

Word of Truth"

5)

"But Now"

(Ephesians 2:13)

The Main Sphere of Influence for the Body of CHRIST is the Heavenly Places - Eph. 1, Col. 1

"Ages to Come"

(Ephesians 2:7)

FROM C.S.I. TO PENTECOSTALISM TO GRACE

"MY JOURNEY"

JOHNY VARGHESE

The Dispensation of Grace

"Grace" "Peace"

"Grace"

Paul

Kingdom Postponed
Rom. 11:25

Paul and
"the BODY OF CHRIST"

"Gospel Of
Uncircumcision" (Gal. 2:7)

"Gospel of Grace"
(Acts 20:24)

"The MYSTERY"

Acts
28

Romans to Philemon

(Romans 11:13)

Cross Church Coming Congregation
ROMANS EPHESIANS THESS. TIMOTHY

70TH WEEK

Anti-Christ

WRATH "Kingdom"

7 YEARS of
Tribulation

Matt. 3:7
Jer. 30:7
Dan. 9

1000
Years

Matt. 25:34
Matt. 6:10
Dan. 2:44

Kingdom Established
Rev. 11:15; 20:4-6

Eph. 1:10

Gospel of Kingdom
Isa. 2:1-4

"PROPHECY"

Hebrews to Revelation

(Romans 11:25-29)



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to:

First, to God and His glory.

Second, to my wife Mariamma and my two children Jamie and Jayson. After years of Pentecostal teaching, my hearts desire is to share with them the liberating truth of God's grace today in this Dispensation of Grace.

Third, to all my relatives who know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, along with my Pentecostal and Evangelical friends, that they will come to see the fellowship of the Mystery (Eph. 3:9).

Fourth, to all my unsaved friends and relatives and to any one else who may read this book, that they will understand the love of God manifested at the cross of Calvary when the Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, eternal life is offered as a free gift, apart from human works, to all who believe in the sacrificial work of Christ on their behalf.

And finally, to Grace School of the Bible for its clear and loving presentation of the truth. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the school.

Johny Varghese
January 1998

PREFACE

In Acts 18:24-28 we find a curious parallel to the condition of the Church today.

Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the scripture. The problem with Apollos was that he possessed limited knowledge. Apollos only knew John's baptism, hence, he wanted to take his hearers back to John's teaching. Aquilla and Priscilla, however, expounded unto him the way of God more **"perfectly"**. The result of this was that Apollos helped them which had believed through **"grace"**. This is what the church as a whole lacks. It lacks the doctrinal "perfection" that the revelation of the mystery provides (1 Cor. 2:1-7). How sad it is that so many would have Christians go "back" to John or "back" to Pentecost or even "back" to the circumcision ministry of Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:8)! God, our Father, would have us "grow on to perfection" based on **His** now revealed mystery message and mystery program of **Grace!** Prayerfully consider Col. 1:25-28:

"Whereof I (Paul) am made a minister, *according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the MYSTERY which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:* To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this *mystery among the Gentiles;* which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **PERFECT** in Christ Jesus:"

The reason the church today is weak, confused, fragmented and irrelevant is due to **not** making the distinctions in scripture where God makes the distinctions. This is the "key" to understanding, enjoying, and applying the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)!

It is for this reason that this book is written. My purpose is to help the reader see the distinctions that God has placed in scripture.

This book evolved as a result of answering numerous questions that were asked of me in regard to dispensational Bible study. It is by no means meant to be "exhaustive". It is just a "primer" addressing briefly some of the doctrinal differences within Christendom today. At the end of this book I have listed several sources that will make available to you good, sound dispensational Bible study material.

My only prayer and motive is to be "...*helpers of your joy*" (2 Cor. 1:24).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work would not have been possible without the help, insights, prayers and contributions made by many of the saints of God. Special thanks goes to Pastor Richard Jordan, President of Grace School of the Bible, Pastor Alex Kurz, Pastor Ray Keable, Pastor Art Johnson, Pastor Denis Durham, Pastor Ted Fellows and Pastor Dan Gross for all of their contributions to this book. It is because of these men that I personally have come to understand the sound doctrine of Grace. Also heartfelt thanks goes out to the saints of Shorewood Bible Church, for their prayers and support. Thanks to all who helped with the typing, editing and proof-reading especially Debbie Keable who contributed much time in this regard.

FORWARD

By Pastor Richard Jordan

President of Grace School of the Bible
Former President of Berean Bible Society

This volume comes as much from the heart as the pen of our friend and brother, Johny Varghese. It recounts his journey into the sunlight of God's grace and the clarity that "rightly dividing the word of truth" brings.

Religious fervor abounds. On every hand can be found people who, like Israel of old, "have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). But the Christian life is not designed to operate on the basis of ignorance.

The walk of faith is the walk of an intelligent response to a clear understanding of God's revelation to us through His Word rightly divided. Nothing short of this qualifies as the walk of faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Therefore if we are to walk by faith, it must be faith in God's Word to us.

Here is where right division is essential - and imminently practical. All *The Bible* is God's Word. All *The Bible* is for our admonition, learning, and profit. But all *The Bible* is not written about us. God has more people in His plans and purposes than the Body of Christ of which saints today are members. In fact, He has a whole separate program for a completely different agency - the nation Israel. To fail to distinguish between these two distinct purposes is to invite confusion and failure into our lives and ministries.

As you read the following pages, you will see this distinction and how it relates to our lives, how it enlightens our way, how it defeats the adversary, and how it sets us free to walk by faith and live victoriously day by day for God's glory. May God enlighten the eyes of understanding for all who prayerfully consider these truths that transform.

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PART 1

Personal testimony and basic grace theology

MY JOURNEY INTO TRUTH

I want to tell you of my journey into the full light and understanding of God's truth. I am grateful for every step and stop along the way. God used each one to cause me to arrive at the place of "the full assurance of understanding" (Col. 2:3). I pray these pages will help you do the same.

FROM C.S.I. TO PENTECOST:

I was born and brought up in a Christian family in Kerala state, India. Kerala is the Hawaii of India, a beautiful place, full of coconut trees and beaches. The name Kerala came from the term 'keram,' and means coconut tree. I invite you to come and visit Kerala.

Tradition says the apostle Thomas was in Kerala and established many churches. This cannot be true because according to Gal. 2:7-9 the Gentile ministry was transferred from the 12 Apostles to St. Paul. Christ appointed Paul as the Apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13). It was *his* co-laborers who went to Asia and all other nations, not the Twelve.

India is 82% Hindu, 13% Muslim and only 3% Christian. However, more than 50% of the population of Kerala is considered Christian, half of them are Catholic and half Protestant. Today, Hindus are demanding that Hinduism be the only religion of India. Some Indians claim Christianity is America's religion. I used to be a member of C.S.I. (Church of South India) which is an Anglo-Evangelical type denomination. I always believed in the final authority of the Bible. I have come to understand, through study, that the King James Bible (KJV 1611) is the only inerrant bible for English speaking people. It comes from the "majority text," (over 95% of existing manuscripts) also called the "textus receptus" (TR). All other versions are translated from corrupted manuscripts which are called the "minority text" (less than 5% of existing manuscripts). There is no Malayalam Bible version yet from the proper manuscripts. This manuscript understanding has completely changed my attitude toward the Holy Scripture!

In the C.S.I. tradition, I was baptized in water as a baby. C.S.I. believes that there is only one gospel in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. They generally preach from the New Testament, making no distinction between Jesus Christ's pre-resurrection teaching (the "gospels") and His post-resurrection teaching (the "epistles").

At around 40 years of age, I became interested in listening to other denominational sermons. The Pentecostals influenced my wife and myself into their doctrines. They showed us many scriptures on the believer's baptism. At this point my baby baptism did not make any sense to me. Soon my wife and I decided to take this baptism (fully immersed after believing) and joined the Pentecostal group. For more than 10 years I was with this group. At this time I had the opportunity to listen to many, many sermons through tapes and at the same time promoted these doctrines through Maranatha Tape Ministry all over the world.

FROM PENTECOST TO GRACE

I was happy in Pentecostalism until I heard a few Grace sermons over the radio, which taught the full sufficiency of God's grace through the crosswork of Jesus Christ alone. This teaching totally

contradicted the fundamental concepts of Pentecostalism, but at the same time it was perfectly in accord with the scriptures. The Pentecostal type of worship (prophecies, new revelations, etc.) all excited me in the beginning, but now I began to question their scriptural integrity. Through the tape ministry, I had sold or freely distributed thousands of tapes relating testimonies of miracle healings and new revelations, such as "Revelation of Hell," etc. When I studied the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24, Eph. 3:1-9), and the mystery revealed to Paul (Rom. 16:25-26, Col. 1:24-27), I came to realize that there is more than one gospel in the Bible and that these "sign gifts" and "new revelations" are not part of the way God is working today during our present dispensation. I threw away all those "new revelation" tapes, which deny the final authority of the completed word of God. God has given us numerous verses showing that He would preserve His words (Psa. 12:6,7; Mat. 22:31).

