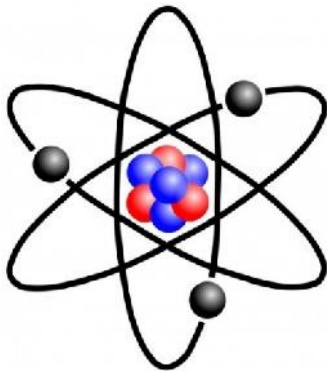


God's Great Design of the Bible

A Brief Literal Study Bible by SunGrist



- Complete Bible Outline in 12 topics
 - Jeremiah Outline
 - a Doctrinal Outline of the Letters of Paul
 - A “that sort” outline of II Timothy
 - All with Quotes and Notes for ease of Bible Study.
- Paul's Statement of Faith and Practice in Ephesians.

“Marvelous are all thy works of Creation, Oh Lord.” We stand in awe of both the astronomical creations of God and the microscopic. Man through the years has come to learn that even one atom is a marvel of a nucleus of positive protons holding together an equal number of electrons in orbit; think of just the marvel of water with two molecules

of Hydrogen, a gas, with another on molecule of oxygen, making a liquid by which we live and survive, and the Periodic Table of Elements with well organized groups and rows is a discovery by man of some of the marvels of God's creation, He whose righteousness and wisdom is greater than the mountains and deeper than the seas. Man is a marvel, and is called in the Bible the Crown of Creation. Not nearly as many people appreciate that the structure of the Bible, God's great design of the Bible over a period of two thousand years with selected and diverse men with different careers, is a miracle of design and construction with the Old Testament quotes in the New Testament holding it firmly together, this marvel of the work of God by the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son (the Word made flesh), and God the Holy Spirit. As you read for starters here, first the whole outline of the Bible around 12 topics made possible by quotes in the New Testament of the most important Old Testament verses from Prophets and the Spirit, for Gentiles and Hebrews, then with the marvels of the proper interpretations by Jesus and the Apostles (the Bible is summarized by Apostles, Prophets, and the Holy Spirit), then applications and implementation to provide humanity with the wisdom of God based on His own character a guidebook for Life and Living. Hopefully, an inspiration of your reading here will be what Jesus said of a balanced life, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God." McLendon Day of Baylor University captured some of that marvel of THE BOOK when she wrote "The Wonder of the Word".

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Jeremiah Outline with Quotes and Notes

Doctrinal Outline of the 14 NT Letters of Paul

A “that sort” Outline of II Timothy

Paul’s Statement of Faith and Practice in Ephesians

[The Bible is Christ with the Complete, Original Outline of the Bible.](#)

by [SunGrist](#)

The place of this small book is to first outline the whole Bible in brief from the quotations in the New Testament from the Old Testament, and does it surprise you that most of the quotes of the Old Testament in the New Testament come from the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul; and furthermore that it is this chief editor of the New Testament, which more than the Old Testament is a story of Christ—that by much more, by the way, is the same Paul who wrote, “For to me to live is Christ.” For Paul to live was for Christ to live, and for the Bible to live today is for Christ to live through the words and Word of the Bible. (You will see before you finish this volume, if you can since it is large, and if you do not see Christ already in the Bible.)

Unless you still have the veil over your eyes which is done away in a personal experience with Christ, or unless “blindness in part is happened to” you as part of the nation of Israel “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in; and in either case all we can do, you and us, is pray that the veil or blindness be removed in order that you can see! Of course, when this happens, world history as we know it is almost over!

Someone tells the story of a certain large Bible so designed that when you stood back to look at any page, you would see outlined around the text an image of Christ. So it is with the story or message of the Bible. Christ is the Bible, and the Bible is Christ. How appropriately the Apostle John first received in Revelation the proper word of “Word” to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, then later in the writing of the Gospel of John started the story of the Life of Jesus with the “Word made flesh” as a proper label for Jesus. The word “Word” for Jesus and the word “Word” for the Word of God are more closely related than we will ever know this side of eternity. (Karl Barth has made a contribution here in his book on the Word.)

Each of us must interpret Christ for our own generation. The accuracy of that interpretation can be measured in terms of our faithfulness to the Bible as the Word of God. There are many official and un-official interpretations of Christ even as there are many man-made religious organizations which claim to properly interpret Christ for our times. Rather than sling mud about which ones and how many of them are really part of the body of the Christ of the Bible, and incidentally of the presently living Christ who is the only head of the real body of Christ...that is, I say, rather than trying to separate who is and who is not a member of the real body of Christ, the more positive approach is to get back to the Bible with good Bible-based

principles of hermeneutics, or Bible interpretation, setting forth the real Christ of the Bible and what it is to Learn the Christ of the Bible.

If forced to select two verses from the Bible to represent a single focus for THE LEARN CHRIST COMMENTARY, it would have to be Ephesians 4:20,21.

“But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus...” (Ephesians 4:20,21 NJKV)

Let us face up to realities: Even as some church members in the church at Ephesus, the church where the Apostle Paul had labored the longest, had not really heard Christ and had not really been taught by Christ, even so many more in American religious organizations, having lesser leaders than Paul and Christ, have not heard Christ and have not been taught by Christ. (You will learn more about this focus later.) Right now, we need to relate the “Preview of the Bible”, the subject of this first chapter, to that focus. The claim is that the story of the whole Bible is ultimately a story about the learning of Christ. If you look at the outline of the Bible below, you will notice the Gospel of Christ as number 8 of the complete 12 of the subject outline of the Bible. You will also find Christ dominating roman numerals 4,5,10,11,and 12 as well as an integral subject matter of each outline division. The reason is simple: the

Bible is a story about the Lord Jesus Christ! And if you don't learn Christ, the Christ of the Bible and the Christ of God the Father, the Creator of the Universe, then you do not learn the Bible!

Subject Outline of the Bible.

- 1. The Living God of the Living**
- 2. Righteousness of God and Man**
- 3. The Composite Witness of the Bible**
- 4. God, Man and the Son of Man**
- 5. The Resurrection**
- 6. Wisdom From God**
- 7. The Gospel**
- 8. Listening More Important Than Sacrifice**
- 9. What Happened to the Jews as the Chosen nation?**
- 10. The Salvation of God**
- 11. The New King of Israel**
- 12. The Living God Wants Others to Live**

What is amazing is that the whole Bible of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, can be outlined under 12 major subjects! I will tell you upfront why that is possible: because of the Old Testament quotes in the New Testament, and because the New Testament provides the proper interpretation of those Old Testament quotes. And that is exactly what the Bible Itself by It's way of self interpretation in II Peter 1:20,21:

“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

We have heard or read it so often that we miss the meaning: there is only God

Authorized interpretation of the Bible, the ASPI for Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation which means only the Apostles as authors of New Testament books, and of course Jesus, can interpret, explain, and implement with applications the quotes in the New Testament from the Old Testament Prophets, Genesis thru Malachi. And since Paul, Jesus, and the other NT writers chose for us, Gentiles and Jews, what is most important in the Old Testament, then in such an outline below based on OT quotes in the NT, we do justice to the complete message which is Divine in Origin, Absolute in Authority, Sufficient, High Fidelity in communications, Dynamic and Alive with the Holy Spirit, and self-interpretation establishing It's own rules for understanding (hermeneutics).

The Bible Outline

2-1: THE LIVING GOD OF THE LIVING

1. God, Man, and Marriage. Genesis 1:26,27, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6.

(1). Let US make man in OUR image bespeaks of the plurality of God during the time of creation.

(2). In our image and after our likeness tells of some of the glory of man that during Creation was acquired from God.

(3). The dominion of man over all the other works of Creation tells of the First Commission of man to be a pioneer in the exploration and control of the works of Creation.

(4). The Bible refers to man as male and female so that in marriage male and female becomes a complimenting couple of male and female. That is the way God originally created them; and in marriage that is the way He intends for it to keep going according to Jesus, and absolutely no person is to have any part in the separation of those two which God has joined together.

2: Genesis 2:7,24, I Cor 15:45, Matthew 19:5, I Cor 6:16, and Mark 10:7,8.

(1). From Gen 2:7 we learn that: (a) God created man physically from something that already existed, from the elements of the earth; (b) As far as the actual existence or inward spirit of man that came from God breathing into him the breath of life; and (c) With that spirit of life also man became a living soul.

(2). From Gen 2:24 we learn of the one flesh characteristics of marriage that God still intends and has always intended, that oneness emphasized by Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament.

(3). While Paul in I Cor 15:45 is emphasizing the difference between the first Adam and Christ the second Adam, also the difference between the natural and the spiritual body, the first man from earth and the second from heaven, he also contrasts the living soul and the living spirit.

(4). As a man departs from the household of his mother and father, cleaving to a wife in marriage, the two become in Gods sight as one flesh (Matthew 19:5,6 and Mark 10:7,8).

(5). So serious is this matter of joining with God that the Bible considers when a man has a relationship with a harlot that he becomes one body with her (I Cor 6:16).

3. Genesis 5:1,2, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6.

(1). Genesis 5:1,2 reinforces and builds on previous doctrine as God calls their name, male and female, Adam.

1. God and the Gospel. Genesis 12:1-3 and Galatians 3:8,9.

(1). With Gods call to Abram to another land, God gave the everlasting covenant of: (a) From Abram's seed God would make the great nation of Israel; (b) Through his seed

Christ the name of Abram would be great; and (c) Through Abram all the families and nations of the earth would be blessed.

(2). Paul writes in Galatians 3:8,9 that:

- a. When God said “In thee shall all nations be blessed” God was preaching the Gospel to Abraham;
- b. This all nations meant the Gentiles, or heathen which is the favorite word of the Bible for Gentiles;
- c. This Gospel is justification through faith; and
- d. All Gentiles and Jews who believe in Christ becomes the seed of Abraham through faith.

2. Genesis 15:5,6, Romans 4:18, and James 2:23.

(1). In Genesis 15:5 God identifies that the seed of Abram will be as numerous as the stars of the sky, and in Genesis 15:6 since Abraham believed God will He said this the belief was counted for righteousness.

(2). In quoting “So shall your seed be” from Genesis in Romans 4:18, Paul emphasizes how Abraham believed in hope against hope that he would indeed be the father of many nations although he had at the time no sons.

(3). The Apostle James in James 2:23 reiterates how the faith of Abraham was counted as righteousness, adding that Abraham was called the friend of God.

3. Genesis 17:5 and Romans 4:17.

(1). As God changes the name of Abram to Abraham, He says “A father of many nations have I made thee”.

(2). Paul tells us in Romans 4:17 that this quote from Genesis 17:5 tells us two things about God Himself:

1. God is a life-giving God; and
2. God is a God that can call into existence what did not previously exist.

□ God of the Living, our Father in Heaven.

1. Genesis 18:12-14 and Mark 10:27.

(1). God told Abraham and Sarah that though old and stricken in years they would have a son, and when Sarah laughed God said, Is any thing too hard for the LORD?

(2). Jesus in Mark 10:27, not in the same context but with a paraphrase of the same meaning, talks of salvation as all things are possible with God .

2. Genesis 22:18 and Galatians 3:16.

(1). All nations will be blessed with salvation through the seed of Abraham.

(2). That Seed is singular, the Seed is Christ.

3. Genesis 38:8 and Mark 12:19.

(1). Judah told Oman to raise up children to his brother Er whom God had slain.

(2). When the Sadducees brought up the matter of raising children by a died brothers wife and as to whose wife she would be in the resurrection, Jesus told them that what was important was that God was the God of the living, the God of the living Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

4. Exodus 3:6 and Luke 20:37.

(1). God told Moses in the call at the burning bush that He was the God of Moses father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(2). About the dead being raised to life, Jesus quotes Moses and Exodus 3:6 how God is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and with the emphasis on God as each time God with repeated with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

5. Exodus 9:16 and Romans 9:17.

(1). God has Moses tell Pharaoh that he has been put on the throne of Egypt for two reasons: (a) To demonstrate the power of God in securing the freedom of Israel; and (b) That the name of the living God and the God of the living might be declared over all the earth.

(2). In quoting that in Romans 9:17 and in explaining the meaning in Romans 9:16,18, Paul is telling us of how God is in control of world events; and what is important does not depend on the will of man or the competitiveness of man, but rather on the mercy of God, and that ultimately God will have mercy on whom He alone desires.

6. Exodus 12:46 and John 19:36.

(1). The Passover feast in remembrance of Gods rescue of Israel from Egyptian bondage among other things included that the lamb of the feast should not have a bone of the body broken, a direct quote of which we will see later in Psalms.

(2). When the Apostle John in John 19:36 tells of how at the Crucifixion of Jesus, and since Jesus was already dead contrary to custom, not a bone in His body was broken, John is quoting from both Exodus and Psalms 34:20. (Psalms 34:20 is directly quoted, and the reference from Exodus 12:46 is closer to a paraphrase.)

7. Exodus 16:18 and II Corinthians 8:15.

(1). During Gods supply of manna during the 40 years in the wilderness, those who gathered much had nothing left over and those who gathered little were not hungry so that

it was completely by the grace of God and according to the individual needs.

(2). Paul quotes this in II Corinthians to illustrate equality among Christians in the churches, or to illustrate the democratic nature of salvation.

2-2: RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AND MAN

1. The Ten Commandments.

1. Exodus 20, Luke 18:20, Mark 7:10, Matthew 5:38, Romans 13:8,9, and James 2:11.

(1). These are the Ten Commandments according to Jesus and the Apostles.

2. Exodus 21:17 and Mark 7:10: speaking evil of mother and father was considered so serious to God that those who did such were to be put to death.

3. Exodus 21:24 and Matthew 5:38: under the law it was to be life for life, eye for eye, and tooth for tooth so greatly did God respect human life and welfare and desire Israel to do the same.

4. Exodus 32:6 and I Corinthians 10:7: Paul reminds Christians at Corinth not to be idolaters even as the children of Israel were while Moses was on Mount Sinai getting the Ten Commandments.

1. The Laws of a Holy God.

1. Leviticus 4:18-20 and Hebrews 9:22: not a paraphrase or a quote, but rather in Hebrews 9:22 Paul summarizes what blood could do in the laws and

ordinances of the Old Testament, the practices of which Leviticus 4:18-20 is typical.

2. Leviticus 11:44 and I Peter 1:16: God requires that His people be Holy since He Himself is Holy.
3. Leviticus 18:5,16 and Galatians 3:12: any person who desires to live under the Laws must live by keeping the Laws.
4. Leviticus 19:12 and Matthew 5:33.

(1). In these just and holy requirements of the Law of Leviticus since "I am the LORD", His name is not be sworn by falsely nor profaned.

(2). With this quotes and as a starting point, Jesus says don't make any oath at all.

□ How Did the Law Read during the time of Jesus.

1. Luke 10:26: "And He (Jesus) said to him, `What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" (NASV)
2. Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:27: (1) To Love God with all the heart, mind, and soul; and (2) To Love your neighbor as yourself.

3. Leviticus 18:5 and Luke 10:28: "And He (Jesus) said to him, 'You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE.'" (NASV)

NOTE: If you could really do this, keep these laws, you would live eternally.

IV The Laws Jesus Came to Fulfill, not Destroy.

1. Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 5:43: You have been told to love your neighbors and hate your enemies?
2. Be like God (Matthew 5:44,45): "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (NASV)
3. Galatians 5:14, Romans 13:8,9, and James 2:8: All the Law is fulfilled in Love for Neighbor as yourself.
4. Leviticus 20:9 and Mark 7:10 (with Exodus 20:12 and Deut 5:16): Since in the Law the requirement to "Honor father and mothers has already been established and quoted here, it follows also on the ordinances of the law, or applications, that those who curse mother and father should die.

NOTE: The emphasis of Jesus in Mark 7:13 is that the religious leaders were trying to invalidate the Word of God by their traditions.

5. Leviticus 28:12 and II Corinthians 6:16: God desires a distinct or special people among whom He can dwell and be their God.

NOTE: In Isaiah 52:11 as quoted in II Corinthians 6:17 this is to be a clean and separate people.

1. The real way to eternal life, to fulfillment of righteousness and the Laws, is through faith in the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world.
2. Numbers 9:12 and John 19:36 reminds us that as predicted in the Old Testament not a bone in the body of Christ was broken during Crucifixion.

2-3: THE COMPOSITE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE

1. The Importance of Witnesses.
2. Deuteronomy 5:16, Exodus 20:12 and 21:17, Leviticus 20:9, and Mark 7:10 where with Honor to parents and the law of death with dishonor, Jesus teaches that what is inside man rather than what goes inside him is defiling.

3. Importance of knowing the Commandments: Deut 5:16-20 and Mark 10:19.

You know the commandments, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, DO NOT DEFRAUD, HONOR FATHER AND MOTHER.

(Mark 10:19 NASV)

3. What Commandment is Foremost? Mark 10:28-31 and Luke 10:26,27.

(1). First is THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD, Deut 6:4,5 and Mark 10:29,30.

(2). Second is Love Neighbor, Lev 19:18 and Mark 10:31.

4. Worship God only and serve Him: Deuteronomy 6:13 and Luke 4:8.
5. The importance of a special people to bear witness to God begins here and runs throughout the Old Testament: Deut 7:6 and Titus 2:14.
6. Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, and Luke 4:4: Man should not live by bread alone.
7. OKAY, HOW IS MAN TO LIVE?
8. Live by Listening to what Jesus, the Prophet Messiah has to say: Deut 18:15,19, Acts 3:22,23, and Acts 7:37.

Listen to the Apostle Peter as he preaches quoting from the Prophet Moses in Deuteronomy: Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. (Acts 3:22,23 NASV)

2. Live by Listening to the testimony of God the Father to God the Son: Mark 9:7, a paraphrase of Deut 18:15,19 except from God Himself, and a direct quote in Psalm 11:7.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is My beloved

Son, listen to him!(Mark 9:7 NASV)

3. Live by Listening to other reliable and trustworthy witnesses: Deut 19:15.

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth; at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. (Deut 19:15 KJV)

(1). Deut 19:15 and Matthew 18:16: if your brother sins against you but refuses to listen, take your grievance to him

byway of two or three witnesses; and if that does not work take it before the local church.

(2). Deut 19:15 and II Corinthians 13:1: Listen to the Apostle Paul!

This is the third time I am coming to you, EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE

TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.(II Cor 13:1)

(3). Deut 19:15 and John 8:17: Listen to Jesus Himself!

Even in your law it has been written, that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me. (John 8:17,18)

(4). Deut 19:15 and I Timothy 5:18: Listen to the elder of any local church (same as the pastor or bishop) right up to the point that any accusation against him has been established in that local church at the mouth of two or three witnesses.

□ How Can you Listen to a Common Criminal Like Jesus of Nazareth who was cursed in that

He was hanged or crucified on a tree (cross)? Deut 21:22 and Galatians 3:13

1. Deuteronomy 21:22.

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree; His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day;(for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled; which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. (Deut 21:22,23 KJV)

NOTE: Jesus was very familiar with this portion of the Word of God as He was with all of the Old Testament, and when crying

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me a cry of grief more than questioning He knew that God had to turn His back on such a curse on Christ for the sins of the whole world.

2. Galatians 3:13.

ALL OF GODS WORDS AND WORD IS SERIOUS AND TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY WHETHER WRITTEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OR NEW TESTAMENT! Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us for it is written, 'Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree.

(Galatians 3:13 NASV)

(1). We were cursed by the Law since striving to live by them and therefore keeping them, we knew ourselves to come far short; and therefore without real life!

(2). Jesus in the death on the Cross became a curse in our place.

1.Listen to Jesus seriously on a few other matters.

NOTE: Especially if you think you were not under a curse because of your failures to live up to the Law and therefore did not need for Christ to become a curse in your place!

1.Deuteronomy 24:1, Matthew 5:31, and Mark 10:4.

(1). Deuteronomy 24:1.

