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Renew The Mind Ministries

The Right Side of The Cross



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Introduction

Some six years ago I began to enter into a new phase in my walk with the Lord and God began to reveal new things to me within my spirit which I felt convicted to share with others.

Subsequently Renew The Mind Ministries was born.

Originally this site was a very simple blog intended to serve as nothing more than a notebook that I put online to share that which I was learning with anyone who might be interested in reading it. It was not long thereafter that I began to get comments, emails, even phone calls from around the globe thanking me for creating this blog.

Much of this correspondence was from pastors within persecuted nations around the world who do not have access to bibles and or bible study materials who were using what was posted on this site to edify the church within their ministries.

Glory to God!

Over the years our site has changed in an attempt to meet the needs of these people who are hungry for the word of God, spiritual growth, and maturity in the faith, and has over that time begun to become an actual ministry that has reached into over 145 countries.

The miracle here is that God would use someone like me, an uneducated, simple minded man, to help Him to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gospel of the kingdom in such a way as to actually effect the lives of other human beings and edify myself in the process.

This book is the result of the distillation of and the culmination of what I have learned over the past six years of ministry. To some what is written here might be nothing new and to others things that they have never considered before. In either event this knowledge has served to be a blessing to me in many ways and it is my heartfelt prayer that it serves and blesses others as it has me.

Even more so that it serves to further the kingdom of God in these last days of the church of Jesus Christ on earth. Amen & Amen!

Note: In order to create a smooth flow of information within my writings, rather than to simply offer simple bible references to support my thoughts. I post the scriptures themselves so that the reader need not stop reading, go to the bible, look up the scriptures and read them, (albeit I encourage all to do so at a later time to see the scriptures that I use within their context and to prove what is being written here) and then return to what they were reading in this book.

I would also like to note here that I will be using the KJV, CLV(Concordant Literal Version), Strong's (Greek and Hebrew), Thayer's (Greek), Brown – Driver – Briggs (Hebrew), Robertson's Word Pictures and Vincent's Word Studies as study aids in the writing of this material (I NEVER use any bible commentaries), and most important of all the guidance of the Holy Spirit who teaches us all thingd and guides us unto all truth, In Jesus name, Amen!

What I have come to realize over the years is that there are basically three positions that a Christian believer can find themselves in over the course of their walk with our Lord and three points of view which should be considered during the study of His sayings:

- 1) The Left of The Cross (before Christ)
- 2) In Front of the Cross (His earthen ministry)
- 3) The Right of The Cross (after the cross)

To the left of the cross is the disposition of the law, to the right of the cross is the disposition of grace, and in front of the cross is the transition period or the paradigm shift, if you will.

What will be demonstrated within this book is that born again believers in Christ Jesus are supposed to be living their lives in Christ on The Right Side of The Cross, not In Front of The Cross and not to The Left of the Cross.

To The Left of The Cross we find the old covenant and the old testament scriptures which, albeit inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (*2Tim 3:16*), which were glorious in that time and for those people, is not the place where we are supposed to be living today as born again believers in Christ Jesus.

(Rev 21:5) And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, **Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

Our Lord proclaimed to the apostle John in a vision given to him as recorded in the book of the revelation of Jesus Christ, "Behold I make all things new".

(CLV) Re 21:5

And He Who is sitting on the throne said, Lo ! New am I making all! And He is saying, Write, for these sayings are faithful and true.

*It is important to note here is that He who sat on the throne said *Idou kaina poiō panta*. *Poiēō* literally means "to make", continuing to do something, not a finished work. When the word "make" is intended to indicate a finished work, the Greek word *kathistēmi* "to set in place" is used.*

The entire ministry of our Lord was and is purposed to make all things new. What this means, albeit difficult for many to accept, is that when something new is made it is done so because the usefulness of the old has faded away.

It is much like owning an old automobile that served you well in it's time, purchasing a new automobile, and trying to operate and maintain it by using the old automobile's users guide.

Yes the old users guide serves a purpose in understanding and operating the old automobile and in that context it still serves a purpose. If however you try to apply those instructions to the operation and maintenance of your new automobile you quickly discover that the old manual serves no real purpose.

It is the same in trying to operate under the new covenant (the right side of the cross) while reading the old instruction manual (the left side of the cross).

(2Co 3:4) And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

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

(2Co 3:6) Who also hath made us able ministers of **the new testament**; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

(2Co 3:7) But if the ministration of death, written *and* engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which *glory* was to be done away:

(2Co 3:8) How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

Out of all of the new testament instructions given to us, these verses of scripture seem to be among the least preached on, the least taught, and among those scriptures which seem meet the most resistance when they are.

Why is it that so many born again believers, preachers, and teachers, have such a difficult time receiving the truth which these scriptures put forth?

Is this not the word of God? Is this not divinely inspired? Is this not profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness?

Of course it is! So let us now study these verses and receive the whole counsel of God.

The first point here is that we have been made “able ministers of the new testament”. The word “minister” comes from the Greek word *diakonos* (*an attendant, that is, (generally) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specifically a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess): - deacon, minister, servant*).

This means that Christians are servants of the new testament scriptures, not of the old, and that we are servants of the spirit of these scriptures as well as to the letter.

Why?

Because the new testament scriptures are really not new at all!

The new testament scriptures are the exposition, the revelation, of the spirit of the old testament scriptures!

You see what happened in the days of old was that the people did not truly understand what God was saying through His holy scriptures, nor did they receive His word sent unto them through His holy prophets, because they could not receive it.

It was exactly the same in the time of Christ's earthen ministry. It is because of this truth that we Jesus speaking onto these same people hundreds and thousands of years later, in parables because the earthen ministry of our Lord represents life on both the left and right side of the cross.

(Mat 13:11) He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

(Mat 13:12) **For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.**

(Mat 13:13) **Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**

Our holy scriptures are filled from start to finish with types, shadows and patterns, and here Jesus is demonstrating that the people, just as their fathers before them, have eyes that did not see, ears that did not hear, and minds that that did not understand the scriptures, and subsequently they did not understand or know God.

Jesus is telling His disciples that they are blessed because they see, hear and understand, they “know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”, which is not given unto “them” (the multitudes).

This is an important point to grasp here:

The disciples of Christ did not have any more understanding of the parables spoken by Jesus than any other man or woman who heard Him speak them at the time!

If you review the parables spoken by Jesus you will also see that almost every time He spoke a parable He had to explain underlying meaning, or the mystery, of what He had spoken to His disciples.

(Mat 13:14) **And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

(Mat 13:15) **For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; **lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.****

(Mat 13:16) **But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**

(Mat 13:17) **For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.**

Jesus proclaims that the ears, eyes and understanding of the people can be returned unto them if and when they are converted and Jesus heals them!

Question:

When were people healed (made whole) by Jesus?

Answer:

When Jesus suffered scourging for us!

(CLV) Isa 53:5

Yet He is wounded because of our transgressions, And crushed because of our depravities. The discipline of our well-being is on Him, **And with His welts comes healing for us.**

How then were the disciples blessed? How did they see, hear and understand?