It was a practice in my Pentecostal church almost every week for the prophets to prophesy the will of God for individuals or the church. The grace message opened my eyes to see that these messages are **NOT** from God. To know the will of God one has to study the Bible, God's words (Col. 1:9-10, II Tim. 3:16,17). Romans 12:2 calls this the renewing of your mind. Col. 3:16 says it again! There is nothing supernatural about this. At this point in time, I went to a "grace" church and bought a few tape albums with the intention of finding out what "grace" is all about.

MAKING RIGHT DIVISIONS

The first thing I understood was right division. If you don't rightly divide the word of truth as II Tim. 2:15 says to do, you cannot understand God's plan of salvation for today. Paul's revelation from God added to the existing knowledge at that time (Gal. 2:6-9). The reason you have to rightly divide the word (not wrongly divide) is because there are two groups of people in God's program (the nation Israel, and the church, the Body of Christ). There are definite divisions, distinctions, and differences in the scripture pertaining to each group, which cannot be mixed, yet we mix them out of our ignorance. Basically, in time past, under the law, one had to work/perform to maintain their righteous standing before God (Lk. 1:6). But now, under grace, it is just the opposite (Rom. 4:4,5, 11:6).

Here are just a few examples of right division:

Circumcision and Uncircumcision (Gen. 17:9/Gal. 5:6, 6:15)

Law and Grace (Matt. 5:19/Rom. 6:14)

Israel and the Body of Christ (Rom. 3:1,2/Gal. 3:28)

Prophecy and Mystery (Acts 3:21/Eph. 3:5)

Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of Grace (Matt. 4:23/Acts 20:24)

Sins blotted out at the Second Coming of Christ and
the Present Possession of the atonement (Acts 3:19/Rom. 5:11)

There are messages in the Bible written to two different groups of people, God's earthly kingdom people (Israel) and God's heavenly kingdom people (the church, the Body of Christ). God has temporarily set aside the nation Israel (Rom. 11:11,12, 25,26) to accomplish His purpose with the present day church. That is why we have to ask these questions whenever we study God's Word:

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

Whom is it written to?

What is it about?

While the whole Bible is for our learning and admonition, it is not all to Us and about Us! This is the dispensational way of Bible study. A text, without a context, is a pretext.

If you do not study the Bible dispensationally, you are robbing yourself and your family of the riches of the knowledge of God's grace! To move myself from Pentecostalism to Grace was a difficult thing, but I knew this was the right thing to do scripturally and dispensationally.

To understand my journey into the truth, let me illustrate. According to Mark 16:16, I had to be water baptized for salvation. I was water baptized as the verse says, but the following verses say, "These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

I had faith, and none of these five manifestations occurred in my life, not even one. My question is, because these things did not follow, am I a believer (saved) according to the verses? If the answer is no, then how can I get to heaven? Please notice that the crosswork of Christ is never even mentioned in these verses! In my ten years in Pentecostalism, whenever I got time off from my work I fasted and prayed for these manifestations. There was enough pressure on me to at least make some sound as if it were a new tongue. But deep down inside of me I knew it was not God doing this (Isa. 55:8).

Now I understand that I was looking for these manifestations in the wrong dispensation. In this dispensation of Grace there are no signs for salvation! We are saved by faith and faith alone (II Cor. 5:7), and we are complete in Christ according to Col. 2:10. I do not have to worry any more about those fleshly manifestations today. Ours is the higher privilege, the greater blessedness of those who have not seen and yet have believed. Jesus said to Thomas, "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (Jn. 20:29)

Let me mention another one of our wrong practices. This is a quote from a Pentecostal circular letter by Lucy Kakku from India Christian Fellowship Ministries, Inc. It is titled, "Some of the Most Spiritual Principles the Believer and Church Need to Observe". She says, "While praying, allow the Lord time to talk to you. If you fail to hear from Him we cannot be victorious Christians." According to this principle you have to audibly hear from God to be a victorious Christian. My wife has made a habit of getting up early, at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, to talk to God and hear from Him. It is silent everywhere at this time, so she thinks she can hear from God better. She is a **victim** of Pentecostal teaching, as I was. This is pure superstition. Superstition is simply a belief or attitude based on fear or ignorance (Acts 17:22.) This is why Col. 2:18 warns us, "Let no man beguile you of 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." If God communicated to us that way, couldn't He, Almighty God, speak to us during daytime hours? According to scripture, if "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17) we are: "more than conquerors" (Rom. 8:37), "complete in Christ" (Col. 2:10), and "God... giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57). This is a present possession according to God's Word. Our victory is complete! We do not need more than the cross to be victorious. My wife says, God told me this, God told me that, just as some Pentecostal pastors say. But this is a violation of the principle of revelation and inspiration. Now that the Bible is complete, there is no new revelation, no new inspiration needed or given. God is silent from heaven today. Now the Holy Spirit enlightens us as to what He has already written in His Word. The Pentecostal kind of belief denies the full sufficiency of the Cross, as well as God's other written principles of "revelation" (God's communication to man) and "inspiration" (men, chosen by God, recording those God-breathed words on paper). We have a completed canon of scripture (Col. 1:25). Now we are told to grow in knowledge through the study of His Word.

Grace truth is contrary to the vast majority of modern Christian theology. Most Christians today have not even heard the valuable truths of the Mystery (Col. 2:27) and they don't believe what is plainly written in Rom. 11:13 that Paul is the apostle of "the Gentiles". With my C.S.I. and Pentecostal background, this change in my understanding was like swimming against the tide.

My purpose in writing this book is that my family, relatives, and friends may come to know and understand the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Rom. 16:25); that many religious but lost will understand and believe the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24); and that believers will be edified and change their thinking from the kingdom gospel to the grace gospel, which is the **only** source of salvation today. I have provided in this book a series of questions and answers as a source of information. These questions were asked in response to the thousands of tapes and literature I have freely distributed among American Malayali Christians. I hope these dear brothers and sisters in Christ won't mind using these correspondence letters so that I can show right division

(II Tim. 2:15) to my dear ones. Prov. 27:17 says "iron sharpeneth iron," so members of the church, the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), sharpen each other. I pray this book does that for you, the reader.

I now understand that my belief in the gospel of the grace of God takes away my past, present, and future sins (Col. 2:13), and that heaven is my sure and ultimate home when I die or am raptured (II Cor. 5:1). The most important thing to God is His inspired and preserved written words on the pages of HIS BOOK (Psa. 138:2; Mat. 22:31,32). God has equated the scriptures to our perfect Saviour (Jn. 1:1-14, Rev. 19:13).

It is Paul's gospel that we have to proclaim today. Today we are saved by Paul's gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4), we are established by his gospel (Rom. 16:25), and we will be judged by his gospel (Rom. 2:16). Paul's writing alone is the "gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24, II Tim. 1:8-11). Pastor K.E. Abraham, the founder of India Pentecost Church, did not preach the grace gospel. K.V. Simon did not preach the grace gospel. Dr. Billy Graham is no longer preaching the grace gospel. Today, no Pentecostals, fundamentalists, or evangelicals are preaching the grace gospel. All are preaching a mixture of the "kingdom" and "grace" gospels (law and grace together), thus perverting the gospel (Rom. 11:6; Gal. 5:9). The book of Galatians addresses this issue. Peter, John, and The Twelve did not preach the grace gospel because their ministry was different. If you compare Acts 16:6,7 and 1 Pet. 1:1 and then read Rom. 15:20 you will see 2 foundations / programs, with Jesus Christ central to both. Even Jesus Christ did not preach the grace gospel during His earthly ministry because it was not yet time for the reconciling of both the Jew and Gentile unto God into one body (Eph. 2:16, I Cor. 12:13). He preached the kingdom gospel to the circumcision, Israel. Rom. 15:8 says "Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision." This is past tense. But in "due time" the ascended Lord revealed a new message to Paul (Tit. 1:3, Gal. 1:11,12). It was a "mystery" (secret) revelation. We are to preach the "grace" gospel today. God calls no one to preach the "kingdom" today. Paul says in Gal. 4:16, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" I am trying to present the truth that I have learned from the Holy Bible. The natural (unsaved) man does not understand God's truth, so he doesn't spend any time with it (I Cor. 2:14). The great hurt comes from the closest of all - the ones who say they love the Lord and say they appreciate God's words but do not want to change their vain traditions (Col. 2:20-23). I am identified in my Pentecostal group as "a good man gone bad," "almost fallen from salvation." God's word says that I "am sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). I choose to trust God's word. For them, it is not good enough to trust the Lord. They have to "add" their "thoughts" and their "ways." Again the Lord says in Isa. 55:8, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ..." Gal. 5:8,9 says, "This persuasion cometh not of Him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." My Pentecostal associates do not have an assurance of their salvation, and because they mix gospels, they do not understand verses such as Eph. 4:30,

1:13,14.