When a man hath taken a wife (this is not necessarily the way you are cursed), and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her; then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another mans wife. (Deut 24:1,2 KJV)

(2). Matthew 5:31.

And it was said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of dismissal; but I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever

marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matt 5:31,32 NASV)

(3). Mark 10:4.

And some Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. And He answered and said to them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away. But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, And the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate. (Mark 10:2-9 NASV)

2. Deuteronomy 25:3-5 , I Corinthians 9:9, and I Timothy 5:18.

(1). Be just in judgment in that the punishment correspond with the violation; don't muzzle the ox as he treads the corn, and let a brother raise up children to his dead brothers wife.

(2). It was written for our sakes more than for oxen in order that the worker may work with hope of reward for his works.

(3). The elder (pastor or bishop) that works hard at preaching and teaching should receive likewise double compensation.

3. Deuteronomy 25:6, Luke 20:28,38, and Mark 12:19.

(1). Your dead brothers name is not to disappear from Israel.

NOTE: Why should the eternal laws of God be so concerned about this one single name of a brother who died before he could have any children. After all the last name of the dead childless and the brother would be the same!

(2). According to Jesus it is more important to realize that in heaven there is no marriage, rather men are like the angels; and that men do not did who believe in God and Christ like

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they are still alive with the Living God! (Luke

20:28,38 and Mark 12:19)

NOTE: The real concern is that any mans name, alias himself and his real existence, not disappear from the

eternal Israel of Gods real people of believing Jews and Gentiles!

1. Listen also to a few other matters from the Apostle Paul in the Word of God!
2. Deuteronomy 27:26 and Galatians 3:10.

(1). Cursed is every man that does not confirm all the laws of God by doing all of them!

(2). None can truly be justified by the Law, only by faith.

2. Deuteronomy 32:12 and I Corinthians 10:20.

(1). The LORD God led Israel and there was no strange gods among them.

(2). The Gentiles sacrifice to demons not to God, and the Christian is to have no part in this worship of demons.

2-4: GOD, MAN, AND THE SON OF MAN

1. How God deals with men and with men Through Christ!
2. Some evident things about God in the Bible of Job and Psalms.

(1). God can do everything and anything without any limitations to His power in heaven and on earth.

(2). God knows every thought and every action of every man on earth.

(3). God tricks the wise men in their own methods of craftiness like an adult playing with toys and children.

(4). God exalts the humble in His sight. They can be down and out and still though humble in the ways of the world not necessarily be humble in the sight of God, and it is even harder for the up and out to be humble in Gods sight for they trust in their own riches or financial security.

2. Job 5:13 and I Corinthians 3:19: God catches the wise in their own craftiness.
3. Job 22:29 and James 4:10: God exalts the humble.
4. Job 42:2 and Mark 10:27.

(1). Job 42:2.

"Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but no mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:1-6 KJV)

(2). Mark 10:27.

NOTE: TWO MOST IMPORTANT AND FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF ALL THE BIBLE ARE SET FORTH HERE: (1) THE POWER OF GOD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD; AND (2) WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED SINCE IT IS SO DIFFICULT FOR A RELIGIOUS AND WELL ESTABLISHED LEADER IN SOCIETY TO BE SAVED?

"And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God. And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. (Why, because most of them unlike Job can not say, 'Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.) And they were even more astonished and said to Him, 'Then who can be saved? Looking upon them, Jesus said, With men it is impossible, but now with God; for all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:23-27 NASV)

NOTE AGAIN: IF NO OTHER QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED IN THIS BOOK, THE ESSENTIAL AND MOST ESSENTIAL QUESTION THAT MUST BE ANSWERED IS THAT OF THE DISCIPLES TO JESUS, WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED? AND WHERE

WE START IN THE REST OF THIS BOOK TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION IS WITH THE IMMEDIATE REPLY OF JESUS, WITH THE POWER OF GOD TO WHOM NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

1. God the Creator and Father looks at man, men, and then testifies to men.
2. God the Creator notices that the Gentiles rage against Him and that the people of Israel imagine a vain thing and things about Him: Psalm 2:1,2 and Acts 4:24-26.
3. God the Father has decreed and testified in the Bible as well as at the baptism of Jesus in the presence of many as the voice came from heaven that Jesus of Nazareth is, was, and is His Son:

Psalm 2:7 , Matthew 3:17 and 17:5, Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5, II Peter 1:17, and Mark 9:7.

(1). Psalm 2:7.

**"I will declare the decree: the LORD hat said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."
(Psalm 2:7 KJV)**

(2). Matthew 3:17.

"And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and

coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:16,17 NASV)

(3). Matthew 17:5.

"And Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; hear Him!'"(Matthew 17:4,5 NASV)

NOTE: What God adds in His own testimony to Jesus as compared to the transfiguration after a similar testimony at the baptism is HEAR HIM . Paul did not mean in Ephesians 4:20,21 that like Peter, James, and hundreds of others you had to be there physically as Jesus taught. What he meant was that through the help of the Spirit of God you must see and hear from yourself, personally. This is the key to who can be saved! By listening to Jesus and His words of life!

(4). Hebrews 1:5.

"For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten thee? And

again, 'I will be a father to Him, and He shall be a Son to Me?" (Hebrews 1:5 NASV)

(5). Hebrews 5:5.

"So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, 'Thou art my Son, Today I have begotten thee..."

NOTE: This is the first time in this Bible study of the progressive revelations of the Bible from Genesis to Malachi that we have encountered Jesus as the great high priest.

"...just as He says also in another passage, 'Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:5,6 NASV)

NOTE CONTINUED: And we will come to this second quote in Hebrews 5:5,6 when we get in the progression to Psalm 110:6.

(6). II Peter 1:17.

"Moreover I will endeavor 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. For he received from God the Father honor 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him the holy mount. (II Peter 1:15-18 KJV)

NOTE: So that the Apostle Peter in writing for a permanent record adds his own testimony as a witness to Jesus with the witness of God the Father and that of Jesus Himself!

(7). Mark 9:7.

"Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud,
'This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!'"(Mark 9:7 NASV)

LISTEN TO HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE BELOVED SON OF GOD!

3. God chooses men and ways less esteemed among men as far as status in order to receive Honor and Praise to His name: Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16.

III. What Can God tell us about ourselves as men and women?

1. Psalm 8:3,4: When we consider the magnitude and vastness of all that God created in the Universe, how

in the world can He give mind to a little man and beyond that visit man on the planet earth through the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ?

2. Psalm 8:5,6: What does God specifically think of man based on the way He created him.

(1). God made man a little lower than the angels, and recall that this is the generic man of Genesis of male and female.

(2). God gave honor and glory to man by creating him in His own image or likeness, and God keeps that thought pattern in mind in all His dealings with man.

(3). God entrusted man with all the other works of His Creation, placing man in dominion over all these works of Creation.

(4). God remembers man.

(5). God visits man.

3. Hebrews 2:6: We must go beyond the primary level of meaning about Man to that about the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who in Himself fulfilled all that God originally meant for man and more; and you see that in Hebrews 2:8

"Thou hast put all things in subjection under His feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not

subject to him, But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him." (Hebrews 2:8 NASV)

4. I Corinthians 15:27.

Granted that there are many stories, many chapters, verses, and books in the Bible; but the total subject matter for the practical purposes of Christian faith can be summarized as faith in God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and Salvation. Get that and you have enough of the Bible for life. The following important passage helps to establish the present and eternal relationship between God the Father and Christ the Son.

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things re put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (I Corinthians 15:26-28 KJV)

(1). There are still some enemies such as death that has not be subjected to Christ as the Son of Man, or Christ as the Lord of heaven and earth.

(2). God the Father has ordained that all in heaven and earth be under the feet of Christ, and heaven is already there. May Gods will be done on earth as it is in heaven as more people still on earth are subjected to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

(3). God the Father did not put Himself in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(4). After the Second Coming of Christ when everything on earth also comes under the actual Lordship of Jesus then Jesus will Himself be subjected to the LORDSHIP of the Father.

(5). God the Father may ultimately be all in all .

1. What did God find during the time of David and before when He looked down from heaven to take a close look at man (I suspect this was and is all the time)?
2. Psalm 14:1-3: (1) God found fools who said in their hearts that there is no God; (2) He found a corrupt humanity of abominable works and an absence of doing good; (3) When He searched again among men to see if any of man understood and sought God, He found that they all had missed the essential way, found filthiness, and a lack of doing good.
3. Romans 3:10.

"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is one who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is one who does good, There is not even one.'" (Romans 3:10-12 NASV)

**THIS IS HUMANITY WITHOUT FAITH AND
RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH,
HUMANITY WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST! 2-5: THE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS.**

1. What God did for Christ the firstborn and therefore what He also does for all that will believe in Christ as the secondborns!
2. Psalm 16:8-11: God is at my right hand; I feel secure and realize that honor will be achieved; the pains of the flesh are assuaged by hope; God will not leave my soul in hell; and God will not allow His Holy One to see corruption in the grave; God will show me the path of everlasting life where in His Presence there is fullness of joy; and at His right hand there is pleasure forever.

NOTE: The only way Jesus could place the Father on His right hand and also be at the right hand of the Father is for the two to be facing in opposite directions which was true at the Crucifixion as Jesus became a curse for us!

2. Acts 2:25: Listen again to the witness of the Apostle Peter as he preached on the first day of Pentecost after the historical coming of the Holy Spirit in power and fullness.

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken, Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; because thou wilt not abandon my soul to hades, nor allow thy Holy One to undergo decay. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with thy presence.'" (Acts 2:22-28 NASV)

NOTE: A Paraphrase on This Sermon from Peter.

The Apostle Peter's First Sermon was naturally on Jesus of Nazareth after he had explained what had been seen as manifestations of the historical coming of the Holy

Spirit in power and fullness to take the place of Jesus on earth, Jesus immediately before having Ascended back to the right hand of God the Father. First what Peter had told them about the Coming of the Holy Spirit to take the place of Jesus with a quote and explanation from Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:14-21): These men who are speaking on other languages that so that all men present here can hear in their own language, are not drunk; but is that historical event predicted by the Prophet Joel. It is that at the beginning of the last days, in other words right now, God will pour out the fullness of His Spirit; and with this fullness of the Spirit will also come: (1) A more widespread and democratic knowledge of God through the widespread presence and power of this Spirit as young and old, servant and free, men and women receive the Spirit; (2) prophecy will also become more democratic as contrasted to the Prophets in the Bible who wrote Scriptures of the Apostles of the New Testament; (3) All this will happen between this beginning of the last days and the end of time when the old earth becomes the new earth as the sun and moon are turned into darkness at the end of time; and (4) The sole method of salvation from this beginning of last days to this end of time will be that

"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Second what Peter told them about Jesus and salvation: God the Father gave His own testimony of witness to Jesus through miracles, wonders, and signs that obviously had to come from God and which Jesus performed as well as the voice that came from heaven at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus. God did this in your midst the midst of Israel and in the First Century as all Israel well knew. Yet Israel crucified Jesus on a tree, or cross, making Him a curse in the sight of God which was really the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God as we have seen predicted in the Old Testament long before the First Century A.D. God in order to complete salvation and the testimony to His own Son raised Jesus up from the dead. You see if He was His own Son, and He was, it was impossible that death and the grave could hold Him captive. And like David wrote in Psalms as a prediction of that which was to come and as a decree from God of what was already settled in heaven that remained to be fulfilled on earth was that God would not leave Christ's soul in hell for more than three days, that He would not allow the physical body of Christ to suffer the corrupting influence of the grave, and that as the Firstborn He would be restored to life and the Presence of God.

1. What God will do for humanity during the period of time from the beginning of the last days after the Ascension of Christ and the end of time!
 1. Psalm 18:25 and Matthew 5:7: God will bless the merciful by giving them mercy Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. (KJV)
 2. Psalm 18:49 and Romans 15:9: God will spread the praise of His name and the name of Jesus among the Gentiles, another aspect of the democratic ways of God after the Coming of the Spirit in fullness.

□ **Now we are in a position to understand Jesus cry of “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me ?” of Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46.**

1. It is to be understood in the total context of Psalm 22 which starts with the Crucifixion of Jesus and the words of Jesus on the cross in 22:1 and ends in 22:28-31 with establishment of the kingdom of Christ on earth in its fullness.
2. First we should realize that other portions of Psalm 22 relate ahead of time events about the crucifixion as they pierced the hands of Christ and as they cast lots for His garments: Psalm 22:16-18 and Matthew 27:35, also John 19:24.

3. Psalm 22:22 and Hebrews 2:12: Both He, Christ, who does the sanctifying, or setting apart of Christian in salvation, and those sanctified, that is the Christians, has the same source from the One God the Father; and therefore Jesus as the Firstborn is not ashamed to call the secondborn Christians as brethren .
4. So God the Father turned His back on Christ the Son was He was dying on the cross for the sins of the world, while Christ was being made a curse on the cross which a righteous God could not stand; and to that extent God the Father had to forsake Him for three days according to the plan that they had made in the counsels of eternity while Christ was on the cross being made a curse, and while Christ went to hell, the intermediary place after death for those who do not go immediately to heaven where He preached to the dead spirits.

1. Who Then Will See God and Be Saved?

1. Those who are sensitive the Conscience of others as well as his own Christian Conscience, seeking their good as well as his own good: Psalm 24:1 and I Corinthians 10:26.

2. Those who have received a legally declared purity of heart through justification by faith and an inward potential of purity of heart through the daily process of sanctification, and that will also become the pure of heart with complete redemption or glorification at the Second Coming of Christ: Psalm 24:3-5 and Matthew 5:8.
3. Those who learn to love life and see longevity of life: Psalm 34:12-16 and I Peter 3:10-12.
4. Those who do not forget faith in Christ and in the Crucifixion of Christ for salvation and righteousness: Psalm 34:19,20 and John 19:36; and Psalm 35:19 and John 15:25.

(1). In the crucifixion they hated Christ without a cause.

(2). Not a bone in Christs body was broken like the Passover Lamb, but rather when His side was pierced out flowed blood and water, the sign of death by a broken heart.

2-6: WISDOM FROM GOD

1. Two Kinds Response/People.

1. Let a man ask in faith and without a desire to consume it on his own lusts in order to get wisdom from God: Proverbs 2:3-6 and James 1:5.

2. Wisdom of God includes discipline of the LORD:
Proverbs 3:12 and Hebrews 12:6.
3. To turn sinner from error of ways: Proverbs 10:12
and James 5:20.

(1). Saves a soul from death; and

(2). Covers a multitude of sins.

4. Some do the deed of their father the devil:
Proverbs 18:4 and John 7:38.

1. Some wise and unwise responses to God.

1. Those who have the knowledge of Jesus then
return to worldly entanglements are like dogs
returning to vomit: Proverbs 26:11 and II Peter
2:22.
2. To plan on tomorrow apart from the will of God
is foolish: Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13.
3. Rich foolishly fall into temptations and snares:
Proverbs 28:20 and I Timothy 6:9.

□ Making life's decisions in terms of the terminal One Day.

1. After tribulation the sun and moon will be darkened,
the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of
heaven will be shaken: Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 and Mark
13:24.

2. Then the meek will inherit the earth: Psalm 37:11 and Matthew 5:5.
3. In preparation for this new people of the new heavens and earth God has provided a body, the body of Christ, as He took away burnt offerings and sacrifices: Psalm 40:6,8 and Hebrews 10:5. The unwise eats bread at the table of Christ while they lift up their heel against Him: Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18.
4. God's Eternal Wisdom rests in Christ.
5. God the Father, Psalm 45:6,7 and Hebrews 1:8, says of God the Son:

(1). Your throne is forever, O God;

(2). Rule of your kingdom is righteousness; and

(3). You loved righteousness, hated iniquity.

2. Some statements by Christ before made on earth:

(1). They hated me without cause: Psalm 69:4 and John 15:25.

(2). The reproaches of God fell on me: Psalm 69:9 and Romans 15:3.

2-7: THE GOSPEL

1. The Time Finally came.

1. Christ in parables told hidden things: Psalm 78:2,24, Matthew 13:35, and John 6:31.
 2. The Father charged to angels to care for Christ: Psalm 91:11 and Matthew 4:6.
 3. God knows the thoughts of the wise as vain: Psalm 94:11,12 and I Corinthians 3:20.
 4. This is the time to hear the voice of God, not hardening the heart: Psalm 95:7,11 and Hebrews 3:15; 3:7; and 4:7.
2. Some things God the Father says.
1. Of The Son You are Eternal though the earth passes away: Psalm 101:25-33 and Hebrews 1:10.
 2. Of angels, ministers and a flame of fire: Psalm 104:4 and Hebrews 1:7,8.
 3. To Son, Sit on my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool: Psalm 110:1 and Hebrews 1:13.
 4. That Christ is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek: Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 5:6 ,7:21.
- Believe and Speak.
1. God made Jesus Lord and Christ: Psalm 110:1 and Acts 2:34,35.
 2. II Cor 9:9 and Psalm 112:9.
 3. II Cor 4:13 and Psalm 116:10.
 4. Romans 15:11 and Psalm 117:1.
 5. Psalm 118:22, Matt 21:42, and Luke 20:17.
 6. Psalm 118:26 and Matthew 21:9.

2-8: LISTENING MORE IMPORTANT THAN SACRIFICE

1. Listen to God.
 1. Love of God and neighbor is and always was in the Old Testament more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices: I Samuel 15:22 and Mark 12:33.
 2. To listen to Christ as Lord is more important than the legal requirements of the sabbath day: I Samuel 21:1,6, Luke 6:3,4, Mark 2:25, and \Matthew 12:2,3.
 3. When you listen to God in the predictions of the Bible you have to listen twice as hard as the predictions often have double meaning--that is, a wider spectrum of meaning than immediately obvious as here where it applies to King Solomon and King Jesus: II Samuel 7:12,14 and John 7:42.
 4. Listen to God talk about His own remnant of Israel when He tells Elijah that He has reserved 7,000 for Himself that have not bowed the knee to Baal: I Kings 19:10-18 and Romans 11:4.
 5. Listening Signs from the Early Prophets and Jesus.
 1. The Listening Signs for This Generation is Both Solomon, Jonah and Jesus as recorded in the Bible while in Nineveh's generation it was the Prophet Jonah and in Jesus time it was Him the Prophet Messiah: Jonah 3:1-4 and Luke 11:29.

2. Listen to the Apostle Peter on the first day of Pentecost after Christs Ascension as he quotes from the Prophet Joel to explain both what happened on that day, and what would happen from this the beginning of the last days until the end of time: Joel 2:28-31 and Acts 2:16-21.
 3. Listen to the Prophet Joel start the ball rolling on the prime theme of the Bible about eschatology, the One Day of the LORD: Joel 3:13, Mark 4:29, and Mark 13:24.
- Listen to God Himself tell in the Bible to what extent the nation of Israel was and was not His chosen people.
1. Immediately after rescue from Egyptian bondage God turned away from most of Israel, giving them up to worship the host of heaven; Amos 5:25-27 and Acts 7:42.
 2. God takes a people for His name from among the Gentiles: Amos 9:11,12 and Acts 15:15-17.
 3. These same Gentiles shall be called sons of the living God: Hosea 2:23 and Romans 9:25,26. Isaiah 1-39
 4. If God had not chosen a small remnant out of Israel they would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah: Isaiah 1:9 and Romans 9:29.

1. Listen to God Himself in His book on matters or eschatology, or last things.
 1. You must first of all see the double nature of predictions as related to eschatology as when the Old Testament said,

"I will call my Son out of Egypt." (Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15) NOTE: The Son has a double meaning:

(1). First it is the nation of Israel as the Son; and(2). Then it is Christ as the Son.

2. Immortality and the sting of death: Hosea 13:14 and Isaiah 29:8.
3. Day of the LORD: Isaiah 2:3,12,18, and 19, and I Corinthians 14:36, II Thessalonians 2:2, and II Thessalonians 1:10.
4. Isaiah 35:51; 61:1 and Matthew 11:5.

