

God's Eternal Covenant Along with His People



by
Jerry O. Loutzenhiser

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Published by:

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Abbreviations

ESV translation.

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TEG translation.

Freed-Hardeman University gives permission to use ***The Everlasting Gospel***, by Hugo McCord.

Dwayne Wilson, PhD, Executive Vice President & CFO of Freed-Hardeman.
Dr. McCord revised his translation of the New Testament five times. (A hard copy may be purchased from the Freed-Hardeman University bookstore.)

ASV - American Standard Version

KJV - King James Version

NASV - New American Standard Version

NKJV - New King James Version

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I appreciate very much the input that I have received from my brothers and sisters in Christ that have enabled me to diligently think through the thesis of this book. You probably noticed the hands of this old man on the cover. What I feel towards God and receiving his covenant is beyond explanation. He has made it possible for each one of his children to have an eternal existence with him and his son and the Holy Spirit. There is no way to express the blessings of study and thinking through the essence of this promise of God to be his child with Larry Fayer and Russell Crawford.

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Jerry O. Loutzenhiser, September 5, 2020

Chapter 1

Introduction: A Covenant with God

The Scriptures, which are found in the Bible, are two covenants God has made with man. These Scriptures are known as the old, and the new. There is the old covenant that God made with his people at Mount Sinai (c. 1500 B.C.), and the new which was first made on the Pentecost (c. 33 A.D.) following the resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem.

These two covenants which God made with his people are quite different. The first one, which is called the old covenant, was dedicated with the blood of animals. The second one, which God calls the new covenant, was dedicated with the blood of Christ. (Hebrews 9: –; Luke 22:20)

The thesis for this book is: the new covenant, that which God makes with Christians. He says this to those who will give their allegiance to him: "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." (Hebrews 8:12)

How should one understand the new covenant in regards to its nature, that is, its way of working with those who are God's children? One of the first things which one should know is that it gives a number of commands for him to keep. That means that his children have things they must do according to what God has told them to do. For example they

are to lay by in store to help others. They are to take the Lord's supper each Lord's day. The disposition of character, do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. And many other such things.

However Christians are learning in 1 John that these commands are not a burden. Another thing that they learn from 1 Corinthians 10:13 is they are not tempted beyond that which they're able to bear but with the temptation have a way of escape. The very nature of the new covenant is it is a way of life which is **to help them to grow into the very likeness of God in order that they might enjoy the blessings that are in God and in Christ Jesus.** These commandments that are given are for good and they help God's children to understand life. They help them to understand how to live with other people, and especially they are a blessing to know how to live with God.

In summary, both covenants reveal many historical facts detailing the relationship that God established with his people. This is done by starting out both covenants by demonstrating his relationship with people such as is found in Genesis and also in the first four books of the New Testament. And then how that he gives each the old and the new covenant with many blessings and revelations concerning himself and his purpose for his people.

The covenant which God makes with man now has to do with his remembering one's sins no more. As we go through this study of the Scriptures in regards to the Christians' covenant with God, it will be emphasized that the new testament is only for Christians. The old covenant was for the Jews. Both covenants were made with whom God calls "his people". The Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the New Testament to write this covenant between the years of around 60 A.D. to 96 A.D. Jesus "is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15a)

What is a covenant? As always, when one goes to books of theology, there will be different answers to this question. Several resources will be quoted in order to further highlight what the word covenant really means. As we focus in on the meaning of covenant, and conclude with that passage of Scripture which God has given to highlight its meaning, it will be clear as to what the Christians' covenant is with God.

"We now come to the most significant thing in this part of Genesis, and that is the covenant between God and the second head of the human race, Noah. I will give this general question: What is the meaning of 'covenant' based on the Greek word? In very general terms a covenant is an agreement or contract between two or more parties having its stipulation

binding on both parties. There is said here to be a covenant between God upon the first part and Noah on the second part representing himself and the whole animal world. So Noah stands there representing all earthly life."¹

"They shall be my people and I will be their God proclaims the meaning of covenant (Lev. 26:12). It is a formula repeated many times in Jeremiah and Ezekiel and is a most apt description of what it means for the people to be saved."²

'The same basic characteristics of a strictly human covenant are present in a divine covenant: (1) a relationship between two parties (God and a human being or nation), and (2) mutual obligations between the covenant partners."³

"These scholars say that the word *suntheke* (LXXjoi) which is not used in the New Testament 'is to the last word for a compact **just as *diatheke* is always and only the word for will.**' They say that *diatheke* was used by the Jews with the meaning of covenant in the sense of a compact, but that that usage is not

¹ B.H. Carroll, *Genesis*, comp. T.W. Crowder, (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1947), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 15. God's Covenant with Noah".

² Clifton J Allen, *Hosea-Malachi*, (Nashville, Tennessee: WORDsearch, 1972), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 336.

³ Walter A. Elwell and Philip W. Comfort, ed., "COVENANT," in *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 323.

limited to the Jews, for it appears in Aristophanes in that sense. This proves, they say, that *diatheke* means 'an arrangement made by one party with plenary power, which the other party may accept or reject, but cannot alter.' To quote them again: 'A **will** is simply the most conspicuous example of such an instrument, which ultimately monopolized the word just because it suited its differentia so completely. . . . A covenant offered by God to man was no 'compact' between two parties coming together on equal terms, *Diatheke*, in its primary sense as described above, was exactly the needed word."⁴

The word to which he is referring is **will**. At one time in the past, you may have gone to a lawyer and drawn up a will. All the articles of the will are according to your decision. No one may change that which is the articles of your will. God has made it very clear that this is the kind of covenant Christians have with him.

"Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ **For where a will**

⁴ Kenneth S. Wuest, *Volume 2*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1973), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 163.

is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For **a will takes effect only at death**, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸

Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood." *Heb. 9:15-18*

Thus, the covenant that I have made with God is like a will. In this case it is called the covenant of Christ. The conditions of the covenant are all given by the one who made it, that is Jesus. These conditions are unlimited, unrestricted and unconditional, in other words – complete and final. Jesus has all authority, and I may accept the covenant of which he is the mediator, or reject it. When I, Jerry Loutzenhiser, confessed Christ as the son of God I committed myself to the conditions of his covenant.

Let us go on into more detail as to this covenant which Christians have with God.

Chapter 2

"This Is The Covenant That I Will Make With Them."

The Father makes it very clear that he is going to make a new covenant with his people. This is first predicted in Jeremiah and then repeated in the book of Hebrews. Those people at Mount Sinai have pledged to be the people of God, but did not keep that agreement. At that time, as Jeremiah on a previous occasion reminded his hearers, the essence of God's covenant with Israel was: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you" (Jer. 7:23).⁵

"For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.¹⁰ **For this is the covenant that I will make** with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

1. I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts,

⁵ Bruce, F. F. (1990). *The Epistle to the Hebrews* (Rev. ed., pp. 187–188). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

2. and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'

3. for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

4. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”
Hebrews 8:8-12

No longer will one be physically born into the family of God. Those who have the new covenant with God will know him "from the least to the greatest". This is because he will put his laws into our minds and write them on our hearts. In an answer to a lawyer's, Jesus had this to say about our minds and hearts: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'" *Matthew 22:36-40*

These two laws are to be written on our hearts and minds that we may be successful in living the life that God has given to us as his people.

Michael Servetus wrote the following around 1540, in his third letter to Pippin concerning John Calvin: "Although my letter (the twelfth) **to Calvin** shows very clearly that **the law is no longer in force**, yet I will refer to still **another passage**, in order that you may better comprehend the new order of things which has been introduced by Christ's coming. If you read **Jeremiah 31**, you will distinctly perceive that the obligatory force of the decalogue (*the Ten Commandments* jol) is superseded. The prophet there teaches, that **the covenant** with the fathers when they came out of Egypt, **is abolished**; so also **Ezekiel 16**, and Paul in **Hebrews 8**."⁶

Now, please bear with me to answer the following questions which I have asked to help us to understand this covenant God has made with his children. The answers are found in the quoted passage of Scripture above and other scriptures which will be given.

1. With whom was God making this covenant?

2. Where was this covenant to be written? I will put my laws into their _____, and write them on their _____.

3. God said: I will be their _____, and they shall be my _____.

4. How many of them would know the Lord? They shall _____, from the _____ of them to the _____.

⁶ Servetus, Michael in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 003, no. 9 (Feb), pg. 62

5. What would the Father not remember? I will remember their _____ no more.

6. Was blood involved with this covenant? _____
"Therefore **he is the mediator of a new covenant**, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. *Hebrews 9:15*

7. If you answered yes, whose blood _____,

8. When did the covenant begin? _____
"and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." **For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."** *Isaiah 2:3*

9. "and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, **beginning from Jerusalem."** *Luke 24:47*

Where was the covenant new to begin? _____

10. Was the new covenant made with outsiders - the lost? _____

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"
Hebrews 10:16

"For what have I to do with judging **outsiders**? Is it those **inside the church** whom you are to judge?" *1 Cor. 5:12*

"But if all prophesy, and an **unbeliever or outsider** enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all," *1 Corinthians 14:24*

11. Do all individuals from every nation have the privilege to make this covenant with God? _____

"you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation," *Revelation 5:9*

12. Are there passages of Scripture between Matthew chapter 1:1 and Revelation the last verse, which are **not** part of the "covenant that God will make with them after those days"?

In regards to the last question, let us consider the following. In the new covenant, Genesis through Deuteronomy are spoken of as "the law". Man has named these books the Pentateuch, which means the "five books of the law". God says of Genesis: "Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, **do you not listen to the law?**" ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman." *Galatians 4:21-22* God speaks of Genesis as being "the law".

In Romans chapter 3:10 – 18, Psalms and Isaiah are quoted several times, then the next verse: "Now we

know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God." (Romans 3:19) Genesis through Malachi are called the old covenant.

Matthew 26:28, in 36 translations in my library, have either blood of the covenant or testament. "for **this is my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." The same is true with Mark 14:24, and Luke 22:20. However, John does not write of covenant or testament. In Acts, since the kingdom was established on Pentecost, Luke writes of the Lord's supper being observed in Troas. "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight." *Acts 20:7* The Christians in Troas were participating in the cup, "the blood of the new covenant." From the letter to the Romans on through the Revelation of John, all these books are addressed to Christians.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are spoken of as being of the new covenant. Just like the introductory books of the old covenant, so are the introductory books of the new covenant. Both covenants needed these in order to have a complete story of God's purpose in his covenants.

Here is one thought to emphasize the need of the first four books of the New Testament. As you study these first four books, notice how many times they refer to those who are Christians, and things that are involved with the church which was established at the start of the new covenant.

Now also, imagine that you only have a copy of the Old Testament Scriptures. You no longer have a copy of the New Testament. Now picture how many things you could forget, although you've read before in the New Testament Scriptures many times. How much can you remember concerning the life of Jesus and the things that he said? The reason why the first four books are in the New Testament is because these tell about Jesus. The purpose of them is to give you and me and all others, who are the family of God, the life of Jesus and then how we can live that life. "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, **so that you might follow in his steps.**" (1 Peter 2:21)

"Luke's Gospel was written for the precise purpose of confirming the accuracy of the oral instruction Theophilus had already received."⁷ " . . . to write an orderly account for you, **most excellent Theophilus,** ⁴ **that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**" *Luke 1:3-4* Theophilus knew how he had been

⁷ James Burton Coffman, *Coffman Commentary: Luke: Vol. III*, (Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 1984), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 5.

taught and that he had the good example of Jesus to follow.

"God guided his inspired authors by guiding their purpose, their research, and by protecting them from error, yet leaving the writer free to express the truth discovered in the terms and vocabulary that he already knew."⁸

Coffman made this comment about Luke being inspired to write the book of Luke. This truth is the same for all of the writers of the New Testament. God used their experiences and vocabulary of teaching to make his covenant very personal with his children. He is a personal God and that is the way that he desires to have his relationship with each one who is his child. What a great and loving Father!

⁸ James Burton Coffman, *Coffman Commentary: Luke: Vol. III*, (Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 1984), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 5.

Chapter 3

God's Great Gift: the Holy Spirit.

When God made his covenant with his children, **he gave each one** of them the Holy Spirit. What a great and wondrous gift. This covenant is absolute. The Father outlined all of which it contains, making each part of it unchangeable. His son is the mediator of it, and the Scriptures reveal that this is the one of the Godhead (Col. 2:9) through whom comes the word. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." ***Romans 10:17***

It is at the time that one has the forgiveness of his sins he has committed himself to this covenant which God has given through his son Jesus. In this covenant, as we have noted before, God says: "I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." ***Hebrews 8:12***

Jesus commanded the apostles to begin the preaching of the gospel in the city of Jerusalem. This happened just after his ascension back into heaven. At the conclusion of the first time the gospel was preached, Peter said: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." ***Acts 2: 38 & 41*** And again in Acts 5:32 "And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.**"

When accurately translating the Greek new covenant into English the commands that God gave for them to receive the Holy Spirit were: "change your mind and be immersed". (See my book *Change Your Mind Toward God*)

In Romans chapter 10, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to recount how the Christians at Rome became the people of God. God gives us the order of how one comes to him. First there needs to be a preacher and then the hearer has to hear and obey the message.