I know salvation is a free gift given to us by grace, not by my merit (Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 5:15). I received it by faith alone, but before I came to this truth, I was still not trusting in the all sufficiency of the cross. I was a "Galatian" (Gal. 5:1). My deeper (dispensational) understanding of the scripture has made all the difference. Paul laid the foundation of the mystery church (I Cor. 3:10). So the building materials for this building (church) also come from Paul's writings. Mosaic materials (Law - Jn. 1:17) and Peter's materials (Pentecost and before Mat.16:18) are forbidden in building this new church - the Body of Christ, because it violates the building code. Today, charismatic groups and many others are trying to build the millennial church on earth and perfect the kingdom gospel which God completely set aside after Acts 7:51-53; Mat. 12:31,32. Acts 13:38,39 thru Acts 28:28 was a transition period to show Israel that they have been set aside as the preferred nation (Dut. 28:13, 14, 15, 43, 44; Rom. 11: 11, 12, 25, 26, 27) In Matt. 16:18, Jesus Christ said that "He" would build this church. Nowhere does He say that He needs or wants any help in doing this (Acts 17:24,25). This is vain, human reasoning with the end result always being the same (Prov. 14:12, I Cor. 1:19). Remember, saved people in today's dispensation will have a home "eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1), not on the earth.

SOME THINGS I'VE LEARNED

Please read this book carefully, if possible, many times because the materials provided are so controversial to your traditional beliefs. Check with your Bible (KJV) to see whether these things are according to the scriptures, as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11. People resist the doctrine of grace because it goes against what they have always been taught. Ecc. 7:20 says, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." Because of Adam's sin (Rom. 5:18, I Cor. 15:22) and our own personal sins (Col. 1:21), no person is worthy of a relationship with a Holy God (Rom. 3:23). Since we are helpless to correct this situation (Prov. 20:9) and can do nothing to hide our sin (Heb. 4:13), we all stand condemned by sin (Rom. 3:19). Gal. 5:1 says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." This "yoke of bondage" is the Law, which lends us to think that our own works and activities can get us saved and/or keep us saved. Our salvation and our assurance of salvation is "through the faith and operation of God" (Col. 2:12), not in any of our own operations. It is a completed operation once we trust in His blood and the finished work of the Cross (Eph. 1:6,7, Rom. 3:21-28).

JUDAISM AND THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

God has two programs for two purposes. God's purpose today concerns the heavenly (invisible realm) and the other concerns the earth (visible realm). In the Bible, fundamentally there are two gospels, one is the gospel of the kingdom and the other the gospel of grace. The kingdom gospel deals with the earth (with God's power and authority vested in the nation Israel), while the grace gospel deals with the heavenly places (with God's power and authority vested in the Church, the Body of Christ). The kingdom gospel is also called "prophecy" and the grace gospel is called "the mystery."

The prophetic scriptures are the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Gospels and the Hebrew epistles (Heb.-Rev.) which deal with God instituting His earthly kingdom vested in the nation of Israel. The revelation of the mystery pertains to God's heavenly kingdom. God revealed this to Paul and this revelation is found in his epistles (Rom.-Phile.). In these two distinct revelations, God has set forth

His total plan of redemption for the earth and the heavens (Eph. 1:10).

There are some similarities and yet great differences between Judaism and The Church, the Body of Christ. Some of the similarities are: they both have gospels, salvation, and eternal life. They both have Jesus Christ as deity, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, prayer and spiritual blessings.

**SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JUDAEO CHRISTIANITY (ISRAEL)
AND
THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST (TODAY'S CHRISTIANITY):**

1. **COVENANTS:** The gospel of the kingdom is based on the covenants God made with one nation, Israel. There are 5 of these covenants: the Abrahamic Covenant, Palestinian Covenant, Davidic Covenant, Mosaic Covenant, and the New Covenant. The Christians of today's dispensation are a non-covenant people. Their salvation is unconditional. The grace gospel works on a total non-merit system that is by faith and faith alone.
2. **GOSPELS:** The gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of the circumcision belong to Israel. The gospel of grace and the gospel of the uncircumcision belong to the Church, the Body of Christ, where, in God's eyes, there is no Jew or Greek (Gal. 3:28).
3. **FUNDAMENTAL OPERATING PRINCIPLES: LAW AND GRACE.** The leading principle of the kingdom is the Law (Matt. 5:17). "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17). The leading principle of the gospel of grace is, of course, grace. Romans 6:14,15 declares: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."
4. **DIFFERENT PRESENTATIONS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** Both programs are centered in the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel of the kingdom presented the Lord Jesus as Israel's Messiah and king of Israel. Under today's gospel of grace, God has one main title, the Head of the Church, which is His Body, made up of Jews and Gentiles (Eph.1:22, 23; 2:16). This is mentioned only in Paul's epistles. He is Lord and Saviour of the Church, the Body of Christ.
5. **DIFFERENCE IN SALVATION MESSAGE:** God has been saving people ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, but the salvation message has had different contents according to His will.

When God was dealing with the nation Israel as His conduit / agency to the rest of the world, the plan of salvation is given in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth (that Jesus Christ was Israel's prophesied Messiah) and is baptized shall be saved." Salvation was dependent upon believing plus being baptized with water. In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John this principle of faith and works for eternal life is repeated over and over again (Ex: Matt. 5:20; 19:16-21; 19:29; John 3:5; Acts 2:38). This salvation is salvation into the earthly kingdom. Under the gospel of the kingdom, works were an outward indication that the individual had faith. Because works can be counterfeited, Jas. 1:27 shows what kind of works Israel will need in the end timez: Don't get the mark of the beast and help the families of the saints who died by refusing to get the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16-18). This is what James wrote to the twelve tribes of Israel (Jas. 1:1): "faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:14-26). But according to the gospel of grace, salvation is by faith plus nothing (Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5).

6. **DIFFERENCE IN REMISSION OF SINS:** According to the gospel of the kingdom the remission of sins was by water baptism, if there was repentance as to the acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as

their Messiah (Mk. 1:4; Lk 3:3, Acts 2:38). On the day of Pentecost Peter did not mention faith in the shed blood of Christ for the remission of sins, which is the core of today's gospel of grace. Anyone filled with the Spirit does not make this mistake today. What about Matt. 26:28,29? This was before the cross (which they didn't understand - Lk. 18:31-34) and again Peter didn't preach faith in the shed blood of the cross. Notice also "shed for **many** " in Mat. 26:28 vs I Tim.2:4 "who will have **all** men to be saved." (Also "a ransom for **many**" in Mat. 20:28 vs I Tim. 2:6 "a ransom for **all**.") Mat. 26:28 is consistent with the kingdom gospel where Israel was to be the head of the nations (Zech. 8:23, Acts 1:6)

According to the gospel of the grace of God, the remission or forgiveness of sins is by faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, Rom. 3:25). This is first seen in the Mystery revealed through Paul, not in the Gospels. The adding of water baptism in this dispensation slanders the all-sufficiency of faith in the shed blood of Christ (Rom. 3:25, 1 Cor. 1:17). Paul teaches that ALL of our sins have been forgiven on the basis of His sacrifice on the cross (Acts 20:28, Rom. 5:9).

Are people saved today by the gospel of the kingdom? The answer is NO! Today people are saved by the grace of God or they are not saved at all.

7. DIFFERENCE IN BAPTISM: There are many baptisms in the kingdom gospel. There is the:

- a. Baptism of fire (Matt. 3:11) which speaks of Israel's purging and judgment and looks to the future tribulation period facing the nation Israel (Dan. 9:27; Jer. 30:7).
- b. Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Mk. 1:4, Matt. 3:6,11).
- c. Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ to identify Himself with Israel (Matt. 3:13-17, John 1:31-33).
- d. Baptism with the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:11, Acts 2:3,4; 11:6) (not "by" one Spirit into one Body - I Cor. 12:13).
- e. Washings of water under the Law (Mk. 7:3,4).