2-9: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS AS THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD?

1. JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE JEWS AS THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD.
 1. JESUS TOLD THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD WITH ISRAEL AS THE NATION WHO REJECTED THE RIGHTFUL OWNER OF

THE VINEYARD: ISAIAH 5:1,7, MATTHEW 21:33, AND MARK 12:2.

2. THE OLD TESTAMENT AND JESUS EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF PARABLES AS SUCH THAT THEY WHO HEAR MAY NOT UNDERSTAND AND BE CONVERTED: ISAIAH 6:9,10, MATTHEW 13:14,15, MARK 12:12, AND MARK 8:18.

1. GOD DID GIVE ALL IN ISRAEL ANOTHER CHANCE AS WITH GIVING THEM THE SIGN OF THE VIRGIN WITH CHILD TO BE CALLED IMMANUEL MEANING GOD WITH US : ISAIAH 7:14 AND MATTHEW 1:23.
1. "WHOEVER THAT FALLS ON THIS STONE SHOULD BE BROKEN, BUT ON WHOM THE STONE FALLS IS DESTROYED." (ISAIAH 8:14,17 AND MATTHEW 21:44)
2. BUT JESUS CALLED AND CALLS BRETHREN THE CHILDREN THAT GOD HAS GIVEN HIM: HEBREWS 2:13 AND ISAIAH 8:14,17.
3. THOUGH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE NATION OF ISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEARS BETWEEN ABRAHAM AND CHRIST WERE AS THE SAND OF THE SEASHORE, ONLY A REMNANT OF THOSE

WILL BE SAVED: ISAIAH 10:22,23 AND ROMANS 9:27.

4. GOD EARLY CHOSE THAT HIS SON WOULD COME FROM THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM AND KING DAVID, NEVER CHANGING HIS MIND OR INTENTION: ISAIAH 11:1-10, JOHN 7:42, AND ROMANS 15:12.

□ ISRAEL HAD THE SAME CHOICE AS THE GENTILES IN THAT CHRIST COULD

BE EITHER A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE TO THEM, OR WHOEVER BELIEVED IN HIM AND THE GOD WHO SENT HIM WOULD NOT BE ASHAMED.

1. IF THERE IS NO LIFE AFTER DEATH, LET US EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY: ISAIAH 22:13 AND I CORINTHIANS 15:32.
2. At the Second Coming of Christ death will be swallowed up in victory: Isaiah 25:8 and I Corinthians 15:54.
3. All Israel that was chosen to be saved shall be saved: Isaiah 27:9 and Romans 11:27.
4. Whoever believes in Christ, Jew or Gentile, shall not be ashamed of that faith: Isaiah 28:16 and Romans 9:33, also Romans 10:11.

1. What God did to Israel until the time of the fullness of the Gentiles is completed.

1. God gave them a spirit of slumber: Isaiah 29:10 and Romans 11:8.
2. Meantime the Jews continued to worship God as if it was real: Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:8,9, and Mark 7:6,7.

(1). Worshiped with lips while hearts were somewhere else.

(2). Vain worship.

(3). Worship based on the teachings of men in the place of the doctrines of God.

3. God will destroy the wisdom of all these wise men according to the ways of the world: Isaiah 29:14 and I Corinthians 1:19. Isaiah 40-52

2-10: THE SALVATION OF GOD

1. God chose the time!

1. First, there was John the Baptist saying in effect THIS IS THE TIME : Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:2,3, John 1:23, and Luke 3:4-6.
2. It was inevitable since these things were already recorded in the Word of God that they would happen: Isaiah 40:8 and Luke 21\;32,33.

(1). Most to happen during Christ's generation.

(2). The rest on the final One Day of the LORD as the old earth and old heavens pass away.

3. The Mind of the LORD became the incarnated Mind of Christ: Isaiah 40:13 and I Corinthians 2:16.

1. God Himself took the initiative by sending His own Son to planet earth.

1. This is My Beloved Son , God said of Jesus of Nazareth: Isaiah 42:1-4, Matthew 3:17, Mark 1:11, Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, and Matthew 12:18-21.
2. God is faithful but He will listen to the cries of men for salvation in a time acceptable to Him: Isaiah 45:14 and I Corinthians 14:25.
3. It is inevitable that every knee will voluntary now and involuntarily at the end of time bow and worship to the praise of God: Isaiah 45:23 and Romans 14:11.

□ Men will come from the four corners of the earth to worship God.

1. Men will come from north, south, east, and west: Isaiah 49:7-12 and Matthew 8:11.
2. Heaven and earth will pass away, not Gods Word: Isaiah 51:6 and Luke 21:32,33.
3. Gentiles will come in large numbers in spite of the fact that Gods name has been blasphemed among

them because of the Jews: Isaiah 52:5 and Romans 2:24.

4. Paul preached widely the Gospel of Christ where Christ was not already named in order that those who did not previously see and hear might both see and hear: Isaiah 52:15 and Romans 15:21.

1. Who Has Believed the Reports from God?

1. To whom has the salvation, or arm of God, been revealed: Isaiah 53:1, John 12:38, and Romans 10:16.
2. Who and how many believed the miracles of healing as Jesus took on Himself the infirmities: Isaiah 53:4,7 and Matthew 8:17.
3. Who and how many believed when John the Baptist made the report, "Behold, the Lamb of God..." (Isaiah 53:4,7 and John 1:29,36)
4. The great report of Jesus from the cross as He is made a criminal and curse for mankind, and according to the predictions of the Old Testament: Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 22:37.

2-11: THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL

1. Jews and Gentiles as citizens in the new kingdom.
 1. The unmarried have more children than the married, the Gentiles have more children of God than the Jews: Isaiah 54:1 and Galatians 4:27.

2. None comes to the Father except as drawn by the Father, and all those who are taught by the Father: Isaiah 54:13 and John 6:45.
 3. God gave in the Temple to the Jews a House of Prayer, but they had turned it into a den of thieves by the time of Jesus: Isaiah 56:7 and Matthew 21:13 and Luke 19:46.
 4. All the nation of Israel that is really the Israel of the children of God will be saved: Isaiah 59:20,21 and Romans 11:26.
2. Characteristics of the New King of Israel.
1. The message to Zion is that your new King comes meekly, riding on a donkey: Isaiah 61:11 and Matthew 21:5.
 2. Jesus told them in Nazareth of how the Spirit of God was upon him: Isaiah 61:1,2 and Luke 4:17,18.

(1). God anointed Him to preach the gospel to the poor.

(A King especially for the poor people.)

(2). God sent Him to start the release of captives, and to make provisions that the blind might be able to see.

(3). To provide freedom for the downtrodden.

(4). To make a Proclamation as to when is the Acceptable Year of the Lord (the last days) that leads to the One Day of the LORD and Lord.

3. Happiness in this new kingdom will come only to those who first mourn because of their inability to do it for themselves: Isaiah 61:1,2 and Matthew 5:4.

□ The Method of Citizenship Only That From God, on Gods terms as dictated in the Old Testament and made evident in the New Testament.

1. The New Citizenship found of those who sought it not or who searched not for it (grace): Isaiah 65:1 and Romans 10:20,21.

2. Jerusalem is the city of the Great King: Isaiah 66:1 and Matthew 5:33.

3. The Christ, the Prophet Messiah, born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:5,6, and John 7:42, to be:

(1). A ruler of the people; and

(2). A shepherd of the people.

4. The sowers of the Old Testament and the reapers of the New Testament will rejoice together in this New Kingdom: Micah 6:15 and John 4:37.

1.The Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom preached by messengers.

1. How welcome across the way on the mountain is the first sight of those who come with the Gospel: Nahum 1:15 and Romans 10:15.
2. Yet most do not believe the report, foolish people without the ability to see or hear: Jeremiah 5:21 and Mark 8:18.
3. God established a House of Prayer but the nation of Israel turned it into a den of thieves: Jeremiah 7:11 and Matthew 21:13, and Mark 11:17.
4. Trust in God.

(1). Whoever boasts, let him boast only in God: Jeremiah 9:24 and I Corinthians 1:31.

(2). Trust only in God: Jeremiah 17:5,7 and II Corinthians 11:9.

2-12: THE LIVING GOD WANTS OTHERS TO LIVE

1. God's desire after His originally chosen nation of Israel.
 1. Rachel weeps for her children: Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:17,18.
 2. Gods desire to walk among and dwell in His own people: Jeremiah 31:1 and II Corinthians 6:18.
2. The just, justified, or righteous must live by faith in God.

1. Righteousness by faith; Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 3:11, and Romans 1:17.
 2. Kingdom of God starts out small then grows larger: Daniel 4:9 and Mark 4:32.
- The sanctified and glorified must live by faith in God.
1. The beginning of glorification is when see the Son of Man coming in great power and glory: Daniel 7:13, Matthew 24:20, and Mark 13:26.
 2. The end of the ordinances of the law and the temple worship came during the Abomination of Desolation of Daniel, 80 A.D.: Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and Mark 13:14, and Matthew 24:15.
 3. Before the Second Coming there will be a time of tribulation in which even the heavens and earth are affected: Daniel 12:1-3 and Mark 13:19.
 4. Shook only the earth before, the last time will shake earth and the heavens: Haggai 2:6 and Hebrews 12:26.
1. Final Messages to Disciples and to All.
 1. To Disciples: do you not see, hear, and remember: Ezekiel 12:2 and Mark 8:18.
 2. To Jewish religious leaders: in vain they do worship: Ezekiel 33:31 and Matthew 15:7.
 3. Zion: your King is Coming: Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:4, and John 12:14.

4. Crucifiers: they gaped on Him whom they pierced: Zechariah 12:10 and John 19:37.
5. Disciples: will strike down the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered: Zechariah 13:7 and Mark 14:27.
6. Jacob I loved and Esau I hated: Malachi 1:2 and Romans 9:13.
7. The Voice of One Crying in the wilderness THE TIME IS NOW: Malachi 2:10 and Matthew 11:10 and Mark 1:2.

LAST NOTE FOR PERSONAL INFO: You are welcome to free download in PDF the "The Bible is Christ with the Complete, Original Outline of the Bible" at <http://sungrist.org/BibleOutlineCompleteOriginal.pdf>

Study Outline of Jeremiah with Quotes and Notes

This outline is based on the one given in Barclay's 2 volume commentary on Jeremiah, rather THE DAILY STUDY BIBLE SERIES on the Old Testament that was added to Barclay's earlier work on the New Testament. Robert Davidson is the author of the Jeremiah volumes, Professor of OT and Dean of the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Glasgow. A Longer Outline is almost made available to you in a free PDF download that is almost a paraphrase, that helps to summarize all that has been studied in almost 3 years on Jeremiah and Prophecy, and will also indicate the weak points in our study that remain to be covered. Like on all Scripture, which God has given us as guidelines

for life, for the nation, and for our church membership, we want to respect that “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God might be mature...”

I. The “word of the LORD came” to Jeremiah (chapter 1).

1. Historical Context--history is always important to establish the total context of the prophetic message, which primarily has a message for that day and time, but is also Predictive, the predictive part being for both the people of Jeremiah and later generations like those of today. (1:1-3)

a. The lineage of Jeremiah as a son of one priests among many in the village of Anathoth, of the land and tribe of Benjamin.

b. Kings of Judah and during delivery time of the word of God through Jeremiah: Josiah, the son of Amon; and Jeremiah started preaching during the 13th year of his reign; continued in his prophetic ministry during Jehoiakin, the son of Josiah.

2. The call of Jeremiah and two visions (1:4-19).

II. God’s People, In the Wrong and on the Way to Disaster (chps 2-6)

NOTE; Do you think it would be safe to say the same thing about America today? That America is the wrong and on the way to a disaster; or my goodness don’t we

already have a disaster in the intense series of calamities since 911, the tornadoes, floods, drought and wildfires, the economic crisis, and the hurricanes like Katrina in New Orleans and Fay on the Texas coast. The people that consider themselves the most righteous and right may be wrong and can not see it, the people of the thousands of churches in Texas, New Mexico, and the rest of the Bible Belt, a group of people very similar to God's people of the book of Jeremiah, at least so they think because they are church members.

III. False Religion (Jeremiah 7:1 through 8:3)

1. The Temple Message, An unpopular sermon (7:1-15).

NOTE: All the official prophets and priests had gone bad, and only Jeremiah was left as a true messenger of God; but so unpopular was the message that he preached, unpatriotic, they thought, in that it included submission to

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, as the servant of God; that it reminded them of all their wrongs, they thought were right and they thought they actually had been preserved as a nation and temple to do all these abominations; and primarily because of their extreme tolerance that allowed them so much IDOLATRY. They just could not make up their mind who and what was God? Hopefully you will see from these Bible Studies in Jeremiah, and in particular in the message available for free download that many false prophets are taking advantage of God's people and churches with the false gospel of prosperity, these "Popular Preachers of Prosperity". In this time of the Falling Away, much like the Backsliding away from God of Judah, popularity is a curse rather than a blessing; simple because church

members have allowed themselves to become controlled, like the people of Judah, by their own purpose driven desires and the heaping up of itching ears Bible teachers that will tell them the comforting things, like they are God's people, that they want to hear. At the same time the "heaping up" process of II Timothy 4:3,4 and of the 5 stage Falling, Way {stage 4 and 5 are backsliding} is both a heaping in of itching ears Bible teachers and preachers, and a heaping out of preachers of sound doctrine. {You have noticed even preachers that preach God's real pattern for marriage are run off, especially from fundamentalists churches of the SBC.}

2. The Time for prayer is over (7:16-20), God will no longer listen.
3. A people of God blind to what is most important (7:21-28).
4. A fatal disease (7:29-8:3), God has rejected and forsaken this generation of His wrath.

IV. The End of the Road (8:4-10:25).

1. Blind complacency (8:4-12), perpetual backsliding without a true course.
2. A people in despair: A prophet in Anguish (8:13-9:1).
3. The Prophet in dis pair (9:2-11).

4. A Time for Mourning (9:12-22).

NOTE: Could it be in the light of the intense series of calamities since 911, that it is time for mourning in America? I know a lot of people in Joplin, Birmingham, and New Orleans are mourning the lose of things and life; but it that what God is really after in the sending of all these calamities?

“Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness {sound like something you have seen in America recently, for example Joplin looks like a wilderness remains of a war zone, and perhaps that is what it is, God’s war zone to get the attention of the Bible belt}, so that no one passes through? And the Lord says: ‘Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them {you know the real understanding of the laws of the 10 commandments is enough warning for chastisement of God’s people by calamities, surely Missouri got that and the Bible belt of Alabama, Memphis, and New Orleans}, and have not obeyed my voice {if you really have the 9 month new birth, then the Spirit is a voice in your conscience}, or walked in accord with it, but have stubbornly followed {you know, I think in the responsive interviews of the victims we see more determinative and stubbornness to just keep going like before and to with determinative re-establish the same old routines of the American Way of Life, these are our ways and doings} their own hearts {yes, it has become very popular for personal wants to be the purpose driven motivations for your Christian life and for your church life above “the glory of God”} and have gone after the Baals {you of the moral majority say, ‘well, we are not guilty here”, but the word of God says to the moral majority in Romans 2:22, “You who abhor idols, do you

rob temples”, and you do that as your personal driven purposes make both your house of worship and your own temple of God into a desecration for personal usages—even usage of a house of God for other than the glory of God is desecration and the robbing of temples, IDOLATRY if you would, and that is the primary Baals of America}, as their fathers taught them {this present generation, like in Judah, are as much the victims of their heritage as they are the blessing of their heritage}. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel {we need to know Who He is}: Behold, I will feed the people with wormwood, and give them poisonous water to drink. {Does that sound like the God you know; then if not you have created in your own mind an image of god that is false, and that also is IDOLATRY.} I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.” (Jeremiah 9:12-16)

NOTE: Those who refuse to recognize the “sword” as part of God through Christ’s cleaning out all His enemies on the great and notable day of the LORD, fail to acknowledge much of the Bible.

5. For “the glory of God” (9:23-10:16)

NOTE: Surely we see that America is glorying in its wisdom of education, science, technology, weapons systems and democracy; glorying in the might of its military that leads the world; glorying in the prosperity and the opportunities for greed...

“...but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and know me, that I am the Lord who practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these thing I delight, says the Lord.” (9:24)

Exactly who are we trying to please or impress when as part of the patriotism of the American Democratic Faith we practice the extremes of toleration **{it has come about to be intolerance of sound doctrine like on God's pattern for marriage and homosexuality and righteousness}**. Certainly it is not the God of the Universe, and supposedly the God of America in whom "we trust", the God Who delights in righteousness, steadfast love, and justice. In the name of 911, we have adopted many unjust and unchristian practices like torture of prisoners **{which by the way as we are warned by John McCain will come back in the future to haunt our American military prisoners}**, spying on law abiding and harmless citizens with the patriot act, the bending through press and government the assumption under law that a person is innocent until proven guilty, giving more rights and privacy to the accuser than to the accused. If not God, who are we trying to impress with the extremes of toleration like for Muslims and homosexuals and business without the former control of competition and prices. The only obvious answer is that we are trying to impress ourselves as a nation, that is of some dream of extreme democracy that we have in our mind that is fictitious because the rich continue to get richer, greed is rampant, and the poor continue in get poorer in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Are we trying to impress other nations of the world on "democracy", when we know that the "Future of the Middle East", according to the Bible is that the whole world except the camp of the saints will come against Jerusalem to destroy, and then is when God will intervene to terminate this old world in favor of a new one with new people!

We must think God is a simpleton **{thereby creating an idol in our own mind}** that He does not know in Missouri and Mississippi and Alabama and New Orleans that all

this church attendance is being done for reasons other than His glory; that this greed does not come from Him, nor the gospel of prosperity and health. That He does not see through to the hearts of the Moral Majority that think they are so right, and yet violate one by one each week the real meaning and heart of the 10 commandments, the same Moral Majority who thinks that the American Democratic faith rather than the faith of the Bible and of the real God is what is going to save them!

6. Tragedy and Response (10:17-25), God is going to 'sling them out of the land', and the response {which reminds us of the response in interviews of many of the residents of Missouri, Alabama, and New Orleans, it is the stoic response of the people of Jerusalem and Judah, "Truly this is an affliction, and I must bear it." (10:19). Never a, "I must do better", or "We must change", or "we were warned in the Bible and my Bible messages"; but boo, hoo we are victims. And they are, but victims of their own "ways and doings".

V. The Man of Action and Inner Conflicts (Jeremiah 11-20).

Do you think that you are among the only of God's people that have ever suffered the mental and emotional conflicts and anguish, even grief, of calamities from God for chastisement? The way these conflicts are resolved is what is important, with or without God and the Word of God or with God!

1. The Broken Covenant and its dire consequences (11:1-17).

You know if you break the law, you can in general expect to be caught up with, and if you Moral Majority really break the law of the 10 commandments that you perceive to keep, then God is going to catch up with you eventually; either now in a calamity of the first kind to get you to do better, or at the end of time in the supreme calamity on the whole world that the great and notable day of the LORD and Lord.

2. The cost of being a Prophet (11:18-12:6).

Most evangelists, pastors, and even active church members today have been misled by false popular preachers into being that the cost of faith is the gospel of prosperity and health. Primarily they preach that because that is what they practice, and they want you to listen to their message in spite of your visuals on the expensive suits and jewelry and jet planes. Whatever happened to the Christian saying from the Bible, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution?" (II Timothy 3:12) These popular preachers of prosperity are being punished because they do not have the best suits, or best airplanes, best houses, and best cars! Something is wrong here, because every one, including the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, that lived godly in Christ Jesus suffered persecution not prosperity and health. You know on the other hand that Satan takes aside every worker for Jesus, and says to him, "I will give you all this wealth, and status, and all these things of the world you see if you will only bow down and worship me"; thus they create an idol of Satan who is supernatural but not a God.

