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But whom say ye that I am? Mt. 16:13-17

John the Baptist: His message

Elijah: His miracles

Jeremiah: His ministry → of weeping

Explicit claims:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Hebrews 1:7-10 And of the angels **he saith**, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 **But unto the Son he saith**, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 10 **And**, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Romans 9:4-5 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Implicit claims:

1. **Exercises the functions of God!**

2. **Assumes the prerogatives of God!**

3. **Accepts the honors of God!**

Jesus **is** God. He also as God acts out of an awareness of His deity >> not premeditated but assumed!

I. Jesus judges mankind

He knows the heart of mankind

Matthew 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts....

Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. ;

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

II. Jesus forgives sins

Lk. 5:17-26 (Mt. 9:1-9; Mk. 2:1-12)

Lk. 7:36-50

Prophets, angels, apostles, pastors do not forgive sins!

III. Jesus bestows eternal life

Lk. 19:1-10

Mt. 19:16-21; Mk. 10:17-21; Lk. 18:18-22

John 10:27-30 of course!

IV. Jesus presence is God's presence

Matthew 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Temple = the dwelling place of God

What could be greater?

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

V. The eternal destiny of humans depend on their response to Christ

Mt. 7:21-27

John 12:47-48 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Matthew 10:37-39 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

If anyone else would say this you would consider him a madman!

VI. Jesus taught the truth on His own authority

Matthew 7:28-29 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

Over 70x in the Gospels we find the phrase "Verily I say unto you...."

There is **never** a "Thus saith the Lord" **like** all the other prophets!

He **is** God >> He simply states it!

Mt. 5:21 → Mt. 5:27,28 → Mt. 5:31,32 → Mt. 5:33,34 → Mt. 5:38,39 → Mt. 5:43,44

Jesus doesn't quote the rabbis → He doesn't even consult them

He didn't need any added authority!

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

VII. Jesus healed on His own authority

Acts 3:6-16; Num. 20:2-12

Matthew 8:2-3 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, **Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.** 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, **I will;** be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

VIII. Jesus receives obeisance &/ worship

Mark 5:27,33 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Lk. 17:15-19 **What does Jesus ask?**

Contrast: Acts 14:8-15; Revelation 22:8-9; Revelation 19:10; Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 48:11

All of this was done naturally, without any premeditation or planning!

TRINITAS: ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS

Genesis 1:26-27 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Isaiah 6:3,8 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go **for us**? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

2 issues facing Christianity:

1. Unitarianism

I believe in.... or, I love....

For liberals: Theoretical Unitarianism

For Evangelicals / fundamentalists: Functional Unitarianism

2. Salvation by....love? Giving your heart to Jesus? Commitment?

Loss of Justification by faith

Now obviously the word Trinity is never found in Scripture → but that isn't the issue. The issue is → Is the doctrine found there?

1. There is one God

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

2. There are three who are called God

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Equality, deity, unity and distinguishability.

3. Therefore we must conclude either:

The Bible is confuses

There is only one who is God

There are many Gods

The Trinity!

Augustine: The reason we talk about the Trinity at all is not because we can say something adequately about it, but rather because, in the absence of adequate speech, we must say something.

From the beginning Christians have struggled to express clearly & faithfully the teaching of Scripture.

***Avoiding* Tri-theism: 3 Gods**

***Avoiding* Modalism: 1 God who appears 3 different ways, 3 different masks, 3 successive modes.**

While ***maintaining*** Monotheism:

One God in three person → 1 what & 3 who^s!

I. Illustrated in Nature

If the Tri-une God created the universe we probably should expect His fingerprints / footprints in nature.

However, no analogy is ever perfect or complete.

All object have 3 dimensions:

Length, breadth and height

The physical world of our experience:

Space, time and matter

The self

Memory, understanding and willing

II. *Anticipated* in the O.T.

God is what God is → the Triune God. However, we really do not and cannot know anything about God apart from His self-revelation.

Psalms 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1 John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time....

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Revelation of the Trinity is found to some degree in nature → but much more **clearly** and **finally** in Scripture.

The "let us" passages

Genesis 1:26-27 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of **us**, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Genesis 11:7 Go to, **let us** go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Isaiah 6:2-3,8 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go **for us**? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

All of which imply that God exists in more than one person!

When God calls God → God!

Psalms 45:6-7 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Hebrews 1:8-10 But unto the Son **he saith**, Thy throne, O **God**, is for ever and ever....10 **And**, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Psalms 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Mt. 22:41-46 → Even without the NT it seems David is aware that God is a plurality of persons in one God.

The Angel of the Lord

This must be carefully read to get the full impact. These are a few of the many passages: Gen. 16:7-13; 22:1-2 → 22:11-18; 24:7,40; 28:10-17 → 31:11-13; 32:9-12 → 32:24-30; 48:15-16

Ex. 3:2-6; 13:21 → 14:19; 23:20-23 → 33:14 (Hosea 12:4-5); Ex. 32:34

Judges 6:11-24 And there came **an angel of the LORD**, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. 12 **And the angel of the LORD** appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. 13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. 14 **And the LORD looked upon him, and said**, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? 15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. 16 **And the LORD said unto him**, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. 17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. 18 Depart not hence, I pray

thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. 19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. 20 **And the angel of God said unto him**, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. 21 Then **the angel of the LORD put forth** the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. **Then the angel of the LORD departed** out of his sight. 22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. 23 **And the LORD said** unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. 24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it **Jehovahshalom**: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
Judges 13:3-22; 2 Samuel 24:16; Hosea 12:4-5; Malachi 3:1

The Trinity is not explicitly set forth in the OT → but without it certain texts require awkward explanations.

III. *Revealed* in the NT

Often false teachers claim the term Trinity is not found in the Scripture → & this is true! But this is not the issue. The issue is whether the **terminology** expresses a Biblical teaching!

The term is simply shorthand for the full & rich teaching concerning our great God!

Some also claim that this is a concept that is illogical & a contradiction. However, Christians would claim it is a paradox / mystery → above & beyond reason but not against it!