They were so because Jesus, The Word of God, was present with them to be seen, heard, and to help them to understand!

This is why we can say with certainty that the earthen ministry of Jesus took place on the left side of the cross, under the old covenant, under the dispensation of the law, under the ministration of death, written *and* engraven in stones (*2 Cor 3:7*) and the ministration of condemnation (*2 Cor 3:9*)!

Notice the words of our Lord here:

(Joh 16:12) I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

(Joh 16:13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(Joh 16:14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(Joh 16:15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(Joh 16:16) A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, **because I go to the Father.**

Even with Jesus present and with His disciples, even with Him explaining and instructing them, there were things that they were unable to receive, bear, lift up, understand.

Why?

Because Jesus had not yet gone to the cross and the Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth, The Comforter, The Promise of the Father, had not yet come. Because His disciples themselves had not yet been saved! They had yet to be healed, they had yet to be made whole.

Their standing in the eyes of God, their position in Christ, their condition in this world, was that of still being on the left side of the cross!

We know that the earthen ministry of our Lord, the fulfillment of the law, the signs and wonders, His teachings and His scourging which paid the price for our sins and made us whole all took place on the left side of the cross and that the new things take place on the right side of the cross.

What then happened at the cross?

It is finished!

All of the prophecies which spoke of the earthen ministry of Jesus had come to pass. He had done all that the Father had sent Him to do:

(Joh 17:1) These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:**

(Joh 17:2) **As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**

(Joh 17:3) **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

(Joh 17:4) **I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

But this is clearly not the end of God's plan for the redemption of mankind. It is however the end of the dispensation of the law. It is the end of the old covenant. It is the end of the old ministration of the law. It is the end of man being at enmity with the Father.

On the left side of the cross Jesus dealt with the sins of man and on the cross He dealt with sin itself!

(2Co 5:14) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, **that if one died for all**, then were all dead:

(2Co 5:15) And *that he died for all*, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

(2Co 5:16) **Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh:** yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

(2Co 5:17) **Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

(2Co 5:18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

(2Co 5:19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Man could not be “in” Christ, nor could he have Christ within himself until Jesus perished on the cross. Old things could not pass away and all things could not become new until He gave His life for us. We could not be reconciled unto the Father until Jesus died for us.

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

At the cross Jesus literally became sin for us and when His flesh perished sin perished with the death of His flesh.

(Rom 5:17) For if **by one man's offense death reigned by one**; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

(Rom 5:18) Therefore as by the offense of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; **even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.***

(Rom 5:19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Think about this:

The result of the sin of Adam imputed unrighteousness and subsequently death unto man. The obedience of Christ likewise imputed righteousness and subsequently eternal life unto men. The obedience of Christ during His earthen ministry did away with the requirement for obedience of the flesh to obtain righteousness and it ended for us on the cross. It is Finished.

We ARE being made the righteousness of God in Christ!

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

(CLV) 2Co 5:21

For the One not knowing sin, He makes *to be* a sin offering for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.

We have not become the righteousness of God in Him, we are becoming the righteousness in Him!

Therefore the cross is the point of the paradigm shift. The cross is the point where the old things end. The cross is the point where enmity with the Father ends, where the old covenant ends, where the old ministration of the law ends, where the priestly line ends and where imputed sin ends, and it is the place where our unrighteousness ends.

The cross deals with sin itself and not with the penalty of sin which is death. Death was dealt with at the resurrection when Christ overcame death through His resurrection from the dead and our resurrection with Him (*Eph 2:6*).

Eternal Life begins on the Right Side of The Cross not at the cross!

The Gospels and The Cross

Within all of scriptures the gospels are the most unique and subsequently deserve the most care when read and or closely examined.

The old testament scriptures were written on the left side of the cross and its content was written to, about and for the Jewish people. The new testament scriptures however were written on the right side of the cross and were written to all of mankind.

The content of the old testament was written primarily to preserve the history of the Jewish people and to point forward to that which was to come revealed unto the people in the form of types and shadows. The new testament was written to document the life of Jesus Christ, point back to the types and shadows which speak of Jesus within the old testament scriptures, point forward to things to come and most importantly to lead all men into the kingdom of God and to instruct a new creation on how to live a new life in Christ Jesus.

Now I always used to think of the gospels as old testament books, because Jesus lived under the law, traditions and customs of the Jews. But what I now see is that the gospels and the teachings of Christ, as a whole, really belong on neither side of the cross, they belong at the foot of the cross itself because the cross is the end of the old and the beginning of the new insomuch as the new could not begin until the old has passed away.

The new covenant however does not even begin to come into being until death is overcome on the day of the resurrection of our Lord on the right side of the cross.

The cross deals only with the death of sin itself!

It is the resurrection of Jesus which deals with death and brings eternal life.

When Jesus ascends into the heavens and is seated at the right hand of the Father, the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to fulfill the promise of the Father, and on the day of Pentecost, at the very moment on that very day when the Holy Spirit arrives, the new covenant, the new testament and eternal life come into full force on the right side of the cross!

On the right side of the cross the old things have passed away and ALL things are becoming new!

When one passes from death unto life, when they pass from the left side to the right side of the cross, it is liken to moving into a new and strange land with customs and traditions that we are not familiar with or comfortable with. The food is different, the language is different and the way people act is different, and if we desire to prosper within this new land we have to change. We have to acquire a taste for the new food, we have to learn to speak the new language, and we have to learn how to act and react to our new environment.

Under normal circumstances this can be a daunting task but our Father has already began a work within us to help us to adapt and overcome the world that has become a part of our being. He has began a work within us to help us to transition from carnal beings into spiritual beings!

Spiritual Israel

When we read and study scriptures as born again believers, especially those of the old testament, we must ask the Holy Spirit, who reaches us all things and guides us unto all truth, to reveal the spirit of God's word to us because it is not the letter or the ink rather the spirit of His word which brings life.

You see there is a carnal part of the word of God, a part that the natural eyes can see and the natural mind can understand, which covers up the spirit of the word which lays deep within the text that can only be seen with the spiritual eye and understood with our hearts.

These things are, to the carnally minded, the mysteries of God and of His kingdom.

(1Co 2:7) But **we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even the hidden wisdom***, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

(1Co 2:8) Which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

(1Co 2:9) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, **neither have entered into the heart of man**, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

(1Co 2:10) **But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

(1Co 2:11) **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

The spirit of man can only reveal natural things to us. The natural mind can not know the things of God because they are hidden from them because they have not entered into their hearts, therefore the wisdom of God is a mystery to the carnal man.

Conversely the mysteries are revealed unto us by His Spirit and they permeate into our hearts.

Watch This!

(Eze 36:24) For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

(Eze 36:25) Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

(Eze 36:26) A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

(Eze 36:27) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

Now many rightly understand these verses to be speaking of Israel and the land of promise but there is a deeper meaning here that can be found in the spirit of the words.

Does Jesus not say that He is going to gather His people unto Him?