3. The Lord of all Nations (12:7-17).

There is something in Jeremiah and all the Prophet for all nations, because whether you admit it or not God is the LORD of hosts, the God of all, Gentiles and Jews, the LORD God that made all and all of us.

NOTE: About Egypt, have you noted that the Lord of all nations in Isaiah 19:18 and following even predicts that someday Egypt will turn to God and even adopt the language of Judah. Listen to the quote from Oswalt in the NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY on Isaiah:

“So Isaiah says that Egypt’s turn to God will be so complete that some cities will go so far as to adopt even the language of Judah. Whether we ought to expect this event to come to pass in a literal way then becomes secondarily to the major concern: will Egypt one day turn to God in a radical way? To that we may answer a resounding yes!”

And perhaps a bigger surprise than that is the friendship predicted for Israel, Egypt, and Assyria {now Iraqi}.

“In that day {that day is the key to when this will really happen and is a prevalent key to understanding in the book of Isaiah} there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come to Egypt and Egypt to Assyria and Egypt will serve God with Assyria.” (Isaiah 19:23)

“In that day”, the key to when; and as Oswalt writes:

“The section (Isaiah 19:16-25) is marked by five repetitions of “in that day” {verses 16,18,19,23, and 24} which make it plain that the prophet sees these events as occurring in the

ends times, or at least at the point where God takes decisive action in world events.”

NOTE: Certainly we must believe as with all the Prophets, and after we distinguish between just days of the LORD where there are either/or blessing or curses from God of an immediate in history nature, or the great and final, notable day of the LORD of Acts 2 and Joel 2; that such a prophetic prediction applies to the new earth where all nations live in peace centered around the new Jerusalem lowered down from heaven, God dwells on the new earth with all peoples, and all come to Jerusalem {Judah} to worship God. They all adopt the new language of Jesus! Also certainly the great and notable day of the LORD and Lord, also at the Second Coming of Christ is the time, that one day of the LORD and Lord, when “God takes decisive action in world events”, not that in the many calamities of the first, second, and third kind He is not take a lesser decisive action now in world events, especially in America where He wants the attention of God’s people! You may want to view the PowerPoint slide **download on the Prophet Joel** {Link to www.biblecombibleman.com/joel.ppt}, perhaps the best of the Prophets where you can distinguish both the three kinds of calamities and the two or three kings of the day of the LORD.

4. The spoiled linen waistcloth (13:1-14), God will spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

NOTE: For more, see “All the Proud Men” Bible Study session on Jeremiah and Prophecy.

5. Final Words of Warning (13:15-27).

“And if you say in your heart {interviewees on TV often do say what they are thinking as they must be Americans with a stoic, frontier-like attitude, but what they say to themselves in their heart is significant}, ‘Why have these things come upon me?’ {Don’t you know that is always the question in Joplin, or Birmingham, or New Orleans, or Memphis, “why has this calamity happened to me?”} it is for the greatness of your iniquity that your skirts are lifted p, and you suffer violence.” (Jeremiah 13:23)

6. A National Crisis (14:1-16), God will consume this people by the calamities of “sword, famine, and by pestilence”.

a. The Word of God that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought in Judah that caused the people to mourn (14:1-6)

(1). The Calamity of the Drought {God tries again}

“Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns, they find no water, they return with their vessels empty {this is not figurative or spiritualizing as fundamentalists like to do, this is a real drought--you know how even B.H. Carroll likes to consider the locust plague of Joel as representing an army, not able to really bring himself to all this chastisement on God’s people}; they are ashamed and confounded and cover their heads. Even the hind in the field forsakes her newborn calf because there is no grass. {ranchers and farmers in New Mexico and Texas are selling and killing their cattle now because of the drought’s effect on their feed}. The wild asses stand on the bare heights, they pant for air like jackals; they eyes fail because there is no herbage.

(2). The responsive prayers of the people in their homes and in the places of worship, it sounds so real and close to repentance, reminding one of the earlier reformation in Judah under the Republican Josiah¹.

“Though our iniquities testify against us {like in American churches where the common saying is that we are sinners, we admit it, but we are trying}, act, O Lord {You God, just must do something about this drought calamity}, for thy name’s sake {like today, church members think anything is God to be answered by God in spite of their “ways and doings” if they only pray in the name of God or Christ, almost like in the worship of the Temple where the people prayed “We are delivered to do all these abominations”, some think and say that God is obligated because of what He said in the Bible, honestly evangelists use the phrase “put God in a box”.}

Well, no God does not always deliver you from drought and other calamities in spite of your abominations of internal 10 commandment violations, of the heart more than of the behavior.

“...for our backslidings are many {this nation of God’s own people at least knew that their backslidings after from God in spite of frequent temple attendance, it seems the many churches of America do not know yet, but you know they are thinking about it as the intense series of calamities continue since 911}, we have sinned against thee.” {You know most pastors and church members would think and say ‘well, this right here will do it as they admitted sin in the sight of God; however they do not stop to think that previously in chapter 7 God had stopped after hundreds of

¹ Morality without reality; impression without heart; and reformation without revival and repentance.

years and warnings, had stopped listening to their prayers, and in the same time sequence that was God's message daily to the people of Judah.}

NOTE: There is a time for everything in the sight of God, of salvation, of prayer, of listening to prayer and of answer prayer; and a time of action by God on His own people when they refuse to listen, you might call it a point of no return. One is reminded of the Scripture in Hebrews, "Now is the time..." by the way primarily written to believers; and "Beware, brethren lest there be in your an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God."

"O thou hope of Israel, its saviour in time of trouble, why shouldst thou be a stranger in the land, like a wayfarer who turns aside to tarry for night?"

Don't forget that this is the same 70 influential leaders that weekly in the temple basement would bow to the 70 different idols of Judah, trying to cover all bases of gods, and who knowingly violated at heart the 10 commandments, and in fact also by behavior, taking that as part of the religion, especially of idols, that delivered their nation and comfort, like the women said as in Egypt after escape from the destruction in Jerusalem, "when we worshipped and served the Queen of Heaven, we had "plenty of food, were well off, and saw no trouble" (Jeremiah 44:17), further they said and their husbands backed them that their forefathers had taught them to continue in the worship of these idols--what are we saying, that these people were hypocritical in their prayers, yes.

"Why should thou be like a man confused, like a mighty man who cannot save?"

They actually thought they could con God into salvation; showing a definite lack of respect for God and spiritual realities! This also is IDOLATRY, creating an unrealistic image of God, and philosophy of the nation, that is very unlike the real God of the Universe. It is almost as if they were putting the Great God of Israel and the Bible on the same level as the 70 gods of idols of Israel.

“Yet thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us {that was a lie, God had already departed from them; and God through Jeremiah in the temple message called it a lie that any more this was the temple of God}, and we are called by thy name {always the out excuse, we are called by the name of God and Christ}; leave us not.”

(3). Well, let's see in Jeremiah 14:10-16 what was the Response of God Himself to this hypocritical but seeming so repentant and heart rendering prayer, sort of like “ God save me from this mess that I got myself in, and against which you often have warned me during the last hundred years.”

[1]. God at least does acknowledge them as His people in the answer to the prayer of the nation above (14:10), “Thus says the Lord concerning this people...”

[2]. These people love to wander, and they have not wisely chosen proper paths for their feet in daily life (14:10b).

[3]. It is too late; “NO” is the answer to their prayer; but more than that “therefore the Lord does not accept them, rather...”

[4] They are without forgiveness as “He will remember their iniquity” (14:10c), and further will “punish” their sins.

NOTE: By the way, how is God to punish or chastise their sins, by continued calamities which will lead to a very large calamity of the destruction of Jerusalem, and even beyond that to a possible punishment of the great and notable day of the LORD and Lord. Alias, a rejection of them as the people of God, at least some of them, always remember that there was Jeremiah in Judah, Ezekiel and Daniel and his 3 friends in Babylon, and perhaps even like in Israel during the days of Elijah there “were 7,000 {unknown to the Prophet but to God} that had not bowed the knee to Baal”.}

(3). Then in 19:11,12, God turned to His Prophet Jeremiah to tell him what he must do and not do.

“The Lord said to me: ‘Do not pray for the welfare of this people {can we always pray for the welfare of a people in calamity like in America now, people we know to live in the wrong at home and at church, people that had all the right answers before they lost everything}. Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering and cereal offering, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.” (Jeremiah 19:11,12)

(4). Jeremiah’s response to God was about what the official Prophets of the nation were telling the people (19:13).

“Then I said, Ah, Lord God, behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you

have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.” (Jeremiah 19:13)

Surely this reminds one of a certain pastor of a large and influential church in Houston, Texas now telling his people in light of the obvious nature of the intense series of calamities since 911, “All you have to do is wait with faith for 2 years, then there will be either an oil well or a gold mine in your yard.”

(5). What God replied about these official Prophets of Jerusalem and Judah.

“And the Lord said to me: ‘The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, ‘Sword and famine shall not come on this land’: By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none to bury them--then their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their wickedness upon them.” (Jeremiah 14:14-16)

7. Further lament and comment (14:17-15:4).

8. Jerusalem left to her fate as determined by God (15:5-9).

9. Inner Struggles of Jeremiah (15:10-21).

10. Normal life at an end (16:1-13).

NOTE: Oh my, could America and American churches now be at that status of a end to the normal life of comfort, security, and peace. Is it not possible for another nation of God's people, if they show the same "ways and doings" as Judah before 587 B.C., for God to reject them, no longer listen to their prayers, or accept them. At least, you must accept the possibility it can happen again! Granted that the most religious people that every lived were in Jerusalem, in 587 B.C. and in the time of Christ, and you see what history has done to them. Recently the prime minister of Israel said, "History is not going to give us another chance".

11. Light in the Midst of Darkness (16:14-21), restoration to the Land and, God giving back the land to Israel, God will repay double for the sins of Israel's oppressors; and God will "this once cause them to know", the Gentiles who come to God saying, "Will a man make gods for himself, which are not gods?"

12. The Indelible Mark of Sin (17:1-4).

13. The Choice--Trust in man or trust in God, trust in other nations around you or trust in God (17:5-8).

14. Folly, Hope, and a Cry for Help (17:9-18).

15. Sermon on Sabbath Observance (17:19-27).

26. In the Potter's Workshop (18:1-12).

27. Strangely Unnatural Conduct (18:13-17).
 28. Opposition and a Vitriolic Response (18:18-23).
 29. The broken jar and its consequences (19:1-20:6).
 30. Insidious Doubt and Confident Faith (20:7-13).
 31. The Depths of Despair (20:14-18).
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- V. Kings and Prophets (Jeremiah 21-23).
 - VI. Words of Hope and Judgement (Jeremiah 24,25).
 - VII. A Marked Man (Jeremiah 26-29).
 - VIII. A Future Bright With Hope (30-33).
 - IX. Stormy Petrel of the Jerusalem Scene (34-39).
 - X. Fall of Jerusalem (39:1-18).
 - XI. After the Holocaust (40-45).
 - XII. Ruler of All Nations (45-51).

XIII. Epilogue (Jeremiah 52).

Bible on Doctrine and Doctrinal Outline of the Letters of Paul

As we track item for item on doctrine through the Bible exactly as recorded, try at least for the reading of this chapter to set aside doctrinal propaganda which has been made by men. It may save your life, and it certainly will make a better kingdom of Christ member out of you.

7-1: "Doctrine" in the Bible.

Word studies in the Bible are always helpful in leading us through the Bible in the total meaning of the Word of God, hence we have seen historical like VINE'S WORD STUDIES OF THE BIBLE, and etc. Likewise we can learn much about the true meaning from the total Word of God in tracing the word doctrine through the Bible. Since Job is agreeable the oldest book in the Bible, we will start there!

1. Job 11:4.

"For you have said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in your eyes."

This is Zophar, one of Job's ill-advised counselors whom God had to put in their place near the end of the book, telling Job that he was going to take the place of reproving Job. What earlier statement had Job made to Zophar? (Job 6:30) What Job had really done was to appeal to the righteous acts in his life in the presence of Zophar: that was his doctrine.

2. Deuteronomy 32:2.

Here we begin to see that doctrine is something beautiful and that it comes from God. God is very possessive of doctrine.

“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass.”

This is called the Song of Moses and Moses is speaking to the congregation of Israel. The quote above is from the New King James Version which translated the word “doctrine” into “teaching” which also tells us about the true meaning of doctrine. But notice the beauty of God’s teachings or doctrine: drops as rain, distills as dew, like raindrops on tender plants and showers on the grass!

NOTE: Would that the doctrines on marriage, divorce, and one-wife husbands for pastors and deacons would so gracefully fall on ears that have not been overcome with itching.

3. Proverbs 4:2.

This is wisdom talking to the children of wisdom!

“Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding; for I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law.” (Proverbs 4:1,2)

We learn several things: doctrine is a old word in the Bible; doctrine comes from wisdom; doctrine is related to instruction and understanding; and good doctrine is the law. Surely we must think of the law of marriage and divorce!

4. Isaiah 28:9.

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...” (Isaiah 28:9,10)

It is interesting to note that what is “make to understand doctrine” in the King James Version is “make to understand the message” in the New King James Version; so that what this would mean in terms of the marriage doctrine that we have been considering is that for us to understand the doctrine of marriage is to understand the “message” of marriage.

[NOTE: Shortly we will come back to the letters of the Apostle Paul where we will see that Paul uses the very same analogy of milk and babes and doctrine.](#)

5. Isaiah 29:24.

Wow, it is the Bible that puts those that err in spirit in the same category as those who need to learn doctrine.

“These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmured will learn doctrine.”

3-2: “*Doctrine*” from *Jesus*.

6. Matthew 7:28.

“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Note that once again the New King James Version uses the word “teaching”, the teaching of Jesus, in the place of the word “doctrine” in the King James Version. Wow, we had best listen here; for indeed, Jesus does speak with authority. He very much speaks clearly and with authority on this matter of marriage and divorce and adultery.

All of the previous verses that we looked at could be quoted as “teaching” in the place of “doctrine”: the time will come when they will not endure sound teaching; be not children tossed to and fro by every wind of teaching;

all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for teaching; and etc.

7. Matthew 15:9.

“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” (Matthew 15:7-9)

There is the real danger: when the teaching is no longer sound doctrine then it comes from men, and when the doctrines come from men then also the worship can become vain worship!

NOTE: Here the New King James Version can not change doctrine to teachings although they are closely related. If it did the Bible would read “teaching as teachings the commandments of men”.

8. Matthew 16:12.

“Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Here doctrine is compared by Jesus Himself to the leaven in the bread, so deadly as can be the affect of unsound teachings of doctrines from men. We think of the little treatise that James made in his book of the deadly affects of a “tongue” gone astray, then we think of that tongue having with it the killing affects of leaven.

9. Matthew 22:33.

“And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.”

Once again “His teaching” in the place of “His Doctrine” in the New King James Version. What do we think of? The teaching of Jesus; the teaching of Jesus; and that if we love Him we will keep His commandments and teachings! Incidentally Jesus was answering a question about marriage and the resurrection.

10. Mark 1:22.

“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.” (Mark 1:21,22)

11. Mark 1:27.

“And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.” (Mark 1:27)

It is a sad day when the doctrines or teachings of Jesus appear to be new doctrine to any people of God! Yet that is exactly what can happen in future generations as unsound doctrine slowly erodes at sound doctrine, and new things are heard until finally the new sounds like old and the truth is turned into fables.

12. Mark 4:2.

“And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine...”

Even in the teachings of parables, Jesus was teaching doctrine. It was His Doctrine, and we had better not forget that! And you see something else here in the word “doctrine” as used above, for it would also make sense to translate 4:2 above as “said unto them in his methodology of teaching. So that in doctrine we can see both the content of teaching and the method of teaching. Here the specific method to communicate teaching was through the method of parables. It is the method in parables as much as the content that keeps some away from understanding. One obvious way they refuse to understand parables is the thought that the truth of God and from God could not be that simple. It is sort of like references to the cross as turning people off, the wise of this world are offended at simplicity and crudity.

There are certain key buzz words that allow each denomination to immediately recognize the orthodoxy of their own, and those buzz words are most generally extra-biblical. That is, not found in the Bible, but by both custom and tradition their members have come to detect them immediately, and if in case their memories slip a little, there is constantly denominational literature and meetings to remind them. What a state of affairs any denomination, and all denominations are in when “what saith the denominational literature?” is more important to them than “what saith the scripture”. Unfortunately the only major doctrines many Baptist have on those items on the offering envelope like daily Bible reading, giving, visitation, and etc.--all good things but hardly to be substitutes for the major doctrines of the Bible!

13. Mark 7:7.

NOTE: See how many of these quotes about doctrine are from the book of Mark, second only to the quotes about doctrine in the letters from Paul to which we will soon draw a focus. And if my theory about the book of Mark is correct, that Paul left a couple of manuscripts for John Mark to use in the writing of the Gospel of Mark, then much of Mark is also from Paul.

“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Mark 7:7)

How tragic it would be that simultaneously as the erosion of sound doctrine comes the worship that is in vain!

14. Mark 11:18.

“And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people were astonished at his doctrine.”

This was after Jesus overturned the moneychangers in the temple, so that you see that doctrine is much more than teaching. It is also action based on teaching. It is action based on character!

15. Mark 12:38.

“And he said unto them in his doctrine. (here it sounds as though Jesus is clothed in his doctrine) Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: which devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.” (Mark 12:38-40)

16. Luke 4:32.

“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.”

You can not miss the obvious connection between doctrine, word, and power.

3-3: “*Doctrine*” from the Apostle John.

“I need something less heady...something more emotional”, one might say, “in order to meet my needs. How about giving me something from the Gospel of John.” Okay, as follows--

17. John 7:16.

Although John was among the last five books of the New Testament to be written, we will look at it now as sort of an interpretation of all that follows from Paul, and a re-enforcement.

“Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” (John 7:16,17)

(1). The Doctrine of Jesus came from God. It is Doctrine of God.

(2). The man that is willing to do the will of God can distinguish whether it is Doctrine of God of teachings of men.

(3). Out of pride some teach for doctrines the commandments of men, seeking more their own glory that the glory of the Father.

(4). This is righteousness, to teach the doctrines of Jesus.

18. John 18:19.

“The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine...” (John 18:19)

Today, people are also asking us of who are His disciples and what are his doctrines!

“...Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said...” (John 18:20,21)

Yes, ask the people what Jesus has said! Ask church history, and Baptist history, and current Southern Baptist History. Ask the historical statements of faith, and the preachers and commentators like Augustine, Calvin, Knox, etc. that you have come to know and trust.

3-4: A Doctrinal Outline of the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul.

Now, we come to the places in the New Testament where the Apostle Paul in his 14 New Testament letters used the word “doctrine”. They are 24 in number which makes them almost equal to all other Biblical usages of the word “doctrine”; and that makes this volume worthy of the title DOCTRINE IN THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL. or for short, DOCTRINE.

Once again I will use the sequence of the writing of the 14 letters as developed in one of my previous commentaries: REMEMBER MY BONDS: THE LIFE AND 14 NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL. This is by no means claimed to be a perfect sequent; and I am sure there are some flaws in it; but it is just a best effort to get the actual historical development of the letters and doctrines as they came from Jesus and were written on parchments.

One sequencing: Hebrews; Galatians; Romans; I,II Thessalonians; I,II Corinthians; Titus; I Timothy; Ephesians/Colossians; Philippians; II Timothy; and Philemon. And we order the 24 usages of “doctrine” in Paul’s letters according to this same sequencing. This sorting brings us first to Hebrews 6:1,2

1. Doctrine in Hebrews 6:1.2.

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” (Hebrews 6:1,2)

This gives us a good list of “fundamental doctrines” as well as a list we would expect was developed in the first half of the book of Hebrews. You will recall that the book of Hebrews was a summary, no doubt with additions at the end, of Paul’s typical address to the Jewish synagogues. No telling how often and in how many cities in the synagogues, Paul delivered this same message. I am sure it was among the first of the manuscripts that he wrote in preparation for delivery; however it could have been published much later in the sense of making it available for distribution among New Testament churches. Back to the fundamental doctrines.