There will be 12 thrones for the 12 apostles (Matt. 19:28). Healing is a physical blessing. Jews require a sign (I Cor. 1:22). Signs, wonders and miracles are physical blessings to Israel and its program (Psa. 74:9; 147:2, 19, 20; Isa. 8:18; Acts 2:22).

The gospel of the grace of God presents only ONE BAPTISM for this dispensation: "One Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM" (Eph. 4:5). This baptism is very important for it is the work of the Holy Spirit baptizing every believer into the Body of Christ upon being saved (I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27, Rom. 6:3,4).

8. DIFFERENCE IN THE BLESSING OF ISRAEL AND THE BODY OF CHRIST: Under the earthly program (Judaism / Israel), the blessing of God is primarily physical and secondly spiritual. God made a land covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:18). God made a covenant with David regarding the kingdom and the throne (2 Sam. 7:13).

Today, according to the gospel of grace, the believer is blessed "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). Our blessings are spiritual: "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Cor. 4:16). Spiritual blessings, are for our growth in Christ. There are no physical blessing offered today. Our spiritual blessings come as we study God's word and grow in our knowledge and understanding of what He has already promised and provided - eternal life - Tit. 1:2.

9. SIGNS, WONDERS AND MIRACLES: Signs are an important part of the kingdom gospel (I Cor. 1:22) for Jews require a sign. The first sign for Israel was circumcision given to Abraham (Gen. 17:10, Rom. 4:11). Healing, multiplying of food, raising the dead, etc., all were signs to confirm Jesus Christ was Messiah to Israel. In Mark 16:17,18 we are told that signs shall follow the believer. In the kingdom gospel there was and will be signs again.

According to the grace gospel there are NO outward signs, wonders and miracles. The signs mentioned in I Cor. 12 and 14 were limited to the Acts time period (approximately 30 years) before the canon of scripture was complete. The miracle in God's Word today is the miracle of salvation which comes with our personal belief in the written words. Believers are to walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7). Any so called signs that follow today are counterfeit signs, and according to II Thes. 2:9, Satan has the power to work signs and wonders. God's will for the believer is that he might be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col. 1:9). The wisdom of God is contained in the Mystery revealed to Paul (I Cor. 2:7).

10. HOLY DAYS: Lev. 23 shows that all the holy days were for Israel (before they fell, Rom. 11:11, many other scriptures will show this). "Pentecost" belongs to Judaism and not to the Church of the Body of Christ. Acts 2 shows that Israel had not yet fallen, and that the "middle wall of partition" was still up (Eph. 2:11-18). According to the grace gospel, there are no holy days to observe. Paul warns against observing days, months, years, etc., in Gal. 4:9-11; Col. 2:16-23.

11. DIFFERENT COMMISSIONS: The Lord personally commissioned The Twelve with the gospel of the kingdom. Notice that they were preaching this particular gospel before they knew, understood, or believed that Jesus Christ had to go to the cross (Lk. 18:31-34). Matthias was the replacement for Judas (Acts 1). Later, the Lord Jesus Christ personally commissioned ONE man to preach the gospel of the grace of God in this age - Paul.

12. THE COMING OF CHRIST FOR JUDAISM / ISRAEL AND FOR TODAY'S CHURCH / THE BODY OF CHRIST: According to the gospel of the kingdom, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to return to earth and set up His kingdom for Israel. This is the second coming of Christ. Zechariah prophesied, "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives" (Zech. 14:4). This is the same place from which Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-12). According to the grace gospel, the Lord Jesus will appear in the AIR for the Body of Christ (I Thess. 4:17). There won't be any more grace gospel after this event, but the kingdom gospel will be preached thereafter.

There are more differences than similarities between Israel and the Body of Christ. Today, we are not Israel or spiritual Israel. Saved people today are reconciled into one Body and called "New Creatures" (II Cor. 5:14-21). There are absolutely NO spiritual Jews today, only ethnic Jews. So, there are no more covenants.

WHAT IS THIS MYSTERY?

The revelation Paul received is called the Mystery because it was kept secret. It was hidden in God and was hid from ages and generations (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1:26; Tit. 1:3). Since it was kept secret, it cannot be found in any other part of the Bible except Paul's letters. Eph. 3:8 calls it "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

WHERE THIS MYSTERY COMES FROM: This mystery came from the Lord Jesus Christ by direct revelation (Gal. 1:11,12, Eph. 3:3, II Cor. 12:1,7). This is why Paul's epistles are so important for us

and why we need to study them thoroughly. They contain our doctrine for today.

TO WHOM IT WAS REVEALED: This mystery was revealed to the apostle Paul ALONE (Gal. 2:7, Eph. 3:2, Col. 1:25, Gal. 1:11,12). Paul's apostleship came from the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:15,16; 2:8, Acts 9:15). He was never one of The Twelve. Paul is called the Apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; 15:16, I Tim. 2:7).

NAMES FOR THIS MYSTERY:

1. The revelation of the Mystery (Rom. 16:25).
2. The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).
3. My gospel (Rom. 2:16; 16:25, II Tim. 2:8).
4. The gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 15:19; Gal. 1:7; I Cor. 9:12,18). (Both programs)
5. The gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15, Eph. 6:15). (Both programs)
6. The gospel of His son (Rom. 1:9). (Both programs)
7. The gospel of God (Rom. 1:1; 15:16). (Both programs)
8. The gospel of the Uncircumcision (Gal. 2:7).
9. Christ's gospel (II Cor. 2:12). (Both programs)
10. The gospel of your salvation (Eph. 1:13).
11. The glorious gospel of Christ (II Cor. 4:4).
12. The glorious gospel of the blessed God (I Tim. 1:11).

(Both programs) = The context will show where it fits.

WHAT THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY CONTAINS

1. The formation of the Body of Christ: The Body of Christ was a secret. Individuals saved in this dispensation become part of the Church, the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27, Rom. 11:25, Eph. 1:22; 3:6; 4:4). The Body of Christ began with the salvation and commissioning of the Apostle Paul. Notice his testimony to this fact in I Tim. 1:13-16: "in me FIRST." He is the pattern to those who should afterward believe on Christ.

2. The Dispensation of Grace: This present dispensation was a Mystery. It began with the apostle Paul. It was given to him by Christ (Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25). Since it was a mystery not known until given to Paul, it could never have been in existence before him. Peter knew nothing about this dispensation when he preached on the day of Pentecost.

3. The Gospel of the Grace of God -Acts 20:24 . This gospel is a mystery gospel and emphasizes and magnifies the Grace of God. Only through this gospel in this age can any one be saved and grow in the knowledge of Christ. Our judgment also is according to this gospel Rom. 2:16. Today salvation is by grace alone (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:7; Rom. 3:24). The preaching of the cross is the Grace gospel (I Cor. 1:17,18; Gal. 6:14; 1:20). Forgiveness of sin is by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:25; Eph. 1:17; Col 1:14; Rom. 5:9). This eliminates water baptism in this dispensation. The gospel of the kingdom proclaims belief in Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah and water, not blood for the remission of sins (Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38). The grace gospel shows that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was necessary for salvation (I Cor 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9; 2 Cor. 5:15).

4. The Temporary setting aside of Israel: The revelation of the mystery gives the only scriptural answer as to why God is not now dealing with the nation Israel. It is because He has set the nation aside, in Act 28, for the remainder of this Dispensation. Rom. 11:25: "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that BLINDNESS in part is happened to ISRAEL, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (in part means temporary).

This setting aside of Israel is called "the fall", the diminishing, and the casting away (Rom. 11:11,12,15).

According to prophecy, the Gentiles were to be saved through a redeemed and risen Israel (Isa. 11:1,10; Rom. 15:8-12). But according to the MYSTERY, salvation has come to the Gentiles through the fall of Israel (Rom. 11:11-15)

THESE EVENTS DEMONSTRATE THE CHANGE IN GOD'S PLAN :

- a. The resisting of the Holy Spirit by Israel. Acts 7:51.
- b. The salvation and commissioning of Paul. Acts 9:15.
- c. The giving of the Holy Spirit before being baptized in water. Acts 10:44.
- d. The killing of the apostle James in Acts 12:2, thereby reducing the 12 apostles to 11 and not choosing another one as they did in Acts 1 to replace Judas.
- e. Paul started out on his first missionary journey among the Gentiles in Acts 13:2.
- f. The decline of Peter's leadership over the apostles. Another James, who was not an apostle, was the spokesman in Acts 15:13-21, and made the decision in verse 19.
- g. A definite change in the gospel message from REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED for the remission of sins in Acts 2:38 to "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED" in Acts 16:31.
- h. And then the quotation of Isa. 6:9,10 in Acts 28:25-28.