(Eph 1:8) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

(Eph 1:9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

(Eph 1:10) That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; ***even in him***: (*we are in Him*)

Does Jesus not say that He went to prepare a place for us and that we would be with Him?

(Joh 14:3) **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Will this place that Jesus went to prepare for us, this place within His kingdom, this place which will be the new Jerusalem, not be our own land?

God said through Ezekiel, that He would sprinkle clean water on these people (the word of Christ), He said He will remove their heart of stone, that He will give them a heart of flesh, that He will give them a new spirit, that He will place His Spirit within them, that He will cause them to walk in His statutes, keep His judgments and do them.

Has He not done ALL of these things for those who receive Christ as Savior? Are we not Spiritual Israel? Are we not the people of Zion, the city of righteousness, the faithful city?

(Isa 1:27) Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, **and her converts with righteousness.**

(Isa 1:28) And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners *shall be* together, and **they that forsake the LORD (Jesus) shall be consumed.**

God has spoken it on the left side of the cross and made it so on the right side of the cross. This work however is merely our new birth, it is only the beginning!

(Joh 1:9) *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

(Joh 1:10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

(Joh 1:11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

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

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

Our salvation, our being born again, because we receive Jesus as our Savior, gives us the ability or the power to become the children of God, it does not make us the children of God.

(CLV) Jn 1:12

Yet whoever obtained Him, to them He gives the right to become children of God, to those who are believing in His name,

According to the apostle John there are basically three stages within our spiritual growth: (1Joh 2:12-13):

- 1) Little Children (because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake,)
- 2) Young Men (because ye have overcome the wicked one,)
- 3) Fathers (because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning)

The first stage is having our sins forgiven. The second stage is overcoming the world (of which the wicked one, Satan, is lord over). The third stage is having a personal relationship with Jesus through communion with Him (learning His word and prayer)

This is the life on the Right Side of the Cross!

There are however very practical applications for this idea of living on the right side of the cross, in every day life, especially with regard to studying and understanding scriptures, that we can and should apply to our lives as born again believers.

The most important of which is rightly dividing the word of truth:

(2Ti 2:15) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(CLV) 2Ti 2:15

Endeavor to present yourself to God qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the word of truth.

(2Ti 2:16) But shun profane (*bebēlos* - accessible as by crossing the door way, that is, (by implication of Jewish notions) and vain babblings (*kenophōnia* - empty discussion, discussion of vain and useless matters) for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

The skilled worker in the word of God first and foremost knows how to dissect it properly.

Secondly the skilled worker in the word knows to keep away from crossing the threshold (from the left side to the right side of the cross) in conversations and not to engage in discussions that will lead to contention and strife.

The most critical skill in endeavoring to understand the word of God is without question rightly dividing it. Many Christians hold fast to false doctrines, that are impure doctrines which have been blended because someone did not rightly divide the word or truth.

Our Lord has instructed in this matter:

(Luk 5:36) And he spake also a parable unto them; **No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old.**

(CLV) Lk 5:36

Now He told them a parable also, that No one, rending a patch from a new cloak, is patching it on an old cloak. Otherwise, surely the new also will be rending, and the patch from the new will not be agreeing with the old.

When one takes a piece of the new garment of righteousness and uses it to patch the old, they both damage the new because the new does not agree with the old!

The idea of keeping that which was created and made with it's own like and kind is a pattern which is clearly seen throughout scriptures. In the book of Genesis we see God creating and making all things after their own kind and we also see God telling us that it is forbidden to mix animals and plants and fabrics,

Why then would we believe that blending scriptures is acceptable to God?

(Luk 5:37) **And no man putteth new wine into old bottles (wine-skins); else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.**

(Luk 5:38) **But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.**

When new wine was put into old wine skins the pressure from the fermentation process often caused the wine-skins (bottles) to burst which ruins both the wine-skins and the wine. The only way to preserve both is to put the new wine into new wine-skins.

It is for this very reason that God does the work of Ezekiel 36 within those who receive Christ as their Savior. To make the old wine-skins new so that they can handle the pressure which comes from the new wine!

This is why it is so difficult for a non converted person, be they Christians or others. to grasp the things of the Spirit. Because it is like going into a strange new land to them. They are not comfortable in this new place and often resist their being there.

(Luk 5:39) **No man also having drunk old *wine* straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.**

Subsequently, when one has believed something for a long enough time, even if what they believe is in error, they tend to reject the truth even when it is staring them right in the face and plain as the light of day.

Didn't the people reject the prophets of God sent unto them?

Didn't they reject the Lord Christ?

Were they not speaking the truth?

But this is not a new thing for it has been written that there is no new thing under the sun (Ecc 1:9).

(Hos 4:6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

(Hos 4:7) As they were increased, so they sinned against me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame.

(Hos 4:8) They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

You see the problem within the church today is that the people are filled with self-righteous pride, just as were God's chosen people of old, and they reject the truth because they do not have the humility, even the fear of God, to even consider that they might be in error. They have become complacent in their doctrines even if they are doctrines of men or even worse doctrines of demons.

(Isa 56:10) His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

(Isa 56:11) Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds *that* cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Many of God's people today have been snared by the enemy because they love to slumber. They prefer hold onto that which they believe, that which they are comfortable with, their customs and traditions, rather than to receive the truth of the word of God from the living Word of God. These people have been deceived by shepherds, preachers and teachers, because they do not obey the word of God and put in the effort to prove all spirits so that they can be confident that they are of God (*1Joh 4:1*).

(Luk 5:39) No man also having drunk old *wine* straightway desireth new: **for he saith, The old is better.**

Where we live, which Lord we serve, what spirit we walk in, is ALL determined by where we are standing, even more importantly where we are walking and living, in relation to the cross!

How do we move from where we are to the right side of the cross?

(Rom 12:1) 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.

(Rom 12:2) 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.

(Rom 12:3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The very first thing that we must do is to present our bodies as living sacrifices unto our Lord. This means that we give up our former lives, that we put off the old man, that we pick up our own cross daily and crucify the desires of the flesh. This our reasonable service for the gift of grace which we have received from our Father through the finished work of Christ's obedience to His will.

Only this sacrifice made on our part that is considered as being holy and acceptable and perfect in the eyes of our Father!

(Luk 9:23) And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

(Luk 9:24) **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.**

(Luk 9:25) **For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?**

If we conform to the world (age), if we continue in the ways of the world, and in being fashioned after it, we can not and will not be transformed into the image of Christ and into the children of God!

Now the world tells us that we are the ones who must do this work. But this teaching is from the left side of the cross!

The apostle Paul instructs us from the right side of the cross and tells us:

(Php 2:12) Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

(Php 2:13) **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

(Php 2:14) Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

(Php 2:15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

(Php 2:16) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

(CLV) Php 2:12

So that, my beloved, according as you always obey, not as in my presence only, but now much rather in my absence, with fear and trembling, be carrying your own salvation into effect,

(CLV) Php 2:13

for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight.