A careful and full reading of Scripture reveals 4 unmistakable truths about the Trinity:

1. Father, Son and Spirit are each *called* divine names

The Father: Gal. 1:3; Mt. 5:45; Mk. 14:36

The Son:

Mt. 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Romans 9:5; 1 John 5:20; John 20:28

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God, The Holy Spirit; The Spirit of Christ; The Spirit of Grace; The Holy Spirit of promise; The Spirit of Wisdom; The Spirit of Truth; The Comforter (another one)

2. The Father, Son & Spirit are each *ascribed* divine attributes

The Father: Mt. 11:23; Psalm 103:19

The Son: John 2:25; 21:17; 1:48; Mt. 18:20; Heb. 13:8; Heb. 1:10-12

The Holy Spirit: Heb. 9:14; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; Luke 11:20; Rom. 15:18-19

3. The Father, Son & Spirit each *performed* divine activities

The Father: 1 Cor. 8:4-6

The Son: 1 John 1:3; Gal. 1:16; Heb. 1:10; John 5:17; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Mark 2:7; Mt. 1:21; John 6:39, 11:35

The Spirit: Acts 28:25; Titus 3:5; John 6:63

4. The Father, Son & Spirit each *received* divine worship

The Father: John 4:23

The Son:

Mt. 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, **even as** they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Spirit

IV. *Required* by many texts

There can be no Triune teaching without Scripture and there can be no adequate clarification of Scripture without the Triune hypothesis.

The Scripture intends to make unavoidably clear that:

The Father *is* God

The Son *is* God

The Spirit *is* God

And that God *is* one!

The Baptism Formula:

Mt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What does this stress?

A. Deity

B. Equality

C. Unity

D. Distinctiveness

Jesus' Baptism:

Mt. 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Apostolic Benediction:

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

If Jesus and the Holy Spirit were both not fully God - *how* can Paul admonish the Corinthians to avoid idolatry?

1 Cor. 10:7,14 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

The Gifted Church:

1 Cor. 12:4-6 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same **Lord**. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same **God** which worketh all in all.

The Priesthood of the Believer:

Eph. 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Eph. 4:3-6

The Triune God working for our salvation:

Eph. 1:3-14

God the Father: Choosing

God the Son: Redeeming

God the Spirit: Sealing

The Salutation of Revelation:

Rev. 1:4-6 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, **from him** which is, and which was, and which is to come; **and from** the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. ...

The Introduction to Colossians:

Col. 1:8; 12-19

The Introduction to 1 Peter:

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

The Exhortation of Jude:

Jude 20-21 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

The Full understanding & formulation came about from:

Reflection on the life & teaching of Jesus

We have to explain who Jesus is and how that fits into monotheism!

Exposition & systematization of the Scripture

(A) ***Response to Paganism***

SOLA GRATIA: BY GRACE ALONE! EPH. 2:1-10

Salvation by grace alone → a rallying cry of Christians since the beginning!

What does it mean?

I. In the depths

Before we can understand *sola gratia* we must understand why we need to be saved & why we must be saved!

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Deep down most of us probably agree with this / agree that they are not perfect.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

This seems to be obvious also:

- **All have sinned**
- **This is the pattern &/ character of our life**

Of course we would all like to stop there!

- **Sinner, yes!**
- **Imperfect, yes!**
- **Beyond hope → Well, but not really beyond hope!**

Romans 3:11 There is **none** that understandeth, there is **none** that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are **all** gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is **none** that doeth good, **no, not one**.

Romans 3:13-18

Eph. 2:1,5 Dead in trespasses and sins:

What does this mean?

Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Ephesians 2:2-3 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound **in the heart of a child**; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 15:8 **The sacrifice of the wicked** is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Proverbs 15:9 **The way of the wicked** is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Proverbs 15:26 **The thoughts of the wicked** are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

Proverbs 15:29 **The LORD is far from the wicked**: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Isaiah 1:5-6 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

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

II. Into the depths

At this point almost everyone is thinking → how can I get out of here?

Maybe:

- I'll just walk out!
- Or, I'll crawl out!
- Or, I'll dig my way out!
- Or, get out with a little help from my friends!

This is the *difference* between Christianity and all other religions. All religions offer a little grace to help you help yourself! *Gratia or sola gratia!*

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 **Even when** we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

➤ **God revealing Himself!**

Psalm 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

➤ **God sending His son!**

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

➤ **God, the Holy Spirit, pursuing us!**

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: **and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Acts 18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much **which had believed through grace:**

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, **Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and **how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.**

➤ **God sending Christians after the lost!**

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

God Himself, using Christians, brings us out of the depths! How does He do it? By going into the depths after us!

III. *Out of the depths* → *into the heights!*

Ephesians 2:6-7 And hath **raised us up together**, and **made us sit together** in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 **That** in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:13 **But now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:19 **Now therefore** ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 **That he would grant you**, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 **May be able to comprehend with all saints** what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 **And to know** the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

SOLA FIDE: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE!

Job 9:2 I know it is so of a truth: **but how should man be just with God?**

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; **but faith** which worketh by love.

This seems like a simple question → & the question itself is easy enough to ask → but how can a frail, sinful, mortal dying creature be just with God?

Martin Luther said “I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading and other work.”

➤ **The way of good works**

The question: How can you do enough to save yourself &/ balance the books / scales?

➤ **The merit of the saints**

Mary, the saints and the Son of God (?) were better than they needed to be for their own salvation. Their goodness could be pooled. Their superfluous (excessive) merits of the righteous constitute a treasury which is transferable to those whose accounts are in arrears. The transfer is effected through the church and, particularly the pope....such a transfer of credits was called an indulgence.

The question: Who knows whether it is so?

➤ **The way of confession**

The question: How can a man be forgiven?

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just shall live by his faith.**

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**

Hebrews 10:38 Now **the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Justification by faith *alone*: *articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesiae* → the article by which the church stands or falls. This is also the *immediate* end of indulgences & the authority of the church.

Paul answers in one passage all **3 problems** we create for ourselves through religion:

1. Legalism

Do works justify?

2. Antinomianism

Does a Christian live differently?

3. Motivation

Why do we do what we do?

I. We are justified by faith *alone*!

1. God must justify sinners → which He *cannot* do!

Sinful people are the only kind there are!

Exodus 23:7 Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

Deuteronomy 25:1 If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

Proverbs 17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

To justify means:

- **To declare righteous**
- **A legal declaration**
- **Courtroom terminology**

Notice the ideas:

- **The judge *does not* make us (or a criminal) righteous!** (An infused / imparted righteousness)
- **The judge *cannot* (legally) declare a wicked / sinful person righteous**

➤ We certainly are *not* righteous! (Inherited / earned righteousness)

2. God justifies us *because of* Christ!

“Justification by faith” alone has a *hidden* premise → that faith rests in Christ & Christ alone! (*Solus Christus*)

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Philippians 3:7-9 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Jeremiah 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another’s life, another’s death
I rest my whole eternity.

We call this doctrine “imputation.”

simul justus et peccator → at the same time just and a sinner!

justitia alienum → alien righteousness! One given *by* another on our behalf!

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God....

Romans 3:19-22 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God **without the law** is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Romans 3:28,30 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Romans 4:1-5 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:6-7 **Even as** David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

“We are justified not merely by faith, but by faith in Christ; not because of what faith is, but because of what faith lays hold of and receives. We are not saved **for** believing but **by** believing. It is not, strictly speaking faith that saves or even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ that saves through faith.”