5. The equality of Jew and Gentiles: Only in this dispensation of the mystery is there no difference between Jew and Gentile. Jews were separated from the nations (Gentiles) 1 Kings 8:53; Eph. 2:12. In time past and in the ages to come Jews will again be first according to prophecy.

Time past : Matt. 15:24; Acts 3:26

Now : Rom. 3:9; 3:19; 3:22,23; 10:12,13; 11:32.

6. The ONE BAPTISM OF Eph. 4:5. The seven ONE'S of the Body of Christ as set forth in Eph. 4:4-6 are absolutely necessary for the right understanding of the revelation of the Mystery. "ONE BODY - ONE FAITH - ONE BAPTISM," etc. These are the tenets of our faith. This one baptism is not by water but by the Holy Spirit, the operation of God - I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27. We are placed into the Body of Christ BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Paul is the only one who writes about this baptism by the Holy Spirit.

7. NEW MYSTERY COMMISSION: THIS COMMISSION IS IN 2 Cor. 5:14-20. "...And all things are of God, who hath RECONCILED us to Himself by Jesus Christ and hath GIVEN TO US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION, ...Now then, we are AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST ..." Reconciliation shows that Jews and Gentiles both be recognized as alienated from God by sin (Eph. 2:12,16; Rom.3:9, 10; 11:15). Our commission includes the task of helping others see what is the fellowship of the Mystery (Eph. 3:9).

8. The Heavenly position of the Christians: This part of the Mystery thrills the soul of those who know about this wonderful truth. We are made to sit together in Heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6). Our citizenship is in Heaven, not on earth (Phil 3:20). All our spiritual blessings are in Heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3). We are to seek things which are in Heaven (Col. 3:1-3). We will be eternally in Heaven, not on earth (2 Cor. 5:1). On the other hand, the subject of prophecy is God's earthly program and domain.

9. The judgment seat of Christ: This is a Mystery judgment. This judgment is for believers only. Paul laid the foundation of this church and construction of this building must be in accordance with Pauline truth. Adding Mosaic material (law) or Peterine materials (Pentecost) violates the building code. At the judgment seat of Christ wrong materials / works are burned off but the person will be saved (Rom.

14:10-12, I Cor. 3:9-15, II Cor. 5:10). Why? Because part of the mystery truth shows that the moment we are saved, we are "sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). This is not true in other dispensations (Heb. 6:4-6; 9:15, etc). They can lose their salvation if they don't endure, overcome, and are faithful unto death (Jas. 5:11, Rev. 2:10, 26).

10. The ministry of the Holy Spirit: The apostle Paul has more to say about the ministry of the Holy Spirit than any other Bible writer. The whole Christian life is in the sphere of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the power that enables us to live pleasing to our Lord. We are to walk in the Spirit, to be led of the Spirit, to live in the Spirit, to be filled with the Spirit, and produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Gal. 5:16,18,22,23,25) Eph. 5:18 and Col. 3:16 shows us that the Spirit is the word of God (Jn. 6:63). We are not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19).

11. A Full and Complete Revelation: The Revelation of the Mystery is the Fullest Gospel that ever came from God to mankind (Col. 1:19, 25; 2:9,10; Rom. 11:25; Eph. 1:22, 23; 3:19). There is complete forgiveness of sins (Col. 2:13; Titus 2:14). Everything that is necessary for salvation and for Christian living is found in this Gospel of the Grace of God. Those who preach the grace gospel are preaching the FULL GOSPEL, the one God's word exhorts us to preach today (2 Tim. 4:2-4)

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The church the Body of Christ is made up of anybody who ever trusted in the shed blood of the cross for their salvation. This is first seen in Paul's epistles (Rom. 3:25). This includes everybody from Paul's salvation to the rapture of the church. This Body is composed of Jews and Gentiles. Paul was a Jew and also a free born citizen with all the rights and privileges thereof. This dual citizenship and his salvation is a type of the Jew-Gentile joint Body, that is the Body of Christ.

A Christian is not a Jew or Gentile any more. He becomes (spiritually speaking) a new creature in Christ (Eph. 2:10). All new creatures are destined to Heaven, not earth. The only way any one can become a member of this Body is by being baptized into this Body by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3; Gal 3:27; Rom. 6:3). This baptism of the Holy Spirit is the ONE baptism of Eph. 4:5. This work of the Spirit is called "the operation of God" in Col. 2:12. We are baptized 'into' Christ. The word 'into' shows that we have a relationship with Christ that is unbreakable. This relationship lasts forever. I cannot be broken or taken out of this relationship / union because it is accomplished by the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit. The more time we spend in the word, especially Paul's letters, the better Christians we would be, for then we would know more accurately what our responsibilities are and how to fulfill them. Christ, as head of the body, gives us the directions for Christian living. It would be a grievous error for a Christian to try to keep the 613 commandments of the law that Moses gave Israel. We are not under the law of Moses. In the Four Gospels Israel was still under the law. What Jesus preached to Israel was Judaism, pure and simple. The letters of Paul are about the infinite Grace of God. One who claims that the whole Bible is just one Gospel, is mixing Law and Grace, thus perverting today's Gospel of Grace. Read what Paul says about this in Gal. 1:8,9.

WHEN DID THE BODY OF CHRIST START?

I have come across a number of views that men have advanced about when the Body of Christ began:

1. With Adam and Eve.
2. With Abraham in Gen. 12.
3. With Christ's statement in Matt. 16:18.

4. Between Matt. 16:18 and Acts 2.
5. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

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6. In Acts 9 when Paul was saved.
 7. In Acts 11, the church at Antioch.
 8. In Acts 13, Paul's first missionary Journey.
 9. After Acts 28.

The main objection to the first five views is that those who hold them MIX Law and Grace in their Bible teaching. The most popular and traditional view is Acts 2. There are no scriptural reasons. It is a theological blunder to begin the church, the body of Christ on a Jewish feast day. It is only logical and common sense to say it all began with the salvation of Paul in mid-Acts. Scripture supports only this view. Paul says, "in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering..." 1 Tim. 1:14 -16.

14 DOCTRINAL REASONS WHY THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST, COULD NOT HAVE STARTED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, THE JEWISH FEAST HOLIDAY

1. There was already a church in existence on the day of Pentecost: "there were *added*" (Acts 2:41,47). The word "added" shows a pre-existing church. This church was not "the church which is his body" (Eph. 1:22,23) because this was hid until revealed to Paul. Acts 2 was the kingdom church based on Peter's confession (Mt. 16:15-18, Jn 20:23).
2. Peter preached the "last days" of Israel at Pentecost - not the first days of the church, which is His body (Acts 2:16,17).
3. There is no indication in Acts 2 or *any where in scripture* that "the church, the body of Christ" was being formed on Pentecost. (This is a man made doctrine - see Mk. 7:7.)
4. Pentecost was a Jewish feast day given in the law of Moses (Lev. 23, Dut. 16). In the dispensation of grace, there is no observance of days (Gal. 4:9-11, Col. 2:16, 17, 20-23). It is inconceivable that Jesus Christ would begin a church on a feast day which He instituted for another economy / dispensation.
5. Israel was not yet fallen in Acts 2, as was *necessary* for the establishing of "the body of Christ" (Rom.11:11,-15, 32).
6. This body of Christ is a joint body of Jews and Gentiles. Peter addressed only Jews at Pentecost (Acts 2:14,22,36; 3:12,24-26; 4:10; etc.).
7. Part of the Pentecostal celebration was the two wave loaves of Lev. 23. This is used as a type of the Jews and Gentiles by dispensationalists, but this cannot match the clear thinking of 1 Cor. 10:17 which shows that "the body of Christ" is *one* bread.
8. Peter preached water baptism as a requirement for salvation (Acts 3:38). Not so with Paul (1 Cor. 1:17).
9. On the day of Pentecost, the promise of the Father was fulfilled to Israel. This was a spiritual baptism where Jesus Christ was the baptizer (Mt. 3:11,12; Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5). This is different in the dispensation of grace (1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 6:3,4).
10. Pentecost was a fulfillment of *prophecy* (Acts 2:16,33; 3:24) whereas, "the body of Christ" was a *mystery* (Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1:24-26).
11. If there was any dispensational change, the apostles were completely unaware of it for they continued at the temple (Acts 2:46; 3:1,3,8,11; 5:20,21,25,42).
12. The Twelve and the kingdom church at Jerusalem also continued throughout the book of Acts to observe the law (Acts 22:12; 21:20-25).
13. The kingdom church, in accordance with the kingdom teaching of Christ, sold their possessions and established a common treasury (Acts 2:44, 45; 3:6; 4:32-35, 5:1-10).
14. Peter did not preach salvation by grace on the day of Pentecost which is the clear and distinctive message of Paul later given to him by revelation. Some would argue at this point that God started "the

body of Christ" there, despite the account given in Acts 2, and that Peter was simply ignorant of it being formed. This is hard to believe since Peter had his understanding opened (Lk. 24:45), the indwelling of the Spirit (Jn. 20:22), the baptism with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:5), and the filling with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). No, Peter was not ignorant. He was completely aware of the program which Christ was attempting to carry out at Pentecost, through the nation Israel, and was right on target.