The very first thing that we MUST come to understand here, even more so to get this into the spirit of our mind, into the fleshy tables of our hearts, into our very souls, is that **IT IS GOD who is working in us to “will” and “do” His good pleasure (His will) which is to help us to work out our salvation into effect!**

Do you remember Ezekiel 26?

(Eze 36:27) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

God cleansed us (**I will**), removed our heart of stone (**I will**), gave us a heart of flesh (**I will**) gave us a new spirit within us (**I will**), put His Spirit within us (**I will**), so that **HE WILL** cause us to walk in His statutes, keep (guard) His judgments, and do them!

Now what do you think happens when we try to do that which God says HE WILL do (cause us to walk in His statutes, keep (guard) His judgments, and do them)?

We will fail miserably just as the people of the old testament failed!

You see brothers and sisters to try to do this as the people on the left side of the cross tried to do them, we can not please our Father because we can not do His good pleasure. We can not walk in His statutes, keep (guard) His judgments, and do them. If man could have done this Jesus would need not have come and God would not have began this work in salvation within us.

(Gal 3:1) O foolish Galatians, **who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth**, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

(Gal 3:2) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

(Gal 3:3) **Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**

Our salvation did not begin in the flesh and it can not be made effective or perfected (worked out) in the flesh!

That which has begun in the Spirit (our salvation) can only be perfected in the Spirit!

To try to do it of our own will and under our own power is the way of the left side of the cross (**thou** shalt – **thou** shalt not). The way of the right side of the cross is our Father telling us (**I WILL**) do it!

Now those who stand on the left side of the cross live under the customs and traditions of the old man. Therefore they believe that they are required to do these things, even more so that they actually have the ability to do them.

Some of these people have never moved away from the left side and others did move to the right side, for a time, but returned to the old ways. Those who had never moved have never received their salvation because they have never repented and those who did repent and move to the right side of the cross and have moved back, like it or not, have fallen from grace.

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

(Gal 5:2) Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

(Gal 5:3) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

(Gal 5:4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

(Gal 5:5) For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

The apostle Paul is instructing the church that Christ has made us free of the yoke of bondage that was the law (the left side of the cross), that whosoever believes that they are justified by the law is a debtor to “the whole law”, that Christ has become of no effect unto them, that He will profit them nothing, and that they have fallen from grace.

(CLV) Ga 5:4

Exempted from Christ were you who are being justified in law. You fall out of grace.

We can not serve two masters, we can not serve old testament grace and new testament grace.

Many Christian believers are taught that “grace is grace” and that grace is “the unmerited favor of God”. The truth is that both of these ideas are the doctrine of men and I will prove it right here and now so that you can experience the grace that is found on the right side of the cross!

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

(Joh 1:15) John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

(Joh 1:16) And of his fulness have all we received, and **grace for grace.**

(Joh 1:17) For **the law was given by Moses, *but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.***

What the grace of the old testament and the new testament have in common are:

- 1) They were both initially given as unmerited gifts.
- 2) They are both defined as “graciousness”.
- 3) Neither the Hebrew or Greek words are defined as being “unmerited” (albeit implied in scriptures)

What The grace of the old and new testaments do not have in common is:

- 1) Under old testament grace one had to work to keep God's favor and receive His blessings.
- 2) Under the old testament there was no divine influence on the heart therefore no repentance.

Under the ministration of the law under the old covenant when one transgressed against God, when they fell short of the mark, when they sinned, the law said that an offering had to be made to satisfy the prescribed penalty for breaking that law. If they did this in the proper way those who sinned were seen as “blameless” under the law. Not that they were “sinless” but blameless.

Now the problem was NEVER with the law, in and of itself, it has ALWAYS been man's understanding of the intent and purpose of the law that has been the problem.

You see the people saw the law as a pay to play system. That is to say that they treated their transgressions as a speeding ticket. When you get a ticket you pay the fine. But with this understanding of the law there was no repentance on the part of the people. They did not turn from their sins they just kept on paying the price for them.

As long as the people did this, as long as they made offerings and sacrifices to pay for their sins, the wrath of God was not vented on the “blameless”. The grace of God stayed upon them.

When they did not make the proper sacrifice however, the favor of God was taken from them and Gods displeasure was vented.

This IS NOT new covenant grace!

The apostle John writes that it is of His fullness that we receive grace for grace.

This is the same manner of speaking or writing found in the idea of “an eye for an eye” insomuch as it speaks of the idea of the exchange of one thing for another. In this case the grace on the left side of the cross is exchanged for the grace found on the right side of the cross, that comes with the fullness of Jesus Christ, which can only be lost when Christ becomes of no effect to us, and profits us nothing, because we have turned back to the grace that was under the dispensation of the law (on the left side of the cross), for our righteousness.

Why does Christ become of no effect to the circumcised (*those who are justified by the law*)?

- 1) Because by turning to the law for righteousness we reject the passion which He endured to pay the price for our sins. We reject His sacrifice. We reject Him as our Savior because we are working to save ourselves.
- 2) Because when we loose this new testament grace we also loose the divine influence on our hearts which first brought us unto repentance and continued to keep us in the way, the truth, and the life which Jesus came to give us.

Moving to the right side is not enough. We must remain there if we are to remain under new covenant grace. We must stay there so that we can receive the divine influence of God on our hearts! When we return to believing in self-righteousness we fall out of the new grace and back into the old.

When we remain on the right side of the cross we receive a steady flow of new testament grace.

Why are we given this grace?

For obedience to the faith! (Rom 1:5)

(1Co 15:10) **But by the grace of God I am what I am:** and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

This laboring is not of our own efforts, it is of our obedience to the grace of God, the divine influence in our hearts, within us. It is because God has cleansed us and changed our hearts, and put a new spirit in us, and gave us His Holy Spirit that we do these things. It is because of what He has first done within us that we no longer desire to do the things of the flesh and it is because of what He continues to do within us that we will to do the things of the Spirit, that is to do His will.

Now there are many within the church who have a HUGE problem with this doctrine for more than one reason, not the least of which is because this truth leaves no room for self-righteousness or boasting.

You see these people have been deceived into believing they are walking in the Spirit when in reality they are still walking in the flesh:

(Eph 2:3) Among whom also **we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;** and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

(Eph 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

(Eph 2:5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

(Eph 2:6) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

(Eph 2:7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

(Eph 2:8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; **and that not of yourselves:** *it is* the gift of God:

(Eph 2:9) **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

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

We are of His workmanship, not our own, created in Christ, not in ourselves, unto good works which God has ordained, not that we desire to do, that we should walk in what He has done, not in our own power or ability.

It is by this grace and this truth, which came by Christ, that the true church came into being, was sustained, and continues to grow both in number and maturity!

(Act 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

(Act 4:32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

(Act 4:33) And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

(Act 4:34) Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

(Act 4:35) And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

How is it that they who believed were of one heart and soul and that they came to sell their land and houses and brought the prices of the things that were sold to lay at the feet of the apostles to be distributed to every man, according to their need?