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, **if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. . . . ; For **"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** ¹⁴

How then will they call on him in whom they have not **believed**? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never **heard**? And how are they to hear without someone **preaching**? ¹⁵ And how are they to **preach unless they are sent**? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all **obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."** *Romans 10:8-17*

The Lord makes reference to his covenant in the 11th chapter when he says "and this will be my

covenant **with them when I take away their sins.**"
Romans 11:27

Ezekiel gave another prediction of the coming of the new covenant. He was inspired to predict all these things that we have just read. It is similar to that which is given in Jeremiah but more specific as to how Israel had sinned. Ezekiel points out that they have profaned the name of God and that he was going to vindicate his holiness. He is going to cleanse them and give them a new heart **and also give them the Spirit.**

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.** ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and **you shall be my people, and I will be your God.** ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses." *Ezekiel 36:25-29*

Now let us look at in more detail this gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is given to every saint; every Christian.

First, he is called "living water". "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, '**Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**'" ³⁹ **Now this he said about the Spirit,** whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

John 7:38-39 Did you notice that God said the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not been glorified? As written above, the first time he was given was on the Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. This is when the gospel was first preached, and believed, and thousands were immersed into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to all those who obey God. When one receives this gift from "out of his heart flows rivers of living water". Jesus had much more to say about this when he earlier in his ministry ask a Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Here's what Jesus says about "living water".

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you **living water.**" ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but **whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**" *Jn. 4:10-14*

What a great and bountiful gift, to never be thirsty again. One has within himself "a spring of water welling up to eternal life". In the covenant with Christians, this is one of the blessings that God gives them.

Also in regards to the Samaritan woman, she after hearing that Jesus knew she had had five husbands and the man that she was now living with was not her husband, knew that this could be the Christ, the Messiah. This was the thing that was being revealed to her as well as to the Samaritan people. Not only did they need to know about God but they needed to know how to get to God and Jesus could have been telling her and the others that it will be through him. There is no record of what he said, but this is something he told others.

Briefly, of many others, here is a couple more involving the Holy Spirit. First, "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you **to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**" *Ephesians 3:16* And, secondly: "Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words." *Romans 8:26*

Just recently I had one of those with whom I study on a regular basis open his heart to how the Spirit has so much meaning in his life. He does not know that I considered including his thoughts in this book, but they so emphasize how Spirit works for us. He also spoke of the two things mentioned above, that is, the Holy Spirit strengthens the inner man, and

helps him in his prayers. Then he went on to talk about when we look at our own lives and see how unworthy we are it demonstrates how much God really loves us to give us the Holy Spirit this way. He went on to say: "I don't think of him as an it, but as he, which he really is. He is one of the Godhead and just like the Father and the Son, he is a real person." This quote may not be exact, but it is what he said. The theme of that of which he spoke was the fulfilling love of God.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is one of those spiritual blessings of which the Father reveals to his children that are in Christ Jesus, that he ". . . has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing"
Ephesians 1:3

"Let us hear what He says He will do for us, and believe Him; let us rest on His unchangeable faithfulness and the surety of the Covenant, on His Almighty power and the Holy Spirit working in us; and let us give up ourselves to Him as our God. He will prove that what He has done for us in Christ is not one whit more wonderful than what He will do in us every day by the Spirit of Christ."⁹

Thus, one of the great gifts that we have, the gift of the Holy Spirit, along with all the promises concerning the Spirit's work with his children, shows the Father has truly blessed, and enabled his children to be conquerors! Covenant!!!

⁹ The Two Covenants and The Second Blessing, by Andrew Murray.
New York Fleming H. Revell Company 1898, pg. 44

Chapter 4

Jesus Carried His Blood Into The Holy Place

Following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles many times. He was with them on many occasions along with being seen by over 500 brethren. (1 Corinthians 15:6) His blood, which was given during his crucifixion, had not yet been taken into the presence of God. This happened after he ascended into heaven. Here is the record of that event: "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. **After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,** ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs." *Hebrews 1:3-4*

The next passage tells us exactly how this took place. Reference is made to the holy place, in the temple and tabernacle as the place where the blood was taken into the holy place for the atonement of the people.

"Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For **Christ has entered**, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the

true things, but **into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.** *Hebrews 9:23-24*

It was predicted by Isaiah and Micah that the place of the beginning of the new covenant would be in the city of Jerusalem. The prediction from Isaiah and Micah also said that this word was for all nations. This happened with the preaching of the gospel of Christ on the day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. It was predicted that the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and **all the nations shall flow to it,**³ and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' **For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**" Isa. 2:2-3

And again in Micah: **"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."** (Micah 4:1-2)

The preaching of the gospel of Christ started in Jerusalem following the resurrection of Jesus. Those

who heard the gospel and believed it and were immersed in Christ on that day had their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus. (Acts 22:16) Since those which are under the new covenant will have their sins remembered no more, does that not mean that those who have not had the cleansing of the blood of Christ are not under the new covenant? That is, have they made a covenant with God and God with them?

Those who have made a covenant with God are as the Spirit inspired Peter to write: "But you are **a people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him **who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**" *1 Peter 2:9* Christians are the people of God!

In the New Covenant, or New Testament the people of God have been promised: "**For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**" In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete." (Hebrews 8:12–13)

What is so very noteworthy is one becomes righteous by his faith in Jesus Christ. Those that love God listen to the gospel of Christ, believe and obey it, and become children of God. Jesus is recorded saying in Mark 16:15–16, that the messengers should proclaim the gospel of Christ and those that believe that gospel and are immersed

will be saved. Salvation can only come when one has his sins forgiven. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write: "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law (*that which is obsolete*), although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:**²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. **This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.**²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**" *Romans 3:21-26*

God reveals to the Roman Christians what he did for them because of their faith in Jesus Christ. When one reads parts of the covenant God has with his people, such as what is written here in these six verses in Romans, he should marvel at all the promises and blessings God has given to those who are redeemed – his children, the people of God! The Father is "just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**" What a blessed covenant we have with him. "the new covenant in (*Christ's*) blood." *Luke 22:20*

Chapter 5 The Old and the New.

The Old and **The New**

“He does away with **the first**
in order *to establish* **the second.**” Heb. 10:9
(*English Standard Version*)

The Scriptures are divided into two major divisions called covenants. These two covenants are described as the old and the new. Several passages from the new covenant will be used to show how God speaks of these two different covenants. After some of the passages of Scripture will be questions for you to answer to help make these differences indelible in your mind.

Romans 7:6 "But now we are released from **the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve **in the new way of the Spirit** and not in **the old way of the written code.**"

2 Corinthians 3:1-11 "Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, **written not with ink but with the**

Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be **ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit.** For **the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**"

⁷ Now if **the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone**, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not **the ministry of the Spirit** have even more glory?

⁹ For if there was glory in **the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness** must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, **what once had glory has come to have no glory at all**, because of **the glory that surpasses it.** ¹¹

For **if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.**

1. What was written on tablets of stone?

2. Of which covenant does Paul say he is a minister?

3. Of which covenant is the letter?
_____ the Spirit? _____

4. What does the “letter” do? _____
the Spirit? _____
5. What was engraven on stone? That which brought _____
6. Which of the two covenants has surpassing glory? _____
7. Which one of the two lasts? _____
What is happening to the other covenant?
-

⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained
a ministry that is as much more excellent
than **the old** as **the covenant he mediates is better**,
since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that
first covenant had been faultless, there would have
been no occasion to look for **a second**.

¹⁰ For this is **the covenant**
that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, declares the Lord:

**I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts, and
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
for **they shall all know me**, from the least of them
to the greatest.

¹² For **I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.”**

(Quoted here from Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- ¹³ In speaking of **a new covenant**, **he makes the first one obsolete**. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
8. The new covenant is spoken of as being _____ to the old one.
9. Under the new God puts His _____ in their _____ and writes them on their _____.
10. I will _____ their wickedness and will remember their _____ no more.
11. By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one _____.

God has clearly shown us the difference between the Old and the New covenant. One was engraven on stone and the other is engraven on the heart. "When the Old Covenant with the law graven on stone had done its work in the discovering and condemning of sin, the New Covenant would give in its stead the life of obedience and true holiness of heart. The whole of the Covenant blessing centres in this—the heart being put right and fitted to know God: 'I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God ; for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart'" (Jer. xxiv. 7).¹⁰

¹⁰ The Two Covenants and The Second Blessing, by Andrew Murray.
New York Chicago Toronto Fleming H. Revell Company 1898

Chapter 6

Taking Hold of My Covenant with God

I am not sure when the full impact of the understanding, which I finally had of that little book which I carried most of the time in my jacket pocket called the New Testament hit me, but when I fully understood it was a covenant between God and me, what an impact it had on my life! I had studied the old and new covenants all my life, and looked at the differences between them. I understood the Scriptures to say that there were only two covenants, and that the first one had become obsolete. But to truly understand what the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write: "Indeed, in this case, what once had glory (*old covenant*) has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory (*new covenant*) that surpasses it." **2 Corinthians 3:10**

It has been over 70 years now, but I can vividly remember our wedding day. My bride and I stood before the preacher who had us repeat after him the vows of our covenant to one another. We pledged that we would be faithful to one another until death do us part. In 1998, my wife Pat, was diagnosed with Parkinson Disease. The doctor explained to us how long it would take for her to die with the conditions of it, and how the rest of her life she would slowly lose strength and movement. The doctor said she should live about 20 years or so. I prayed often that I might live beyond her so I could take care of her, and my prayer was answered. She

died January 5, 2013. She weighed about 75 pounds when she died, but never complained once about her condition. What a wonderful, blessed companionship we had, for those 64 years of marriage. It all started on the day that we were married, and kept on until the last day of her life. We had finished singing hymns and reading Scripture just a couple hours before her last breath. She had asked me several years before this, that I would always sing spiritual songs with her. We kept our oaths with one another.

This brings us back to the covenant that we have with God. Christians are the bride and the bridegroom is Jesus, the son of God. "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for **her**,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that **she** might be holy and without blemish." *Ephesians 5:25-27*

"Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." *Revelation 21:9*

As a part of the church, have you thought of yourself as being married to Jesus? There is a covenant that he has given of which we are participants as God's children and which guides us and has many promises for us to bless our lives. To think of this covenant as you would think of the one you made with your spouse shows the intimacy of

it. It does not matter how many others might have a copy of this in their pockets, what is very significant is the fact it does not change that each Christian, if he were the only one, has this covenant with God. "By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you." (2 Timothy 1:14) Paul is writing of the word of God of which he was entrusted, and which the Spirit is making known to us. Imagine if you can, your printed copy of the covenant being taken from you, and never having it again! Guard it! Keep it in your heart.

This is a very serious and weighty situation of which the Christian really needs to take notice of his covenant with God. The situation may be illustrated by the case of a man holding a check for a million dollars on the U.S. Treasury. He may have forgotten its existence, or is unbelieving as to its value, or ignorant as to how to present it. He leaves his precious check as a bit of unused paper in his pocket, and consequently lives as a poor man, and dies a failure, leaving his children a legacy behind him.

As you continue reading this book, you will come to a chapter enumerating some of the many promises God has given his children. A song often sung by the church is "Standing on the Promises of God"! One should never doubt that God is able to perform what he promises – what he says he will do!

Chapter 7

The Apostles Who Received All Truth

It happened on the night that Jesus was arrested and taken before the priests to be sentenced and crucified, that he told the apostles: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." *John 16:12-13*

On the Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus, the apostles began receiving all truth. Jesus told them: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

It was over 25 years before that truth, which is in the new covenant, was written down. These twelve, Mathias taking the place of Judas, had to be with Jesus from the beginning to witness all that he did and said. (John 15:26–27) The works of the Holy Spirit found in the book of Acts, give great proof of the truth of the gospel that was preached all over the world. It was the apostles who Jesus charged to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15) And they did as Jesus commanded! By the time the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write the book of Colossians the gospel had gone throughout all creation!