MORE REASONS WHY THE BODY OF CHRIST COULD NOT HAVE STARTED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

1. The middle wall of partition had to be broken down before the Body of Christ started. (Eph. 2:14).
2. The casting away of Israel had to happen before the Body of Christ started (Rom.11:15).
3. Some of the branches had to be broken off and Gentiles be grafted in (Rom. 11:17).
4. God had to take away the spiritual difference between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:11-13, Col. 3:11, Gal. 3:28).
5. God had to make Jews and Gentiles one, spiritually (Eph. 2:14 -18).
6. God had to baptize and reconcile Jew and Gentile into one body (I Cor 12:13, Eph. 2:16).
7. The administration or dispensation of law had to be changed to the dispensation of grace (Lk. 1:6, Jn. 1:17, Rom. 10:4).
8. When the dispensation changed, the apostleship had to change. (Moses/law versus Paul/grace)

None of these things happened on the day of Pentecost. The confusion in Christianity today comes from attempting to start "the church, the body of Christ" in Acts 2. The Bible is not hard to understand, but due to "religious" indoctrination, it is hard to believe!

A TRANSITION THAT TRANSFORMED

In Luke 16:16 Jesus said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached." This means that when John came on the scene, the issue became the kingdom. The prophets prophesied of things to come. The law was the shadow of things to come. When you come to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, many of the O.T. prophecies are fulfilled (109 prophecies were literally fulfilled at the first advent of Jesus Christ in the flesh). According to the promise made with the fathers, Jesus became Israel's minister (Rom 15:8). In the fullness of time, Jesus was born under the law (Gal 4:4). Timing is very important. Mark 1:15 says, "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John confirm these promises and prophecies. So these books are part of the prophetic program.

In Luke 4:16-20, Jesus read a portion of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the lord is upon me, ...to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, ...To preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Isa. 61:2), and he closed the book... And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." He was telling them the promises made unto their fathers were fulfilled on that day. The prophetic program in a nutshell is the plan of God to bless the world through the Nation Israel. The book of Acts is a continuation of the Gospels. This prophetic program was dependant upon the positive response to the ministry and message of the 12 Apostles (Jn. 15:16; 16:13; 17:20; Acts 2:42; 4:1-4; etc.). Israel did not respond positively to John, Jesus or the 12 Apostles. They crucified Jesus Christ. They deserved God's wrath, but rather than God pouring out His prophesied wrath upon the nation Israel, Jesus Christ gave them a renewed opportunity to repent. He asked on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." So they were given an extension of time to repent (Lk. 13:6-9). This means they did not fall at that time. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of

Pentecost was a renewed opportunity, not an initiation of a new church. It was a continuation of the prophetic program. Joel's prophecy came to pass on the day of Pentecost and the message and the ministry continued to go to the nation Israel. Basically, Acts 1-12 focuses on Peter and the believing remnant of Israel. Acts 13-28 deals with Paul and his new message for salvation (Acts 13:38,39).

The first half of Acts (1-12) was the ministry of the believing remnant to the nation of Israel and the other half was of Paul to the Gentiles and Jews (Acts 9:15). Rom. 10:19 says, "I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are *no people*, and by a *foolish nation* I will anger you." Who is this "*no people*" and a "*foolish nation*?" In the early part of Acts, God was trying to reach the nation Israel through the ministry of the 12 Apostles. They are called "the little flock" in Luke 12:32. This remnant of Israel was the one called out from the unbelieving/apostate Israel through the ministry of John, Jesus and the 12 Apostles. God took the kingdom authority from Israel's apostate leaders and gave it to **a nation** that brought forth fruit. According to Matt 24:43-47 and Luke 12:32, God was going to give the kingdom to the little flock. The nation referred to here is not a Gentile nation. If it is, which one would it be? According to Mt. 9:16,17, God was preserving the nation Israel through the believing remnant. In Acts 2:40 Peter preached to Israel to "save yourselves from this untoward generation." He was not preaching to Gentiles - rather - to his own people. His ministry had in view the establishment of the kingdom on earth (Acts 1: 6), that is why Jesus taught them to pray for the kingdom to come.

According to the parable of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9), Israel received a one year extension to bear fruit. God fertilized the tree. On the day of Pentecost they received the spiritual power promised by the Lord. Unless the nation as a whole repented and bore fruit as to the testimony of Jesus Christ being their Messiah, they would be cut down / set aside after one year. When one year was up, there still was no national repentance. Thus God cut down and laid aside Israel after Stephen's murder. They *fell* (Rom. 11:11) in Acts 7. Today, Israel's program has been set aside. Israel's prophetic program was interrupted and God started a new program called "the mystery." After God's program for the Body of Christ is concluded, Israel's prophetic program will restart and the kingdom on earth will be established as prophesied. The Body of Christ will not come back to earth but will be in the heavenly places for ever. The earthly kingdom is only a part of the universal kingdom. Before restoring the earthly kingdom, Jesus Christ will restore the heavenly places by kicking Satan and his angles out (Rev. 12:7-9). According to the prophetic program, Gentiles were to be saved through a risen, redeemed Israel. In today's mystery program, Gentiles are now saved through the fall of Israel. These two programs are totally different. The transition between these two programs is the subject of the book of Acts. Paul was the first person saved in the dispensation of Grace and he was made a pattern for those who are saved thereafter (I Tim 1:16).

The book of Acts is a book of transition. It takes you from Israel, as the head of the nations with them being offered the kingdom (Acts 3:19-21), to their being set aside (Acts 7:51) and a new apostle being raised up with a new dispensation being committed to him (1 Cor. 9:17). The book of I Cor. is written during the time period of the book of Acts. This is a transition epistle. That is why Paul taught the termination of spiritual gifts, miracles, signs and wonders (1 Cor. 13:8-13). The transition from Law to Grace happened in this period. With the salvation of Paul, God introduced the dispensation of Grace and gave to him a new revelation, heretofore kept secret, called the mystery.

In Eph 3:1-5, Paul says that this was a revelation from God. If you believe 2 Tim. 3:16, you have to believe this. This mystery is about the new entity that God is creating --the new man, the new creature. God did not give the whole mystery revelation to Paul at one time but gradually unfolded it to him (Acts 26:16; 2 Cor. 12:1,7).

When Paul received the complete mystery revelation, according to Col. 1:25, this completed the word of God. With the completion of the Word of God, revelation and inspiration ceased. There is no more need for revelation and there is no more need for inspiration. If anybody claims new revelations from God, they deny the absolute authority of the completed revelation of the written Word of God. Why are these "new revelations" not being added to our canon of scripture? According to 2 Tim 3:16 all scripture is given by the inspiration of God. God told Moses in the beginning to start writing a book, Ex 17:14. In Acts 2, at Pentecost, they spoke as the Spirit give them utterance. That was for Israel, before

our canon of scripture was completed. It was also a fulfillment of a promise made to them by Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:20-21 says that prophecy came not by the will of man: but God spake as holy men were moved by the Holy spirit. When the word of God was not complete, men spoke by God's revelation through inspiration. 1 Cor 12:7-10 explains various gifts. In 1 Cor 13:8-13 Paul says charity will never fail, but the gifts of prophecy, of tongues, and of knowledge shall end. When? These gifts were for the period of partial knowledge. But when the perfect and completed revelation came, the partial would end. With the introduction of the mystery, revelation of the word of God was complete (Col. 1:25). This means that the spiritual gifts were only operative until that time. With the completion of the word of God, there was no longer any need for spiritual gifts. Eph 4:8-13 is a parallel to 1 Cor 13:8-13. All the supernatural gifts ended with the completion of full knowledge, that is the completed word of God. What is remaining is the illumination of the written word of God by the help of the Holy Spirit. This is non-experiential and is based on our own personal study of God's word and our understanding of how the Holy Spirit is teaching today. 1 Cor. 2:12,13 teach that once saved, our spirit can commune with the Holy Spirit. The "spiritual things" in verse 13 are the words of God as Jn. 6:63 and Col. 3:16 plainly teach. The other "spiritual" in verse 13 is our own human spirit. Since God is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24), once our canon of scripture was completed, God now says to study and to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15, Jn. 12:48).