Philippians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8-9

3. God can *only* justify us because of Christ!

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

If the church is the dispenser of the sacraments, and the sacraments are necessary for salvation, the church becomes the dispenser of salvation. Roman Catholicism's ultimate error: The church replaces Christ!

II. The faith that justifies is *never* alone!

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith **which worketh** by love.

We now must face the 2nd great problem: antinomianism

Does a Christian live differently? How do justification and sanctification relate? How do faith and works relate?

4 possible relationships:

1. Works → salvation
2. Faith + works → salvation
3. Faith → salvation – no works / no *necessary* works
4. Faith → salvation → works

Which of these *sounds* like / *looks* like what the Bible teaches?

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Titus 3:5-7 **Not** by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:8,14 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful **to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men. 14 And let ours also learn **to maintain good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 3:6; Hebrews 3:14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1 John 2:3-6 And hereby we do know that we know him, **if** we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, **and keepeth not** his commandments, **is a liar**, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, **and** the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

John 8:30-32 As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **if** ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, **and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

This seems to be the clear and often repeated teaching of Scripture.

It is proper and Biblical to distinguish between Justification and Sanctification, faith & works → but we can never radically separate them.

We do not come to salvation by good works → we come to good works by faith!

This also helps us understand *another* kind / class of texts:

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 5:5-7 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

JAMES 2:14-26 THE PROBLEM PASSAGE?

James teaches the same truths as Paul → we are justified by faith alone but our faith must be justified (declared valid) by our works.

3 parts / aspects of faith:

1. **Notitia: knowledge** → of truths & a person
2. **Assensus: assent** → assent to / agreeing with
3. **Fiducia: faith / trust / venture** → the committing of life, hope of the future to Christ

Let's ask ourselves some simple questions:

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

How is real / authentic faith *different* an inauthentic faith?

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

How does *authentic* faith differ from *demonic* faith?

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

How does a *living* and a *dead* faith differ?

How does *Abraham's* faith differ from an *inauthentic* faith?

2:21 → Gen. 22:9-12

2:22 Faith brought to completion → it was never meant to be alone.

2:23 Fulfillment of Genesis 15:6

How does *Rahab's* authentic faith differ from an *inauthentic* faith?

2:25

The conclusion: Only one kind of authentic, Biblical faith!

Justification	Sanctification
Extrinsic (outside of)	Intrinsic (inside of)
Declared righteous	Being made righteous
Imputed righteousness	Infused / imparted righteousness
The penalty of sin	The power of sin
Restored to God's favor	Restored to God's image
A complete, perfect act	A progressive, incomplete process
The criminal pardoned	The patient healed
Entirely God's work	Both God and man's work
Same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others
Perfect in life	Imperfect in life

III. The justified man is *constrained* by love

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh **by** love.

What is it that drives the saved man? What gets him up in the morning? Why do we do what we do?

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us.

Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

HEAVEN ON EARTH 1 JN. 5:13

1 Cor. 2:2....and all riches of the full assurance of understanding

Heb. 6:11....to the full assurance of hope....

Heb. 10:22....in full assurance of faith....

1 Jn. 5:13....that ye may know that ye have eternal life....

“In this life we cannot get higher than to be assured of that which in the next life is to be enjoyed.. All saints shall enjoy a heaven when they leave this earth; some saints enjoy a heaven while they are here on earth.”

Thomas Brooks

How can we know? How can we have assurance? How can we be sure?

I. The Promise of the *word*

This way is:

1. Objective

2. Deductive

3. What God has promised

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath** everlasting life, and **shall not** come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life**.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Rom. 8:35-39

1 Thess. 5:22-24

II. The Result of *growth*

This way is:

1. Objective & subjective

2. Inductive

3. What God has done (in our lives)

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, **that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

This is not how we are saved but how we *know* we are saved!

Why was this so important among the recipients of the Epistle of 1 John?

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1 John 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

There are (at least) 3 indicators:

1. The doctrinal indicator: I believe the truth

1 John 4:1-2 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

2. The ethical indicator: I obey the truth

1 John 2:3-6 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

3. The social indicator: I love those who believe and obey the truth

1 John 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

2 Pet. 1:5-11

III. The Witness of the *Spirit*

This way is:

1. Subjective

2. Intuitive

3. What we experience

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Eph. 1:15-23; Eph. 3:14-19 What were Paul's prayers?

An extremely important footnote: Anything that affects my spirit will affect the witness of the Spirit!

The Spirit of God deals (and can only deal) with our spirit, emotions, heart → sickness, problems, pain, personality, time of day/month/year will affect the Witness of the Spirit!

GROWTH IN GRACE 2 COR. 3:18

What is spiritual growth?

This is a small question – obvious answer isn't it?

How we answer this question really determines how we answer the next question:

How do we grow spiritually? How are we changed?

Is spiritual growth:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual gifts? | 2. Scriptural knowledge? |
| 3. Religious service? | 4. Personal standards? |

Or, is it Christlikeness; the fruit of the Spirit; obedience to God's law; a vibrant, personal, growing, daily relationship with Jesus Christ and His word? → which produces →

3 Evangelical Views: (Remember to distinguish theory and practice)			
	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Holiness / Arminian	Act / process	Act	?
Keswick	Act	Process in theory Act in practice	Act
Biblical / Calvinistic	Act	Process	Act

3 introductory thoughts:

- A. We can all be changed / grow!**
- B. We are all changed / grow the same way**
- C. We can only be changed**

How do we grow?

I. Process not an act.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face **beholding** as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed** into the same image **from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

What kind of phrases / statements might you hear?

- Put your all on the altar
- I surrender all
- Baptized with the Spirit
- Filled with the Spirit
- Slain with the Spirit
- Get right with God

What is the *problem* with “crisis oriented” preaching? It bypasses the *process*!

Also, if growth is knowledge, doing something, or not doing something → then we can focus on making decisions.

There are no secrets → secrets lead to frustration.

II. Communion not commitment

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face **beholding** as in a glass **the glory of the Lord**, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Jn. 1:1-4; Gen. 5:21-24; Jn. 17:3; Phil. 3:10

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God....

What does this *involve*?

It is not that we are not committed enough but that we are not communing enough -which changes us into His image!

Commitment(s) is essential to start something!

Commitments do not equal spirituality.

Decisions do not equal Christlikeness

III. Person not an experience

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass **the glory of the Lord**, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Not tongues, baptism of the spirit, the power of God → but God!

“I found it!” → Jesus is not an “it”, and He finds you, you don’t find Him!