GREAT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL!

These people were so moved by the testimony of the apostles, they were so touched by the divine influence on their hearts, that they sold all that they had and gave it unto the apostles to be given to those who were in lack.

Glory to God!

These are true acts were acts of faith which came by hearing the word of God spoken with boldness. These people received the word of truth that nothing that they possessed was their own, that all things belonged to God and to the heirs of the kingdom in common, which goes against all logic and earthly wisdom.

Great grace was upon the apostles and they spoke the word with boldness, great grace was upon those who heard the words of faith that the apostles preached and they sold all of their possessions to give to the poor.

They did not do what they did because it was a matter of law, they did not do it out of fear of God, they did not do it to show themselves as being holy before the congregation, they did it because God influenced their hearts and gave them a desire, even a passion, to do what they did.

This is why and how those who are born again believers do the will of God. This is how we walk in the statutes, keep the judgments, and do the ordinances of God.

We are His workmanship. He has changed us from within. He causes us to walk within His will through the grace that came by our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus!

All we need to do is remain on the right side of the cross!

(2Ti 3:1) This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**

(2Ti 3:2) **For men shall be lovers of their own selves**, covetous, **boasters, proud**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, un-thankful, unholy,

(2Ti 3:3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

(2Ti 3:4) Traitors, **heady, highminded**, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

(2Ti 3:5) **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

(2Ti 3:6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

(2Ti 3:7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Brothers and sisters, our Lord himself warned the people that in the last days there would be false prophets, false preachers, false teachers and false Christs (disciples of Christ) and ANYONE who instructs the brethren that in any way diminishes the ministry of the Holy Spirit, from such turn away!

You see we can not do ANYTHING that is pleasing to our Father God if we do not do so “in the Spirit”. We must learn how to function in the unction. That is to say under the anointing of God.

We must discipline ourselves to listen for the voice of Christ within us, hear what He is saying to us, and do that which we have heard in faith. And ALL of these things come through the ministry of the Holy Spirit!

Here are the things that the word of God says the Holy Spirit does for us and through us:

1. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
2. The Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13).
3. The Spirit regenerates us (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5).
4. The Spirit glorifies and testifies of Christ (John 15:26; 16:14).
5. The Spirit reveals Christ to us and in us (John 16:14-15).
6. The Spirit leads us (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18; Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1).
7. The Spirit sanctifies us (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 5:16).
8. The Spirit empowers us (Luke 4:14; 24:49; Rom. 15:19; Acts 1:8).
9. The Spirit fills us (Eph. 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17).
10. The Spirit teaches us to pray (Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 1:20).
11. The Spirit bears witness in us that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16).
12. The Spirit produces in us the fruit or evidence of His work and presence (Gal. 5:22-23).

13. The Spirit distributes spiritual gifts and manifestations (the outshining) of His presence to and through the body (1 Cor. 12:4, 8-10; Heb. 2:4).
14. The Spirit anoints us for ministry (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38).
15. The Spirit washes and renews us (Titus 3:5).
16. The Spirit brings unity and oneness to the body (Eph. 4:3; 2:14-18). Here the Holy Spirit plays the same role that He plays in the Godhead. The Spirit is the life that unites Father and Son. The Spirit plays the same role in the church. When the Holy Spirit is operating in a group of people, He unites them in love. Therefore, a sure evidence of the Holy Spirit working in a group is Love and Unity. Not signs and wonders (those are seasonal and can be counterfeited).
17. The Spirit is our guarantee and deposit of the future resurrection (2 Cor. 1:22; 2 Cor. 5:5).
18. The Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).
19. The Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2).
20. The Spirit quickens our mortal bodies (Rom. 8:11).
21. The Spirit reveals the deep things of God to us (1 Cor. 2:10).
22. The Spirit reveals what has been given to us from God (1 Cor. 2:12).
23. The Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:14; John 14:17).
24. The Spirit speaks to, in, and through us (1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:11; Heb 3:7; Matt. 10:20; Acts 2:4; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12, 28; 13:2; 16:6,7; 21:4,11).
25. The Spirit is the agent by which we are baptized into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
26. The Spirit brings liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).
27. The Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).
28. The Spirit cries in our hearts, "Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6).
29. The Spirit enables us to wait (Gal. 5:5).
30. The Spirit supplies us with Christ (Phil. 1:19, KJV).
31. The Spirit grants everlasting life (Gal. 6:8).
32. The Spirit gives us access to God the Father (Eph. 2:18).
33. The Spirit makes us (corporately) God's habitation (Eph. 2:22).
34. The Spirit reveals the mystery of God to us (Eph. 3:5).
35. The Spirit strengthens our spirits (Eph. 3:16).
36. The Spirit enables us to obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22).
37. The Spirit enables us to know that Jesus abides in us (1 John 3:24; 4:13).
38. The Spirit confesses that Jesus came in the flesh (1 John 4:2).
39. The Spirit says "Come, Lord Jesus" along with the bride (Rev. 22:17).
40. The Spirit dispenses God's love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).

41. The Spirit bears witness to the truth in our conscience (Rom. 9:1).
42. The Spirit teaches us (1 Cor. 2:13; John 14:26).
43. The Spirit gives us joy (1 Thess. 1:6).
44. The Spirit enables some to preach the gospel (1 Pet. 1:12).
45. The Spirit moves us (2 Pet. 1:21).
46. The Spirit knows the things of God (1 Cor. 2:11).
47. The Spirit casts out demons (Matt. 12:28).
48. The Spirit brings things to our remembrance (John 14:26).
49. The Spirit comforts us (Acts 9:31).
50. The Spirit makes some overseers in the church and sends some out to the work of church planting [through the body] (Acts 20:28; 13:2).

You see the workmanship of God, that work which is done within us at the time of the receiving our salvation, is worked out in us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, providing that we set our will to the side, receive the will of God, and submit to the unction of His Spirit!

That is our part in God's plan for our salvation and transformation into His children!

(Mat 11:25) At that time Jesus answered and said, **I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.**

(Mat 11:26) Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

(Mat 11:27) All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*.

(Mat 11:28) **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

(Mat 11:29) **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

(Mat 11:30) **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

Those who labor and are heavy laden are those who are living on the left side of the cross. They are those living under the yoke of bondage of the old schoolmaster and are trying to live the old way.

The way of Christ is the way of rest because it is the way of the grace that came by Him. Those who live under this grace are meek and lowly in heart. They are not prideful or self-righteous. They walk humbly with their God in praise and thanksgiving for all that He has done on the right side of the cross!

(Joh 5:39) Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

(Joh 5:40) And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

(Joh 5:41) I receive not honor from men.

When Jesus uses the word “scriptures” (*graphē*) to what is He making reference?

Scriptures (*graphē*) are a writing, thing written, a document, that is, holy Writ, more specifically and within the context of the above verse, the writings of the old testament. We know this to be true because at the time that Jesus was speaking these words the new testament scriptures had yet been written.

Within that light, what was Jesus saying here?