Chapter 8

How the Creator Has Made Himself Known

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

²⁰ For his **invisible attributes**, namely,

1) his eternal power and

2) divine nature,

have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.** ²¹

For although they knew God,

3) they did not honor him as God or

4) give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things." *Romans 1:18-23*

It has been revealed in the Scriptures that: **"because God has shown it to them"**! God has not failed to do this! Evidence all through the centuries asserts this. In every nation throughout all generations those who have been futile in their thinking have created their idols. They attributed to these idols certain qualities of the creator such as fertility of females to give birth. Also, those who build such

idols attribute to those idols fertility of the earth, along with rain, seed, and fruitful harvest.

What was the law that was for those who were not Hebrews in the Old Testament? When Abram went to Egypt with his wife Sarai and Sarai went into the household of Pharaoh, Pharaoh thought she was Abram's sister and therefore she could be his wife. But then there was a sense of morality that came about because of the conditions that happened.

"But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh called Abram and said, **"What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"** ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; **take her, and go.**" *Genesis 12:17-19*

Abram not only did this to Pharaoh but also to king Abimelech. God told Abimelech in a dream that he was going to destroy him and his people. But Abimelech replied to God: "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." *Genesis 20:5*

There is the law that God had within their hearts because of their creation that they knew that they had done wrong.

"he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." *Acts 14:17*

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." *Psalm 19:1*

"Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not. ²² Do you not fear me? declares the LORD. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it." *Jeremiah 5:21-22*

Also, God reveals to his people in Ephesus how they used to be and how the Gentiles served their idols. There was a way that the Gentiles walked and this was the way the Ephesians used to walk before they became Christians. In his new covenant to us, as his children, God says we need to give up those things of the past because we have changed our minds toward Him and also we need to do things worthy of the change of mind. (Acts 26:20)

"Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must **no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to**

practice every kind of impurity.²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,²² **to put off your old self**, which **belongs to your former manner of life** and is corrupt through deceitful desires,²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,²⁴ and **to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."** *Ephesians 4:17-24*

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write that these Ephesian Christians had not learned Christ this way. In other words, this was not the walk they were to walk - such as the Gentiles did. The point is driven home by God with these words: "assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus." In the new covenant Christians are instructed on how to ". . . walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." *Ephesians 4:1*

Since the New Testament is a covenant with those who are Christians, then what is the law for the Gentiles, rather, for all people, Jew and Gentile who are not Christians? Has it always been the same since creation?

It has already been pointed out that **"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them."**²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world**, in the things that have been

made. **So they are without excuse.** (Romans 1:19 – 20)

"When the gospel was presented to pagans, even cultured pagans like the members of the Court of the Areopagus, it was necessary to begin with a statement about the living and true God. The knowledge of God, according to Paul in Rom. 1:19–22, was accessible to all in his works of creation, but the capacity or desire to acquire it had been impaired by idolatry."¹¹

The last part of the first chapter of Romans intensifies the fact that we have already seen. All peoples have known God because of his invisible attributes which he has clearly made known. In the next chapter I'm including a chart of 135 "creator gods" worshiped around the world now and some for centuries. What God included in his New Testament to his people to illustrate that no one has an excuse about his allegiance to the creator, the living God, is true. Notice what is now written in the rest of the first chapter of Romans concerning these peoples who have no excuse.

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man

¹¹Bruce, F. F. (1988). *The Book of the Acts* (pp. 334). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

and birds and animals and creeping things.²⁴
Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

"because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ **And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.**²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, **haters of God**, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² **Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die**, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." *Romans 1:18-32*

The infinite God, the one who created heaven and earth and all things in the heavens and on earth, says: "**Though they know God's righteous decree**

that those who practice such things deserve to die," they just go ahead and do them anyway! I am not one to argue with the true and living God. He knows the hearts and minds of men. He created man in his own image, but most do not acknowledge him as God or give thanks to him.

"The first man was created in the image of God. He was endued with faculties, capable of contemplating the glorious perfections of his creator; with desires and affections, which moved uninterruptedly towards him; and with dispositions, which invariably inclined him to love and obey him. Purity of heart laid the foundation of his felicity, and conscious innocence shone in his countenance."¹²

The issue has been, and will always be "who is my god"? A god I have made up in my mind or that someone else has made up in his mind, which I could serve, or the one who has clearly made himself known!

Later in the book of Romans, the Father speaks further about his covenant with his people: "**and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.**" (Romans 11:27) His covenant is made with those who have the forgiveness of their sins.

In another place, Paul was inspired to write: "who has made us sufficient to be **ministers of a new**

¹² Deakin, Francis, A Treatise on the Nature and Design of the Scriptural Covenants. Printed by R. Wrightson, London, 1816 pg 1

covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. . . . But their minds were hardened. For to this day, **when they read the old covenant**, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away." *2 Corinthians 3:6 & 14*

And finally: "**For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside** because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, **through which we draw near to God**. . . . "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" ²² **This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.**" *Hebrews 7:18-22*

The Old Covenant, which included the Ten Commandments, is much inferior to the New Covenant. Not only that, people from all tribes and nations are now included in the new covenant with God. God never had a covenant with the Gentiles before the one which he now has through Jesus Christ of which Jesus is the mediator - the New Covenant.

"**Now even the first covenant** had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. ² For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and **the ark of the covenant** covered on all sides with

gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and **the tablets of the covenant**.⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. *Hebrews 9:1-5*

"Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those **who are called** may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.¹⁶ **For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.**¹⁷ **For a will takes effect only at death,** since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.¹⁸ Therefore not even **the first covenant** was inaugurated without blood.¹⁹

For when every commandment of **the law** had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,²⁰ saying, 'This is **the blood of the covenant** that God commanded for you.'" *Hebrews 9:15-20*

Did you notice in this reading that the first covenant was also called "the law". As has been mentioned in the opening statements of this book, the first covenant was inaugurated with the blood of animals. The second was dedicated with the blood of Christ, which was shed upon the cross when he was crucified for our sins.

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my**

laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," *Hebrews 10:16*

"How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, **and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified**, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?" *Hebrews 10:29*

One who is a Christian, who has been sanctified by the blood of Christ, and therefore has this covenant with God, must be faithful to that covenant. A severe punishment will come upon the one who tramples underfoot the Son of God by his practicing sin and turning from God.

As the author of the book of Hebrews finishes out the book, he is inspired to write a wonderful blessing: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by **the blood of the eternal covenant,**²¹ **equip you with everything good that you may do his will**, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Chapter 9

How Sin Is Accounted to One Now Living

The Creator created man in such a way that he would know God. "Then God said, **"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."** *Genesis 1:26-27*

The Father, the Son and Holy Spirit were all involved in the creation of man. The text says: "Let **us** make man". Us is plural.

Man was not made in some physical likeness, since God is spirit. (John 4:24). The Scriptures speak of God metaphorically this way: "**the eyes** of Jehovah" (Genesis 6:8), "**the hand** of God" (Ecclesiastes 9:1) and "A man after **my heart**" (Acts 13:22)

What spiritual qualities would the words eyes, hand, and heart of God express? Whatever the meanings may be, the Scriptures reveal to us that man was created in God's likeness. When one reads through the Scriptures he finds how God sees us and knows

us, he loves us and has compassion for us, and one of the Godhead died for us. Again, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them." He tells all of us **"they are without excuse."** God is telling the Christians in Rome what they all had experienced before hearing the gospel, that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". ***Romans 3:23***

Again, the New Testament or New Covenant is for those who have made a covenant or agreement with God. This is emphatically made true by how God speaks of the new covenant. "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, **and I will remember their sins no more.**" ***Hebrews 8:12*** "Once you were not a people, but **now** you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." ***1 Peter 2:10***

One may go to Exodus chapter 19 and 20 in the Old Testament Scriptures and read how God came down and made a covenant with the people of Israel. There at Mount Sinai God put restrictions in place so that the people would not have injury by coming into the presence of God. The people were afraid. They asked Moses to do the speaking for them. There are a lot of interesting details given. But let us center in on this: "So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him." ⁸ **All the people answered together and said, "All that**

the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹

And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.” *Exodus 19:7-9*

“The message which Moses received from God at that holy place was one of faithfulness to his promise. God had not forgotten his covenant with the patriarchs: he remained the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Nor was he heedless of the distress of their descendants in Egypt: he was on the point of intervening for their deliverance, and in this deliverance Moses was to be his agent. “Come now, let me send you to Egypt.”¹³

They said, "**All that the Lord has spoken we will do**", and thus they became the people of the Lord. They have committed themselves to be the people of God. No such covenant has been made with the Gentiles. And no covenant, such as the New Testament, has been made with those who have not been cleansed by the blood of Christ. God made this clear by saying: "for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28) The forgiveness of sins came after Jesus returned to

¹³ Bruce, F. F. (1988). *The Book of the Acts* (p. 141). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

heaven, and at the time Peter first announced what one must do to have this forgiveness.

"As they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and cried out to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Men, brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸Peter said, Change your hearts, and be immersed, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ into the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."¹⁴

Before the old covenant and the new covenant, how was one held accountable for his sin? They were held accountable as evidenced by the worldwide flood that destroyed all but eight souls which eight included Noah, his wife and their three sons and their wives. "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.' ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

Genesis 6:5-8

¹⁴ McCord, Hugo. The Everlasting Gospel . Freed-Hardeman University. Kindle Edition.

Also, during the lifetime of Abraham, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. "Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven." **Genesis 19:24** This happened hundreds of years before God made the first covenant, which was with Israel, at Mount Sinai.

These people, before the giving of the old covenant, were without excuse. What could be known about God is revealed in two ways: 1) by how **"God created man in his own image."** in the creation, and 2) "his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,** in the things that have been made." (Romans 1:20)

The unbeliever who is also called an outsider in the Scriptures has no covenant with God. But this does not mean he has not received blessings from God for which he should be thankful and to give God his allegiance. This is why the New Testament speaks of **Change Your Mind toward God** and not "repent of sins".

What are some of the unconditional blessings which God has given every man? First and foremost in our minds - is family. In every nation, the people say family is the most important element in their lives. Family comes first. God created man to have family and we are thankful for family. This is a gift from

God! When people see a little baby born, they marvel at how this little one has been created!

All, everywhere, have not missed out on knowing that there is a God. All have received rains, fruitful seasons, and things that satisfy their hearts. Along with this, his eternal power and divine nature are clearly perceived and are greatly dramatized by the fact that among all peoples there is a worship of a god or gods! An encyclopedia of many volumes could be published just about this one fact – all mankind worships gods.

Chapter 10

Gods Invented By Humans

Illustrations of several gods will now be given which have been invented by men to prove that the Father's revelation is true. I have chosen five different ones of which to give some detail to clarify completely the revelation given in the Scriptures which were written to the saints in Rome.

The first of these is **Roog**. This is a religion among the French in Africa in such nations as Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania. "Roog can either be a *he*, a *she* or an *it*. . . . Roog is the Supreme being and Creator God of the Serer pantheon. Roog is the source of life and everything returns to Roog. Roog is 'the point of departure and conclusion, the origin and the end'. The practitioners of the Serer traditional religion do not directly pray to Roog, choosing instead to pray through ancestral spirits [through interceders] known as pangool, and as a result Roog has no place of worship.

"To show their reverence to the supreme being, the Seereers use words such as *Roog Dangandeer Seen* ("Roog the Omnipresent" or "the Omnipresent God"), *Roog o Caaci'in Seen* (Roog our ancestor), etc. This is how the Seereers evoke the name of the divine along with prayers."¹⁵

The next god to investigate is **Brahma**.

¹⁵ Source: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roog>

"**Brahma** is the **Hindu** Creator god. He is also known as the Grandfather and as a later equivalent of Prajapati, the primeval first god. In early Hindu sources such as the **Mahabharata**, Brahma is supreme in the triad of great Hindu gods which includes **Shiva** and **Vishnu**.

Brahma, due to his elevated status, is less involved in picturesque myths where gods take on human form and character, but is rather a generally abstract or metaphysical ideal of a great god. In later *Puranas* (Hindu epics) Brahma is no longer worshipped and other gods are assigned his myths, even if he always maintains his status as the Creator god. Brahma's epithet is *ekahamsa*, the One Swan. His *vahanam* ('vehicle') is a peacock, swan or goose. He is still honoured today with an annual ceremony at the pilgrimage site of Pushkar in Rajasthan, **India** and he remains a popular figure in South-east Asia, especially in Thailand and Bali."¹⁶

Third, the **Egyptian god Amun**, is believed to be the god of creation and the wind. He is one of the most important gods of ancient Egypt who rose to prominence at Thebes at the beginning of the period of the **New Kingdom** (c. 1570-1069 BCE).