2 Cor. 12:1-4

IV. Dependent not independent

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed** into the same image from glory to glory, **even as by the Spirit of the Lord**. (...just as from the Lord, the Spirit. NASB....which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit NIV)

Who does the changing?

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

V. Every day not a big day.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image **from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Much preaching & Christian living is *escapist* thinking!

In reality it is:

- One truth at a time
- One verse at a time
- One step at a time
- From glory to glory!

2 problems with this idea:

1. Looking for change from man not God
2. Looking for change in an unbiblical way

Beware of the “conference mentality!”

VI. Indirect not direct.

Seek Him and therefore grow → do **not** seek to grow!

Bible study is a means to an end → not an end in itself.

Ex. 34:28-30

What is growth? Growth is communion with a person which makes me dependent and is done every day in an indirect way.

THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE 1 COR. 15:3-4

1 Cor. 15:3-4....according to the scriptures (x2)

Rom. 4:3....for what saith the scripture?

Jn. 10:35....and the scriptures cannot be broken....

So **why** do we believe the Bible is God's word?

Why is it so central to who we are?

I. The testimony of the Saviour

What was indispensable to the Redeemer **must always** be indispensable to the redeemed.

Jn. 10:33-36 → Psalm 82:1-8

Luke 24:25-27 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

The spoken was equated with the written

Lk. 24:44-48 **3-fold division of OT:**

1. Law

2. Prophets

3. Writing

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Matthew 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Mt. 23:29-36 What does this mean?

The first book → the last book.

II. The testimony of science

Knowledge derived from observation, or empirically derived → the scientific method.

3 ideas:

1. Writers claimed to be recording truth.

Luke 1:1-4

2. What can be verified *has been* verified.

3. Writers suffered & died for what they wrote >> with no hope of gain or advancement.

Lk. 3:1-2

Sir Wm. Ramsay

Acts 17:6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

This term is **like** the use of Commodore in the USN.

Jn. 4:44-54, 5:1-2

4:47

4:49

4:51

5:1

5:2

1 Cor. 15:5-8

Esther 10:3

III. The testimony of the Scripture

What is the scriptures view of itself?

1. All scripture is inspired

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Therefore none is

All can mean

1. All → whole = collectively
2. Every → each / every = distributively

2. The OT & NT are inspired.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

Quotes Deut.25:4 & Luke 10:7.

Calls both Scripture

Both are authoritative

3. The writings of the Apostles are inspired.

2 Peter 3:15-16 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also **in all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, **as they do also the other scriptures**, unto their own destruction.

4. Every word is inspired

Matthew 4:4,7,10 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The focus is on the result not the process!!!

Some dictation

Some handed down to man (10 commandments)

Some visions

Some research

1 Chronicles 29:29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

Lk. 1:1-4

5. The plurality of a word is inspired.

Galatians 3:15-16 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. **He saith not, And to *seeds*, as of many; but as of one, And to thy *seed*, which is Christ.**

6. Verbal tenses are inspired

Mt. 22:23-33 **I am not I was.**

Matthew 22:31-32 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, **have ye not *read* that which was *spoken* unto you by God**, saying, 32 I **am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

7. Every letter is inspired.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

8. Every portion of a letter is inspired

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Lev. 18:21

TEACH US TO PRAY LK. 11:1-13

3 potential problems found in this passage:

1. "Teach us to pray" is the *same* as "teach us how to pray."
2. 11:13....give the Holy Spirit.... What does this mean?

Parallel: Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give **good things** to them that ask him?

OT teaching (antecedent teaching / informing theology):

Isaiah 44:1-3 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: **I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:**

Also: Ex. 31:1-5; 35:30-32; Isa. 11:2-3; 42:1-4; 32:15-17; 63:10-14

In a different setting Jesus uses this phrase since the Holy Spirit is the *source* of all good things!

3. Textual problems

I. Pray according to His plan &/ pattern

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, **When ye pray**, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Most folks don't pray → or at least they don't pray well because they lack an organized, sequential plan

1. The glory of God

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name**. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

hallowed = to sanctify, to set apart

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Our highest priority

Our first request

Our primary end

This is before our needs, wants, desires, health, jobs, family, problems, etc.

1 Chronicles 16:27-29 Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place. 28 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. 29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Acts 12:22-23 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our prayer:

I want you to be glorified

and I want to **do** what I can to bring you glory

and I want to **avoid** what doesn't bring you glory

2. The kingdom of God

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come**. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Colossians 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

3. The will of God

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done**, as in heaven, so in earth.

Luke 22:41-42 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Romans 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.
Romans 15:30-32 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; 31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; 32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

4. The needs of life

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Bread is metonymy for food & necessities. (Luke 7:33; Jn. 13:18; 2 Thess. 3:8,12)

5. The forgiveness of sin

Luke 11:4 **And forgive us our sins; for** we also forgive every one that is indebted to us....

Ps. 51:3 For I acknowledged my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

The older I get the more I know some things:

I need forgiveness

I need to forgive others

I need to be forgiven by others

I become more aware not less aware!

6. The guidance of God

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

II. Pray according to His plan with perseverance

Luke 11:5-7 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

Key verse:

Luke 11:9-10 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11:9-10 is the

This is a principle found throughout the Bible:

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

III. Pray according to His plan with perseverance based on a presupposition.

Luke 11:11-13 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Lest we get the wrong idea!

Never forget:

God wants to answer your prayers **more** than we want to pray and **more** than we want to help even our own children!!!

THE CHURCH I: ORGANIZATION PHIL. 1:1

Psalm 84:1,4,10 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. 10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

But what is a Church?

1st: a people

2nd: a place

3rd: a purpose

A called out assembly organized for the propagation and defense of the faith.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

The church can & should *also* be understood in its local, plural & universal senses.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

II. Pastor - Bishop - Elder

Acts 20:17,28 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

These seem to be 3 titles for the same person (s):

1. Bishop

Function: overseeing

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ,

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be

2. Elder

Function: leading &/ ruling

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

15:2,4,6,22,23

Focus: maturity

3. Pastor

Function: feeding

Normally translated as shepherd

Jn. 10:2; 11:1,12,14,16

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

This is **not** a common title in the Bible.

How are they chosen?

1. Called by God

3. Qualified by life

2. Gifted by the Holy Spirit

4. Confirmed by the church

III. Deacons

This word means a servant

The word is used many times in a non - technical way for simply

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

1 Timothy 3:8,12 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

First deacons:

Acts 6:1-7 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Thoughts: on an as needed basis → to allow the Pastors to fulfill their primary responsibilities.

IV. Saints

used > 60x in the N.T. This is the most common word for believers in all ages!

The word saint is from the same root word as: holy, sanctified, hallowed

The basic meaning = to set apart → so “the set apart ones” or “the separated ones”

But I always thought that saints were *special* people!