He was telling the Jewish people that they were looking in the wrong place to find eternal life. He was saying that eternal life was standing right in front of them.

He was also telling them that the scriptures which they hold so near and dear testify of Him, and that as it was written, He has come unto them. But even more so He was telling them that because they do not see this truth, because they do not receive Him, He receives no honor from men.

What Jesus is pointing out here is that these people did not understand what they were reading because of a number of reasons, not the least of which is that they had set their eyes on that which is not. That is to say that what they were believing and what they were doing was of their own understanding and not of Godly wisdom because they did not know God nor did they have the love of God within them. They did not believe His prophets nor their fathers all of whom were appointed by the Father to reveal His will onto them.

(Joh 5:43) **I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:** if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

(Joh 5:44) **How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?**

(Joh 5:45) **Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.**

(Joh 5:46) **For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.**

(Joh 5:47) **But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?**

You see the Jews professed their fathers, and the prophets and their love for God but they were doing all of these things in the flesh not in the spirit of worship. They did not truly believe, they did not truly understand, they did not give glory to God and they did not truly worship Him.

They received the precepts of men and turned the things of God upside down!

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

(Isa 29:14) Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, *even* a marvelous work and a wonder: for **the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.**

(Isa 29:15) Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

(Isa 29:16) **Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay:** for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

The people of old were not and are not the potters clay, and they are esteemed as such in their own minds and in the minds of many men just as prophesied.

So much so that today, as it was in the time of the early church, they declare those to whom the truth is not hid, those who possess God's wisdom and understanding, those who's hearts are truly close to their Father God, are the ones who have turned things upside down!

(Act 17:2) And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

(Act 17:3) Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

(Act 17:4) And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

(Act 17:5) **But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.**

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

(Act 17:7) Whom Jason hath received: and **these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.**

As they did with our Lord, the Jews proclaimed that the Christians were doing that which was contrary to Roman law when what they were really upset about was their own perception that they were doing that which was contrary to Jewish law!

Today it is the same as it was then, save those who have repented and converted to Christ. The Jewish people esteem themselves as the potter's clay. They see themselves as the righteousness of God. They see themselves as the keepers of the truth.

But the truth is that they are blind guides who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel (*Mat 23:34*)

The same thing however can be said about many Christians who profess their love of our Lord with their lips but their hearts are far from Him!

They do not honor Him because they do not abide in Him. They do not partake of the new wine because they like the old wine better and they try to put the new wine into old wine-skins even though the new does not agree with the old (*Luke 5 36:39*).

When we search the scriptures we must do three things:

- 1) In the old testament scriptures we must seek out Christ.
- 2) In the new testament scriptures we must rightly divide the Word.
- 3) We must keep all scriptures, old and new within their proper context.

Now albeit the first and third things noted here are obvious the second might seem somewhat obscure.

The sayings of our Lord are noted within books (gospels) that were written under the new covenant (the dispensation of grace) but took place under the old covenant (the dispensation of the law). Therefore they are more difficult to view within their proper context.

For example:

(*Mat 6:12*) **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Would a new covenant Christian believer pray this verse with all of their hearts?
Yes they would but they would be in error for doing so!**

This prayer was given on the left side of the cross. This pattern was given under the old covenant, under the dispensation of the law.

We live under the new covenant under the dispensation of grace where our sins have been forgiven and forgotten by our Father God. Even more importantly, because our righteousness is imputed unto us (unmerited) through Christ, just as our sins were imputed unto us through Adam, our debts have been forgiven once and for all, the price has been paid once and for all.

The above verse implies that God will forgive our debts as we for the debts of others as do the verses below:

(*Mat 6:14*) **For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:**

(*Mat 6:15*) **But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

The questions here are:

Are our trespasses forgiven us by our works of forgiveness of others or are they forgiven because of the finished work of Christ?

Do we loose our salvation which came by the work of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, if we do not forgive the sins of another?

Now I am in no way saying that it is good not to forgive the trespasses of others against us.

God forbid.

What I am saying is that this was spoken under the old covenant which was replaced with a new and better covenant:

(Act 3:17) **And now**, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers.

(Act 3:18) But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

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

(Act 3:20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

(Act 3:21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

These verses were written under the new covenant, under the dispensation of grace, after Jesus had fulfilled the law, and the words being spoken are being spoken within the context of what the the old testament prophets had spoken of Christ.

He is saying to repent and be converted for their sins will be blotted out when the times of “refreshing” shall come from the presence of the Lord (Jesus Christ).

Well brothers and sisters this time came when Christ walked the earth!

Our sins have been blotted out. Our Father remembers our sins no more (*Heb 8:12*) and has cast our sins into the depths of His sea of forgetfulness (*Mic7:19*). He has removed our sins from us as the east is from the west (*Psa 103:12*) through the finished work of our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus.

Therefore, either our forgiveness is of our own works of forgiveness or it is of Christ.

We can not have it both ways and we can not serve two masters!

Jesus is indeed speaking the truth within the context of when what He said was spoken but these words simply do not apply on the right side of the cross. Our Father HAS FORGIVEN ALL who have received Christ as their Savior!

Can we perfect in the flesh that which has begun in the Spirit?

Can we work our way into the Father's forgiveness?

Here is another example:

(Mat 8:24) And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

(Mat 8:25) And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

(Mat 8:26) And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

(Mat 8:27) But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Jesus often speaks of faith in terms of “little” or great faith within the gospels.

The question here is:

Do we see the terms “little faith” or “great faith one single time within the epistles?

No we do not!

Why don't we see these terms being used?

Because under the new covenant, under the dispensation of grace, on the right side of the cross, God HAS (hath) given (dealt) to EVERY MAN the measure of faith (*Rom 12:3*)!

(CLV) Ro 12:3

For I am saying, through the grace which is given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to be over-weening, beyond what your disposition must be, but to be of a sane disposition, as God parts to each the measure of faith.

Where does faith come from?

Faith, under the new covenant, is a gift of the Spirit (*1 Cor 12:9*) and is divided to EVERY MAN severally as He will, in diversities of operations and administrations (*v.5-6*).

In other words, faith came unto EVERY MAN, through new covenant grace, when the ministry of the Holy Spirit began at the day of Pentecost (on the right side of the cross). Subsequently EVERY MAN is given all of the faith he or she needs, when it is needed, through the Holy Spirit as our Father God wills. *Read more about “new covenant grace” [Here](#)*

Under the new covenant it is no longer a matter of having little faith or great faith it is rather a question of weather we believe that we have been given the faith we need to accomplish what God has appointed unto us to do.

(Rom 12:6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, **let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;**

To better understand this idea let's take a closer look at an example of Jesus using the expression “little faith”:

(Mat 14:27) But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.**

(Mat 14:28) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

(Mat 14:29) And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

(Mat 14:30) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

(Mat 14:31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

Now that you have all of this information the question is:
What are you going to do with it?

(Jas 1:22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

(Jas 1:23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

(Jas 1:24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Being a hearer of the word makes one a disciple, being a doer of the word makes one an apostle!