[1]. Doctrine of Christ.

[2]. Repentance from dead works.

[3]. Faith toward God.

[4]. Doctrine of Baptisms.

[5]. Laying on of Hands.

By the way on this basic doctrine, you will recall that God's instructions to Ananias during the call to the Ministry of Saul was for Ananias to lay his hands on Saul in order that he might see, no doubt this was both physical and spiritual. (Acts 9:12)

[6]. Resurrection of the dead.

[7]. Judgment.

Wow, that alone is going to be a fruitful study!

2. Doctrine in Hebrews 13:9.

“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.” (Hebrews 13:9)

I think it is obvious that we have gotten into special additions to Hebrews here before publication, that went beyond the original synagogue addresses. So that Hebrews 13 would be included in special instructions for those already Christians.

3. Doctrine in Romans 6:17.

There is no specific usage of the word “doctrine” in Galatians; but that is no problem since we can cover Galatians and Romans simultaneously, Galatians being a recognized miniature of Romans.

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” (Romans 6:17)

Already, I hope we are beginning to see the lively nature of “doctrine” in the New Testament as contrasted to what perhaps we have come to experience in our previous Christian education, reading, and church life. Besides the fundamental “doctrine of Christ”, which we know has to be lively; we see here in Romans 6:17 a form of doctrine that is obeyed with the “heart”. I think that as we study Romans, and the doctrine of Romans,

more thoroughly we will find that this “form of doctrine” is very similar to the fundamental doctrine of Christ.

Which brings up an interesting possibility that we should have a section, chapter, or chapters on Fundamental Doctrines with first a coverage of Hebrews 1-6 and then of Romans 1-6 and the corresponding chapters of Galatians.

4. Doctrine in Romans 16:17.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” (Romans 16:17)

Of course, we see the similarity to many other epistles of Paul here where like in I Corinthians and II Corinthians, etc. he deals with divisions in the churches. As well as special instructions to pastors like Timothy and Titus to watch the doctrines and divisions. We are beginning to suspect that since this is at the end of Romans, it is very similar in Hebrews 13 with special instructions for the converts. Recall that even as Hebrews was the gospel especially for the Jews, so Romans was the gospel for the Gentiles and Jews. After they were converted the Gentiles like the Hebrews (and some Gentiles) would need special instructions. That also leads us to the natural conclusion that Romans 12-16 is more advanced doctrine. This can be easily verified by reading Romans 12:1,2.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1,2)

[1]. It is addressed to “brethren”.

[2]. Bodies become a living sacrifice after conversion.

[3]. “reasonable service” comes after fundamentals.

[4]. Likewise the perfect will of God.

5. Doctrine in I Corinthians 14:6.

There is no usage of the word “doctrine” per se in I and II Thessalonians, but from our studies we know the subject matter to be primarily on eschatology or last things. Also none in II Corinthians, but I Corinthians can be used to outline II Corinthians on doctrine. Also we will look at other equivalent words to “doctrine” like teaching, teachings, instructions, commandments, etc. Recall that the New King James Version uses teachings in place of doctrine. That makes it the number one candidate for the equivalent of doctrine.

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet given an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” (I Corinthians 14:5-8)

What we are looking for here in doctrine is Distinctive and Certain Sounds!

6. Doctrine in I Corinthians 14:26.

“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: and thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is

in you of a truth. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” (I Corinthians 14:23-26)

We would have to label this as the doctrine of how to worship in the churches!

[1]. A concern for the unlearned and unbelievers, and what they think during the worship service.

[2]. Prophecy or preaching or testifying by all in a consistent manner leads these unlearned and unbelievers to be convinced, judged, and the secrets of his heart are manifest.

[3]. Unbelievers and unlearned will fall down and worship God.

[4]. Unbelievers and unlearned will leave with a good report that God is in that church!

[5]. Divers doctrines are a confusion to the unbeliever and unlearned.

7. Doctrine in Titus 1:9.

Here in the Pastoral Epistles of Titus, I Timothy, and II Timothy, we find the concentration of “doctrine” usages, 16 times to be specific, as we would expect in biblical instructions to pastors and evangelists. After all, they with Apostles and Prophets, which are really no more, are the ones that are charged with the responsibilities for the total Ministry, including doctrine. And what we are leading up to is the apex of Ephesians where all these leaders are given for the work of the ministry, for the building up or edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians being quite a summary of all Paul had written in the first ten letters up to that point. Of course, according to our sequencing, we want to look at Titus and I Timothy in front of, or pre-Ephesian, and II Timothy behind or post-Ephesian.

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouddest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain

elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: if any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine (there's that word again) both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers..." (Titus 1:5-9)

A key to worship in the churches and to doctrine without divisions is the pastor, here referred to as the "elder" and the "bishop". We notice that there is far more doctrine to consider in the ordination, "the laying on of hands", of pastors and deacons than we considered in the first two chapters of this volume. Indeed, far beyond the requirement for "the husband of one wife", is the need for church leadership to hold fast to the faithful word of God, being able by lives and words with "sound doctrine" to exhort gainsayers.

8. Doctrine in Titus 2:1.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience..." (Titus 2:1)

What a good chapter on doctrine! It is doctrine for the aged men, for the aged women, the young women, the young men, and servant. Here you see that doctrine is really the way we live in Christ!

9. Doctrine in Titus 2:7.

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things hewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." (Titus 2:7,8)

Notice all these required aspects of doctrine.

[1]. uncorruptness.

[2]. gravity.

[3]. sincerity.

[4]. sound speech.

10. Doctrine in Titus 2:10.

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; (this would in our day be instructions for employees to supervisors) not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:9,10)

I bet you never thought of doctrine related to your supervisor; but the basic goal goes back to the doctrine of Christ, to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”.

11. Doctrine in I Timothy 1:10.

We get a deeper, newer, more full meaning of sound doctrine here in terms of what is contrary, or the opposite of sound doctrine: it is ungodly, sinners, whoremongers, etc.

“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully: knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteousness man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing THAT IS CONTRARY TO SOUND DOCTRINE; according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.” (I Timothy 1:8-11)

The real question that we must answer here for the purpose of our doctrinal outline of the letters of Paul is, with this treatment of law as compared to Romans and Galatians, and with delving into the gospel, have we gone beyond the gospel treatments, generally referred to as the Doctrine of Christ, or are we still in that development with a special focus for a young

evangelist? It really looks like Paul has gone back to the fundamental doctrine of Christ with a special focus for ministers.

12. Doctrine in I Timothy 4:1,6,13, and 16.

Wow, this must be with 4 usages in one chapter, the Doctrinal Chapter of the Bible!

THE DOCTRINAL CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE, I TIMOTHY 4:

[1]. Doctrines of devils come along with departure from the faith and seducing spirits, I Timothy 4:1.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats...” (I Timothy 4:1-3)

This will be a lively, interesting, and informative study when later in this volume we come to the chapter on “The Doctrinal Chapter of the Bible”. Perhaps we can even find where in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit or Spirit of Christ expressly told of these departures from the faith, unless we find that the Spirit of Christ expressly told only Paul in Arabia or back at Tarsus. And interesting also will be how the “latter times” will fit into the “last days” of Acts 2.

[2]. I Timothy 4:6.

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.” (I Timothy 4:6)

This gives us both insight into the Ministry of Paul himself and the same type of Ministry that he would encourage on his own son in the faith, Timothy. The Ministry is a reminder ministry, “put the brethren in remembrance”; and it is a reflection of the training (nourishment, also a lively concept) in words of faith and doctrine.

[3]. I Timothy 4:13.

“Til I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” (I Timothy 4:13)

Doctrine is in good company here with reading and exhortation. In fact, it would seem that doctrine is the key element between reading and exhortation. If you don't read the Bible, how can you know the doctrine of the Bible; and if you exhort, you must exhort the doctrine of the Bible rather than your own doctrines or the doctrines of devils that we have already read about in this chapter!

[4]. I Timothy 4:16.

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” (I Timothy 4:16)

The salvation of souls are dependent on sound doctrine!

13. Doctrine in I Timothy 5:17.

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” (I Timothy 5:17)

We already know that the elder is another word for pastor or bishop, and that in New Testament churches there were a multiplicity of pastors. So the pastors that minister in the teaching and preaching word as well as administer the church are to be worthy of a larger salary, to put it bluntly!

14. Doctrine in I Timothy 6:1.

“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.” (I Timothy 6:1)

We are reminded once again of the source of the doctrine of Paul and of the Bible: it is “his doctrine”, the doctrine of the name of God! As we read once again of servants we are reminded of the instructions to the church or churches where Titus pastored.

15. Doctrine in I Timothy 6:3.

“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thy self. But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (I Timothy 6:3-6)

Wow, we will have a good time in the Word when we come to this! I think if doctrinal issues arise in the local church, or even on the association and denominational level, we should caution ourselves to see if the atmosphere and circumstances fit into the categorical description above where a certain man seems not to consent to wholesome words and the “doctrine of godliness”: pride, doting questions, strife with words, envy, railings, surmising, etc.

In our outline although we have already shown this in the category of special instructions, we must also make it an appendage and application of the doctrine of godliness in Advanced Doctrine.

16. Doctrine of Ephesians 4:14.

In this great summary of the first 9 books from Paul, we already know from reading Ephesians of the basic doctrines which are the great ONE's of the New Testament: one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and One God and Father (Ephesians 4:4-6). These will have to be the summarizing statements of the Fundamentals, as well as of Ephesians up through 4:16.

“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...” (Ephesians 4:14)

Thus we have passed from the fundamentals to the necessity of a review of the fundamentals, advanced

doctrine, and special instructions in order to guard against not only the doctrines of devils, but also of clever and crafty men who will out of different motivations “deceive”. We know from previously looking at I Timothy that some even have their conscience seared with a hot iron, in other words, it is ineffective as a sufficient guide on doctrine.

Likewise from our previous Bible studies (I hope you have ready my commentary on Ephesians, ONE NEW COMMENTARY ON EPHESIANS, from 1987, we know the rest of Ephesians to be a summary of the special instructions.

17. Doctrine in Colossians 2:22.

Colossians and Ephesians were written about the same time (Ephesians 6:21,22; Colossians 4:7; and Colossians 4:16); and no doubt, you have noted that the subject matter is very similar. However, each makes a significant contribution to the life and walk of the Christian in the wording. This then would make Ephesians and Colossians somewhat share the distinction of the Summary of the first 9 books.

“Let no man beguile your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increasing with the increase of God. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?” (Colossians 2:18-22)

We are reminded again that some doctrines originate with men, being always careful of the source of our commandments and doctrines!

You can see the similarity to the body of Christ in Ephesians and of the work of the ministry of the

church. From this end of chapter 2 of Ephesians, we then have a chapter on Advanced doctrine, Colossians 3, closely akin to the doctrine of godliness, and a conclusion with special instructions, Colossians 4.

18. Doctrine in II Timothy 3:10.

Philippians will be found to be very similar in message as far as doctrine, not the exact wording, to what is found in Colossians and Ephesians; and will be so covered in our outline of the next section of this chapter. Now, as we proceed to real books after Ephesians, namely II Timothy, we expect to find great advancements on revelations.

“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as there’s also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconiu, at Lystar; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.” (II Timothy 3:8-11)

The new revelations are not immediately apparent here, but they are at the beginning of the chapter, chapter 3, as Paul talks about the “last days” and the perilous times.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud...” (II Timothy 3:1,2)

We will need to look for this source of revelation in the Old Testament, or in direct revelations to Paul in Arabia and/or at Tarsus, or even word of mouth from James and Peter.

19. Doctrine in II Timothy 3:16.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for corrections, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may

be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Timothy 3:16,17)

With this previous study of “doctrine” in the Bible and in particular in the letter of Paul, these often memorized verses take on new meaning. Besides the basic statement of the source of all scriptures, from Paul or otherwise, as given by the “inspiration of God” with a need to later discuss we difference between inspiration, revelation, and illumination; we have a significant outline:

- [1]. Scripture is Profitable for Doctrine.
- [2]. Scripture is profitable for Reproof.
- [3]. Scripture is profitable for Corrections.
- [4]. Scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness.
- [5]. Perfection of the Man of God.

And as we often find in the Bible, these are five different ways of saying the same thing: in other words, besides the initial statement that Scriptures are profitable for doctrine, then the same things is stated four other ways.

20. Doctrine in II Timothy 4:3.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachings, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (II Timothy 4:3,4)

ARE WE THERE ALREADY? Yes, look around you!

7-5: The doctrinal outline of the 14 letters of Paul, the outline for this volume IV (the outline was created in volume 4 of the Learn Christ Commentaries, “Christ, Paul, and the Falling Away, the life and 14 NT letters of the Apostle

Paul” who was and is the Chief Editor of the Bible...

If you need a commentary, and most do, or a catechism of doctrine, use this outline and with it in hand go through your Bible step by step. You might pause often to read the verses around those referenced to get it in total Bible context.

1. Fundamentals of doctrine.

- [1]. Hebrews 1:1-6:12.
- [2]. Romans 1-11.
- [3]. Galatians 1-?
- [4]. I Timothy 1
- [5]. Ephesians 1:1-4:16.

2. More Advanced doctrine.

(1). Introduction.

- [1]. Hebrews 6:13-12:29.
- [2]. Romans 12-15.
- [3]. Galatians.

(2). The doctrine of godliness, I Timothy 6 and Colossians 3.

3. Special Instructions on Doctrines and Divisions.

(1). Introduction.

- [1]. Hebrews 13.
- [2]. Romans 16.
- [3]. Galatians ?
- [4]. Titus 4 and I Timothy 6.

(2). Distinctive and Certain Sounding Doctrines, like a Trumpet.

- [1]. I Corinthians 1-14:22

(3). Doctrine: the How-To of Church Work.

[1]. How to worship in the church: I Corinthians 14:23-39

[2]. How to select pastors in the church: Titus 1.

[3]. The Ministry of the pastors: Titus 2 and I Timothy 5.

(4). Summary of Special Instructions, Ephesians 4:17-6:24 and Colossians 4.

4. Eschatology or Last Things.

(1). I Thessalonians.

(2). II Thessalonians.

(3). I Corinthians 15,16

5. New Revelations on the Last Days.

(1). II Timothy 3,4.

6. Why Doctrine? II Timothy 3:14-17.

7. Are We There Already? II Timothy 4:1-4.

A “That Sort” Outline of II Timothy.

Hopefully from SunGrist_Bible on www.biblecombibleman.com or with the books on Amazon.com, you have seen previous outlines of II Timothy, especially in the “Life and Letters of Paul”, volume 3 of the LCC commentaries. This outline is somewhat different with a startling focus on “that sort” while still consistent with the obvious content of II Timothy on sound doctrine for the ministry and for the church. If you are not careful, you can read II Timothy many times, as I did, and miss the emphasis on “that sort” of church member and “that sort” of church leader.

7-1: II Timothy for an exegetical gist still retains sound doctrine as central, as spoken by Paul as revelations of the Word of God, and the sound doctrine of Paul’s life and ministry as living sound doctrine. {Please read “Sound Living is Sound Doctrine” online at www.biblecombibleman.com.}

1. First, the positive side of sound doctrine. That central theme climaxes with the “they” of “they will not endure sound doctrine” (II Timothy 4:3,4), they being another word for the two, or more, main “sorts” previously listed in II Timothy, and first really gets going except for

background of the Asian Christian problem, really always a Christian problem with those who would strive to be more independently creative in the way they deal with sound doctrine of the Bible, in II Timothy 1:13: **“Hold fast to the pattern of sound words {about the same as phrases of sound doctrines, recalling that doctrine in the Bible quite often is expressed as teachings, especially as related to the teachings or doctrines of Jesus, then the Apostles as they followed the example of Jesus in living and other aspects of sound doctrine} which you have heard from me {lest we commit blaspheme against the Apostles like Paul as “holy men of God speaking as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”, we pause right now to recognize that what first century Christians heard from Paul and what we read now is Word of God} in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus {faith and love being the obvious contrast to “that sort” Paul will tell us about extensively in II Timothy.} (II Timothy 1:13)**

NOTE: “That sort”, like the fundamentalists that took control of the SBC between 1970-1980, and who now try to take doctrinal control from their established high positions in churches and denominational leadership, definitely started a trend of departure from the “faith once for all given to the saints” as they tampered at the 1970 Convention with the priesthood

of believers {See under “Baptist Distinctives” online at www.biblecombibleman.com.}, and there can hardly be any love in their destruction of careers and reputations of much better Christians and ministers than themselves. They are going to pay the price one of these days for all those acts of murder, but right now we must “contend for the faith” to hamper their doctrinal takeover. They still have to win the hearts and minds of a lot of southern Baptists, but from their perches at the top of the heap that is what they are working on! Be careful beloved southern Baptist people, listen to the weirdness of Dallas Baptist Theological seminary like Dr. Jeffress of FBC Dallas as their non-literal eschatology spells over into a final third plan of salvation for the Jews, a matter Scofield their leader was contractually obligated to with Oxford Press in the writing of the Scofield Reference Bible; and beware, take notice, in the Lifeway Book stores of the SBC, the number of new study Bible coming out each year that duplicate the insidious Scofield notes, also from graduates of DTS. (“a little leaven will leaven the whole loaf”)

2. Second the degrading side of sound doctrine and a sound pattern of words, II Timothy 2:14-18, “strive about words to no profit {like debaters and national extreme communicators} that ruin the hearers. This is where the cancer or gangrene starts that lead near the

end of Christianity to the intolerance toward sound doctrine of the Falling Away, the great apostasy.

3. Third the opposite side of sound doctrine, II Timothy 4:1-4, "They will not endure sound doctrine..." This listing is of the 5 historical and doctrinal steps of the falling away, combined with unsound living that emphasizes purpose driven wants over purpose driven Christ and Spirit: intolerance toward sound doctrine, church member dominant motivations of wants over Spirit and Christ, the heaping up of itching ears teachers that revive the first century doctrines of "that sort", centered around the secret rapture, the absolute turning away from absolute truth, and then comes widespread "fables", the teaching for commandments the doctrines of academic men of that sort.

7-3: With the fruit inspection of this sort as being of that sort in II Timothy are we slinging mud at the mud slingers. Not if we follow the example of Paul in order to retain doctrinal control of the SBC?

1. Paul, and the Spirit of God through Paul for revelations, were so slick that we have read over the "that sort" for many years, not fully comprehending the significance as with a group of church members leaders advocating a secret rapture, and further not comprehending the marvelous applications of the Word of God to the fundamentalists takeover of the

SBC today, whether they are just the “wood and clay” sort or during this Falling Away have gone all the way to fables. {I don’t know about you but as I hear more and more of these idle babblings about secret rapture, millennium, and dispensations, they sound like fables to me!}

2. Paul first attack, II Timothy 2:14-18, is not on certain church members by names or even on that select group of church members called “that sort”, but is on “WORDS TO NO PROFIT THAT RUINS THE HEARERS”.

3. Paul even identifies that sort and the cancer they spread into Christianity, before he actually mentions two specific names, II Timothy 2:16,17.

“But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort.” (II Timothy 2:16,17)

Did you not notice the gentle way Paul starts with an explanation of that sort as windbags with words to no profit in 2:14, and then here in 2:16 the words get more dramatic with “profane and idle babblings” that “will increase to more ungodliness”?

