALVATION, believers repent (change mind) about many things as they renew their mind by the Word of God. The context the word REPENT is used in the passage gives the meaning.

Example: Acts 3

"19 REPENT ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19 KJV)

is the same as reading it this way...

"19 CHANGE YOUR MIND ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19 KJV)

Acts 3 is about a Change of mind about how to eradicate sin. Not by the Law of Moses, but through Christ in faith.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON – ARE YOU ONE?

"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:11-24 KJV)

If you have never had a change of mind about the truth...

...that God exists and that Jesus is The Christ, God in the flesh,
...that the Bible is true with proof no other religious writing have,
...that He is perfect in every way,
...that He is Perfectly Holy and Perfectly Just,
...that He never changes,
...that He must punish sin,
...and that the only way back to God is to admit you are a sinner,
...and that the ONLY way back to the one true God of the universe is through belief in the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son Of God, for the remission of your sin,

THEN I SAY TO YOU... Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand! CHANGE YOUR MIND and be set free!

Today can be the day of your Salvation. This very day in the next few minutes! Your Salvation is NOT of works in self effort. It is a GIFT TO BE RECEIVED for your sins (past/present/future). Come as you are – full of sin and regrets and hangups, guilty before God. God is waiting for you to accept His free GIFT OF SALVATION. It is a HOLY PARDON that is free to you but we must remember that Christ paid a heavy price in His blood to obtain your Salvation. He longs to forgive you COMPLETELY for ALL the sins in your life.

Chapter Twelve

What must I do to be saved?

Why Did Jesus Have To Die On The Cross For Me?

“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And BY HIM ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:38-39 KJV)

Believing that the Bible is the word of God, the very next question you need an answer to is what is God really like? Starting with knowing about God and His perfect ways gives you a solid foundation upon which to build better understanding when reading the Word of God. For a more in depth reading on this subject I refer you to another e-book I have written called “Knowing God” (see seekknockfind.org for details). For the topic of this booklet, let us quickly look at some of God’s characteristics from the Bible.

- God is eternal. He is not a created being. He has always existed. God never changes. He is the same today as He has always been. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17, Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalms 90:2)
- God cannot do anything against His own perfect character. God keeps His promises to us. (Psalms 12:6-7, Mark 13:31)
- God is perfect in every way:
 - + Perfect in love. (1 John 4:8, 1 John 4:16, 1 John 4:7)
 - + Perfectly Holy and perfect in justice. (Revelation 4:8, 1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - + Perfect in mercy. (Hebrews 13:5, Romans 3:23-24, Psalms 111:9)

Perfect love is the trait of God that we want to hear about the most right? If God loves us then what have we to fear? In fact, many pulpits focus on this aspect of God yet deny the other attributes of God. We must remember that God is also perfectly JUST and Holy. And that is the problem that we humans need to address and face head on. If we compare our goodness to others who have done greater sins than we have, that is not a fair assessment of our true sinfulness. The Bible tells us that *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23 KJV)* and that *"...we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; " (Isaiah 53:6 KJV)*. The very best thing we do in goodness is as filthy rags to God. You see, we all have a SIN NATURE in us. And God is so Holy that even just ONE sin is enough to cause Him to punish us with His perfect justice.

To make matters worse, the punishment for even ONE SIN is eternal death in a place of torment that was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). God is THAT HOLY! And when we compare ourselves to God, believe me when I say that we fail miserably. God gave us the Ten Commandments as His Absolute Truth to show us just how sinful we really are. No normally born human has kept the Ten Commandments perfectly.

Some say, I have not committed murder or adultery! However, Jesus said that if you have hate toward another in your heart you have committed murder. If you lust after the opposite sex you have committed adultery in your heart. And have you really loved God with ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND? Honestly, none of us have. You see our heart, our inner being is where the problem is. We all were born with a SIN NATURE and a 'bent' toward sinning since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So we have all sinned. What does that make us? It makes us sinners! And what does the Bible say happens to sinners? They are headed for God's judgement and condemnation in hell.

"For the wages of sin is death;..." (Romans 6:23 KJV)

A look at this verse in the Greek in which it was penned defines this death as *'with the implied idea of future misery in hell'*. This is an eternal death. That is not good news right?! So, what about God's love you keep hearing about? Isn't God perfect in love and mercy? YES He is! But not in a wishy washy sense. What I mean is that God is not going to just tell you in the court room of God, *"ok. You did more good deeds than bad, so I will allow you eternal life in heaven"*. NEVER. God CANNOT do anything against His perfect trait of Holiness! To be given entrance to Heaven a person must be perfect and without any sin debt.

HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS! THE WONDERFUL NEWS!