Characteristics of a saint:

1. Normal not abnormal!

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2. Alive not dead!

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

3. Imperfect not perfect!

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

4. To be prayer for not prayed to!

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

5. To be honored not worshipped!

Philippians 4:21-22 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. 22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

6. To be a blessing to not to be blessed by!

Romans 15:25-26 But now I go unto Jerusalem **to minister unto the saints**. 26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution **for the poor saints** which are at Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16:1,15 Now concerning **the collection for the saints**, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves **to the ministry of the saints**),

2 Corinthians 9:1,12 For as touching **the ministering to the saints**, it is superfluous for me to write to you: 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth **the want of the saints**, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

I. The Apostolic Doctrine

Phil. 1:1

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

This is the authority of the:

1. The OT
2. The Lord Jesus
3. The Apostles

2 Thess. 2:15 3 stages:

1. Oral (OT was written!)
2. Oral and written
3. Just written

THE CHURCH II: ORDINANCES 1 Cor. 15:3-6

Christianity is **radically** different than any other religion in the world: It is not primarily a philosophy, nor an ethical system or even a religion.

Christianity is about: Facts → *Christ died* & → Then meaning → *for our sins*

The Bible from beginning to end is **rooted in history** >> **God acting in history**:

- **Creation**
- **Flood**
- **Call of Abraham**
- **Passover**: Ex. 12:24-28

This becomes a key motif: Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15

Deuteronomy 15:15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Deuteronomy 16:12 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

➤ **That great future event!**

Jeremiah 16:14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

Isa. 11:1-16

- **The Christ Event** (incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, rapture, 2nd Coming)

Without Historical events we have no Christianity!!!

Josh. 4:19-24

Christianity has two ordinances - ordained by the Lord - to *remind* us of these *historical facts!*

I. The *Initial* Rite: Baptism

1. Baptism is a picture / symbol

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

A picture of the: 1. death 2. burial 3. resurrection

A symbol of something symbolized!

This is proclamation by means of a symbol

Word → ears Symbol → eyes

It is **also** a symbol of our **union** with Christ **1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Col.2:12**

2. Baptism is of believers *only*

A. Scriptural proof:

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:26-40

Acts 16:29-34 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, **and** to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, **believing in God with all his house.**

B. Logical proof: Must be a picture &/ symbol of something that has happened

C. Historical proof:

3. Baptism is by immersion

A. Etymological proof:

These words are **never** translated merely transliterated >> **much like angel**

What do these words mean? How do we know?

This word is found in:

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may **dip** the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when **I have dipped it**. And when he **had dipped** the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture **dipped** in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

This word is not a sacred word >> it is used *extensively* in the secular world for the dyeing of clothing!

This word was *also* used extensively in the LXX and was almost always translated dip.

Exodus 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and **dip** it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel.... Leviticus 11:32 And upon whatsoever any of them, when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean..... it must **be put** into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed.

2 Kings 8:15 And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and **dipped** it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

Joshua 3:15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were **dipped** in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

βαπτίζω *itself* is also found in the LXX:

2 Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and **dipped** himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

It is *also* found in the apocryphal book Judith

Judith 12:7 Then Holofernes commanded his guard that they should not stay her: thus she abode in the camp three days, and went out in the night into the valley of Bethulia, and **washed** herself in a fountain of water by the camp.

βαπτισμοῦ is found in:

Mark 7:4,8 And when they come from the market, except they **wash**, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the **washing** of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the **washing** of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. Could this be sprinkling or pouring?

The NT *has* words for sprinkling!

Heb. 9:13,19,21; 10:22 (the verb) Heb. 12:24, 1 Pet. 1:2 (the noun)

B. Circumstantial proof:

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was **much water there**: and they came, and were baptized.

Matthew 3:5-6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him **in Jordan**, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway **out of** the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Acts 8:36-39 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, **See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?** 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both **into the water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up **out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

C. Historical proof:

3 modes:

1. Immersion

2. Affusion

3. Aspersio

4. Baptism is not essential to salvation

1 Cor. 1:11-17 & Rom. 1:16; Titus 3:5 & Mt. 3:15; Lk. 23:39-43

However → the symbol is always closely related to that which is symbolized.

THE CHURCH II: ORDINANCES

II. The *Continual* Rite: The Lord's Supper

Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-24; Acts 2:42; 20:7

Legitimately called:

1. The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat **the Lord's supper**.

2. Communion

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ?

With both God & man

Not the physical presence but certainly the spiritual presence! We do not believe in the real absence!

3. Eucharist

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, and **gave thanks**, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

ευχαριστω = I give thanks

ευχαριστια = thanksgiving

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper? 3 (or 4) views:

1. Transubstantiation:

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is** my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, **This cup is** the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

A change of substance

It *becomes* the body and blood.

A sacrifice of Christ daily in the mass.

Hebrews 10:10-14 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had **offered one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For **by one offering** he hath perfected **for ever** them that are sanctified.

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 **Nor yet that he should offer himself often**, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: **but now once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ **was once offered** to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

2. Consubstantiation:

3. Memorial view:

Ulrich Zwingli (& John Calvin?)

What is the purpose?

1. Communion

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

2. Contemplation

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

This becomes a primary means of church discipline!

3. Commemoration

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew** the Lord's death till he come.

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**

4. Celebration

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

What does this mean? To perform a ritual publicly & formally, or to honor or praise publicly.

The Elements:

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Mark 14:25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

These were from the passover

Only true symbols

Only symbols available

Frequency:

Acts 2:42,46 And they **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

This is a function of the assembled church

1 Cor. 11:17-34

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

THE CHURCH III: OBJECTIVES

There are **two big questions** concerning a church:

1. What *is* a church?

- a called out body of believers
- called out world , and separated unto God

1 John 5:19 And we know that **we are of God**, and the **whole world** lieth in wickedness.

2. What is the *purpose* of the church?

- Why do we exist?
- What gives us the right to exist?

I. The Gathered Church: *Ministering to the body*

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Edification

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

2. Encouragement

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine **and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

3. Organization

Acts 2:42 **And they continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

4. Worship

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, **and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

This would include:

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

II. The Scattered Church: *Ministering* to the world

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

The church is not always together → are we no longer the church when we are not together?

1. Example

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The church before “the watching world.”

Matthew 5:13-14 **Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

2. Evangelism

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

How can we do this?