Primarily, the god of wind Amun came to be identified with the solar god Ra and the god of fertility and creation Min, so that Amun-Ra had the main characteristic of a solar god, creator god and fertility god. He also adopted the aspect of the ram

¹⁶ Cartwright, Mark. "**Brahma**," *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. Ancient History Encyclopedia, 16 May 2015.

from the Nubian solar god, besides numerous other titles and aspects.¹⁷

Winti is the fourth god to illustrate how that people all over the world have a concept about God. "Winti is an Afro-Surinamese traditional religion that originated in South America and developed in the Dutch Empire The foundation of Winti is based on three principles: the belief in the supreme creator called **Anana Kedyaman Kedyanpon**; the belief in a pantheon of spirits called *Winti*; and the veneration of the ancestors.

Winti is as old as the contacts between the Wild Coast of South Africa and Africa since the 1650s. It has been such a tabooed religious practice that it is difficult to find good studies about what it precisely is. Winti is a lifestyle in which people remain in constant exchange with Suriname. This contact does not exclusively take place in Suriname itself; it can also be in the Netherlands or elsewhere. Most important is that it connects with the place where Winti has developed and acquired its general characteristics, that is to say with Sranan, the Creole word for the language and the country of Suriname.

The word *Winti* seems to derive from the English word *wind*. "¹⁸

And finally **Ahura Mazda**. "Zoroastrians believe in one god, called Ahura Mazda (meaning 'Wise Lord'). He is compassionate, just, and is the creator of the universe. Ahura Mazda is:

- Omniscient (knows everything)

¹⁷ Mark, J. J. (2016, July 29). Amun. *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. Retrieved from <https://www.ancient.eu/amun/>

¹⁸ Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History

- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- Omnipresent (is everywhere)
- Impossible for humans to conceive
- Unchanging
- The Creator of life
- The Source of all goodness and happiness¹⁹

There is no way to tell how many of those, who worship these gods, would become Christians. We see in the New Testament that there were those who worshipped Zeus and Hermes, others who went to the temple of Diana, the goddess of the Ephesians, and many others. We are not those who inspect the soil, which would mean to inspect the hearts of people. We have not that ability. We are to preach the gospel to everyone.

Romans 3:19. "Now we know that whatever the law says **it speaks to those who are under the law**, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight since through the law comes knowledge of sin." Note the passage 3:19 because it says **the whole world may be held accountable to God**. The key to understand how that the whole world is accountable to God is to grasp what God says about unrighteousness in the first chapter as well as here.

"What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ***Romans 3:9-10***

¹⁹ Written by the editors of the encyclopedia of Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Varuna>

Creator gods Invented by Man*

A	Chaotroquin	I
• Abira	Chiminigagua	• l'itoi
• Abzu	Chirakan-Ixmucane	Imra
• Adroa	• Cocijo	• Inyan
• Ahone	Coyote (mythology)	• Itherther
• Ahura Mazda	D	• Itzamna
• Aiomun-Kondi	• Daksha	• Ixpiyacoc
• Akongo	• Damballa	• Izanagi
• Alatangana	• Dea Gravida	J
• <i>Amotken</i>	• Degei	• <u>Jah</u>
• Amun	• Dohkwibuhch	K
• Anansi	E	• Karora
• Anguta	Earth-maker myth	• Kayra
• Anulap	• El (deity)	• Kengue
• Aramazd	• Elohim	• Khnum
• Atua Fafine	• Enki	• Khonvoum
• Atua I Raropuka	• Eskeri	• Kokh Kox
• Atum	F	• Krishna
• Awonawilona	• Father Time	• Kukulkan
B	Fijian mythology	• Kuterastan
• Bagadjimbiri	Fon creation myth	• Kutkh
• Baïame	G	L
• Batara Kala	Gitche Manitou	• Lóóurr
• Bathala	Glooscap	M
• Brahma	Gran Maître	• Mahakala
• Bunjil	H	Mandé creation myth
C	<u>Heryshaf</u>	Mangar-kunjer-kunja
Cautantowwit	Hœnir	• Mayari
• Cghene	<u>Huracan</u>	• Mbombo
Melek Taus	• Pūluga	Tupã (mythology)
Mukuru	Q	• Tzacol

• Muluku	• Qat (deity)	U
• Mwari	• <u>Quetzalcoatl</u>	• Ülgen
N	Q'uq'umatz	Unkulunkulu
• Nanabozho	R	• <u>Unumbotte</u>
• Ngai	Rangi and Papa	Uoke
• Ngenechen	Ratovantany	V
• Nogomain	• Raven Tales	• Vili and Vé
• Noncomala	• Rod (Slavic)	• Viracocha
• Num (god)	• Roog	
• Numakulla	S	Vishvakarman
O	• Sebiuwerker	W
• Odin	• Serer myth	• Waheguru
• Olelbis	• <u>Shiva</u>	Wisakedjak
• <u>Olodumare</u>	T	X
Omai (deity)	• <u>Ta'aroa</u>	• Xamaba
P	• Tabaldak	Y
Pacha Kamaq	• Tagaloa	• Yahweh
• Pangu	Taryenyawagon	Yuanshi Tianzun
• Pariacaca	• Tengri	Z
• Prajapati	• Tezcatlipoca	Zamba (god)
• Ptah	Tloquenahuaque	• <u>Zanahary</u>
• Puana	Tōnacātēcuhtli	•

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Category:Creator gods

Above are listed 135 gods which are worshipped in most nations throughout the world. These establish the fact that humans have an innate sense there is a higher power which has brought into existence all things about them. Again, what God gives in Romans is true: **"For what can be known about God is plain to them,** because God has shown it to them.²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **SO THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE."**
Romans 1:19-20

Chapter 11

That The Man Of God May Be Complete

The man of God, who is he? Of course, he is a Christian, a child of God, which makes him a part of God's people.

There are many significant points made in the next passage of Scripture. First, "all Scripture . . . that the man of God may be complete." The Scriptures are for the man of God, that he may be taught, reproofed, corrected, and trained, to be complete and equipped for every good work. All of this is for his righteousness.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ **that the man of God may be complete**, equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17

What God has inspired in this Scripture is very significant to know. All Scriptures are for "the man of God". This includes the Old Testament. It is a part of the Scriptures. The Old was God's covenant with the Jews. However, note how the Old Testament is to be used for the man of God: "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through

the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." ***Romans 15:4***

This training in righteousness is so "that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work"! The Scriptures of the first covenant were given to the Jews. Those of the second covenant are for Christians.

Chapter 12

Scriptures Between Resurrection and First Written New Testament Book

Even though there was no written word of the new covenant for many years after the first person became a Christian on Pentecost, still, there was a way that God spoke to his people. First of all, by the apostles who were guided into all truth, then by the spiritual gifts. (See the book. *The Churches of Christ and Spiritual Gifts*.) There were spiritual gifts which the Christians had. And as mentioned above, the apostles were guided into all truth as they spoke to them. This is the new covenant. This is that which was given for God's people, those who were cleansed by the blood of Christ.

Chapter 13

Jesus is a Prophet Like Moses

Moses is a prophet. He spoke forth the word of God. He did this during his lifetime. He was the one who gave the message from God. Jesus also is spoken of as a prophet, like Moses. "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' . . .²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." *Acts 3:22-26*

Jesus was the one who spoke the word of God. Jesus, during his lifetime, and then as the mediator of the new testament or the writings is "speaking". It is called in Romans 10:17 "the word of Christ". He is the mediator. This is the word of Christ, the new covenant.

Every Scripture was written after the event took place. When the children of Israel were at Mount Sinai and made their covenant with God, it was not recorded ahead of time that they had made this covenant, nor was the written covenant available for them. These Scriptures were written later as a record as to how they made this covenant with God.

The new covenant was written after the events took place. Those events which are in the New Testament have to do with the giving of the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2) This covenant was first made with more than 3000 on the day of Pentecost who obeyed the gospel and were washed by the blood of Christ. This was the beginning of the new covenant. It started in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had gone to heaven.

After Pentecost - more than 25 years after Jesus Christ established his church, there were no scriptures given to help the congregations understand, for example, what to do about taking the Lord's Supper. He had told the apostles: "For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (Luke 22:18) **The kingdom** or church began on Pentecost after his resurrection. However, Luke records in Acts that from the very beginning the church was taking the Lord's supper on the first day of every week. (2:42, 20:7)

Now this side of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, we do not hear this message: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near", because it came with power on the Pentecost after Jesus shed His blood on the cross. Jesus had predicted that it would come with power before some of them died. (Mark 9:1) We do not hear "be baptized of John's baptism", but rather we hear "be baptized in the

name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
(Matt 28:19 – 20)

"In the Old Testament the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after Passover (the word *Pentecost* is derived from the Greek for 'fiftieth day'). Also called the Feast of Weeks, it was a time to celebrate and praise God for the harvest. By the period of the New Testament, Pentecost also commemorated the giving of the Law to Moses. Pentecost is celebrated by Jews today as Shabuoth".²⁰

Jesus said: "I will build my church". He starts the building of it in Jerusalem. About 50 days after he was crucified, those who he is sending into all the world (the apostles) will proclaim a message, whereby those who believe and obey it, will be born of water and the Spirit, and into the church of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (*one church*) —Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." Here again we see the blessing of the Holy Spirit who is living water !

²⁰ Mark D. Taylor, *The Complete Book of Bible Basics*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1992; repr., Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005),

Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (KJV) "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (other translations)

These, in the Jerusalem church, devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (2:42) And, as churches of Christ were started throughout the world by the apostles, spiritual gifts were also imparted in these churches. And as God's will was revealed to these Christians via the spiritual gifts, they also were said to be devoted to the word of God.

Chapter 14

Father in John 14

In John chapter 14, twenty-three times in 31 verses, Jesus speaks of the **Father**. Among some of the significant things Jesus says there, is, "if you have seen me, you have seen my **Father**." He also says the **Father** dwells in him and he is in the **Father**. Jesus is speaking to the apostles and he tells them if they keep his commandments he will ask the **Father** and he will give them a Helper, who will be with them forever. Near the end of the chapter he speaks about him going to the **Father**, and the **Father** is greater than himself. He finally says he does that which the **Father** tells him, so that the world may know that he loves the **Father**.

This event in John 14, when Jesus was speaking to the apostles, conveys some very stirring truths for us as well. The new covenant is for us and these events which are recorded by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit give great meaning to that covenant. Even though Jesus is speaking to the apostles in the last hours of his life, he gives many truths about us who are God's children.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the **Father** except through me." (14:7) There is no way to God except through Jesus Christ. The major point of the messages in the book of Acts are: ". . . about their change of direction, their

change of mind - a change from their gods to the true and living God. This is the message preached in the New Testament."²¹ However, there are many who want to say you have to "repent of sins".

One theologian wrote: "But when faith and repentance are distinguished as several parts of the condition of the new covenant, the common sense is, that repentance signifieth *the conversion of the soul from ~~sin and~~*²² idols to God, as God, which is, or includes, faith in God; and faith signifies especially faith in Christ as the mediator and way to God."²³ Luke records Paul was ". . . preaching, both to Jews and Greeks, a **change of heart toward God and faith toward Jesus our Lord.**" Acts 20:21
TEG

There is also in this 14th chapter of John several other expressions such as "Because I live, you also will live."²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my **Father**, and you in me, and I in you." "And he who loves me will be loved by my **Father**, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." And this which was said to the apostles is also repeated a number of times in the letters to the Christians: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my

²¹ Loutzenhiser, Jerry O. *Change Your Mind Towards God*, Published 2019, pg. 134. jerryoloutz@gmail.com

²² Ibid. p. 5 "there is no repent of sins in the Scriptures"

²³ George Fisher, "The Theology Of Richard Baxter," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 009, no. 33 (Jan): 168.

Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

The next chapter in this book will have an extensive list of promises the **Father** has made to all Christians. However here, in the 14th through 16th chapters of John were some things only for the apostles. For example, when in this new covenant, it is revealed that the apostles would be guided into all truth. The apostles were to give all truth to Christians. After a time, the truth spoken by the apostles and others inspired by the Holy Spirit were put into writing (the new covenant), and Christians were told to learn not to go beyond that which is written. (1 Corinthians 4:6) What a great blessing and assurance we have of truly knowing God! This is punctuated by what Jesus said: "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:4) The word which the **Father** gave Jesus and Jesus gave to us, is that which will judge us on the last day! In the covenant which God made with his children, the children know exactly how they will be judged.

Throughout the world, the family relationship is very important to all people. Christians have a spiritual family. "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ." (Romans 8:16-17) Christians are

born of God and he is their **Father**. "For everyone who has been **born of God** overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:4)

As seen above in Romans chapter 8, Jesus is the Christians' brother. They are children of the **Father** with Christ. This is brought out in the Hebrew letter where it says they are his brethren. (Hebrews 13:22 ASV) Therefore we have the **Father** and the son and the Holy Spirit all testifying that we are the children of God.