God is also perfect in love and mercy and so He must also abide by these character traits perfectly. You see God loves you and me more than any being in the universe. He does not want anyone to end up in Hell. No! He loves the sinner but hates the sin. He wants all to be in heaven with Him forever and ever.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 KJV)

But this SIN is in the way because He must judge it. The penalty MUST be paid. So what is God to do in this predicament? This is what Salvation is all about. The Bible tells us that God is a Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (1 John

5:7). The Bible is clear that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). God in His perfect love and mercy decides to commit the single greatest act of love in the universe for all of time. God decides to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself so that our penalty for sins can be paid in full. To do this, He would have to become a man but also still be God. This God-man is Jesus The Christ.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and was not born into the sin nature as we were. He is God after all. He could be tempted to sin but never sinned in His entire life in deed, nor in thought. Why? Because He is God become flesh. God had to become flesh and live as one of us so His blood could be shed for us. It was the only way that we could be forgiven our sins because they had to be paid for. God is perfectly just and our sins MUST be paid for.

When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood God took upon Himself all the sins of the whole world (past/present/future, 1 John 2:2) and paid for them so that we could be freed from our sin debt against the Holy God Almighty. Salvation is a FREE GIFT of God's grace and an unmerited favour (Ephesians. 2:8-9). So you see, yes God is love. Amazing love! But His love that saves us was not in a wishy washy way. Jesus became the perfect once for all sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 10:10) and in doing so kept all His perfect traits and characteristics intact. He loves us perfectly. He judged our sins in His perfect justice and Holiness. He was perfectly merciful toward us in paying the penalty for our sins. THAT is the true love of God from the Bible. That is the love of God that you hear so much about. It far surpasses any love we have for each other here on Earth.

THE FREE GIFT OF THE GRACE OF GOD

*“For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves:
it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

The Bible is clear that this act of love towards us is a FREE GIFT to be received. That is, it is not us working our way to heaven by performing good deeds and good works, being a good person nor by religious rituals. It is a Grace GIFT from God. An UNMERITED favour from God to humankind. Now God did not create us as robots. Instead He gave us a free will so that we could have a real relationship with Him. And so God offers the free gift of Salvation to all who believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who atoned for our sins on the cross, died and rose again on the third day.

Jesus on the cross cried out, “It is finished” and if we look at the Greek that the New Testament was written, it actually means “DEBT PAID IN FULL!” God does not force anyone to accept this free gift and turn to God for Salvation from our sins. As a GIFT, it must be received or rejected. Jesus said about Salvation through Him,

“That WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but have ETERNAL LIFE. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that BELIEVETH ON HIM is not condemned: but he that BELIEVETH NOT is condemned already, because he hath NOT BELIEVED in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:15-18 KJV)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Only one thing which is not of your own self righteous efforts in any way; BELIEVE the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who paid your penalty for the sins you have committed. When a person believes this they are from that very moment saved eternally (Ephesians 1:13-14), even without saying a prayer (it is good to give Him thanks in belief, do not get me wrong!), The Holy Spirit of God indwells the person and they are SEALED and saved for all eternity!

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye BELIEVED, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of PROMISE, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:13-16 KJV)

And these Scriptures below show just how much God has saved such a person for all eternity. To be with God in Heaven we must be without sin debt. In belief, the person actually becomes the very righteousness of God, in Christ! An amazing truth to be so thankful for, yet many believers have not grasped how powerful our Salvation is!

"For he hath made HIM [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE the righteousness of God IN HIM." (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV, [] brackets for clarification)

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And BY HIM ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:38-39 KJV)

Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and has imputed the righteousness of God to us, in God's eyes He sees us through the filter of Christ! To Him we are holy, righteous and redeemed for all eternity. To God, all your sins (past/present/future) have all been fully paid for and so there is now no condemnation for them that believe on Christ alone in faith and belief.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1 KJV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18 KJV)

BELIEVE THE GOSPEL AND BE SAVED

Do you believe Jesus is the Christ (Christ is not Jesus' last name, it means 'the anointed one'), the only begotten Son of God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, born without sin, lived a sinless life, atoned for and paid in full the sins of the whole world (past/present/future) on the cross, died and rose again on the third day? If so, the Holy Spirit now resides within you and you are SEALED and saved for all eternity. You are Heaven bound and your sins will not cause loss of your Salvation. They are fully PAID by Christ on the cross 2000 years ago.



About The Author

Don Gerrity

Don Gerrity is not a preacher. He is not a leader of a church organization. He uses his talents in writing to help share the Gospel to the lost and to help encourage other believers. Don does not lead in an organization, nor an organizational church, though he does frequent many of the top Facebook Christian groups.

Don is owner of the *SeekKnockFind.org* online personal ministry. A growing FREE resource with Christian articles, YouTube video playlists and links to other Christian resources. The goal of the *SeekKnockFind.org* website is to help new believers expand their knowledge of the truth in Salvation through Jesus Christ and to show non-believers why Christianity and the Holy Bible can be believed with full assurance that the Bible is the truth.

Selected Bibliography

Dr. James Vernon McGee. Faith + 0 = Salvation. Thru the Bible Radio Network,
Revised 2006.