A. Testimony

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

- ***Before* I was saved / trusted Christ**
- ***How* I was saved / trusted Christ**
- ***Since* I was saved / trusted Christ**

2. A Plan:

1st: You need to be saved

Rom. 3:23; Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 6:23

2nd: You **cannot** save yourself

Titus 3:5; James 2:10; Prov. 14:12

3rd: **Only** Christ can save you

Acts 4:12; Jn. 14:6; 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:6

4th: You must **trust** in Jesus Christ and Him **alone**

Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13

5th: Call upon Christ for salvation **today**

2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 4:7; Jn. 10:28-29

3. Helpful hints:

- Make it personal
- Don't preach
- Keep Christ and Him crucified central
- Use the Bible
- Keep after them!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES HOS. 3:1-5

Acts 15:18 **Known** unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

One of the most important questions facing us is → what is the *relationship* between Israel and the Church? There are several views:

1. The promises have been set aside.

Some would say God has divorced Israel!

2. The promises are being fulfilled in the church.

This view would hold that the church is the new / spiritual Israel

3. The postponement of the kingdom view.

This view would hold that the Church is a parenthesis in God's plan for Israel

How do we explain the church? What happened to Israel?

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

After the Cross, resurrection, and beginning of the Church we *still* have 3 groups:

1. Jews: Ethnic, distinct race, God's chosen people, can either be saved or unsaved

2. Gentiles: The mass of humanity, lost humanity, rest of the nations

3. Church of God: A called out people → from the Jews & Gentiles.

Hosea 3:1-5 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. 2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: 3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee. 4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

I. Former days

God chose Israel

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Ezekiel 5:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

Amos 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

One nation was to be a lighthouse to the nations.

Based on an unilateral, unconditional covenant.

Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-22; 22:15-18; 26:3-5; 28:13-15

This would include these periods:

1. Patriarchs:
2. The sojourn in Egypt:
3. The Judges:
4. The United Monarchy:
5. The Divided Monarchy:

Hosea = God

Gomer = Israel

2 Chronicles 36:14-16 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. 15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

God sent His prophets to reclaim His own:

1. Speaking prophets
2. Writing prophets

II. *Many days*

Hosea 3:3-4 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me **many days**; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee. 4 For the children of Israel shall abide **many days** without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

Hosea loved Gomer, purchased Gomer → she would no longer be a prostitute → but neither would she be his wife

She would need a *time of* seclusion.

Hosea 3:4 *many days*:

-without a king

-without a prince

-without a sacrifice

-without a ephod

-without an image

-without teraphim

Not a prostitute but not a wife either!

2 stages of Rejection:

1. Political rejection

2. Spiritual rejection

Romans 11:28 As concerning the **gospel**, they are **enemies** for your sakes: but as touching the **election**, they are **beloved** for the fathers' sakes.

Was God surprised? Was this an accident? Was this a parenthesis? How long will this last?

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

III. *Latter days*

Hosea 3:5 **Afterward** shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days**.

This is referring to the tribulation period

Acts 15:12-18 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. 13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared **how God** at the first did visit the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for his name**. 15 And **to this agree the words of the prophets**; as it is written, 16 **After this** I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

15:14 The Church age

15:15 Who teaches this?

15:16 after this

Rom. 11 The blindness of Israel is:

1. Partial

Romans 11:1,2,5 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

2. Temporary

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 2 stages of restoration

Eze. 37

1. Political 37:8,10,11

2. Religious 37:18-28

ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH ROM. 11:28-29

THE GOSPEL AND THE PROMISES

The fallacy of a *false dilemma*:

John 9:2-3 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, **this man, or his parents**, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

There was a 3rd option!!!

Have you stopped beating your wife?

No → means you are still beating her!

Yes → means you were beating her but you aren't right now!

There is a 3rd option!!!

The Abrahamic Covenant: The covenant of promise (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:4-8; 22:15-24; 26:1-5; 28:10-15) → 17:4-8 promises many thing to national, ethnic Israel → one of them is the forever.

The Gospel:

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Corinthians 15:11 Therefore whether it were I or they, **so we preach**, and so ye believed.

After the beginning of the Church we obviously still have 3 groups:

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to **the Jews**, nor to **the Gentiles**, nor to **the church of God**:

Now comes the problem → the *crunch*:

Genesis 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the **land** wherein thou art a stranger, all the **land** of Canaan, for an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God.

John 10:28-29 And I give unto them **eternal life**; and they shall **never** perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Obviously National, ethnic Israel has **not** inherited the land → it's **not** even their land today!

Options:

- 1. The Gospel / Paul's message is true & the Promises are false**
- 2. The Promises are true & the Gospel / Paul's message is false**
- 3. Neither are true → the more valid conclusion!**
- 4. Both are true**

This is Paul's option: The Gospel and the promises → The Church and Israel

Hath God cast away his people? Not: yes or no >> but yes and no!!!

I. *Yes, but only partially*

Romans 11:1-6 I say then, **Hath God cast away his people?** God forbid. **For I also** am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. **Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias?** how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4 **But what saith the answer of God unto him?** I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. 5 **Even so** then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

- **The salvation of Paul**

- **The election of 7,000 in Israel in Elijah's day!**

- **A remnant today.**

II. Yes, but sovereignly

Romans 11:7-10 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded 8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

11:7-10 simply *explains* 11:

The Lord want to ensure no one gets any ideas that salvation is of:

- Works
- Inherent goodness
- Effort

But all of grace!

III. Yes, but intentionally

11:11-24

Romans 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

They didn't fall just to fall

They fell for the salvation of the gentiles → and for the motivation of the Jews

Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Romans 11:12,15 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; **how much more their fulness?** 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, **what shall the receiving of them be**, but life from the dead?

The restoration of the Jews will mean a *greater & fuller* salvation of gentiles. Rev. 7:1-8 → Rev. 7:9-17

Romans 11:23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

IV. Yes, but most certainly *temporarily*

11:25-36

2 important concepts:

1. The “times of the gentiles”

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- **Began: 586 BC**
- **Ends: 2nd coming & millennial kingdom**
- **This is the *political* ascendancy of the gentiles &/ nations**

2. The “fulness of the gentiles”

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

- **Began: AD 70**
- **Ends: Rapture**
- **This is the *spiritual* ascendancy of the gentiles &/ nations**

The doctrinal conclusion:

Romans 11:28-29 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Jer. 30:11; 31:31-37; 32:37-42; 33:19-21,25-26; 46:28

The practical conclusion:

Romans 11:30-32 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

The Doxological conclusion

Romans 11:33-36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

DANGERS OF THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

I. Scriptural authority *undermined*

2 Tim. 3:16-17 → 4:1-2

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

What is to be the source of all doctrine & experience?

Most, if not all, charismatics would hold to inspiration & inerrancy of scripture >> but **the real issue** is neither one but:

1. Authority of scripture
2. Sufficiency of scripture

Instead of the Word of God they have:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - Prophets | - Words of wisdom |
| - Words of knowledge | - Dreams |
| - Visions | - Sudden impression |

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

All cults have a wrong foundation:

Catholic church: The Bible and tradition, the pope, the church

Mormons: The Bible and the book of Mormon

J.Ws: The Bible and the teaching of their church

Christian Science: The Bible and the teacher of their founder

Word of Faith: 2 kinds of word: 1. written 2. Spoken

Question: Of what value is the inspiration & infallibility of Scripture **if** it is not also authoritative & sufficient?

Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: **but** the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, **but** my words shall not pass away.

II. Christians *rendered* gullible

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Satan's goal for Christendom: Make us superstitious, a religion that starts and ends with emotion &/ experience.

From day one we must *start* with Scripture, *stay* with Scripture, and *end* with scripture.

Matthew 24:23-25 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 **Behold, I have told you before.**

- False Christs & prophets
- great signs & wonders → real miracles?
- people base belief on wonders **not** the word!

2 Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, Revelation 13:13-14 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the

sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

III. True worship *destroyed*

The #1 drawing point of Charismatic movement is its greatest weakness!

Worship = to ascribe worth to God

Ps. 8:1-9 (esp.3)

1. Mind:
2. Heart:
3. Will:

Rom. 6:17

1. Form of doctrine
2. From the heart
3. Obeyed

Intellectually → emotionally → volitionally

Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech

1. Mercies of God:
2. (heart)
3. present your bodies

Never allow yourself to be hypnotized or placed in a trance.

Do not loose control of your thoughts → in fact God's goal is for you to control your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

False worship:

- ***Exalts*** emotions
- ***Increases*** needs
- ***Fosters*** dependence
- ***Leaves you*** drained

True worship:

- ***Exalts*** God
- ***Increases*** knowledge
- ***Fosters*** obedience
- ***Leaves you*** refreshed

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Spirit: As opposed to ceremony, place, ritual, external

Truth: Objective truth → the Word of God

Spirit and truth → not Spirit or truth.

IV. Genuine conversion *obscured*

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

TIME IN THE WORD MT. 18:18-19

Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.

Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:97-104

Goals of Bible study:

1. To *hear* His voice

Psalm 119:33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

1 Sam. 3:9....speak Lord, for thy servant heareth....

2. To *understanding* His voice

Psalm 119:34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Not only the what but the why!!!

3. To *obey* His voice.

Psalm 119:33-35 Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; **and I shall keep it unto the end.** 34 Give me understanding, **and I shall keep thy law;** yea, **I shall observe it** with my whole heart. 35 Make me **to go** in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Jn. 2:6....whatsoever He saith unto you, do it!

The Bible was *not* written to satisfy our idle curiosity *but* to teach us how to live!

But how can we understand the Bible?

I. *Read comprehensively*

This means we must read the whole **before** trying to grasp every single word, verse, question and difficulty.

Comparing Scripture with scripture

Matthew 18:18-19 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

How does this help us with Mt. 18:18-19?

1. We will find parallel passages

2. We will often know what a passage *cannot* mean!!!

Mt. 18:18 The *Catholic* verse:

Eph. 1:7; Mk. 2:6-7

Mt. 18:19 The *Charismatic* verse:

Deut. 3:23-29 >> What happened to Moses the greatest leader in the OT?

2 Cor. 12:7-10 >> What happened to Paul the greatest leader in the NT?

1 Chron. 7:2-4 What is the most repeated event from David's life?

We may or may not know what a verse teaches → but we will know what it *doesn't* teach → in fact, what it *cannot* teach!

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Westminster Confession: All things in Scripture **are not** alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, **are so clearly** propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a **due use of the ordinary means**, may attain unto a **sufficient understanding** of them.

3. We grasp the story-line / plot-line.

II. *Read contextually*

A text without a context is a pretext!

How **not** to read the Bible:

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, **and went and hanged himself.**

Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, **That thou doest, do quickly.**

At least read *all* of MT. 18!!! Mt. 18 has 3 parts:

1. 18:1-14 The brother who offends

2. 18:15-20 The brother who is offended

3. 18:21-35 The brother & offenses

18:15-17 What to do when sinned against &/ offended. This sounds a lot like Proverbs 25:8-12!!!

18:18 Must be related somehow to 18:15-17

18:19 The Lord is simply restating 18:18

18:20 Explains why 18:16-19 is true!

18:21 Then!

III. *Read carefully*

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

John 20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

These 3 are spoken in a *context*:

1. Mt. 16:13-17 The gospel / Peter's confession

2. Mt. 18:18-19 The Church's decisions → in Jesus' name & presence!

3. Jn. 20:19-23 The great commission.

Binding & loosing were terms normally used for

When the Church acts:

1. *By God's word.* Mt. 18:15-17 >> Deut. 19:15

2. *In Jesus' name.* Mt. 18:20 >> Jn. 14:13-14

3. *With the Spirit's guidance.* Jn. 20:22, Acts 15:28; Acts 13:1-3

and pronounces a decision (bind, loose; forgive, retain) → this will be God's decision → that God has *already* made!
Num. 23:8

IV. *Read concurrently*

I read the Bible concurrently with all of God's people: In all *places*, in all *times* and in all *movements*.

1 Corinthians 14:36-38 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

1 Timothy 3:14-16 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in **the house of God**, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth**.

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As **they** ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when **they** had fasted and prayed, and laid **their** hands on them, **they** sent them away.

Acts 15:25,28 It seemed good unto **us**, **being assembled** with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to **us**, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Principle: The Lord is much more prone to lead a *group* of people than any *one* person!

If it's new it's probably not true! If it's true it's probably not new!

CONCERNING THE COLLECTION 1 COR. 16:1-4

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

Acts 2:44-45 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Acts 4:32-37 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The problem was not (and never is) tithing → it was giving & even more so worshipping God *as* God!!!

I. Give *Biblically*

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, **as** I have given order to the churches of Galatia, **even so do ye**.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

1 Corinthians 14:33-38 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

Relativism: There are no absolutes!

(1) Secular: Do your own thing, that's OK for you but not for me, do whatever makes you feel good.

(2) Christian: I give as the Spirit leads....or, if God convicts me!

I (& you) **do not** need the Spirit's leading where I (we) already have the Spirit's command!

The Holy Spirit may lead you to do more than what He has commanded → but not less than!

II. Give *regularly*

1 Corinthians 16:2 **Upon the first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Live & give on purpose → at a set time & in a set place

Don't do it last → it won't happen!

Don't stockpile → it will be spent!

Don't do it as the Spirit leads!

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Begin a family tradition!

III. Give *personally*

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let **every one** of you lay by **him** in store, as God hath prospered **him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Giving is an *act* of worship → between an individual & God.

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

The *missing* element is always: The act of worship

IV. Give *proportionately*

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

It seems to me the starting point, the minimum, the basic portion is the tithes.