Before one is paired with Christ in baptism and his having become united with Christ, his father was **not** the creator of all the universe, but his father was, the evil one! It speaks of us at one time being darkness, children of darkness, children of the evil one, those of the power of darkness. Of course, the evil one is the devil or Satan. (John 8:44, Ephesians 2)

Therefore it is an essential point to make in this study that Christians are children of the **Father** who is the **Father** of our spirits who is the one that created us, who loves us, who has given his only son that we may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Not only is he the **Father** of our spirits but he is also the **Father** of lights. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from

the **Father** of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." *James 1:17* Did you know that a Christian is a light? God so tells us this to be true: "for at one time you were darkness, but now **you are light** in the Lord. Walk as **children of light.**" *Ephesians 5:8*

Now really think about being a child of God. There are so many blessings that come because of being his child. As has been noted from Ephesians the first chapter, **all** spiritual blessings are in Christ Jesus and these have to do with the **Father**. What **spiritual blessing** is there for those outside of Christ? Is there even one? What does an unbeliever have as a **promise** from the **Father**? There is none. There is a complete blank as to the spiritual blessings and promises for the unbeliever. Everyone has received fleshly blessings or carnal blessings such as, it rains on the just and the unjust, and that all have family and all have a harvest to enjoy and gladness because of the way we are supplied. But the **spiritual blessings**, such as prayer for example, are for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So this relationship Christians have with the **Father** is very momentous in regards to our spiritual well-being. We shall look at a number of the promises that the **Father** has given to his children. We'll look at these in detail to see what great blessings Christians have as the children of God.

Chapter 15

All the Promises of God

"For all the **promises** of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory." *2 Corinthians 1:20*

Yes in him is yes in Jesus! If God says that he will do it, he is able to perform what he promises. There is power in, a completeness, a fulfillment which often times is not achieved in the Christian's life of action because he does not believe what God promises. Several books could be written about the promises of God. Let's explore a few in some detail and then list others.

Within the covenant that Christians have with God is the promise: "**we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us." ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 8:37-39*

The child of God is victorious in his Christian walk. He has overcome the enemy by not surrendering to temptation, but if he does sin, he confesses that sin: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) He is "more than conqueror"!

"It is a glorious thing to have a covenant hold upon God and His resources; but it is a most calamitous thing to forget the fact in time of need, and so to have to meet the foe in our own strength, which is weakness."²⁴

In the book of Revelation the expression "he who conquers" is spoken by the Father when he says a child of God will be one "to eat of the tree of life", and finally at the end of Revelation: "The **one who conquers** will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." *Revelation 21:7*

Conquering is mentioned 17 times in Revelation. The Father expects us to be conquerors and has given us promises throughout our covenant with him as to how to be such! A Christian who continues to walk with God can be sure that there is nothing that will separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus his Lord.

There are those who preach a doctrine that gives a Christian a sense of being constantly defeated. There is nothing which takes the energy out of the soldier of Christ more than being conscious of continually being trounced. Fighting the Christian warfare with this way of thinking can cause him to become negligent. "I can't make it – so why try"!

²⁴ The New Covenant, a Lost Secret, by Anna Ross. Toronto, William Briggs, 1901 pg. 159

The covenant that we have with God is "to make us fit and worthy of being the people of which He is the God."²⁵

Another promise which Christians have is they are a priesthood. "But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ **Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." *1 Peter 2:9-10*

This priesthood is a blessing. Christians offer up spiritual sacrifices. These spiritual sacrifices are listed in Hebrews 13:15–16.

1) "Through him then let us continually offer up **a sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

2) ¹⁶ Do not neglect to **do good**

3) and to **share what you have**,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

And know this doing good is in **The Book of Life**, "Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in

²⁵ The Two Covenants and The Second Blessing, by Andrew Murray. New York Chicago Toronto Fleming H. Revell Company 1898

the gospel together with Clement and **the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.**" *Philippians 4:3*

"The **one who conquers** will be clothed thus in white garments, and **I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.**" *Revelation 3:5*

"Since we have these **promises**, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, **bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.**" (2 Corinthians 7:1)

The following promise of which God has given to his people, and of which I think of often, is: he is able to do far more than we ask or think. This is found in Ephesians 3:20 – 21. "Now to him who is able to **do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever."

Let us note specifically two words in this text. The first one has to do with God's ability. It is "**δύναμαι** be of power"²⁶ In the King James it is translated **can** 100 times and **be able** 37 times. In other words God has the power, he can do it.

²⁶ James Strong, *Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary*

The next word is "περισσός (in the sense of beyond)"²⁷ Far more abundantly - superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality); by implication, excessive. Part of the compound word is found in John 10:10: 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.' The word occurs in two other places, I Thess. 3:10 'pray most earnestly' and 5:13 'esteem them very highly.' It means to an extent which we cannot express."²⁸

God inspired Paul to open his second letter to Timothy by saying : "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the **promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.**" What a blessed, abundant life it is!

This promise of the father has another aspect to it, of which one must make a comment, and that is: "according to **the power at work within us.**" What is this power? Going back to the first chapter of Ephesians, the Holy Spirit brings us this truth: "and what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according** to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead . . ." ***Ephesians 1:19-20***

God tells his people, the power he used to raise Jesus from the dead, is the same power he uses towards believers. In Philippians 3:10, the apostle

²⁷ James Strong, *Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary*

²⁸ Albert Barnes, *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament*, ed. Robert Frew, WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Ephesians 3".

Paul is inspired to write: "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection" What could be the power of his resurrection? God said it is "**the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.**"

Two passages of Scripture will help us to understand what this power is. The first one is found in Hebrews 7:16. "who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by **the power of an indestructible life.**" Verse 17 says he was a priest forever.

The next passage is found in John 11:25 – 26 where Jesus is speaking to Martha. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,'²⁶ and **everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.** Do you believe this?" Did Martha never die? Is she along with the faithful people of God still alive? Does the Christian have an indestructible life? Is he one of God that will never die - who will live for eternity?

"And this is the **promise** which he **promised** us, *even* the life eternal." 1 John 2:25 (ASV) And again: "This is the **promise** which He Himself made to us: eternal life." (NASB) Finally "in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, **promised** before the ages began." Titus 1:2

Even before creation, God had decided that through his son salvation would come to a people he would call his own.

In the Scriptures, Satan is called "the deceiver of the whole world". (Revelation 12: look 9) As one looks at the world today, it is simple to perceive that so many are being deceived by the evil one.

At the close of the writing of his first epistle, the apostle John was inspired by the Spirit to write: "We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, **but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.**"¹⁹ **We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**"²⁰

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. **He is the true God and eternal life.**"²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. *1 John 5:18-21*

The deceiver has no power over the child of God. When his children are tempted, he has promised: "God is faithful, and **he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability**, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13) We are promised that the evil one does not touch us.

Also notice for our protection as to what we are informed of, concerning God's armor. "Put on the

whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)

Look how this armor of God certainly protects the wearer. "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on **the belt of truth**, and having put on **the breastplate of righteousness**, ¹⁵ and, as **shoes for your feet**, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." *Ephesians 6:13-18*

Now here are a few additional verses which have to do with the promises of God: "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has **promised** to those who love him." *James 1:12*

"Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has **promised** to those who love him? *James 2:5 (ESV)*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused

us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you,** ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." *1 Peter 1:3-5*

"knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." *Colossians 3:24*

Chapter 16

The Father Of Our Spirits

Each one of us has a spirit within our bodies that was placed there by God when our physical mothers conceived us. "And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." ***Ecclesiastes 12:7***

The fact is, the fetus is alive, and it has a spirit which will be in the body until physical death. This is evident by the following passage of Scripture. "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³ But if there is harm, **then you shall pay life for life.**" ***Exodus 21:22-23*** The next verse says that one would pay an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. The child that a mother carries in her womb is alive, and one who causes its death, he shall be put to death.

The spirit of John the Baptist is said to have joy when Mary came to visit Elizabeth. "And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, **the baby in my womb leaped for joy.**" ***Luke 1:43-44***

Joy is an emotion which is felt within one's heart. John, the one who was to make preparation for the Messiah, while in his mother's womb, had this feeling of joy. Remember that after he began his ministry, John was given evidence as to whom this person would be. "I myself (*John*) did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that **this is the Son of God.**" *John 1:33-34*

Jesus was born of a virgin. Her name was Mary. The body that was developed in her womb became the dwelling place of the spirit of the son of God. "Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but **a body have you prepared for me**'. *Hebrews 10:5*

Our mother and father became the source of the body of each of us. The Father of our spirits did not choose the sex of the embryo, nor the DNA which produced the special characteristics of our bodies. This all came from our mothers and fathers. But he placed in that embryo the spirit that is really who we are. "As you do not know the way **the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child**, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything." *Ecclesiastes 11:5*

The purpose that I have for including this thought in this book, is because God is the Christian's spiritual father and he loves him and cares for him, and does many certain things to help him to grow to be like his father!

The new covenant, which the children of God have with the father says: "Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to **the Father of spirits** and live?" ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, **that we may share his holiness.** ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later **it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it. *Hebrews 12:9-11*

There is the expression that he loves us because he disciplines us. "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." (Hebrews 12:6) Those who love their children discipline them.

Those who are Christians, have God as their heavenly father. Righteousness is the fruit for which the Father seeks for his children. He desires that **we** share his holiness. **"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."** *Matthew 5:48*. In the sermon on the mount as well as in the book of Hebrews is the revelation that we have the

Creator as our father, and who oversees or presides over our holiness or righteousness. The father disciplines us for good that we may share his holiness. This discipline "yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those **who have been trained by it.**"

Everyone born into this world has a spirit, but God is only the father of those people (*spirits*) which are his and have come into his complete covenant relationship, through the blood of Christ. This new covenant is also the same and written as the New Testament. "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28, also Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20 KJV)

God's covenant with his people!

Chapter 17

Lead the Life that the Lord Has Assigned

One of the strongest ties which bound the Jews to the old covenant was circumcision. Much of the 15th chapter of Acts is consumed with a discussion about whether or not circumcision is a part of salvation. There were those who said: "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (Acts 15:1) At the close of possibly hours of discussion this was the conclusion: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell." *Acts 15:28-29*

They understood the old covenant law of circumcision was not a requirement for one to be saved under the new covenant.

The church at Corinth had problems in regards to marriage. It is fully discussed in the seventh chapter of 1 Corinthians. Verse one says that they had written Paul about this.

God's covenant which he has made with his people is very explicit. He is striving to help his family to be holy as he is holy. In the Corinthian letter he

speaks of his children as babes when they first come into Christ Jesus. Other places he speaks about Christians growing to maturity.

Nowhere in the Scriptures does he say "repent of your sins". Thousands of pages have been written to show that the word baptism is really immersion. The Greek word has not been translated, but rather transliterated – that is the substitution of English letters for the Greek letters. The word repent is somewhat the same way, it is not translated. The translation should be "change of mind". (See my book *Change Your Mind Toward God*)

Nowhere, does God say that the gospel is a matter of repenting and paying back (restitution). For example, there is a group that says when one obeys the gospel and he or she has been divorced "unscripturally", obedience to the gospel requires such divorced people to give up their spouses and their families in order to be saved, This is not even found in first century, religious or secular history, concerning Christians. It is not a sin to be married. God uses two illustrations to demonstrate this to Christians: "Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called."

"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches."¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not

seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision.¹⁹ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.²⁰ **Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.**²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ.²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.²⁴ **So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God."** *1 Corinthians 7:17-24* All of this is written in the context of marriage. Verse 25 through the end of chapter 7, directly identifies this to be true.

When it comes to sin, all sins are alike. There is not one sin which cannot be forgiven. All sin will be forgiven through the blood of Jesus. Acts 22:16

Again, let it be clarified, concerning this teaching by some, of which the main argument is made "one who is unscripturally divorced", this one has not "repented of that sin", if he stays living with a newly married spouse. It is this dogma of "repent of sins" which causes those teachers to say that they need to separate from this spouse at the time of obeying the

gospel and becoming a Christian because they have not truly "repented". If they truly "repented of that sin" then they would not live with that new spouse.

There are actually two things wrong with this: the first thing is, repent of sins is not in the word of God and is not a doctrine of God for a person who is to become a Christian. The major premise is false! Nor is it for those who have become Christians. **There is no "repent of sins" in the Scriptures.**

The second wrong teaching is that one is viewing sin from within the body of Christ under the new covenant, rather than viewing it as a person who is an outsider. **The New Testament Scriptures are not for the outsider.** This is the covenant that God made with us who are the children of God, who are his people.

The saints at Rome are a good example as to how one is to turn to God. He gets rid of the old man by being buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. Now he has a new life in Christ. (Romans 6:1 – 7)

At the end of the first chapter of Romans there is a list of sins which God says non-Christians are doing. Divorce is not listed. However, it seems to be in the minds of some "unscripturally divorced" is unforgivable, unless there is some action on the part of the one who was baptized which will bring about

a forgiveness of having been "unscripturally remarried." Which Scripture? Old? New?