7-4: And what we know by way of fruit inspection about this “sort” so far is: {and while we are slinging

and per Paul and the Bible, we might as well list all the characteristics of that sort found in II Timothy 2.}

1. Words to no Profit. Maybe not all of their words, but many of these words are TO NO PROFIT that do the hearers more harm than good. Suddenly what has been a good preacher, pastor, evangelist, or national leader, for other reasons than to profit the hearers toward complete Christian maturity, use some other motivation like academics or drawing disciples to themselves, or even financial gain, in the word and subjects, also phrases that they chose.

2. Profane babblings. Before in I Timothy Paul describes this sort that oppose his doctrine and ministry as blasphemers (I Timothy 1:20), but here they are profane because they take sound doctrine on the resurrection and pervert its pure simplicity into something else.

NOTE: You know it is just plain wrong to take the pure and precious promises of the doctrines of the Bible, from Paul or other wise, and to divert them into something else no matter what the reason. They are no better than the LDS members who maliciously add 3 non-Christian Bibles to the word of God. And when we talk about the resurrection from the dead at the second coming of Christ, we are talking about salvation; for we are talking about the completion of

salvation as “we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” And with some fundamentalists you will also find this completion of salvation a problem with them, having disregarded the 9 month new birth--waiting 9 months to see if that 100 new members have survived the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches so that the word is not choked out of them, they also think of salvation as all done in the past. In one instant it is all over, leaving sanctification and glorification dangling.

3. “Idle babblings that increase to more ungodliness”. (2:16)

4. Names are not important except as examples of that sort. **“Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort” (2:17).** What is important is their message--“their message will spread like cancer”--and the effect it has on the Falling Away destruction of Christianity.

5. Hymenaeus and Philetus are just two early church leaders that strayed from the truth by preaching a secret rapture--**“they have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past” (2:18a).**

6. **“They overthrow the faith of some” (2:18b).** Fundamentalists are licking their chops here, saying *“we have you know as our business is all about saving souls, or at least adding them to our local churches”.* Well, have

you consider, as made clear in the online presentation “The Demonic Veil of the Rapture” that false doctrines like the secret rapture overthrow the faith of some in the doctrine of the Falling Away and the final tribulation by leading them to think Christians will not be part of both!

7. Communicators and debaters of “foolish and ignorant disputes” (2:23), disputes which like debates generate local and national strife as in the recent closure of the government. Have you not noticed that the fundamentalists Baptists are on the move again to play politics on the national level?

8. That sort, like fundamentalists, “quarrel” (2:24).

7-5: “That Sort” is much larger than Hymenaeus, Philetus, or the fundamentalists today, and the sound doctrines with sound patterns of words is vastly larger than on the resurrection and gathering of the saints at the Second Coming. Looking back at II Timothy 1 you see more of the magnitude as “all they in Asia”, in the very churches that Paul started turned against him as he became a prisoner of the Roman Empire; as you see as Paul in II Timothy 3 presents the attitudes and behaviors of that sort; and finally in II Timothy 4, as that sort of Christian leaders lead us head over heels into the Falling Away. In short, the battle created by the fundamentalists as they took political control of the

Convention and now try to take doctrinal control, is a battle for the integrity of Bible truth.

As bad as it is to tamper with the marvelous doctrine of the gathering of the saints at the Second Coming, and after the falling away and a visual on the man of sin, it is the tampering with sound doctrine and sound patterns of words itself that is far more dangerous. Once men like Hymenaeus set themselves up above the *"faith once for all delivered to the saints"* by the Apostles and Jesus, it is the release of a Pandora's box of special revelations. It is a battle for the total truth of the Bible, not to be watered down or distorted by any that *"have a form of godliness without the power"*.

1. Granted sometimes the BBFers seem to be doing the work and will of God, and they seem to be nice guys that sometimes are trying to help people. However, if you ever hear one of them pass on to you this little tell tales of untruth, then you know what you are dealing with: *"The Bible did not intend for the church to help the poor, there are other organizations for that."* And the helping of the poor is reserved for a later period of time after this false secret rapture. It would seem that their lack of respect for the truth creeps into their doctrine of the church and churches. {Although we do remember how John R Rice so scattered as one of the original

fuedamentalists of note, did carry the day of how *“There is one church, but many churches”*}

2. We will leave it up to you as to how to decide which are the real fundamentalists or fuedamentalists-- this is called righteous judgment based on the Bible; and the specific Scripture to use is the Bible condemnation list of II Timothy 3:1-9. Oh yes, Paul did not leave us to wonder what kind of men of “that sort” would distort the simple truth of the gathering of the saints at the Second coming of Christ. Yes, you see that sort again in the bad habits and bad attitudes of those who appear to be religious of II Timothy 3:1-9.

“But of this sort are those {“those” now, previously that sort like Hymenaeus, and later the “they” that will not longer endure sound doctrine} that creep into households and make captives gullible women {most commentators agree there is no sexual content here, only these were the itinerant academics of the first century that came into homes sort of like home schooling or Bible study} ladened down with sins {idle time and wealth had misguided them many ways, the majority sins being their improper Bible attitudes as related to men and their husbands}, let away by various lusts {we still have trouble seeing that the forbidden “pride of life” among the well-to-do is lust}....

And then comes the key verse to understand this sort, the church members who do the learning and the sort of the previous bad habits and attitudes that do the leading...

“...ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (II Timothy 3:6-7)

3. If you have trouble understanding this “sort”, because not all home study is of this sort` then Paul offers you another example by name in include in the list of that sort of Hymenaeus and Philetus, the Old Testament names of Jannes and Jambres. They thought they had all the answers, and were qualified to take over the leadership of God for the people of God from Moses. Except, something you should note in 3:8, that this sort “resists the truth”. During the “perilous times” of almost two thousand years of Christianity, it was more distortions and resistance against truth among this sort of church members and leaders, obviously off and on during certain periods of Christianity, and sometimes with the follies being revealed. However once Christianity with certain Christian leaders got beyond and skipped over the ALL Scripture movement and method of II Timothy 3:16,17, the consequences of the original cancer was inevitable, the seeds of the Falling away were planted after 1830 as the cancer

spread and finally led in 1970 to the fourth stage of the Falling Away, “turning away from truth”.

The rebellion of Jannes and Jambres, and of the similar sort of Christianity, was not against a person primarily, but a rebellion against truth. A rebellion of that sort that finally lead around 1970 to “they will not endure sound doctrine” (II Timothy 4:3). Even as we benefit often from our heritage, good things brought forward, so also we from this sort of persons and leaders have suffered, like cancer, from their message and type of religion.

7-6: Before the fundamentalists took control of the SBC, the common understanding among most southern Baptist regulars was that they were “fuedamentalists”--you knew what they were against more than what they are for--but now that they are in political control of the convention, it is harder to sort out that sort, the Bible being the only possible criterion for fruit inspection and the only kind of righteous judgment, especially II Timothy 3:1-9. It can be said that if you can find one or more obvious habits in a church member as listed in this list of THAT SORT, then they are of that sort.

1. You can always go by the nature of their message if it includes the untruth of certain patterns of words like “secret rapture”, “millennium”, and “dispensations of time and Bible divisions”.

2. Then they should back up with some bad behaviors and attitudes from the list of II Timothy 3:1-9 to convince you that they are of that sort that tamper with total Bible truth and have become more academic than spiritual in their religion. As you read that list from the Bible, or below, don't forget as the commentators agree, that all fundamentalists will not exhibit all the bad habits and bad attitudes in the list; but their group will!

(1) At the top of the list are "lovers of self" and "lovers of money" perhaps the two most tell tale signs of this sort.

(2). "Boasters and Proud" are more easily covered up by this sort, justified in the ways of the world often as success and permitted pride like in the world. (3). Blasphemers are really hard to find, while you are sorting out that sort, unless you have caught the spirit and message of II Timothy, that often blaspheme can be those "little" distortions of the total truth of God as given in the Bible. Those things that for years in the Convention we tolerated, until we started to see the inevitable results of truth distortions.

(4). "Disobedient to parents" is really hard to understand as coming from Paul and the Spirit of God, for we would be very reluctant to accept that any church member or leader to make such a bold violation

of the 10 commandments...unless, we consider that in deny sound doctrine, this sort has also denied the heritage for truth of their parents, truth most often recognized as Baptist doctrine. “Unthankful and unholy” is also difficult to see in this sort of Christian leaders for we, like God and the Word of God, can not peer into their hearts. I would think that once again, it might be more related to the heritage of the Baptist that have gone before them, parents and otherwise, that they in their quest for academics and disciples, have neglected thankfulness and holiness for that heritage.

(5). “unloving, unforgiving, and slanderers” is easy for us as we saw between 1970 and 1980, and following with the fundamentalists destruction of the careers and reputations of many outstanding, supposedly Christian brothers, in leading pulpits and colleges and seminaries. Even more in denominational positions. And that split under the influence of that sort, and direction of that sort, of the Convention into 3 conventions. Do you really think that God is going to overlook the bad feelings and results of that sort?

(6). If any self-control was exercised among that sort of “without self control”, pastors and lawyers, as they met in secret to forge a revolution in the SBC by controlling politically the convention by electing presidents between 1970 and 1980.

(7). It does not matter what they thought of themselves or even the respect they had from their own group as they brutally slaughtered careers and reputations of better men than themselves, the end results to the extent that their follies have come to light among the average church member, they were indeed “despisers of the good”. And what did they gain for this slaughter of the innocents? Disciples to themselves, control, and academic recognition as being smarter than other pastors and teachers.

(8). “traitors, headstrong, and haughty” would describe the disregard of this sort toward the Baptist heritage and statements of faith.

(9). It is hard to understand but the pleasure of this control of a vast body of Christian people must have given them some pleasure as they gave priority to being “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God”.

7-7: Sorry we got off of the necessity for complete truth in the Bible through true doctrines, and on to the bad habits and attitudes, even practices with academics, of THAT SORT. Now, we will remedy that by looking again how often the word “truth” is used in II Timothy, and the connection to doctrine; however, in passing to the end of this outline of II Timothy, it should be noted that “righteous judgment” as compared to the appearance and impression practice of the world, a

practice that fundamentalists have used to court their communities and world is also truth.

Recall how Jesus said in the sermon on the mount of the most religious leaders of all times, the Jewish Pharisees and scribes, that “Unless your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20).

1. Truth # 1 in II Timothy, truth in doctrine and religion, truth as desecrated by THAT SORT in the church.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

Before Paul launches into revelations about that sort of persons in the church body, he holds up a positive and high standard of truth and the word of truth, which we immediately see as Bible truth. Even as fundamentalists of American Christianity has hidden behind the word “literal” related to the Bible, to cover up so many of their sorts of indiscretions to the Bible, so they have had, as you well know, in the history of American Christianity, mis-used “rightly dividing the word of truth” to cover up, rationalize, and justify dividing up the Bible into time and group divisions, choosing themselves how to divide when and what is

for what group of God's people. You should be able to see that they have used the word "literal" as a cover up, like the robes of righteousness of the Pharisees, how from their academic theology they have tried to sneak in words that are literally not even in the Bible, like secret rapture, millennium, and dispensations.

2. Truth #2 in II Timothy, truth in doctrine and hermeneutics, religion and truth as distorted by that sort.

**"...who (Hymenaeus, Philetus, and others of that sort throughout Christian history} have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some."
(II Timothy 2:18)**

You clearly notice here that this sort has strayed from doctrine and truth, truth being so very closely related to doctrine. Specifically they were the original blasphemers of a secret rapture, telling their people and churches that the gathering of the saints by the second coming of Christ resurrection had already happened, and that they were not Christians because they did not even know about. Some of that same sort of message and thinking is in the preaching of that sort today. They strive to make new converts to their group with a fear that they can miss a postulated secret rapture; and if you have grown up in southern Baptist work, especially

among preacher boys, you know how they make claims, spoken or otherwise, that if you do not believe in the Scofield Reference Bible Notes on eschatology, you are among the wood and clay members of the house of God instead of them, if you are Christian at all.

3. Truth #3 in II Timothy, truth about the resurrection, about doctrine and hermeneutics, and religion and truth. You know, one way you can see how serious are the distortions of this fundamentalist sort is, is to recall that the second coming of Christ with the gathering of the saints, is also part of the gospel, not to be distorted or to be accursed, as it deals with the completion of salvation as “we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” Also you should note that it is most often the case among those same fundamentalists that they think one instant act of redemption is all there is to salvation. “I was saved, and that is all there is to it.” Hang sanctification and glorification as part of the truth of salvation.

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel {have you noticed how increasing from southern Baptist leaders, lawyers and politicians or pastors, it is magnified and practiced to quarrel through debate¹} but be gentle to all {you did not see this gentleness as the BBFers split the convention and destroyed careers and reputations in the name of a secret rapture, or exclusiveness on the

truth in the church}, able to teach, patient; in humility correcting those who are in opposition to the truth, if God will perhaps grant them repentance, so that they may know {the full and complete} truth.” (II Timothy 2:24,25)

4. Truth #4 in II Timothy 3:7,8, two mentions of “truth” and we are starting to accumulate so many on truth as it would seem that II Timothy is more a book of truth than on the departures from truth of that sort. You would think by the proliferation of that sort today and in the news, that these either consider themselves above the truth, like Nixon was above the law, or that think of themselves as truth makers. Since that is what generators of special revelations are, and since we know that in Ireland with Pentecostal meetings, as one woman had a vision, that was a historical beginnings of churches of the secret rapture.

“...always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the TRUTH. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these {of this sort} resist the TRUTH, men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith.” (II Timothy 3:7,8)

At least you would have to include this sort as having a lack of intellectual honesty, in the world of Elton Trueblood, if not a just plain lack of respect for the truth. We know lawyers, especially the best of them, out a

polished debated of both sides independent of truth can become gaddened on integrity and truth; and not only are we aware that many of the secret rapture advocates, including Scofield himself, got their start in law. However, we are shocked to find these fundamentalists ministers, except those who started in law or became enamored with debate {Paul calls it vain babbling and quarreling} showing a similar disregard and disrespect for total and complete truth. It is almost as if they are willing to set aside everything else they have learned in the Bible when they come to eschatology, violating the fundamental principle of hermeneutics of comparing scripture with scripture, staying in context, and the ASPI version of the Bible--"no scripture is of any private interpretation", evangelists of literalism or the "either by spirit, or word or by letter as if from us, as though the Day of Christ had come..."

1. Debate is the new and acceptable way of quarreling, most generally comes from that sort; being naturally feed by the practices of lawyers where they are trained and experienced to debate both sides as if they are both true and truth.

fundamentalists that now control the SBC no matter how large the pulpit and the church. Once again, a sign of the times is like Dr. R. G. Lee predicted in *Menace of Mediocrity*, "Wrens make prey where eagles dare not

perch". Dare we ignore that respected church leaders like Rogers, Criswell, and Stanley led in the takeover of the SBC, and can we forget hearing Criswell tell Bill Moyer that "we are going to keep fighting until one side of the other wins". These three, two of whom are now deceased, have their disciples, many of whom are notable at the top of the heap in the SBC, and even though now in control they are quieter and holier than before the takeover, beware because now having political control they are more interested in doctrinal control. Tim LeHaye, in liaison with such noted fundamentalists as Falwell and Stanley {originators of the moral majority} made new secret rapture breakthroughs when the "Left Behind Books" were published. Even though they are fiction, much of the public actually thinks it is Bible, and the fundamentalists have been emboldened to come out of the closet with their secret eschatology.

7-8: We are beginning to recognize that this sort is much like the Tea Party sort, especially as you see their behavior in Congress, and in the meetings before that when they heckled and disrespected Senators; and knowing that this party was largely started by white, retired millionaires, and the young lawyers they sent to Washington, it lets us see on both the religious and political scene that integrity for truth is about ready to

die, the ultimate result of the Falling Way as church leaders and church people in the fourth stage of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:4,5 turn away from the truth and turn into fables.

“For the time will come when they {hopefully you see this they as the previous and total subject matter of II Timothy, and of the cancer of their message and methods that grew through perilous times into these last days of the last days} will not endure sound doctrine {the Falling Away starts mildly with a tolerable intolerance toward sound doctrine, little turning aside from the ways and means of that sort}, but according to their own desires {wants, desires, prejudices, and emotions dominant as the falling away progresses¹}, because they have itching ears {you should think of these sort described previously in II Timothy, starting with the itching ears of Hymenaeus as of that sort, and they have multiplied each other in fundamentalists schools and pulpits outstripping the regular Southern Baptists like Summers and McDowell as the more aggressive sort¹}, they will heap up for themselves teachers {in law, in Baptist church academic schools, in seminaries, and primarily in pulpits}, and they will turn their ears away from truth {have you not noticed that this sort does not listen anymore, to the people or to truth}, and be turned aside to fables {fables was the

beginning of this sort with the fable of the secret rapture, and unless we wake up it can be the end for us all}." (II Timothy 4:4,5)

And how can we end a comparison of the message of "that sort" versus truth, without a brief and Bible quote consideration on what is true and truth--

"Now, brethren {you immediately recognize that Paul has something to straighten out in first century Christianity, and so do we today}, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ {you of that sort this is about the second coming, the events, and the time sequence, don't overlook it again} and our gathering together with him {that sort likes to us a non Bible word and words of secret rapture, but how about the pattern of sound words in "our gathering together with him"--that is difficult to misunderstand unless you try very hard}, WE ASK YOU..."

NOTE: This is a reasonable request from Paul to protect the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and primarily a request from God through Paul. "not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled..." {it was not soon as it took over two thousand years for Christianity, primarily the SBC, to get in this mess.

NOTE: In our wildest imagination we can speculate that Scofield was given golden plates from an unknown supernatural being, he inscribed them in

the SRB notes in 1909 and 1918, and then they disappeared again, taking on at least in the minds of fundamentalists an invisible and secret addition of new revelations letter from Paul. And surely Paul himself does not recognize the “gathering of the saints” from this lost should be dead sea scrolls that are invisible.

1. And convictions without Bible support and with bad Bible hermeneutics. What this sort want to be true, rather than what is truth!

Again the Tea Party is a good representation. It has been estimated by the news that this party represents only 18 % of the American people, and of course not even the Republican Party. And even though it started as a movement of white retired millionaires, they with Republican state governors were able to gerrymander the voting districts in very unusual and weird shapes to get this few but vocal tea partyers sent to Congress.

“Let no one {no matter how large the pulpit or denominational position} deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed...” (II Thessalonians 2:1-2)

Final NOTE: Even as Paul said “follow me in that I follow Christ”, or to the extent that I follow Christ, so Baptist intellectually honest with the Bible would say

**follow BAPTISTS only to the extent they follow the
New Testament pattern, doctrine, and pattern of
sound words**

A Statement Of Faith.

Perhaps when you started reading, you did not realize that this adventurous life was a life of adventures in the Christian faith. Above all I want my great grandsons and other who read these chronicles to receive from me a solid statement of faith and practice, realizing that if the scout oath and scout laws are part of the American Democratic Faith, and they are, that there are also some differences between the faith of the nation and Christian Faith. Even as the book of Ephesians, as far as I can remember the first book I wrote and about 1968, was first an extreme integrating factor in my own gestalt of myself, but also a good testimony to what I believed in life; and by now you suspect that among my foundational beliefs was the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God--divine in origin, absolute in authority, sufficient in message, high fidelity in communication, and self-interpretive {the ASPI interpretation of the Bible}.

While it is not the intent of this book to convince my great-grandsons that I am the supreme example for a Christian {it is acknowledged that I also made many mistakes, and those for the most part are not in this book}; however I do think that by the grace of God I have been able to integrate science and Bible much better than most! Bottom line, like Paul writes in Ephesians, "salvation is by the grace of God, not of works, lest any man should boast", so that anything that seems like boasting instead of an objective statement of facts, and chronicles, I apologize; for in

totality, I am what I am and I have been what I have been only by the grace of God. Not only in initial salvation at the age of 9 with the inheritance of a guardian angel from God for protection and help, but in the execution of many decisions, like wife and careers.