Life can often be divided into B.K. & A.K. → before kids & after kids.

The example of John R. Rice:

V. Give *willingly*

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, **that there be no gatherings when I come.**

Paul **knew** he could manipulate & apply pressure → he wanted God to work in their hearts (& ours).

Ex. 35:20-29

Exodus 36:4-7 And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; 5 And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make. 6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. 7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

Exodus 25:1-2 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

1 Chronicles 29:6,9,14,17 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, 9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

VI. Give *carefully*

1 Corinthians 16:3-4 And when I come, **whomsoever ye shall approve** by your letters, **them** will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

GETTING THE MOST FROM SUNDAY ACTS 20:7-9

Sunday does not equal Sabbath. Eze. 20:11-12

The Sabbath was a sign to Israel.

Christians set aside &/ make holy the 1st day of the week.

Ignatius (contemporary of John): "Let every one the loveth Christ keep holy the 1st day of the week → the Lord's Day."

I. Before Sunday: preparation

Deuteronomy 5:12 Keep the sabbath day **to sanctify it**, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

Nehemiah 13:15-18 In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. 16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. 17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel **by profaning the Sabbath**

Exodus 19:10-11 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and **sanctify** them to day and to morrow, and let them **wash** their clothes, 11 And **be ready** against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

To sanctify = to set apart, to make unique or special

To profane = to make common, usual or normal

1 Mental preparation

The mind must first be clear from distractions!

- Music

- Reading

- Meditation

2. Physical preparation

Do not overeat!!!

Get proper rest

Make Saturday evening tranquil

The great tragedy → **many times** getting nothing from a sermon has nothing to do with the Pastor, sermon, service → but with what you ate & how much sleep you got.

3. Spiritual preparation

Read word on Saturday night / Sunday morning.

Pray for services

Confession

However → do not forget that the spiritual is totally dependent upon the:

1. The mental
2. The physical

II. *During Sunday: participation*

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

If Satan cannot hinder us *from* participation he will hinder us *in* participation

Bernard: *Stay here all my earthly thoughts.*

1. Greeting / loving

2. Singing

3. Giving

4. Praying

5. Hearing

Make sure you take notes

6. Obeying &/ Responding

Ezekiel 33:32 And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

III. *After Sunday: contemplation*

Acts 17:10-11 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word** with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures** daily, whether those things were so.

2 questions to ask:

1. Is it Biblical?

3 possible answers:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

2. How does apply?

At home

At work

In the family

3 simply words:

1. *Anticipate*

2. *Participate*

3. *Contemplate*

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE BELIEVER JN. 14:16-18

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:18 I will not leave you **comfortless**: I will come to you.

Jn. 14:25-26; Jn. 15:26; Jn. 16:7-11,12-14

Acts 1:1-3 → 5-8

I. *Pre-conversion* ministry

1. Separating

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Corinthians 7:12-15

Chosen by God = Fact

Sanctification of the Spirit & belief in the truth = Means

The Holy Spirit sets us apart into a sphere where it easier to be saved:

He *removes* obstacles

He *provides* opportunities

He *stimulates* interest

He *draws* us

God always initiates salvation! Rom. 3:10-18

2. Convicting

Jn. 16:8-11

The Holy Spirit speaks on the inside → as we speak on the outside.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

3. Drawing

John 6:37,44 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Can anything be more beautiful than this?

4. Quickening

John 6:60-63 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Ephesians 2:1,4-5 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

The process is now complete → *Separating* us from the mass of humanity *into* the realm of salvation → *convicting* us of sin, wrath, and judgment → *drawing* us to Himself → *quickenning* us (giving us life).

Jn. 3:3-8

II. *Conversion* ministry

1. Baptizing

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Why & how can the Church be many but one? Something radical has happened! Rom. 6:3-5

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Galatians 3:27-28 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. Indwelling

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth **with you**, and shall be **in you**.

Rom. 8:9 → Jude 19; 1 Cor. 6:19

3. Sealing

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

4 ideas:

1. Sealed *at* salvation
2. Holy Spirit *is* the seal
3. Sealing is permanent
4. Sealing is a foretaste

III. Post-conversion ministry

1. Equipping

Ex. 31:2-5; Ex. 35:30-35; 1 Kings 7:14; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 28-31; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

2. Empowering &/ filling

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. Interceding

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

4. Assuring

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

5. Leading

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Spirit of *God* → leads us God

The Spirit of *Holiness* → leads us into holiness

The Spirit of *Truth* → leads us to the truth

A MORE SURE WORD 2 PET. 1:15-21

How can we know about these things?

Peter was facing death → his exodus → putting off his tabernacle → yet he faced it with assurance and confidence.

Peter even shares his basis of assurance → and then commends it to us → 2 Peter 1:19...**whereunto ye do well that ye take heed....**

3 potential basis:

I. The *mythical* basis

2 Peter 1:15-16 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. **For we have not followed cunningly devised fables**, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**David Fink: The biggest problem in the ministry will be folk theology
These are beliefs rooted in nothing more than what we want to believe!**

Islam:

Mormonism:

Acts 10:34-43

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

II. The *historical* basis

2 Peter 1:16-18 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

We didn't make it up → we experienced it!

1:16

1:18

1 John 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

What does this include:

1. The 5 senses

2. By a group of people

This is the **consistent** testimony of the Scripture.

Ex. 19:9-10, 16-18; 20:18-22 Witnessed by 2 ½ million people!!!

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Peter seems to indicate that there is something even more sure → but how can that be?

Why is it necessary? Simply because our experiences can be deceiving!

2 Thess. 2:9; Mt. 24:24; Rev. 13:13-14

III. The *scriptural* basis

2 Peter 1:19-21 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

How can God reveal Himself, His truth, in an unmistakable way?

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was...reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture....?

Psalms 138:2...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: **if** they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

How does God reveal Himself in an unmistakable way? The Scripture!!!

The Scripture combines several elements:

1. The *theological* element

2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 **For** the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Key word: "for"

The writers of Scripture didn't give their own personal forecast /interpretation of upcoming events → the source / origin isn't man but is God.

2. The *historical* element.

Exodus 19:9-10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

Exodus 19:16-18 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exodus 20:18-22 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. 19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. 20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. 21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. 22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

1 Jn. 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:1-11

This is the 5 senses of a group of people!

Jn. 3:11-13,31-32 → This is the *ultimate* historical revelation!!!

3. The *prophetical* element

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

2 Kings 7:1-2 >> 7:18-20 **The *simple* question: Does it *happen*?**

4. The *Canonical* element

Deut. 13:1-5

1. God speaks & acts

2. *To* a group of people

3. *That happens*

4. *As* He has acted in the past

This is called salvation history.

Salvation does have a history.