Why is this not forgiven? One who is an outsider does not have a covenant with the Father. The old is for the Jews while the new is for the Christians. How does one say a person has to stop living with his spouse after becoming a Christian? This person now has a covenant with God and is living faithfully with the spouse. They're married! What's Wrong? That's a sin?

It is not sin which defines the Christian. Just like with David, what defines the Christian is his heart. The saint has changed his mind and is now doing works worthy of that change of mind. He is not a practicing sinner, but a practicing confessor of his sins. (1 John 1:6-9)

The woman at Jacob's well, whom Jesus asked for a drink, was possibly a practicing divorcee. Jesus said that she had had five husbands and the man that she was now living with was not her husband. Jesus had offered her a water which would never bring her thirst again.

Practicing! Practicing! Practicing! Practicing!

³⁴ "Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.**" *John 8:34*

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. **Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.** *1 John 3:7*

What do unbelievers do? They practice their sins. What do those do who are now Christians? Notice what the Christians did in Ephesus: "Also many of those who were now believers came, **confessing and divulging their practices.**" ¹⁹ And a number of those **who had practiced** magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily." *Acts 19:18-20* These Ephesian Christians confessed and divulged their practices. They were stopping these practices because they brought their books of magic arts and burned them.

There are no secrets! God reveals, in most of the letters written to the early Christians, what they had done in the past. Look at what is made known about the Christians in Corinth. "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who **practice** homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were

sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."
1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Later on, in the second letter to this church, this is what God revealed which Paul had said: "All this time you are thinking that we are defending ourselves. In God's sight, we are speaking in Christ, and all things, beloved, are for your edification.

²⁰But I am afraid that, when I come, I will not find you such as I wish, and I will not be found by you such as you wish, lest there be strife, jealousy, anger, feuds, evil speakings, tale-bearings, conceits, disorders; ²¹lest, when I come, God will humiliate me again before you, and that I will mourn over many who have sinned, and have not changed their hearts about the uncleanness, and fornication, and indecency, **which they have practiced.**"²⁹

In his instructions as to what one should really practice, God says this: "But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained **by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**" ***Hebrews 5:14***

The child of God is exhorted to constantly practice righteousness. He will become proficient in knowing what is good and evil! "If we say we have

²⁹ McCord, Hugo. The Everlasting Gospel . Freed-Hardeman University. Kindle Edition.

fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not **practice** the truth." *1 John 1:6*

Practicing! Practicing! Practicing! Practicing!

This is brought forward in place here to emphasize again practice. This passage of Scripture in the book of first John really emphasizes the point.

"Everyone **who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness**; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him **keeps on** sinning; no one who **keeps on** sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷**Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.** ⁸Whoever makes **a practice of sinning** is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God **makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and **he cannot keep on sinning** because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is the one who does not love his brother." *1 John 3:4-10*

Chapter 18

How Unbelievers Are Responsible to God for Their Sins

There was mention in the last chapter of a list of sins for which non-Christians are said to be doing. This is found in the first chapter of Romans. God says: "Though **they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die**, they not only do them but give approval to those **who practice** them." *Romans 1:32*

Here is the list of sins which the Holy Spirit said they were practicing:

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors

of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless." **Romans 1:24-31**

Earlier in this book, page 29, much was written about what the Spirit said in verse 20 of this first chapter: **So they are without excuse.**²¹ **For although they knew God.** As you may remember much was written in that chapter of this book to show how non-Christians are responsible for their sins.

In Romans the second chapter, it is revealed that there were some Gentiles, who were doing what God wanted them to do without the law. Then there were some Jews who had the law, who were circumcised, but were not doing what God had commanded in Scripture. This shows these Gentiles were doing from their hearts the will of God, and therefore were accepted by God. Take for example in the Old Testament, Rahab, Ruth, and so on.

"There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.¹¹ For God shows no partiality." **Romans 2:9 – 11**

In this new covenant which God has made with Christians, here in Romans, he clearly shows two things: 1) every human being makes a choice, and, 2) the choice that one makes determines his eternal destiny. The reason one perishes is because of his sin, not because he is a Gentile or a Jew, because "God shows no partiality". There were Gentiles who

loved God and unlike those in Noah's day, did what they knew to please God.

Here is what God says about them:

"For when Gentiles, who do not have the law,

1) by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that

2) the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their

3) conscience also bears witness, and

4) their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus." ***Romans 2:14-16***

As you continue to read through the book of Romans, keep in mind that the covenant in which Romans is found, is the new covenant and is "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and **called to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." ***Romans 1:7***

Some among those saints in Rome were Gentiles and "**who have sinned without the law** will also perish without the law", and those Jews among the saints in Rome "**who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.**" (Romans 2:12)

These statements he is making, is about Jews who were not Christians. But the application of what is being said here in Romans, chapter 2, is really being directed to them in their ***Now*** relationship with God. Those who were Jews had some advantage over the Gentiles because they had the Scriptures, but the Scriptures did them no good because they did not

keep them. "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?"² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God." **Romans 3:1-2** (vs. 9-18)

"That the nation (Israel *jol*) was obstinate, 'stiffnecked,' was a complaint as old as the wilderness wanderings—a complaint made by God himself (Ex. 33:5). The description of them as disobedient—'uncircumcised in heart and ears'—meant that, while they were circumcised in the literal sense, in accordance with the Abrahamic institution, their unresponsiveness and resistance to God's revelation were such as might have been expected from Gentiles to whom he had not made known his will"³⁰.

God chose to have his messenger Paul to finish out the second chapter this way: "So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?"²⁷

Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law."²⁸

For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical."²⁹ **But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart**, by the Spirit (*new covenant*), not by the letter (*old covenant*). His praise is not from man but from God." **Romans 2:26-29** .

³⁰ Bruce, F. F. (1988). *The Book of the Acts* (pp. 151–152). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Chapter 19

Outsiders or Unbelievers Are Not Accountable to the New Testament Scriptures

The first covenant, also known as the old covenant, was made with the Jews at Mount Sinai. It is sometimes spoken of as the law of Moses, or just "the law". Those with whom God made this covenant were known as "his people". The people of God are those who are addressed in the first four books of the new covenant, along with times when certain truths were addressed to the people who would be under the second covenant, also known as the new covenant or the law of Christ. This side of the ascension of Jesus the Christ back to heaven, the only covenant God has with people are those who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

The emphasis in Jeremiah 31 and quoted in Hebrews 8 show that God in this new covenant would remember their sins no more. So those who are under this covenant are those who have their sins all washed away. This took place when they were immersed with Jesus. (Acts 22:16, Romans 6:2-4).

Just like the dogma of "repent of sins", there is another dogma, this dogma states: "The law of Christ is addressed to all men". Even though the

new covenant is made with God's people, there are those who teach a doctrine that the new covenant is for all men everywhere.

The new covenant is addressed to those who are God's people: "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and **I will remember their sins no it's more.**" *Hebrews 8:12* Outsiders or unbelievers have not had their sins forgiven and therefore are not the people of God. They have no covenant with God!

I have chosen to cite arguments for this dogma from "The law of Christ is addressed to all men" which resource is given in the footnote. The article from the Spiritual Sword starts this way:

"This article will attempt to demonstrate that **all men and women throughout the world, whether in the church or not, are answerable, accountable, liable, and responsible to all the moral and doctrinal laws of Christ as given in the New Testament. All of God's laws now apply to all men in all places in all times.**"

The first passage of Scripture cited by the author of the above is this: "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,"¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every

knee **should** bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth," *Philippians 2:9-11*

The context of this passage is addressed to Christians. Notice these: "So if there is any encouragement **in Christ**", "any participation **in the Spirit**" (vs 1); Have this mind among yourselves, **which is yours in Christ Jesus** (vs 5), and **every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (vs 11) The Philippian letter itself is addressed to: ". . . . **all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi**, with the overseers and deacons:" *Philippians 1:1*

Because I do not want to review every passage that is cited by the author of the dogma that all are accountable to the law of Christ, I will randomly select a few. The next one:

Aliens are commanded to **repent** of their sins. The Athenian idolaters were told that God commands all men everywhere to **repent** (Acts 17:30-1). If aliens are not accountable to any of God's laws then they could not **repent** for transgressing these laws. Aliens cannot **repent** of general sins without having committed specific sins. The murderers of Christ were commanded to **repent** (Acts 2:38). They were guilty of the specific sin of crucifying Jesus (vs. 23, 36) and were accountable to God. They had not violated the civil laws of the Roman

empire, but the moral laws of God. **These arguments prove conclusively that every moral act that violates the law of Christ and is a sin to the Christian is a moral act that violates the law of Christ and is a sin to the non-Christian. All men (whether in the church or not) are answerable to the laws of God.**

As a whole chapter is spent in my earlier work *Change Your Mind toward God* revealing that "repent of sins" is nowhere found in 36 translations of the Scriptures, only a short comment will be made here of this dogma.

Here is the assumption of that dogma: "Aliens are commanded to **repent** of their sins. The Athenian idolaters were told that God commands all men everywhere to **repent.**" (Acts 17:30-1) If aliens are not accountable to any of God's laws then they could not **repent** for transgressing these laws."³¹

Notice that the writer in the Spiritual Sword says that "aliens are commanded to repent of their sins." As stated above, there is no such commandment in the New Testament! The word sin does not even appear in the context from Acts 13:38 through 22:15.

³¹ Warpula Calvin, The Law of Christ Is Addressed to All Men: The Spiritual Sword, April, 1972, pgs. 4-8 six

Of course, the writer is quoting a translation that is not correct. It should be translated "God has overlooked the times of ignorance. Now he orders all men everywhere to change their hearts,"³¹ for he has appointed a day in which he will judge the righteousness of the world by that man whom he has appointed, of which he has given assurance to everyone by raising him from the dead."³²

Lastly, let us look at this passage which is used to assert that all men everywhere are accountable to the law of Christ.

"The Objections Considered 2. The mind of the flesh is not, and cannot be, subject to the law of Christ (Rom. 8:7). This verse is interpreted to mean that the alien is not accountable to the law of God. If this is so then an alien can never obey the gospel (the law that makes one free from sin and death, vs. 2) because he is not accountable to that law. Thus faith, **repentance**, and baptism would be for persons who are already saved since these are the only ones subject to obeying commands from God. **How could an alien ever obey a command (like Acts 2:38; 10:48) if he is not under the**

³² McCord, Hugo. The Everlasting Gospel . Freed-Hardeman University. Kindle Edition.

authority of and responsible to the will of the commander?³³

That is the whole point, one outside of Christ IS NOT under the will of the commander! He has not obeyed the gospel of Christ, he may never have even heard the gospel. But that is not the case of those saints in Romans 8:7. The context: "For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** ⁹ **You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ **does not belong to him.**" *Romans 8:6-9*

It is very obvious that the book of Romans is written to those who are in the Spirit. Yes, some of the sins listed in Romans may have been practiced by some of the Christians in Rome while they were in the flesh. Just because David's sins are listed in the old covenant, does not mean that the old covenant was for the Gentiles. So also, because Paul's sins, Peter's sins and the sins of the Corinthians are listed in the new covenant, does not mean that "all (Christians

³³ Warpula Calvin, The Law of Christ Is Addressed to All Men: The Spiritual Sword, April, 1972, pgs. 5, 6.

and outsiders), everywhere, are accountable to the law of Christ"!

Who claims that all men and women, whether born a Jew or not, who lived before the new covenant which came through the mediator Jesus Christ, were accountable, and responsible to all the moral and doctrinal laws of God as given in the Old Testament? The old covenant was for the Jews, and the new covenant is for Christians!

The new covenant is only for God's own people. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**" *1 Peter 2:9*

Following is what Jesus said of some of the people of God. Remember, as instructed by his Father, he went only to the house of Israel, God's people.

"But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. **The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.**" *John 8:45-47*

That to which all people everywhere will be accountable are set forth by God in the book of

Romans. He reveals to the Christians in Rome that the Creator has shown himself, to all the world, in such a way without any New Testament Scriptures that **"they are without excuse."**

"For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.** ²¹ **For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,** but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things." *Romans 1:20-23*

Here is what God has said to some Christians: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions," *2 Timothy 4:3*

Chapter 20

The Creator Does Not Have a Covenant with Those Who Are Not His People

God is the creator of all the living and all things. But those who do not acknowledge and accept him as their God and his covenant are not his people. They are without any covenant relationship with him.

Although they do not have a covenant with him they are still under his sovereignty, in that he will set them on his left hand and they shall have their place in hell with the devil and his angels. They are said to be without excuse! "For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God".