Ephesians, Paul's Statement of Faith and Practice

It is entitled in one of the SunGrist_Bible books as chapter 18, and "Ephesians and Colossians", also the same online at www.biblecombibleman.com. Surely a straight copying of my own attested statement of faith and practice in this format is justified.

A Matured Perspective.

The history of theology, Christianity, and denominations illustrates the discovery of a verse or verses of Scripture which surprises some new group, which when isolated out of the context of the book from which it came and the whole Bible, creates additional divisions and distinction. You recall the example of the person who read in one place in the Bible "Judas went out and hanged himself", then put that together with "go thou and do likewise". It has lead many to conclude that you can prove anything form the Bible. Well, not if you keep a verse in the chapter context, the chapter in the book context, the book in the New Testament or Old Testament context, and the Testament in the total Bible context. In other words, the larger the amount of the Bible that is included in your "Statement of Faith and Practice",

the higher degree of probability do you have of high fidelity with what God through the Holy Spirit, through Jesus, the Apostles, and Prophets had put in there in the first place. This is implied in the statement by the Apostle Peter that “no scripture is of any private interpretation”. The interpretation of Jesus is to be found in the writings of the Apostles; the interpretation of the Apostles is to be found by the inherent agreements through the Spirit between the writing of one Apostle with another; and the Apostles, especially Paul, Matthew, and Jesus specialized in the interpretation of the Old Testament Prophets, quoting often in their writings from the Prophets and then through what Jesus taught them and how the Holy Spirit guided them, explained what the Prophets meant. All this has been written to come to the necessity of putting as much Scripture as possible into any significant Bible based “Statement of Faith and Practice”; and the recognition of the fact that we can do no better than to use the book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul from the human side and by the Holy Spirit on the supernatural side, as a minimal “Statement of Faith and Practice”.

Let me illustrate how this was the intention of the Apostle Paul in the first place, and consequently also the intention of God as the Source of Scripture. Remember that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” One of the greatest works of God in history, second perhaps only to the Crucifixion of Christ on the cross for the salvation provision to the whole world, is God’s creation through Apostles and

Prophets and Jesus of the “Oracles of God”, the Word of God, the book of 66 books that we have in our possession. Study carefully the content of the first ten books that the Apostle Paul wrote, then study carefully Ephesians and the twin of Colossians carefully, and you will find that Ephesians is a condensed summary of those first ten books such as

Romans, I and II Corinthians, Hebrews, Galatians, and so on. {See the LEARN CHRIST commentary, volume 4, “Christ, Paul, and the Falling Away” for more on this and how Paul was chosen by Christ to have the ministry of being the chief editor of the New Testament. You will find good material on this also in volume 1, “The Old Testament According to the New Testament”.} Also this makes Ephesians therefore the prime candidate to summarize all of the Bible, and to be the prime candidate to be the most Bible- comprehensive “Statement of Faith and Practice”. How angry such an approach must make Satan and the disciples of Satan, who like Satan, would take Scripture out of context to prove some pet theory, to make disciples after themselves, and to win from Satan the status in the world he promised to Jesus by quoting Scripture out of context.

Of course, Jesus set the pattern for Paul and the other Apostles to quote extensively from the Old Testament in their teachings and writings; but Paul was the chief practitioner of that pattern. You will notice that books like Romans, Hebrews, and I and II Corinthians are full of Old Testament quotes with an explanation of the correct meaning accompanying the quote. This is

what is meant by “no scripture is of any private interpretation”. Jesus and the Apostles quote and explain the proper interpretation of the Old Testament Prophets; the proper interpretation comes by letting Paul explain John on the same subject, and vice versa, and letting Peter explain Paul and John, and Jesus through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John explain all of them, and vice versa. Never, Never will you find a contradiction between any of the Apostles and Jesus or of the Prophets and Apostles. If you think you have found one, it is a personal problem; and you must enlarge the total context of your Bible study.

Anyway back to the main point: you will see in the first 10 books of Paul a large number of quotes, then suddenly with the writing of Ephesians, almost no quotes. Why? It is time to summarize all the great truths of God that Paul has written about in the first ten books. And never forget, how qualified Paul was on the Old Testament. Paul before conversion was a “lawyer”; and in Israel that meant an authority of the law of the nation which was also the Old Testament. Granted Paul needed “conversion” on the road of Damascus in order to remove the “veil” which blinded in the proper understanding of the Old Testament, which he wrote about as still in the way of most Jews for seeing the proper interpretation of the Old Testament; true also Paul needed immediately after conversion and some instruction from Ananias, private time in Arabia with the Ascended Christ to get straightened out his own interpretations and understandings of Scripture, even a little time with

Peter and James recording their testimonies of personal experience with Jesus {later to be the manuscripts that Paul left for John Mark and Dr. Luke to write the Gospels that Paul sponsored as chief editor of the New Testament}; and then lastly before writing the majority of the New Testament books, 14 of 27, Paul needed to study again through the Old Testament in the light of his recent experiences and teachings from Jesus and with guidance from the Holy Spirit, about whom no doubt Jesus has taught him. What did Paul do during this study again through the Bible during those so-called seven silent years at Tarsus? He must have made a record on parchments and books of all those quotes that he would later use so extensively in books like Romans, Hebrews, and Corinthians, even in the little epistle of Galatians.

Well, you see the point: the first ten books from Paul are a summary of the Old Testament with proper interpretations, also a summary of his own conversion experience and the teachings of Jesus in Arabia; and Ephesians is a summary of those first ten books, hence a summary of the Bible itself; and therefore is a prime candidate from the Word of God for a comprehensive "Statement of Faith and Practice".

18-1: Ephesians Chapter One: Statements of Faith and Understandings, the "spiritual blessings in heavenly places". {If you desire you can correlate these

enumerated spiritual blessings even with the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount.}

1. Some Supporting Bible understandings for Major Statements of Faith.

(1). (Ephesians 1:1a): Paul was an Apostle of Jesus Christ, called personally by the Ascended Christ on the road to Damascus and specially trained by Jesus in Arabia. {Later in Ephesians we will learn that it is the Ascended Christ that calls Apostles as well as evangelists and pastors, and gave special gifts to those men for the benefit of the total body of Christ, the church.} Based on those verses as a starting point, we go on to the total context of the Bible to find that only Apostles and Prophets can get and give revelations, or Scripture.

(2). (Ephesians 1:1b) It was the will of God for Paul to be an Apostle. Jesus when He called Paul, like always in every thing He did, was only doing the will of God; and was expressing fully the will of God.

(3). (Ephesians 1:2). True Christians or believers are called "saints" in the Bible in order among other things to distinguish between "the faithful in Christ Jesus" and the unfaithful, between the tares and the wheat, between the sheep and the goats. Always from Jesus and all the Apostles in the Bible is the recognition that all who chose to name the name of Christ do not belong to Christ. In that final Day of the LORD and Lord, many will say to Christ "**Lord,**

Lord”; and Christ will say, “depart from me you that work iniquity, for I never knew you.”

2. Major Statements of Faith and Practice in Ephesians 1.

(1). (Ephesians 1:3a) The only God of the Universe, the same God of the Bible, is the “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”; and God is only our Father because first He was the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we have accepted them for What and Who they are. {Also God has adopted us through the work of the Spirit, and the Spirit causes us to cry “Abba” for Father.}

(2). (Ephesians 1:3b). The false and itching ears teachers going about to teach and preach the Gospel of Wealth, the corollary of success, and the Gospel of Prosperity need to be refocused again on the primary place of “spiritual blessings” as in heavenly places. The prosperous and wealthy just can not get their lusts and eyes off material possessions here on earth, and off their desires to justify themselves for lives dedicated to seeking first these other things instead of the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness.

(3). God chose us to be believers from before the foundation of the world, (Ephesians 1:4a). This is predestination, sometimes in Theology called Calvinism, and contrasted to Arminianism or free will. Both are true in the Bible, but beyond our complete understanding even as we can not fully understand the nature of light itself: how it can be

both wavelike in nature and sometimes act like a particle. We can not even comprehend the molecule of water. A best example of how both are true in the Bible is the shipwreck of Paul on the way to Rome. God predestined and told Paul, Paul telling also the sailors, that no one would be lost in the shipwreck; but yet later Paul invoked the freedom of choice of the sailors in that he told them if they left the ship for the life raft they could not be saved. You see freedom of choice and predestination were both there.

(4). God chose us to be sanctified, **“holy and blameless before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4b).**

(5). God predestined us to adoption as Sons through Jesus Christ and the adoption being by God Himself (Ephesians 1:5). The Apostle John in John 1 expressed it in a lovely manner as he wrote, “But as many as received Him {Christ}, to them gave He {God} the power to become Sons of God.” Adoption is to become a son of the very God of this Universe, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have His inward Spirit naturally call out to God as Father. Why did the great God do this? It was “the pleasure of His will”. Like Paul writes in Romans, can the clay say to the potter why did you chose me or why did you make me this way? Be grateful that you are among the chosen; work to be worthy {“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”}; and accept it as it is by grace. Ephesians 1:6 continues of God’s Pleasure, the famous commentary by W.O. Carver

expressing that in the title for Ephesians of “The Glory of God in the Christian Calling”.

(6). We are adopted and justified, the justification expressed as “accepted by God” (Ephesians 1:6b). How grand it is, Paul is saying, to be accepted by the “Beloved Father”, He that runs and controls all and is the only Eternal God.

(7). Wow, we just can grasp the rapid advance of statements of faith about salvation, what Paul likes to call the spiritual blessings in heavenly places, as we go from predestination to adoption to justification, and now in Ephesians 1:7 to redemption and forgiveness.

a. Redemption, or the buying back of us to God, is by the blood of Christ, a pungent phrase to describe how Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

b. We have forgiveness of sins by God through the Lord Jesus Christ and by the grace of God. {Is that not a good statement of faith about salvation! Did I not hear an Amen or two coming out of Norway?}

(8). The Mystery of the Will of God, which only He could reveal through Jesus and the Apostles, is that He might get together all things that are in heaven and in earth under the Lordship of Christ (Ephesians 1:9,10). This mystery of the will of God was manifested by God through Christ at one certain time in history, when Jesus lived and died, which the Bible calls “in the dispensation of the Fullness of the times”, In other words at the time and place in human history chosen by God.

(9). Here we go again on more spiritual blessings in heavenly places and more on predestination by God (Ephesians 1:11-14). This spiritual blessing is our inheritance, our future and security if you would! This inheritance or future heritage is part of the predestined purpose of God. Even as James quoted from the Prophets at the Great Jerusalem conference in Acts of how “known unto God are all His works from the beginning”, even so Paul echoes this same doctrine in the “Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will”. You just know that Paul is summarizing here from Romans where he has previously written, “and we know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and the called according to His purpose.” Here as Paul goes on, we see our common inheritance with those who first believed in Christ, us being among those who later have “trusted after hearing the word of truth, which is the gospel of our salvation! Wow, as we preacher boys use to say at Bible college, “that will preach!”

(10). Although the “believe and be baptized” of Ephesians 1:13 continues on our inheritance started above, I set it out as a separate doctrinal statement of faith. The prime baptism of the 14 letters of Paul and of the Bible is the one baptism of salvation. Believe is our part, and the one baptism that comes with real faith is the part done by God. This one baptism of salvation is called “the seal of God”. Paul is again summarizing what he wrote in II Timothy books about “nevertheless the foundation of God stands

sure, having this seal that God knows His own, and let every one who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” The Holy Spirit is the “guarantee”, the surety if you would, of our to-be-completed salvation; the security and guarantee of our inheritance in salvation. The inheritance is not complete until the full redemption of body and soul at the Second Coming of Christ {Thessalonians}, when the purchased possession {us} becomes completed!

NOTE: Sorry this simple statement of Faith and practice is so long; but the praise to God and Bible just flows on, comparing Scripture with Scripture!

(11). {Ephesians 1:17}: The Holy Spirit given to all believers is also the Spirit of “wisdom and revelation”. Do not misread this verse. Revelation is not given to all believers, but rather the Spirit of Revelation. What this is another way of saying, as Paul does in the first 10 letters, is that the same Holy Spirit who wrote the Bible, giving the revelations through Apostles and Prophets and Jesus, is the same Holy Spirit that lives and teaches inside the believer. What you will find in the context of Ephesians 1:17-18 is a clear distinction between revelation and illumination. What happened in the completed writing of the Word of God through Apostles and Prophets, the 66 books we called Bible. That Bible only is “revelation”; and what happens to us as believers when we gain understanding from the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit is “illumination”.

“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...” (Ephesians 1:18,19)

NOTE: Please stay away from the current and popular heresy of “God told me”, or “God gave me a word”, or even worse the “God gave me a revelation”--all of which sound like God is revealing new Word of God through you or your Bible teachers; and which tends to confuse illumination and revelation. Please read carefully first and second Corinthians where Paul and the Word of God, once and for all, dealt with this problem in a church body where members thought either “the Word of God came to them only” or that “the Word of God came out of them only”. This conceited and self-serving attitude breeds all sorts of false practices such as: (a) Gnosticism where certain church members claim to have special revelations and wisdom that others do not have; (b) self-gratification and disturbances in worship where everybody has a song, a word, and a prophecy and a prayer at the same time; and (c) so-called praise songs without any real meaning, and done contrary to the worship traits of Corinthians with “understanding”.

(12). The same power of God and of the Holy Spirit at work as God brought forth Jesus from the dead in the Resurrection on the third day after Crucifixion is

the same power at work in us for completed salvation: first the 9 month new birth, not that instantaneous new birth of the fundamentalists for their own glory; then the process of sanctification as we become more like Christ, and then full salvation or redemption at the Second Coming of Christ as **“we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is”**.

(a). God used this same power when after He resurrected Christ from the dead, He caused Christ to Ascend back to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. {We should often pray for more awareness of God seated there on the great white throne with His feet in the clouds, and of the Lord Jesus Christ seated in a place of honor and rule at His right hand where he does two things: ever lives to make intercession for our sins, and is preparing to come again to get us!}

(b). This power of God has ordained that Christ rule at His right hand, “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in that which is to come.” {This total earth age and the age of eternity beyond this life!}

NOTE: You need some perspective of the fullness of what Paul is writing here, based on what is one of the most important doctrinal statements on the relationship between God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to be found anywhere in the Bible. In I Corinthians 15:24-28: “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He

puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet...Now when all things {that includes death in the resurrection of the bodies at the second coming of Christ} are made subject to Him who puts all things under Him, that God may be all in all." I have never failed to read this in a worship service without seeing grimaces of expression from some. Although it is simply the reading of one of the most important Scriptures, albeit also one of the most neglected as it seems to counter some isogetical conclusions on last things {eschatology} of the Bible, perhaps of the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible, sometimes accepted like Scriptures themselves, there is a reaction as if the Christ is all concepts of many believers can not allow for the time when God is all in all as the kingdom of God is delivered by Jesus to God the Father. Where I think much of the problem is among fundamentalists, especially those dedicated to the fallacious notes of the Scofield Reference Bible on eschatology, is on the Bible words "Then comes the end"--a clear statement that it is all over without all the complications of Scofield notes like a literal 1000 years, a kingdom on earth where the rich and prosperous can continue to enjoy all their possessions, and a delay in the beginning of eternity with the punishment of the wicked and the reward of the dead. Recently a friend of mine with the Christian Life Commission of the SBC, quoted from II Thessalonians 15-17 how in the Second Coming of Christ the Lord Jesus Christ Himself will descend from heaven with a

shout and the final trumpet of God, the dead in Christ rising first to meet Christ and then those alive caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air, and this friend placed the emphasis on “And thus shall we always be with the Lord.” Then he asked, “what is so hard about this to understand”. The Second Coming and it is all over; and trying to add all these seven years and thousands of years are figments of a good imagination. I will tell you right now what will keep you from the follies of the Scofield Reference Bible with its weird and out of context approach to the book of Revelation, and that is this Bible understanding: what bound Satan for a figurative 1000 years, however real in that it represents a long period of history chosen by God not to be given as a precise number, was the Coming of the Holy Spirit in great power and all over the earth at one time on the first Day of Pentecost after the Resurrection and Ascension. It is the Holy Spirit that binds Satan to a limited effectivity by convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. (Read about that in Acts.) What looses Satan is when the Holy Spirit during the Falling Away is withdrawn from earth according to II Thessalonians. Now, what this does for our eschatology is to make the beginning of the one thousand years at the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension, and the end of the one thousand years with the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit during the Falling Away. And of how certain Pentecostals and fundamentalists strain at a gnat and swallow a camel as they try to claim that this withdrawal of the Holy

Spirit is only to the extent of the Holy Spirit in the Christians that are taken up in the rapture. It is a good example of bad exegesis or hermeneutics and a good example of itching ears Bible teachers. How unfortunate it is that young and inexperienced Bible teachers and preachers when pressed to deliver their first messages on Revelation and eschatology, take the easy way out of preaching the Scofield Reference Bible notes. It is a desperate beginning to a lifelong commitment for them and their hearers that they never get away from. Derby was a Irishman, unfortunately formerly an eloquent lawyer, who instigated "dispensationalism"; Scofield, a formerly divorced and also somewhat dubious lawyer, took Darby and while pastor of a Congregationalist church in Dallas, wrote the NOTES as a correspondence course. **THE NOTES ARE NOT PART OF THE BIBLE; THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE WORD OF GOD TO BE TAKEN WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND REGARD AS THE BIBLE.** And before you give those kinds of beliefs and notes a respect of authority, I would suggest that you read about the beliefs of Congregationalists as well as about the life of Scofield and Darby.

(c). This power and authority of God has made Christ the head of the church, then and now. That means, bottom line, that Christ is the head of your local church as well as the head of the total church body, the Assembly of the Firstborn written in heaven. What you will find in the first chapters of Revelation in Christ's messages through John to the 7

churches of Asia Minor is that when Christ is not indeed head of a local church like at Ephesus or Thyatira bad things happen in doctrine and practice; and often Christ removes the pastors that he has called and placed there, often it seems like it is the freedom of choice of the church members who will no longer endure sound doctrine, the sure sign that they have already gotten away from the Lordship of Christ as head of their lives and churches.

(13). The Bible here in Ephesians 1:23 teaches one church and yet many churches; and those members of the many churches not among the tares or the goats in the kingdom are automatically members, with a profession of faith and the one baptism of salvation, in the one body of Christ, the church, the Assembly of the Firstborn written in heaven.

18-2: Paul's Statements of Faith in Ephesians 2, the BEFORE and AFTER of the IN CHRIST life.

1. The AIC or AFTER IN CHRIST of Ephesians 2.
"Christian" is not a preferred word of the Bible for believers, being found only three times in the New Testament. Today, it has lost a lot of meaning. Like former prime minister Begin said years ago, *"You Americans are born Christians just we like we Israelis are born Jews."* Well, according to the Bible, neither is true, although it is admitted that it is a popular belief. Unfortunately, many think they are Christians because they are Americans, and many Jews think they are children of God because they are born of the nation of Israel, contrary to the whole context of the

teachings of the Bible in the book of Romans. A preferred word of the 14 letters of Paul is “in Christ”, or even those “who name the name of Christ”.

(1). We are “**made alive**” in Christ as we experience the new birth, the beginning of the one baptism of salvation. (Ephesians 2:1)

(2). By the grace of God, an unmerited and unearned favor, we are saved, Ephesians 2:5 and 2:8,9. Even while we were dead in trespasses and sins, God rich in mercy and love made us alive together with Christ.

(3). God has raised us up together with Christ and made us sit together with Christ in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:6)

(4). God wants to show in the ages to come of eternity and heaven and on the new earth, and after this world age, the full extent of those spiritual blessings. Once again a short summary of Paul in Romans about “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard”, nor has it even entered into the mind of man, “the things God has prepared for those who love Him.”