The word “apostle” ([apostolos](#)) means a *delegate*; specifically an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ.

Now there are many who view the office of the apostle in the strictest sense as given in 1Cor 12:28, and rightly so. I submit to you however that in the broader sense we are all called to this office, to some greater or lesser degree, because we are all called to be ministers of the gospel.

(2Co 3:1) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you, or *letters* of commendation from you?

(2Co 3:2) **Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:**

(2Co 3:3) *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us*, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but **in fleshy tables of the heart.**

Being a Christian IS NOT a mental exercise!

It is not about scriptural memorization, it is not about obeying the law or doing works of ministry out of a sense of obligation or legalism.

It is about a transformation. It is about putting off the old man, who lived according to the desires of the flesh, it's about putting on the new man who does all things in the spirit through Christ.

But even then, be not deceived:

(Mat 7:21) **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

(Mat 7:22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

(Mat 7:23) **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

The question here is: How does one come to know Jesus?

Now many Christian believers would answer that we come to know Jesus through scriptures. But this is not the truth!

We can learn about Jesus through scriptures, we can learn and commit to memory His sayings, and teachings, and about the miraculous works that He did, but that does not mean that we know Him personally.

Now this is a precept that many understand carnally. That is to say that they truly seek Jesus in the scriptures and with a pure heart, and this is not a bad thing. God Forbid. But one can not come to know Jesus from scriptures any more than we can know Abraham Lincoln through history books.

You see the difference between Abraham Lincoln, John Kennedy, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Moses and Jesus Christ is that **JESUS IS ALIVE**, and because He is alive we can have a real personal relationship with Him. Glory to God!

How do we enter into this personal relationship with Jesus?
Through Prayer!

How is the ministry we have been given made manifest on earth?
Through Prayer to the Father in the name of the Son!

Now Watch This!

(Mat 21:12) And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

(Mat 21:13) And said unto them, **It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

Question:

If the temple in Jerusalem, which was the house of God the Father, “shall be called the house of prayer” and we are the temples of the Lord Christ Jesus, shall we not likewise be houses of prayer?

Prayer:

- 1) Opens Heaven (Luke 3:21)
- 2) Brings Visions (Acts 11:5, 22:17)
- 3) Builds Up Our Faith (1The 3:10)
- 4) Fills Us With The Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31)
- 5) Binds and Looses the Things of Heaven (Jas 5:17-18)
- 6) Brings Forth Laborers for the Harvest (Mat 9:38)
- 7) Keeps Us From Temptation (Mat 26:41)
- 8) Releases Angels (Mat 26:53)
- 9) Manifests our Desires (Mar 11:24)
- 10) Makes us Accounted Worthy to Escape the Things to Come (Luk 21:36)
- 11) Brings the Gift of The Comforter (Joh 14:16)
- 12) Keeps Us From Evil (Joh 17:15)
- 13) Brings Wisdom (Jas 1:5)

What is important to note here is that when we pray for the manifestation of these things we do so by praying to the Father in the name of Jesus we do not pray to Jesus himself:

(Joh 16:23) And in that day (when Jesus returns to the Father) ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

You see while Jesus was on earth His disciples directed all of their questions as well as presented their needs to Him personally, and Jesus was instructing them that when they had questions or needs after He went to the Father they were to ask of the Father in His name.

This is important to understand for two reasons:

1) According to our Lord himself, we are to ask Him for nothing. Our God is a God of order and if we ask Jesus directly for something, when scriptures state otherwise, we are asking in iniquity!

(Mat 6:9) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

2) Understanding this truth helps us to better define and understand our relationship with Christ and subsequently what the purpose of our prayers to Him should be!

Our prayers to our Lord should be prayers of thanksgiving!

We should thank Him for His obedience, we should thank Him for His sacrifice, we should thank Him for His shed blood, we should thank Him for the remission of our sins, we should thank Him for our restored relationship with the Father, we should give Him thanks that we can now enter into the presence of Father, ask anything in His name, and our Father will give it to us, we give Him thanks for revealing the Father unto us and we give Him thanks for giving us His peace.

Even more importantly we should enter into communion and fellowship with Him!

When we have fellowship with the brethren, or with our family members, or with our friends, it is seldom a time of asking something from them. It is about simply enjoying each others company or sharing a meal together. And we can surely do both of these things spending time in prayer with our Savior, Lord and Brother.

(Mat 12:47) Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

(Mat 12:48) But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

(Mat 12:49) And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

(Mat 12:50) For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

This word “brother” is derived from the Greek word *adelphos*, and *δελφύς delphus* (the *womb*); a *brother* (literally or figuratively).

Jesus is using this word in the literal sense here and not figuratively because it was the Holy Spirit who placed Him into Mary's womb and we are born again, made new creations, by that same Holy Spirit!

Therefore EVERY person who is born of the Spirit, and living in the Spirit, and doing the will of our Father, are ALL brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers, in Him, through Him and with Him!

Hallelujah to the Lamb!

This precept is important to understand because the framework of our ministry as ambassadors of Christ is built around our prayer life especially with regard to communion and fellowship with our Lord because we can do nothing without Him:

(Joh 15:1) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

(Joh 15:2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

(Joh 15:3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

(Joh 15:4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

(Joh 15:5) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

(Joh 15:6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

(Joh 15:7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

(Joh 15:8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

You see it is because we have this special relationship with our Lord, that we are His brothers, and therefore heirs to the kingdom and all that is within it, we can do ALL THINGS in Christ Jesus who strengthens us.

But there are many who claim to be His who are not. There are many who believe they know His voice who do not. There are many who, in the last day, call Him Lord, Lord, who will be told to depart from Him because He never knew Him (had a personal, intimate relationship with Him).

How do we know who is truly in Christ?

Jesus has proclaimed that He is the TRUE Vine and that those who are in Him, the branches (Joh 15:5) will produce the good fruit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (the fruit of the Spirit).

Those in Christ have crucified their flesh and are not desirous of vain glory provoking one another or envying one another.

Those in Christ live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit.

Those in Christ are being transformed from glory to glory into the image and likeness of their Lord of whom the Father was and is well pleased.

Those in Christ do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.

Those who are truly in Christ have a personal relationship with Him and love to spend time with Him in prayer and thanksgiving.

And most of all those who are in Christ want to share what they have with others!

This is true Christian Ministry!

For many years I have seen seeking to serve the Lord through ministry and I have likewise heard many people, especially theologians preach and teach about a Charismatic and Evangelical Christian belief in a so called five-fold ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors (or "shepherds") and teachers (*Eph 4:11*) , which remains active within the church today.

Subsequently I see people within the church, especially new believers, desiring to serve in one or more of these ministries. Now albeit these are indeed worthy ministries, and those who seek to enter into them do have a servant's heart, and seek to enter into them in a spirit of true love, many are not called to do so. That is to say that they are not appointed and anointed to serve in these ministries.

There is however that EVERY Christian believer is appointed and anointed, even commanded to enter into. That is to minister the gospel, the good news, about Jesus Christ to every creature (*Mar 16:5*) so that they can believe, be baptized in the Holy Spirit, and be saved!