That men know God is so apparent by the evidence of their generating in their minds, in every nation, "creator gods". A huge library could be built listing all these gods, with their names and assumed attributes which have come into existence since the beginning of time.

One does not have to listen very long to a music station before he hears songs that show the writer knows God. For example, Michael Jackson's ***Earth Song***

"What about sunrise,
What about rain,

What about all the things that you said
We were to gain."

Over 7 million copies of the *Earth Song* have been sold. I first heard it played, with a vocal, by Andre Rieu. You may also listen to this on YouTube.

What was the law that was for those who were not Hebrews in the Old Testament? Earlier in this book it was noted that when Abram went to Egypt with his wife Sarai and Sarai went into the household of Pharaoh, Pharaoh thought she was Abram's sister and therefore she could be his wife. But then there was a sense of morality which came about because of the conditions that happened. (Genesis 12:17)

Then later on it was noted there was something which was causing Abimelech to be under law because he had the same experience with Abram. There is the law that God had within their hearts. Because of how they were created they knew that they had done wrong. (Genesis 20:3)

Chapter 21

Accounts In the New Covenant of How Some Were Darkness before They Became Christians

The "law" to which an outsider is accountable is that which one knows because of his being created in the likeness of God. An unbeliever is not accountable to the covenant which God has made with his children. This is the covenant of which Jesus is the mediator and it is the covenant God made with those to whom God will remember their sins no more. In other words their sins have been cleansed and they are now saints.

"The New Testament also uses the word "holy" in reference to the saints. It is the plural form of the adjective for holy (Greek, *hagios*). Though the Old Testament continually tied the term to religious practices, the New Testament emphasized holiness as a result of one's relationship with God through Christ. Under the new covenant, "sainthood is not an attainment, it is a state into which God in grace calls [people]." In other words, we do not aspire to be saints by keeping the laws and practices of our faith; rather, we become saints the moment we trust Christ as Lord and Savior."³⁴

³⁴ Various undefined, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*, (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2017), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 46.

Even though they are now saints, There are many accounts in the new covenant of what some of the Christians used to be. Some of these will now be highlighted.

The first will be those in the church at Corinth. "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—¹⁰ not at all meaning **the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.**¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of . . . not even to eat with such a one.¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?¹³ **God judges those outside."** *1 Corinthians 5:9-13*

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ **And such were some of you. But you were washed."** *1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

Now let us look at the Christians at Ephesus: "And **you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked³** among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying**

out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. " *Ephesians 2:1-3*

God goes on to have this written about the Christians in Ephesus: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷

Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ **for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.**" *Ephesians 5:6-8*

Now let us know what God says in a generic way about those who are inside and those who are on the outside: "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ **Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**" *Revelation. 22:14-15*

In Romans the first chapter versus 18 and following: there were those who are without excuse because the nature of God is made very visible to all. Really the whole issue is who is our God.

In these passages of Scripture quoted just above, there are not any sins as some think of some today, as religious sins. For example such sins as would be

set forth by the Pharisees which such were "they do not wash their hands when they eat." (Matthew 15:1-3) Or again, such worship as is conducted today in a variety of ways by many groups which have no basis in the Scriptures. These sorts of things are not mentioned as the sins which outsiders were accountable. Outsiders were also called unbelievers, they just do not believe Jesus Christ! ("concerning sin, because they do not believe in me" John 16:9)

In the age of the old covenant, the sins for which the Gentile world were idolatry and all the things connected with it. The world of Noah's day was destroyed by the flood and only eight souls survived that flood. Also take note of Sodom and Gomorrah which later were destroyed by fire. That for which they were accountable were unbelief and moral sins. Is this not true also in all the reading of the New Testament? In conclusion, let us note again how God has always held man accountable to him: **"Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." Romans 1:32**

Romans 1:20-21 "So they are without excuse."²¹
For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him".

Chapter 22

Righteousness And Unrighteousness – How God Will Judge The World

Much of what we have explored in this book is the righteousness of God. Righteous or righteousness is spoken of 154 times in the new covenant, whereas unrighteousness 18 times. The real mission of Jesus Christ was to seek and save the lost and bring about the forgiveness of sin in the life of the Christian. God is just, holy and without any darkness at all. This is why those who have the plenary covenant with him, must also be holy. This has been pointed out time and time again. Here's what the Father says is absolutely necessary concerning his children: **"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."** (Hebrews 12:14)

Christians have a continual cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Let us look again at 1 John 1:9, **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** In verse 7 the Spirit reveals **that "the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."**

So, written in this absolute covenant the Christians have with God, it is revealed to us, in order for one to be cleansed again by the blood of Christ, he must confess sins now committed. Christians know they

sin and need the continual cleansing of their sins. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say "repent of sin".

Now let us see why this is not a condition which God sets forth. First, the word that is translated repent should really be "change of mind". Whatever it may mean, what can "repent of sin" do to make one holy? Notice again what the apostle Paul preached all over the world as that which brought men to be in the covenant relationship with God. "King Agrippa, I obeyed the heavenly vision,²⁰ and I began calling on those in Damascus, and then those in Jerusalem and all Judea, and among the Gentiles, to **change their hearts and to turn to God, doing deeds in keeping with a change of heart.**"(Acts 26:19 – 20 TEG)

"Here is the message God gave Paul to proclaim everywhere; 1) change of mind 2) turn to God, and 3) perform deeds in keeping with that change of mind. (Acts 26:19-20)"³⁵

Here is what God reveals he told Paul to proclaim:
1) change their hearts - the gospel messages in the New Testament were never about the people's sins. The word sin is not even mentioned, from Acts 13:38 – 22:15, which covers the missionary

³⁵ Loutzenhiser, Jerry O. *Change Your Mind Towards God*, Published 2019, Mennonite Press pg. 131. jerryoloutz@gmail.com

journeys of the apostle Paul. The whole problem with the world today, as it was in that day is, who is one's god? "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4:3-4) The message had to be about God because the second thing which he said was turn – turn what? From sin! NO! **Turn to God!** (up to this point there is no cleansing of sin!)

2) and to turn to God, – This revelation of which we read is not found until the 26th chapter of Acts, which spans almost the whole time of this apostle's proclamation of the gospel! Paul's message was about God and turning to him. When this happened, there was a cleansing by the blood of Jesus (Acts 22:16)!

3) doing deeds in keeping with a change of heart. Now Christians are in the position of the continual cleansing by the blood of Jesus, which keeps them: "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16) In other words: "**Strive . . . for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**" (Hebrews 12:14)

What God is telling us to do is to keep getting cleaned up with the washing of the blood of Jesus! CONFESS SINS!!

Now it is clear that I have written much about "repent of sins" in this book as well as in the book on that subject. However, this dogma has been, for

centuries, ingrained in the minds of most denominational peoples throughout the world. This "repent of sins" is not from God, as I pointed out in my book *Change Your Mind toward God*. And I keep bringing it up here because it has been ingrained in the minds of so many Christians that they have to "repent of sins". There's not one verse of Scripture which says "repent of sins". What we do as a child is: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" (1 John 1:9)

Remaining clean is what it's all about! When one became a child of God, and began his covenant relationship with him, God remembered his sins no more. The Christians at Ephesus were "**holy and blameless** before him." (Eph. 1:4) This was "so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, **without spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, that she might **be holy and without blemish.**" (Ephesians 5:27) This expression to the Ephesians was that which was for the whole body of Christ. A similar thing was said to the Christians at Colossae and Thessalonica: "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.**" (Colossians 1:21-22) "For God has not **called us** for impurity, but **in holiness.**" (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

Holiness or righteousness is the ground on which the child of God must stand in order to spend eternity in heaven. This eternal covenant which God has with his children plainly states this to be true! The Father "has fixed a day on which **he will judge the world in righteousness** by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." *Acts 17:31* His judgment will be just, there will be no surprises for those who have no covenant with him. "**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ **For what can be known about God is plain to them**, because God has shown it to them." *Romans 1:18-19*

It is very significant that God says "Henceforth there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day**, and not only to me but **also to all who have loved his appearing**." *2 Timothy 4:8* Imagine standing in a long line before the righteous judge and receiving the crown of righteousness. In that line will be all those who are enrolled in the book of life. (Revelation 21:27) And the reason that this is possible is because "**Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit," *1 Peter 3:18*

Chapter 23

The Sign of The Gentiles

When Jesus was sent out to teach God's word, he was commanded by the Father to go only to the household of Israel. He did not take the message to the Gentiles. This was also true of John the Baptist. There is something significant about Gentiles coming to see Jesus, and when Andrew and Philip came to him, Jesus said: **"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."**

One thing is significant about the ending of the old and the beginning in the new was the time when Jesus, in the book of John, received this sign of the Gentiles coming to him. He knew when the Gentiles came searching for him it was time for him to give his blood for the sins of the world as the blood of the new covenant.

"Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³

And Jesus answered them, **"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."** ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it

for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." *John 12:20-26*

Jesus fully understood what his death meant to the world. He knew that after his death there will be a great harvest. On the day of Pentecost 3000 became children of God. Not long after that the Scriptures speak of 5000 who were now disciples and that many of the priests became Christians. The children of God just kept multiplying. By the time Colossians was written the Holy Spirit revealed: "the gospel that you heard, **which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven**, and of which I, Paul, became a minister." *Colossians 1:23* It was not long after his resurrection until Gentiles began receiving the gospel message: "After they heard these things, they were quiet, and then praised God, saying, "Then God has given to the Gentiles a change of heart that leads to life." (Acts 11:18 TEG)

The death of the "seed" brought about a great harvest. Those that crucified Jesus thought to stop his life and his work. But in his death, burial and resurrection, the "seed" multiplied and his gospel was proclaimed throughout the whole world.

Chapter 24

Who is this Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God. This is what was revealed to those 12 apostles he chose to preach the gospel to all creation. Early in his ministry he asked about who do people say he is, and this is the answer he received from Peter: "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**" (Matthew 16:15-17) This was also the reply of the Ethiopian eunuch to whom Philip proclaimed the gospel: "And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, **"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**" Acts 8:37 (ASV)

Jesus is also Lord. The first time that the gospel was preached, the messenger said: " ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**" Acts 2:36

Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah. Proclaimed throughout many places in the Old Testament is the prediction that there would be one who would come to save from their sins a people for God. (Isaiah 53:1-9) He is the one who is the mediator of the new covenant and called Lord. Since he is Lord, that means he is the master of the lives of those who are in covenant with God.

" ⁵ **For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,** with ourselves as your

servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**" *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

"Through His death on the cross, Jesus fully satisfied the demands of God's Law on behalf of sinful people. As the Mediator of this new covenant between God and mortal beings, Jesus not only preserved the honor of God's perfect righteousness, but He also sought for sinners whom He could rescue and reclaim. (Luke 19:10)" ³⁶

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: **that one has died for all**, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, **that those who live** might no longer live for themselves but for him **who for their sake died and was raised.**"
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Aaron was the first high priest of the old covenant. Then after his death, from the tribe of Levi came a succession of high priests. Under the new covenant, there has been only one high priest and his priesthood lasts forever.

Jesus is high priest! "But when **Christ appeared as a high priest** of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered **once for all** into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves **but by**

³⁶ Various undefined, *Hebrews and Jude*, (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2017), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 33.

means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption." Hebrews 9:11-12

It was not by the blood of goats and calves that Jesus secured for us eternal redemption, but it was by his own blood. It was on the cross that he shed his blood, the blood of the new covenant.

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places **by the blood of Jesus,**²⁰ **by the new and living way** that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ **and since we have a great priest over the house of God,**²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with **our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." *Hebrews 10:19-22*

Those under the old covenant could not draw near to God. It was the high priest who only could enter into the holy place and sprinkled blood on the mercy seat, and this was done only once a year. But now, the holy people of God, God's saints, can come in through the new and living way, to the very presence of God. Through faith, we can draw near with our heart. This close relationship with God was not available under the first covenant.

"Now may the God of peace **who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,**²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, **working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ,** to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Chapter 25
Go Into All the World And Preach
the Gospel to Every Creature
Mark 16:15 (NKJV)
by Larry Fayer

As you see, this chapter is written by Larry Fayer.³⁷ The two of us have studies together over the phone, and have been discussing sections of this book, and I had been thinking about asking him to write a chapter. Then, with his not knowing my intent, he just voluntarily sent me this sermon he was to preach on July 5, 2020. I have been working on a chapter concerning the gospel and considered that this would fit well into my overall approach. He has given me permission to use it here.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL:
ROMANS 3:22-31 SERMON

TEXT: Romans 3:22–25 "For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

³⁷ **Larry and Carol** were married on Sunday, September 2, 1962 after morning worship services. That day, they stopped where I was preaching in Marshalltown, Iowa, for the evening services. Since then we have been fellow workers. He has a website (gettoknowthebible.com) with over 6000 adherents from 160 different countries. Both Larry and Carol edited my first book: **Change Your Mind toward God**. Also, he has offered good advice for other works, which I'm doing. jol

whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins."