At the time of 1 Cor. 14, all of the spiritual gifts were in operation, Paul said to seek the gift of prophecy, because it would edify and exhort the Church. This was the primary purpose of the gifts. Another purpose was for a sign to Israel. Israel required a sign to believe, but not the Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:22). These sign gifts were temporary because God had better things in His plan--the completion of the written Word of God, that higher ground of faith where we walk by faith in His written word only.

The measure of maturity was not by spiritual gifts even when they were operative (I & II Corinthians explains this.) These gifts were given by the Spirit. Faith, hope, and charity are the mark of spiritual maturity. Today, unless we rightly divide the word of truth as the word of God says, we will never understand these things.

Where will you spend Eternity?

Man's Problem: SIN

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23.

"...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth." Revelation 21:8.

God's Provision: THE CROSS

"...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ...He was buried, and He rose again the third day..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

God's Gift: SALVATION

"...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

Man's Responsibility: FAITH

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8,9

The Result: PEACE WITH GOD AND ACCESS

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1,2.

"In whom (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"
Colossians 1:14

The Assurance: SEALED

"In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,..." Ephesians 1:13.

If you are convinced by God's word that you are a sinner, and that Christ died for your sins, you can be saved this very moment. Simply trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the total, sufficient, and complete payment for your sins. God loves you and desires to save you. Receive His gift of salvation by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Make your decision now and His life will be yours.



PART 2
CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE

In the following pages I have included some of the correspondence that I have had with various people regarding dispensational issues. Some of these letters were "emotionally charged" with an ungracious spirit simply to attack my person. I hold no ill-will towards these people. I only wish to challenge their "traditions" with the word of God.

Maranatha Tape Ministry

9834 Maynard Terrace, Niles, IL 60714

Johny Varghese
9834 Maynard Ter.
Niles, IL 60714
Phone 847-965-6069
Oct. 20, 1996

Dear Pastor / Brother ,

I hope you have received the tape I sent a few weeks back - "Is Water Baptism for Jew or Gentile?" I have received a few replies. One of the letters and its reply is enclosed along with this letter. I understand that most of the people who received the tape are upset. When you study the Bible dispensationally, you see things differently. The Bible is dispensational (I Cor. 9:16-17, Eph. 3:1-5, I Thes. 2:4) and it is laid out dispensationally by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 2:15), and we should study the word the way God ordained (Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 10:11, Col. 1:25).

I wanted to talk to a more knowledgeable person about these doctrinal differences. When Pastor K. Joy from Delhi, India came to Chicago, I tried to approach him to clarify a few things, but he ran away calling me a "CRAZY MAN."

Generally we think there is only one gospel in the Bible, but there are many gospels in the Bible (Acts 20:24, Matt.4:23, Gal.2:8,9, Rev.14:6-7). In the same way there is more than one church in the Bible (Church in the wilderness - Acts 7:38, Ex.19:3-6, Isa. 63:7-9; Messianic Church - Matt. 16:15-18; the church, the Body of Christ - Col. 1:24). The word "church" means "a called out group of people." The word "congregation" in the Old Testament is the same word as "church" in the New Testament (Psa. 22:22, 149:1). Moses had his "church" in the wilderness (Acts 7:38). The twelve apostles had their "church" (Matt. 16:18) - during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ (Matt. 9:35). This "gospel of the kingdom" was different than Paul's gospel (Acts 20:24) because the words of Jesus Christ plainly state that it was for Israel only (Matt. 10:5-7, 15:24, Jn. 4:22), and Paul confirmed this (Rom. 15:8). If you read Acts 2:23 & 36, you will see that Jesus Christ crucified was a source of bad news for Israel and the cross was an instrument of shame. Contrast this with I Cor. 1:18 & 23. In today's gospel, it is a

source of good news. By the same reasoning, the kingdom church is different than the church, the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18 & 24). How do I know this? - Ephesians 2:14. This separation between Jews and Gentiles (I Kings 8:53) was not removed until after Paul was saved (Acts 9). Israel's promises and the Body of Christ's are not the same. The kingdom gospel and the grace gospel are different, but we do not acknowledge this fact. In Matthew 10, The Twelve are directed to preach the gospel of the kingdom to Israel only. Let me ask you a question: Did they know, understand, or believe that Christ had to go to the cross to die? Luke 18:31-34 and other verses show they did not. Even after Christ was crucified The Twelve were preaching "repent and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Nowhere in Genesis through Acts 8 do we see the gospel of what the crosswork accomplished - that He died for our sins (Acts 20:24, I Cor. 15:1-4, I Cor. 1:17,18, 23). We always preach repentance to go to the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom spoken of in the gospels was the land promised to Abraham and his seed - Israel (Lev. 20:24, Num. 34:1-13). Repentance and water baptism were necessary in "time past" (Eph. 2:11) to get into this earthly kingdom. It will also be necessary in the "ages to come" (Eph. 2:7). **But now** (Eph. 2:13) this is not our gospel. We, as members of the church, the Body of Christ, are not destined for the earthly kingdom, but for the heavenly one (Gen 1:1, II Tim. 4:18, Col. 1:16, II Cor. 5:1, Eph. 1:3, Col. 3:1-2, Phil. 3:20).

Our requirement for salvation today is faith and faith alone, in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross (Rom. 3:24-28) - not repentance and water baptism. We are not under a performance system (the law - Rom. 6:14) but the faith system (Eph. 2:8-9). We are citizens of heaven (Phil.3:20). We have heavenly blessings, not earthly blessings (Eph.1:3, II Cor. 4:16-18). Israel was promised earthly blessings (physical and spiritual - Gen.13:14-17, Isa.11:9, Psa 37:9-11, Isa.60:1-5, Deut.28:13). The earthly kingdom is Israel's destination but ours is the heavenly one. Our instructions for the church, the Body of Christ, and Israel's "time past" and "ages to come" instructions are dramatically different. Seeing that this is what God's Word says, we should make this distinction in our preaching. We preach Genesis through Malachi and the four gospels as if they were doctrine for us today. From Genesis 12 through Acts 8 God dealt with Israel only, trying to make them the nation He had separated them out to be (Lev. 20:24, I Kings 8:53, Num.23:9). Remember, God's Word says that salvation was to come to and through the nation Israel first and then to the rest of the nations/world (Gen. 12:1-3, Isa. 60:1-3, Isa. 61, Isa. 62:1-4, Zech. 12, Acts 3:24-26, etc.). This is prophecy! We also preach the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ to Israel only (Matt.10:5-7, 15:24, Rom. 15:8) as if it were our gospel today! Today, there is no Jew or Gentile (Gal. 3:28), rather "new creatures" (Gal. 6:15, II Cor. 5:17). As new creatures, we get the blessing **now** (Rom. 5:11) by the fall of Israel (Rom. 11:11-12), not through their rise, as was prophesied (Lk. 2:34, Rom. 11:25-26). This is part of the revelation of the mystery revealed to and through the apostle Paul (Rom. 16:25). As members of the church, the Body of Christ, our doctrine, position, and destination are found only in Paul's writings (see Scofield's, page 1252, and Dake's Reference Bible, page 214). We are judged by Paul's gospel (Rom. 2:16), we are established by it (Rom. 16:25), and we are saved by his gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4). That is why Paul says we are to preach "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery." Understanding the difference between the mystery and prophecy is crucial with regard to our service for the Lord today (Rom. 12:1-2).

Hebrews to Revelation is the summation of prophecy, Genesis to Malachi (Lk. 16:16,

Act 2:14-22, Joel 2:27-32). Today, we preach Jesus Christ "according to the revelation of the mystery" - Rom. 16:25. The 7 Churches in Revelation are the Churches of the tribulation period. This seven year period is the final purging of the nation Israel (Jer. 30:7, Dan. 9:24-27, Matt. 13:36-43, Rom. 10:21, etc.). The church, the Body of Christ, has been saved from that period of God's wrath (Rom.5:9, I Thes. 5:9). They, the tribulation time saints, have to enter the kingdom by their works (Performance System). Only those who endure and overcome, even to the point of losing their lives, shall enter into that prophesied, earthly, Davidic, millennial kingdom (Matt. 24:13, Rev. 2:26, 20:6). (See the difference - James 2:14,24 and Rom. 3:21). All the nations of the earth (Gentiles) will be blessed in the millennial kingdom through the rise again of Israel, as was prophesied (information given since the foundation of the world - Matt. 25:34), **but now** we are blessed by their fall - just the opposite. This is the mystery - information kept secret since before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4), but then revealed to the apostle Paul.