But the whole intent and purpose of salvation seems to have been lost over the course of time. Yes salvation keeps God's children from the wrath that is to come upon the world, and yes it keeps believers from the lake of fire, but when all that is of salvation is distilled down to it's purest form, there is only one single element which remains.

Reconciliation!

(*2Co 5:18*) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and **hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**;

(*2Co 5:19*) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**.

(*2Co 5:20*) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**.

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

(*Rom 5:8*) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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

(*Rom 5:10*) For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Now this Greek word *katallagē* (reconciled) means exchange (figuratively adjustment), that is, restoration to (the divine) favor. This illustrates the same idea as grace for grace and an eye for an eye. This reconciliation is the result of an exchange, imputed sin for imputed righteousness, death for life, separation from God for restored fellowship with Him.

Therefore, when we get right down to the bottom line, everything in scriptures from Adam to this very day is ALL about reconciliation and reconciliation is ALL about God's love!

It saddens me when I hear messages that seem to diminish God's love, or the importance of our understanding God's love for us, and more importantly His love for ALL of mankind.

Many Christians seem to believe that God loves them more than anyone else. That He hates Hindus and Muslims and Buddhists, for example. That He hates the sinners and loves only the saints.

It is this attitude, this self-righteous air about so many Christians that causes people to turn away from them and from the Christian faith. The sad part in all of this is that these people are so deceived that they are unable to even see that our one priority as Christian believers is the ministry of reconciliation and that this reconciliation can only happen when it is born out of love!

(Rev 2:2) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

(Rev 2:3) And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

(Rev 2:4) Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

(Rev 2:5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Notice that Jesus proclaims that He knows the works of this pastor (angel), and his patience, and how he can not bear evil, and how he has labored and not fainted, yet He has something against him, that he has left his first love!

You see this pastor was striving for doctrinal purity. He had remained orthodox over the course of time but he had also become unloving, he had cooled off from his early passionate love for the church and for his Lord.

Subsequently Jesus instructs him to:

- 1) Remember from where you have fallen.
- 2) Repent.
- 3) Do the first works.

And then He warns him, if he does not repent, He will come unto him quickly and remove his candlestick out of its place (He will remove his authority or power or anointing).

I have seen this happen to many who seek to enter, or enter into ministry. Many people begin their foray into ministry with what they believe to be a "calling". The problem is that albeit some of these people have received a true calling to enter into a particular ministry, there are others, even a majority of them, who are simply responding to the desires of their flesh.

It is for this reason that we see so many pastors leaving their flocks, so many preachers and teachers spreading flawed doctrine and so many who are seemingly ill-equipped for ministry in general.

There are basically three types of people in ministry today:

- 1) Those who have been appointed and anointed for ministry.
- 2) Those who have not been so appointed and anointed.
- 3) Those who were appointed and anointed and have fallen away, cooled off, left their first love.

What I have seen happen all too often in ministry, regarding even those who were called to it, is that over time the mission itself begins to take precedent over the calling. That is to say that the journey becomes more important than the destination.

You see a person can take a plane, or a bus, or a train, or drive their own vehicle, they can even take one of many roads to get to the same place, and people more often than not use the method of transportation and take the route that they are most comfortable with or believe is best for the trip.

What this means is that many people are doing it their way and not God's way. They are using their own natural gifts and abilities rather than utilizing what God has supplied them with to accomplish that which He has placed before them. They begin to micromanage what God has already set into motion.

It is human nature to take matters into our own hands. It is natural for man to rely on our own logic, understanding and abilities to accomplish most tasks in life.

The problem is that man often takes a supernatural or divine calling and turns it into a natural work when there is absolutely nothing natural about salvation or working out salvation!

It is nothing natural about a person turning away from everything they have known for their entire lives. There is nothing natural about someone believing in things that go against the laws of nature and conventional wisdom. There is nothing natural about believing in things that can not be seen and there is nothing natural about giving your life over to a God who can not be seen.

None of this can be accomplished in the natural, it all happens through the unnatural acts of faith and grace and the same can be said of reconciliation!

How did man fall from the grace of God?
He transgressed against His laws!

How does man get back into the grace of God?
By believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Is this a natural thing? Does it hold up to logic? Does it stand up to reason?

No!

That is why most Christians have a difficult time grasping the concept that they can not work their way back into God's grace because it took a work to fall from it!

They do not understand that there was a change that took place some 2,000 years ago, there was a paradigm shift, which changed the rules that were established on the left side of the cross.

Under the old covenant it was all about what man had to do to keep under the grace which God had given because that covenant (contract) was established between God and man. Under the new covenant however it is about what Jesus did for us because the new covenant, that was established and put into force on the right side of the cross, was made between God and Himself.

Subsequently this new covenant can not be broken by man. Man has nothing to do with it, save receiving Christ as Savior.

You see under the grace of the old testament Adam received it unconditionally but there were 316 conditions (laws) established in order for Him to keep it.

Under the new covenant there was one condition put into place in order to receive it (receiving Christ as Savior) and there is one condition put in place in order to keep it (not returning to the law for righteousness).

(Gal 5:4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

How then are people drawn to God?

How does this ministry of reconciliation work?

- 1) Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- 2) Love thy neighbor as thyself.
- 3) Share that love with others!

Why does this pattern work in accomplishing the ministry of reconciliation?

It works because all God ever desired of mankind from the beginning was for us to love Him, and now, because of all that He has done for us, while we were still sinners, we love Him as He loves us, unconditionally (*or at least that is how it is supposed to be*).

When we love our enemies, when we bless those who curse us, when we turn the other cheek, we are showing the world Christ because that is the way He loved all men/women.

(Joh 15:12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

This doctrine of agape love is the very foundation for all Christian ministry. The works of Christian ministry stand or fall on the motivation behind them, on what is in the heart of the person doing them.

(Rev 2:19) I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Apparently the pastor of the church at Thyatira had the same problem as the pastor at Ephesus. In verse 19 Jesus says that the last acts are being done more than the first act, which is charity (love).

The apostle Paul instructs us:

(1Co 13:1) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, **I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

(1Co 13:2) And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, **I am nothing.**

(1Co 13:3) And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, **it profiteth me nothing.**

(1Co 13:4) Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

(1Co 13:5) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

(1Co 13:6) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

(1Co 13:7) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

You see brothers and sisters no matter what we do as born again believers, even if we keep and do the 316 old testament laws perfectly as Jesus did, there is no righteousness, there is no blamelessness, there is no glory, if these things are not done with true love in our hearts!

How do we obtain this unconditional (agape) love?

Grace!

This love comes with the gift of new covenant grace. It comes with the divine influence of God upon our new hearts of flesh through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

This love comes to dwell within us when God comes to dwell in us because God is love (1Joh 4:8 & 16), and this makes EVERY one of us who live on the right side of the Cross, first and foremost, ministers of reconciliation, not judges and ministers of condemnation!