Romans 1:16–17 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'**"*

Romans 3:21–22 *"But now **the righteousness of God has been manifested** apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to **it-the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**"*

- Since **idols could not save the pagans and the Jews stood condemned under the law**, all were powerless because of sin and man's condition would be bleak indeed if it were not for a righteousness that belongs to God
 - o **It was made manifest** – i.e., clear, understandable: **Romans 3:21** *"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested"*
 - o **It is through faith and for everyone who believes: Romans 3:22** *"...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe"*
 - § It's available to everyone

§ It doesn't belong to everyone

Romans 3:25–26 *"This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

- o **His righteousness is shown in the fact that he has divine forbearance and has passed over former sins** – and we had plenty! **Romans 3:25** *This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*
- o **It leaves God just and allows him to be the justifier: Romans 3:26** *"It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*
 - § **Just** – because of God's character, he must be just.
 - § **The justifier** – because Sin has to be paid for
- o **Why did God show his righteousness in this way? Because of his “divine forbearance” = his patience, leniency = he chose to refrain from enforcing what should have been = punishment for sin**

- o This is a foundational part of the gospel: God is there for everyone who believes, and that relationship is not based on some physical relationship such as being “children of Abraham.” It is “for the Jew first and also the Greek.”

So, what did he do? **That’s why this sentence is the most important sentence in the Bible!**

Romans 3:22–25 *"For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified** by his **grace as a gift**, through the **redemption** that is **in Christ Jesus**, whom God put forward as a **propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith."*

To understand the importance of what is said here, we need to take a look at each of the key words and phrases in this statement:

- ***“There is no distinction”*** Because **before God everyone is equally guilty of sin:** *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

- o We are all in this together. When it comes to distinction, the only one we have is, that we are like everyone else: **SINNERS!**
- o **1 John 1:8** *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

- o **Isaiah 59:1–2** "*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*"
- And are **"justified."** The word "justified" may be **defined as "acquitted" in a legal sense or "declared to be righteous."**
 - o Using a play on words, someone has said, **"It's just-as-if-I'd-never sinned."** When God justifies us, it is just as if we had never sinned
 - o **1 Corinthians 6:9–11** "*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*"
- This justification is **"by grace,"** so what price did we pay for it? Grace is an **undeserved gift, it's free** as opposed to something one

might earn. Therefore, being justified was something God did for us; we paid nothing! But a huge price was paid

- o **Titus 3:4–7** "*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*"
- o **Truly “Jesus Paid It All, All to Him I Owe”**

- What is the meaning of “**redemption**?” The term redemption is used to describe a situation where **a price is paid to get something back**.
 - o An example would be that of someone purchasing freedom for **a slave**.
 - o If we put something in **a Pawn Shop**, it has to be redeemed for us to get it back
 - o Man had blown it with God, and **we needed redemption to get back**
- That redemption is “**in Christ Jesus**” [**in - LOCATION**] he’s the one who paid the price.

- o This phrase shows where the **blessings of being justified, receiving God's grace and redemption are located: that is, in Christ Jesus.**
 - o Romans 8:1 "*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*"
- o How do we get located into him where redemption is? **Only two scriptures tell us how to get into Jesus.** Both indicate that it is through baptism:
 - § **Romans 6:3** "*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*"
 - § **Galatians 3:27** "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*"
- The redemption price was "***a propitiation by his blood***"
 - o The word which is translated **propitiation or expiation means "to appease" or "to satisfy justice."**
 - o In this case, we have Jesus Christ being put forward as a propitiation for our sins, thus satisfying God's justice.
 - o Once sin had separated between God and man, **the only price that was sufficient was the blood of the sinless**

Son of God, Jesus Christ. This was the only acceptable price:

§ Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"*

§ **Colossians 1:21–22** *"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death,** in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."*

§ **1 John 2:1–2** *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**"*

§ This is why Christ was "put forward as a propitiation by his blood" (Romans 3:25).

- **How is this propitiation received?** The scripture is clear: the way to receive the

propitiation of Christ is “**by faith**” (Romans 3:25).

- This is the gospel or good news, that **God has met justice (by providing his righteousness) and that allows him to be the justifier (Romans 3:26).**

Romans 3:26–31 *"It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law".*

- Paul had promised the righteousness of God would be revealed in the gospel and here it is
 - o **Man has no righteousness**
 - o **God is righteous and shares his righteousness with us**
- How much can we boast about this? **Not at all!**
 - o We didn't earn it; it was given to us freely as a gift (grace)
 - o **Romans 3:27** *Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.*

- **Who is it for? Everybody!** Jews and Gentiles; circumcised and uncircumcised
- Does it overturn, defeat, bring down the law in any way? **Absolutely not!**
 - o It supports, elevates, lifts up the law
 - o Why? Through the law comes knowledge of sin. Without it we wouldn't have known what a mess we were in!
- **The point is that everyone gets to God in the same way: “He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith” (Romans 3:30).** God has done the work and we only reach justification through faith.

IN THIS PASSAGE, WE FOUND OUT:

1. Our condition before God: we have sinned
2. How we are treated before God: justified = just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned
3. Why this happened: God's grace as a gift
4. That there is redemption: A price has been paid for us
5. Where this takes place: In Christ Jesus (through baptism into him)
6. How God's justice was satisfied: By the blood of Jesus Christ
7. How is propitiation received: By faith
8. That God met justice by being the justifier when we could not

Chapter 26

Evangelism to Be Done Correctly Must Be As Christ Commanded and by the New Testament Examples

Those who love God are the ones with whom he makes his covenant. These people which love God have the right motive whereby they will bow their knee in reverence to him, and thank him for what he has done for them.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ***Romans 8:28***

If a person does not love God:

1) will a study of:

- a) the authority of the Scriptures?
- b) the one church of the Bible?
- c) the true worship of the church?
- d) the truth about elders and deacons?

2) or some other study cause one to love God?

One must establish his teaching of an unbeliever with that word which God tells him and the way which has been demonstrated in the Scriptures for the proclaimer to teach!

Jesus said that the gospel should be proclaimed to every person: "And he said to them, 'Go into all the

world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16

That which is to be proclaimed to everyone is the gospel and this gospel is made very clear by God in another place: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

God is reminding these Corinthian Christians of the gospel which the apostle Paul preached to them. This gospel he preached was "received" by them, and it was that by which they were "being saved". He said this gospel was the death, burial and the resurrection of Jesus. Nowhere do we have another gospel set forth for one to proclaim to the lost!

Those in the city of Corinth who loved God were "called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28) There is no doubt that these who were saved by the gospel were moved by the fact that in the message

they heard "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures".

In his very next letter to the Corinthian Christians, the apostle Paul had this to say: "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence." **2 Corinthians 4:13-14**

Chapter 27

The Right Approach to Evangelism Is Determined by God

Christians are aware that Jesus said go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. Jesus intends for everyone in the world to hear his gospel. He mandated this to his brother's and sister's. As the people of God, Christians are to carry the message of salvation to all people everywhere.

This ministry of spreading the gospel throughout the world is clearly seen in God's eternal covenant with his children. It is not up to the people of God to determine how one is to go about this, but it is made clear in his covenant with the saints.

In the first place, **the one gospel of Christ is preached**. It is fatal to one if he preaches a different gospel than that which God has given. (Galatians 1:6–9) Oftentimes, there are those who have been trained in reaching outsiders that they must first establish the authority of the Scriptures. Some feel they need to prove there is only one church which God created. A lot of other doctrines might be listed which are being taught, before the gospel is taught, even though Jesus said, when one goes throughout the world he is to preach the gospel.

Second, when one preaches the gospel of Christ, there are **different kinds of hearts of the hearers**. Jesus tells the parable of the sower. (Matt. 13:18-23, Lk. 8:11-15) In the parable he describes four different soils with one of them being good soil which will bear a harvest. There are those who say we are not to inspect the soil and decide which is the good soil, because we do not have this right or ability. However, sometimes you hear that same person say maybe that soil could be broken down into good soil over a period of time. But this is not what Jesus said. He says there is the wayside soil, rocky, thorny, and the good soil. Now the one proclaiming the gospel does not know which are the good hearts. Let us say there is an audience of 100 people. They are divided into four heart groups of 25. There is no way to know which group is the good soil or if all 25 in the group are the same soil. That's the reason why Jesus said to preach the gospel to every creature.

Therefore, one is to preach the one gospel to every person, everywhere. The proclaimer is not trying to figure out what kind soil each person is.

Third, God describes the good soil in Romans 8:28 when he says: "And we know that for **those who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." There should be no doubt that those who love God

are the good soil! These are the ones who **"are called according to his purpose."**

Is it possible that a little of the seed falls on a hard path, rocky and thorny ground? Certainly! Those soils bear no fruit. A farmer may have been very careful not to let some of the seed fall in those places. But, when it comes to the hearts, how can one tell which "25" are the good soil? The Father and Son know the hearts of people, but the one who is proclaiming the gospel does not! The word of God, the seed is to be proclaimed to each heart. When God said all, that is what he meant. (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15)

Fourth, "Repent of sins" **is not found** in 36 translations of the Scriptures, which I have in my library, and therefore is not a part of the one gospel of Christ. Also, the proper translation should be "change of mind".³⁸

Fifth, baptism is not "sprinkling, pouring, or immersion" as our modern English dictionaries state, but **it is immersion**. The word baptism is a transliteration of the original Greek word. But one does not have to know Greek to understand what the

³⁸ Loutzenhiser, Jerry *Change Your Mind toward God*. Mennonite Press, Newton, Kansas, 2019. Pgs. 42-45 (Many Greek dictionaries are quoted.)

action is in the Scriptures. Notice the following:
"And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38)

"He baptized him." This is a simple sentence. **He** is the subject, **baptized** is the action – verb, and **him** is the object of the verb. "He baptized him." This is a simple sentence. **He** is the subject, **baptized** is the action – verb, and **him** is the object of the verb.



"He *sprinkled* him." Since him is that which is being sprinkled, **him** would have to be ground up like salt to be *sprinkled*.



"He *poured* him." This time, **him** would have to be melted down like butter to be *poured* since him is the object of the verb, "poured".



"He **immersed** him." This is really the translation of the Greek word. Note that both were in the water, "and he immersed him". In the Greek and in the English it can only be immersed.

Here is an Ethiopian who is honest in heart, and when he hears the gospel, he believes and obeys. He loves God and is called according to God's purpose!

Very early in this book, pages 16 – 17, I recorded what God tells us how the saints in Rome heard and obeyed the gospel. It was necessary for someone to go and preach the good news, in order for those Romans to know what to do to be cleansed by the blood of Christ. And it has been enumerated a number of times throughout this writing, that those who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, are the people of God. Remember that Saul, who became the apostle Paul, after his believing that Jesus was the Christ was admonished: ". . . why do

you wait? Rise and be baptized (*immersed*) and wash away your sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16) He, like the Christians in Rome, was immersed into Christ. He later writes to them about this. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized (*immersed*) into Christ Jesus were baptized (*immersed*) into his death? ⁴ **We** were **buried** therefore with him by baptism (*immersion*) into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we** too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4)

Eternal life for his people is embedded in God's eternal covenant! What is time to God? It is nothing more than an atomic clock, which was set to start at the beginning, and will stop when comes "the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly." (2 Peter 3:7)

He had a plan for creating mankind, and to boil it down means a plan for each one of those spirits who have come to live in a physical body. He has worked out all things for good to those that love him and who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) He will welcome his faithful child with open arms, because he loves him, and does not desire for anyone to perish. What one has become and what he is, is his own choice, which determines his eternal destination.

"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the (1) sake of the faith of God's elect and (2) their knowledge of the truth, *which accords with godliness*, ² **in hope of eternal life**, which God, who never lies, **promised before the ages began** ³ and at the proper time manifested in **his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted** by the command of God our Savior;" **Titus 1:1-3** The elect of God have faith, truth, and godliness.

Jesus, the son of God "gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and **to purify for himself a people for his own possession** who are zealous for good works. **Titus 2:14** These, "so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to **the hope of eternal life**. **Titus 3:7**

¹⁶ ". . . since it is written, "**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**" ¹⁷ And **if you call on him as Father** who judges impartially according to each one's deeds . . . with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown **before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ **who through him are believers in God**, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**. **1 Peter 1:16-21**

The eternal relationship which one has with the Father, and his divine eternal covenant, was determined long before creation, someplace back in eternity.