(5). After in Christ, we are “God’s workmanship”, the outworking in our lives of the indwelling spirit of God and the one baptism, “created in Christ Jesus for good works” by new birth and the continuing process of sanctification or Christlikeness. And God has also predestined our good works (Ephesians 2:10).

(6). After in Christ, you are brought back to hope, to the real Israel of the children of God, and back to God and heaven. (Ephesians 2:13)

2. The BIC of BEFORE IN CHRIST of

Ephesians 2. (1). Before in Christ, you were dead in

trespasses

and sins (2:1); before you were walking according to the customs and traditions of this world (2:2), which is the same as walking or living according to Satan, the prince and power of this world and this world system (2:2); and you before in Christ lived according to that evil spirit that now controls all in the world not believers, disobedience of unbelief being the ultimate of all evils (2:2); before in Christ you conducted yourselves like them in the **“lusts of the flesh”**--John in the little epistle of I John identifies all it is to “love the world” as the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; and before in Christ you lived in order to fulfill lusts of the flesh and lusts of the mind-- Pastor James writes not to be deceived about our natural and human spirit sometimes even allowed to control us in our church behavior where **“we lust to envy”**; and before in Christ we were by nature also the children of wrath. {The Bible never, ever teaches of an inherent good nature of man! **“The heart is desperately wicked above all things, and who can know it.”** And **“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”** By the way, some of these verses of Ephesians 2, perhaps in a more positive manner, are summaries of the sinners of Romans 3.}

(2). Before in Christ, you Gentiles were without Christ, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel {and do not forget how Paul has already extensively taught in Romans of the true children of God, the true Jews, and the true Israel--such as "all Israel is not of Israel"}, strangers from the covenant promises of God, without hope and without God.(Ephesians 2:11,12)

3. What God did for you to make possible through Christ your transition from the BIC to the AIC! (Ephesians 2:14-22 and 2:13)

(1). Before you were far off, but now you are brought near to God through the blood of Christ, again a favorite biblical phrase for the death of Christ on the cross for our sins. (Ephesians 2:13)

(2). Jesus has made Jew and Gentile believers One by breaking down the "middle wall of partition" (2:14), thus Jesus Himself becoming Peace and our Peace. {Peacemaking in the strict Bible sense of the word is to extend the influence of Christ, between God and man and between man and man!}

(3). Jesus nailed to the cross the enmity between Jews and Gentiles and the commandments in ordinances thus creating in Himself one new humanity of Jewish and Gentile believers. That is peace! (Ephesians 2:15)

(4). Jesus made in the cross reconciliation between God and man, between Jew and Gentile, another great and biblical word of the cross and more of peacemaking, at the same time creating of Jews and

Gentiles one believing body, the church. (Ephesians 2:16)

NOTE: Now, do you really think that you can say all these in one simple statement of faith and practice with an enumerated listed of sentences for each great Bible doctrine. However, we will try to do so at the end of this Statement of Faith and Practice from Paul in Ephesians at the end of this chapter, after we have the proper exegetical Bible background.

(5). Through the One Christ all members of the one church have equal access to the One God the Father by way of the One Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18) {You can almost smell that Paul is warming up for the seven great Ones, the major doctrines of the Bible, to be stated later in Ephesians 4:4-6 which even as Ephesians is a summary statement of faith of the whole Bible, are a more condensed summary of the Bible and of Ephesians itself. How can we go wrong if we have enough respect for the Bible as the Word of God, for the teachings of Jesus and the love of Jesus, and we meet the Bible's own guidelines for understanding with such thoroughness and conciseness in the Bible-guidelines or rules for understanding as laid out in the Bible are often called hermeneutics, sometimes called the science of biblical interpretation.}

NOTE: We could almost dispense with all these preliminary statements of faith if we could fully understand from the full context of the Bible, what

is meant by “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

(Ephesians 4:4-6) Unfortunately, we have a theological and religious history behind us where Bible readers and so-called scholars have ignored the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible--that is that “no scripture is of any private interpretation”; that the natural man can not

understand the Bible things of the Spirit of God; and that have failed to practice the required rules of understanding laid down in the Bible. Particularly must be discuss why “one salvation” is not in the list of major Bible doctrines, and how the “one baptism” is the all-inclusive phrase of faith for salvation. And once again may I recommend the LEARN CHRIST commentary on the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul with the conclusion chapter on “Ephesians and Colossians”, and entitled “Believe and Be Baptized”. In fact, if you wished you could take these 7 ONES of Ephesians 4:4-6 as the major 7 points of a statement of faith, then go back to list all the pertinent truths of Ephesians 1 and 2 under these seven. Yes, Paul was a lawyer, a religious lawyer of the Bible, a supreme logician, and above all an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find that Muslims like to talk about Jesus, and say they accept all about Him, and accept all the Prophets of the Old Testament; but when you bring up the Apostle Paul they grow silent! Of course, I might also add that without the rest of Ephesians 4 we would never see

the relationship of this unity in the ONEs to the church, and above all without Ephesians 5 and 6 we would never see the PRACTICES of faith as in a “Statement of Faith and Practice”.

18-3: Statements of Faith in Ephesians 3, Explanation of the Mystery of God, the One Body.

You know how “mystery” is repeated in the Bible, such as in the mystery of godliness, to describe a revealed truth from God that otherwise we would not know about! It is something that God has not always made known, but chooses in certain periods of history to make known through Jesus, the Apostles and Prophets. Although Paul elaborates here on the One Body or one church in a whole summarizing chapter of Ephesians, we still have not learned the lesson restated by the fundamentalists John R. Rice of “One Church but Many Churches”, that while there are many local churches in the world and in the Bible, there is one Assembly of the Firstborn written in heaven, many trying to make their denomination synonymous with the one church and ignoring the fact that they, contrary to the teachings of Jesus forbidding before the End separation of the tares and the wheat, have the arrogance to think that they, and they alone of all Christians, in their own local church have already made that distinction! {Would it not be grand if any group of humans could put a sign out in front of their local church which says The Church, and automatically they would be assured that only wheat and sheep, without any tares or goats, are in their

fellowship. Dream on, folks! You have the wrong time and the wrong Person for that! This separation in spite of such arrogance and self-deceiving convictions will be done at the time of the Second Coming of Christ, and by the Person of Christ Himself with the angels dispatched to the four corners of the earth! Did I hear an Amen!}

1. This Mystery was made known by Revelation to the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:3a); this Mystery is what Paul has written about in the previous two chapters of Ephesians (Ephesians 3:3b); this mystery was received by the Apostle Paul as a dispensation of the grace of God (Ephesians 3:2); this mystery is of the knowledge of Christ (3:4); this mystery was not made known by God to men in the history before Paul (3:5a), at least not in the form and completeness as it has now been revealed to Paul by the Holy Spirit, and to the **“apostles and prophets” (3:5b).**

2. This Mystery in Christ fully stated: **“that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the Gospel...” (Ephesians 3:6)**

3. Paul became a “minister” with this Mystery of Christ and the one body.

(Ephesians 3:7)

a. It is a mystery in fellowship (3:9) which was from the beginning of creation by God through Christ has been hidden to the world, but the intention of God was that now the mystery might be known by the

“manifold wisdom of God”. Known “by the church”. This mystery of the one body is according to the eternal purpose that from the beginning God purposed in Christ.

b. It is by this faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that we have access and confidence with God and with the one church. (3:11,12)

4. A Prayer by the Apostle Paul for all believers to grant believers, Ephesians 3:14-21, the following blessings. {I don't know about you but next to Jesus being at the right hand of God the Father to pray for our sins, I appreciate the Apostle Paul expressing this prayer for us!}

a. That you and we may be **“strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.” (3:16)**. {Later in the two closing chapters of Ephesians, in the practice section of the statement of faith, Paul will give some specifics for strengthening as we put on the whole armor of God.}

b. That God may dwell in your hearts through faith (3:17). Even as Paul starts the ball rolling with how to learn Christ, not as the others around us in the world have learned Christ, and then Jesus with the 3 questions and answers of John 14 describes the “how” of learning Christ, even so you see an echo of such sound Bible doctrine here in 3:17 where Christ and God dwell in the human heart through faith.

c. That you may be **“rooted and grounded in faith” (3:17b)**. Always remember according to the

parable of the seed and the sower, that the seed planted on hard ground is those that stumble in a local church and that never develop any root in the faith.

d. That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints of all the ages in the great and real history of Christianity, the four dimensions of the love of Christ. Try as hard as you may, you can not visualize anything beyond the three dimensions we know except by adding the dimension of time, that is love that continues with time. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

18-4: Paul's Statement of Faith in Ephesians 4, the unity of the faith, the 7 ONEs, and of the one church with Christ.

1. Here "faith and practice" blend as Paul, having blessed all believers and prayed for them, now throws out the challenge "to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called". Certainly, you must see in the "walk worthy" of the Christian calling, a practice of the faith; and in Ephesians 4 you will see a beginning of the practices added to faith, then later in Ephesians 5 and 6 the pure practices of "faith and practice". How are some preliminary and general ways in which you can practice Christian faith?

(1). Walk or live with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2). Certainly a most violated Scripture of church members is the admonition "not to think of yourselves more highly than you ought to. And lest

we lose perspective of what is happening in churches today during this time of the Falling Away, let us remember the bad church behavior of II Timothy 3:1-9 where these church members have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. Yes, these bad behaviors and bad attitudes do happen to church members, and today! Once again, this is part of keeping an admonition that guards against pride and advocates humility in the total Bible realities and context where church members do and can go bad!

(2). Church or fellowship members are to keep an inherent unity given by the Holy Spirit of God, which either exists in the fellowship because God put it there or does not exist, that can not be promoted through human means, PR, or the peace efforts of men as advocated by Rich Warren in his "Purpose Driven" books. (Ephesians 4:3) If you want real unity in your church body, it is recommended that you read closely this fourth chapter of Ephesians on exactly how unity does come in a church body. I think you will find it quite different from the forced and coerced efforts of Warren and disciples to "protect the church".

2. The famous ONES of Ephesians 4:4-6 as a summary of the basis for unity and for all the major doctrines of the Bible.

(1). One Body, the church, alias the Assembly of the Firstborn--the Lord Jesus Christ being the Firstborn-- and the church or assembly written in heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life, a record of which with your name in is the only assurance of salvation you need.

That record in heaven is the only criterion that separates you from the tares and the goats when Christ Comes Again.

(2). One Spirit, the third member of the Trinity and God Himself, the Holy Spirit sent by God and Jesus on the first day of Pentecost after the Resurrection and to be withdrawn from earth during the Falling Away, sent by Jesus to take His place and to convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment, a person called the Comforter or the Other Jesus, one who reminds Christians of Scripture, providing wisdom and guidance; and the one present at Creation as the effecting cause, also throughout history as the giver to Apostles and Prophets of Revelations. Yes, He also gives illuminations; but we must recognize the difference.

(3). One Hope of Your Calling, even as Elton Trueblood, the Quaker and Philosopher of Religion wrote “Your Other Vocation” as a reminder that the Christian calling is a vocation for which we must give priority, so Paul reminds us that for all Christians the hope is the same and the goal and goals if the calling are the same. {Once again in total context, it must be added that while all believers receive common gifts like some wisdom from the Holy Spirit, each believer is given some unique gift by God through the Holy Spirit; and further more according to the doctrinal teachings of Corinthians, the total church is only complete as long as those diverse gifts cooperate with each other.} Of course, we know the “hope” for this

life of a better person and with a better purpose for God and Christ; and eternally as Paul wrote "if in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable", so that beyond this life is eternal hope, called hope not because we simply wish it to be so, but because it is an assured hope. **"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen."**

(4). One Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the means of salvation on the cross through His blood, the Spirit of Christ who worked with the Prophets in the Old Testament, the teacher and Savior who came to earth, died on the cross and was resurrected and ascended by God, and Who now sits on the right hand of honor and rule to God the Father to make intercession for our sins and to prepare for His Second Coming when He will come again to get us. Surely Christ is doing more than this at the right hand of God, also the Bible tells us that the whole universe consists through Him so that surely He is holding this complex universe together until it disintegrates at the end of this world age and until He and the Father create a new heaven and a new earth with a new Jerusalem.

(5). One Faith, this is both the one faith held in their hearts by all believers and the "faith delivered once for all", in other words the Bible and the doctrines of the Bible, as expressed in the book of Jude.

(6). One Baptism, this is the equivalent of the one salvation, and you will find as the subject of many

Bible passages, especially from Paul, where baptism is discussed as for example in Romans where “we are baptized with Christ”. Paul knew and wrote of several other baptisms such as the baptism by water; but there was only one real baptism that of salvation and by the Holy Spirit of God. Since there is so much confusion created by the theology and divisions of denominations and the history of Christianity which confuses what is done in the baptistry with the One Baptism, please read the LEARN CHRIST commentary with exegesis of the prevalent “baptism” passages, and on the 14 letters of Paul since it is right here that above all we need the total context of Scripture. It is called “Believe and Be Baptized”, the being baptized referring not to the baptistry but to the One Baptism of salvation, the water baptism by immersion to only come later as an act of obedience and of identification with Christ and Christians.

(7). One God and Father of all, this is the only God of the Universe, identified to us as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, also the Creator of the world and the Universe, and the God of the Bible. He, and He only, **“is above all, and through all, and in you all”**.

NOTE: Wow, what a high point in a statement of faith!

Where can you go from here. Well, we in the light of recent itching ears teachers about how to achieve unity and peace in local churches, need the Bible given practices on how to achieve peace and unity in the church!

3. Peace and Unity in the Church (Ephesians 4:7-16).

(1). There can be no real peace and unity in any church, local or larger, unless Christ is allowed in a practical way to run it. (4:7-12) Jesus is head of your church, and the chain of command in your assembly must come through Jesus to the pastor or any evangelist. The chain of authority between Jesus and the pastor includes the Apostles of the New Testament and the Prophets of the Old Testament, who exercise their authority today as writers of revelations in the Word of God. You will find a lot of the problems today in theology, doctrine, and false and itching ears teachers have come when the authority of the Apostles and Prophets in the Word of God is ignored or minimized. It is the Ascended Christ who chose these Apostles and Prophets, appointed them and called them, also who called your pastors and evangelists and teachers if indeed you heeded the Headship of Christ and sought the wisdom of the Spirit. {Please do not make the mistake of thinking that if the majority of your church votes against the pastor, that they are right. Remember how God told Moses to get out of the way so He could destroy all of Israel in the wilderness, then God would make of Moses and Aaron a nation; how God destroyed over 23,000 in one day and how only approximately 4 Hebrews of the vast congregation in the wilderness were allowed to enter eternal rest; and ask yourselves if Ephesus or Thyatira are all the seven churches of Asia Minor had voted in favor of the unsound doctrines for which Christ condemned them,

as a majority vote would that have made it right?} Hardly, we confuse all too easily the American Democratic Faith of American history and studies, where the majority is right with the Faith of the Bible where the minority is right. Sometimes that minority as in the wilderness, can only be 2 or 4 people!

(2). All of the church leaders such as Apostles, Prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists have the same job for the benefit of the total church body: “for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry” {yes, as a seminary professor wrote, “the work of the ministry is the work of the church”, not just of those called professionally}, for the edifying {building up} of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11,12).

(3). Peace and unity in a local church body comes only as members (a) have a common unity in the faith, alias personal faith and sound teachings and doctrines, (b) as members have and share a common knowledge, personal and factual, of the Lord Jesus Christ--“faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”, (c) as members mature into the Christian faith often called in the Bible “completeness” or “perfection” {at this point is where

Warren is so foolhardy on Bible and church growth, to think that you can achieve a unity and peace with sudden church growth and new believers, a peace more by a forced church covenant and strong leadership and public relations: no, it takes a lot of teaching and knowledge which is what discipleship is

all about and it takes some, many mature church members which Saddleback is very unlikely to have for many years}, and (d) many members that have reached the full stature of Christ.

(4). This peace and unity is not the norm, the norm being **“children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting” (Ephesians 4:14)**. Is this discouraging? If so, keep tuned to the rest of Ephesians where Paul encourages the individual church member, even as Christ and the Apostle John did in the messages to the seven

churches of Asia Minor, giving a private and personal and individually encouraging message to certain members of the church who had not been carried away with unsound doctrine. You may see this more and more as we go deeper into the approximately 40 years of the Falling Away before the end of time.

(5). Perhaps you should not give up on your local church unless in keeping with “with such know not to keep company”, your church becomes completely riddled and dominated by the bad church behavior and attitudes of II Timothy 3:1-9. And the pattern for practices to follow in the rest of Ephesians 4 as well as

5 and 6 is established in 4:15: **“but speaking the truth in love {love is important and so is speaking the truth}, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head-Christ.”**. Never forget Who {the correct answer is Christ} must run your local church and the total body of Christ! Make sure you and your leaders

are seeking and finding the wisdom of Christ on any decision! Where is the point of no return in association with your local church assembly? What you must do is compare II Timothy 3:1-9 on the bad behavior and attitudes of church members with II Timothy 4:4,5 where the majority of your local church body "will not endure sound doctrine"; and the point of no return is passed according to the two chapters and the true or false decision that you alone must make as to whether according to II Timothy 3:9 their follies are or are not any longer being revealed. In other words when in your local church or any local church the list of approximately 22 follies of members are no longer being revealed as follies, then your church body has passed from the perilous up and down times of 3:1-9 to the will no longer endure sound doctrine time. Most of the seven churches of Asia Minor were on the verge, and after this last warning from Christ, of no return.

(6). A church of peace and unity is first of all built on many New Men, men and women who through the 9 month new birth have become new creations in Christ (Ephesians 4:17-24).

(a). This kind of church member can not be like other Gentiles around them. (Ephesians 4:17-19)

(b). To really and properly learn Christ as a matter of faith and practice is to be different or separated from the other Gentiles in your world. {Not to isolate yourself from them, but to live differently. Much of the Bible is summarized with "in the world

but not of the world.”} (Ephesians 4:20). Shocking huh, Christ can be learned in the wrong way when there is a bent of commitment to the world and to others around you that exceeds or matches your commitment to Christ. Are we to understand that Paul is questioning the salvation of some church members? Yes, and he makes that clear as he writes: **“if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him”! (Ephesians 4:21)**

(c). Part of the practice of the faith of the New Man is to put off many of the conducts or habits of the old man and to practice the putting on of the new man in righteousness. The rest of Ephesians will help on these practices of faith.

18-5: A Statement of Practices to Go With a Statement of Faith. (You can and should read these Scriptures for yourself, using the references listed from the book of Ephesians. }

1. Do not Grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:25-32).
2. Practice the Walk in Love (5:1-7).
3. Practice the habit of walking in Light (5:8-14).
4. Practice walking in wisdom, circumspectly (5:15-21).
5. Practice the marriage of the Bible, at home and in the church (5:22-33; 6:1-4).
6. Practice with Bible attitudes on the job (6:5-9)

18-6: All this sounds impossible.

No, not if you daily put on the whole armor which God has provided in a practical and prayerful manner, realizing that there will be ups and downs, some stumbling; realizing that **“no temptation has taken you but such as is common to man”, and that God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which you are able; and remembering to “be careful for nothing but with everything by prayer and supplication make your requests known unto God”; and remember to “humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him because He cares for you.”**

And like “imitating God” as advised in Ephesians, or strive to be like Christ, the high standards for a church are idealistic in that we will never get all the way there. Nonetheless the admonitions of the Bible are to be like Christ, to imitate God, and to grow into the perfected church body. Once again we come much closer to these Christian goals when we have them as goals and we work to achieve them, knowing that the full realization of all three will only happen, by the grace and power of God, at the Second Coming of Christ and in the Forever Kingdom of the New Earth. **“Even so Lord Jesus, come quickly.”**