The Pentecostal view of the Church is a continuation of the nation of Israel and the promises God made to that nation (Ezek. 36:16-28, Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 8:6-13). This is covenant theology. If you believe what you are reading in Scripture, this is the wrong view. We are **NOT** Israel today in the dispensation of grace! There is no Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:28) - we are **new creatures** (Gal. 6:15, II Cor. 5:17). There is only one new covenant and it was made with the House of Israel and Judah (Heb. 8). It will be completely fulfilled in the millennium, and today's church (body of Christ) has no relation to it in any way. The nation of Israel will again be related to Jehovah by marriage (Isa. 54:5-6, 62:4-5, Hosea 2:16-23, Rev. 19:7-9). Marriage, in the Bible, is a description of a lasting, loving, union. The word "Beulah" in Isaiah 62:4 means marriage. Israel will be restored (married) back to the land promised them by God Almighty. Divorce is mentioned in Jer 3:8 (they, Israel, committed "spiritual" adultery). Israel is still divorced from God (Jer. 30:7, Matt. 24:13) until Rev. 7-9 is fulfilled. Before this happens, we (the church the body of Christ) will have been raptured and taken to our positions in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3, I Thes. 4:14-18).

Because we are not studying the scripture dispensationally, these things are hidden from us. We take all of the doctrine from Genesis to Revelation and try to apply it to our lives today, in "the dispensation of the grace of God" (Eph. 3:1-9). The result is confusion and division. We should follow only one dispensation, not all 7 dispensations. The Dispensation of the Grace of God is our dispensation (Acts 20:24). This dispensation was given to Paul and he is our Apostle (Rom. 11:13).

We need a dispensational study in the Word. I would like to show you a free 3 year Bible course (Home study - Video course). At your convenience you can study at home. (This course is better than any other Bible college course). It costs you only \$15 for registration and the cost for mailing the tapes. It is not going to hurt you to try one quarter.

As you can see from the verses I have quoted, my foundation for the truth is the Word of God itself. If you think I am wrong, correct me with Scripture - not from your opinions (I Cor. 3:18-21). More information can be had by contacting Grace School of the Bible: (630)529-0520.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

TO,
Johny Varghese
Maranatha Tape Ministry,
Niles, IL 60714

P.A. Philip
5818 Gorman Dr.
Houston, TX 77049
Aug. 13, 1996.

Dear Mr. Johny Varghese,

Thank you very much for the tape you sent to me a few weeks ago - "Water Baptism - is it for Jew or Christian?" Vol. 4B. I took time to listen to it. My opinion about your tape is, that you are the most confused man any one can ever meet. You neither know the scripture nor how to interpret it. Unless you know how to explain a doctrine in the proper way, don't attempt to make a doctrine out of your ignorance. My only advice to you is, keep your hands off from confusing simple Christians. From what I read from your letter, I feel that you are not a Pentecostal, but the member of a heretic cult. I am sure someone is paying you to do this. There are so many better ways to make money than from teaching false doctrines. I hope you will read the Bible carefully and try to understand its teaching properly and live accordingly.

Yours sincerely,
Signed
Philip P.A.

November 6, 1996

Mr. P.A. Philip
5818 Gorman Drive
Houston, TX 77049

Dear Mr. Philip:

The enclosed letter was given to me by a friend. I have held to the same beliefs as Johny for 35 years now. The "grace message" has given me the stability to live in a sin-cursed world and

understand why the God of heaven is SILENT and not working miracles in this age of grace.

Mr. Philip, why didn't you refer to Scripture in trying to help your brother Johny?

Are you unaware of 2 Tim.2:15: "STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH." Instead, you end your letter with a flippant "read your Bible carefully and try to understand its teaching properly and live accordingly." What pathetic advice.

Philippians 4:9: "Those things, which ye have both LEARNED, and RECEIVED, and HEARD, and SEEN IN ME, DO: and the God of peace shall be with you." Mr. Philip, you have peace with God (Romans 5:1), but most assuredly you do NOT have the peace of God. Only those following Paul, as he followed Christ, are given that blessing.

Romans 2:16 states: "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL."

I would think, Mr. Philip, that you would have flown into Chicago and come to Johny on bended knee to learn more of a gospel that will judge you at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

I have observed from my many, many years in standing for Paul's gospel of grace, that its enemies (WITHOUT EXCEPTION) resort to name calling, and intimidation of the messenger, rather than answering from God's Word as a Berean (Acts 17:11).

The Pentecostal movement and the Church as a whole is laying prostrate before the world powerless. It is trying to revive a program long ago set aside with the raising up of Paul. Matthew through John was NOT (and I want to repeat it) NOT written to the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ said, "I am NOT sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

In Christ,

Signed

Ralph F. Balog, 426 W. Thunderbird Trail, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

To:
Bro. P.A. Philip
5818 Gorman Dr.
Houston, TX 77049

Johny Varghese
9834 Maynard Ter.
Niles, IL 60714
Phone 847-965-6069
Sept. 3, 1996

Dear Brother Philip,

Thank you for listening to the Baptism tape and for your response. I expected your opposition and little bit of anger. I have sent 1200 tapes to Pentecostal people and received few

replies. Most of them were personal attacks just like yours, but with no scriptural response. I pray that my words won't hurt you. My only purpose is to know the truth. If you prove to me that the Pentecostal doctrine is 100% true, I will follow it. The last 10 years I was a Pentecostal and did everything to support its doctrine. Many Malayali Pentecostal people in America know this fact. Recently I learned how to study the Bible the way God ordained, dispensationally (Eph. 3:2, 2 Tim. 2:15 - KJV) and found that the Pentecostal doctrine was part of "time past," the time period designated in scripture (Eph. 2:11, 1 Cor. 13:8-10). To prove that, let me ask you two or three questions.

Question #1

When did you get your atonement ?

Pick your answer: "A"-- Now or "B"-- At Christ's 2nd coming.

"A" Now: Rom.5:11 (KJV) "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ , by whom we have **now received the atonement.**" (Eph. 1:7; 2:8,9; Titus 3:5 - You only see this in Paul's message.)

"B" At Christ's 2nd coming: Acts 3:19-21 "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,(2nd coming, Rev. 19) and he **shall** send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the time of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

If you choose the answer "A" you believe the Doctrine of the Dispensation of Grace and not Peter's message. Thus you are no longer a Pentecostal. Really you are not rejecting Peter's message, rather you are believing God's message (Eph. 1:3,7; 1 Tim. 2:4-7, Titus 3:11) which is the setting aside of Israel (temporarily - Rom. 11:25-27) and the reconciling of Jew and Gentile into one body (1 Cor. 12: 12,13) and the reconciliation of the world (2 cor 5:19). Our message today is 1 Cor 15: 1-4 & 2 Cor. 5:14-21. If you select answer "B" that program is temporarily interrupted for the Dispensation of Grace. That means Israel's program is set aside until the rapture (1 Thes. 4:14 -18. Col 3:4).

Question #2

When did the Body of Christ begin ?

Pick your answer: "A"--At Pentecost or "B"--After Paul's conversion.

"A" At Pentecost : If the Body of Christ started at Pentecost, a few things had to have happened:

1. The middle wall of partition had to be broken down (Eph. 2:14). This happened actually after Paul's conversion. Jesus prayed to the Father and asked that the fig tree be allowed to stand one more year before cutting it down to see if it would bear fruit (Lk 13:6-9). Stephen's murder is one year after Pentecost (sanctioned by Paul - Acts 8:1). Until that time Israel was God's favored nation. That means the middle wall of partition did not come down at Pentecost. This distinction / middle wall was not removed until you come to Paul and the message he received from the "**Ascended Lord.**" Eph. 2:11-18, 1 Cor. 11:1, 15:1-4, Gal. 1:8-12, 1 Tim 4:17. God created Israel (Gen 12: 1-3, Isa. 43:15,21,25), and God separated them (made them distinct -

Gen. 17) from all other nations (Lev. 20:24, Num. 23:9, 1 Kgs 8:53). Circumcision made Israel distinct. The law and the prophets strengthened that "**Middle Wall**" of partition (Acts. 2:36, 3:22-26, 13:39). When John the baptist came, God's 400 years of silence was broken and something was added to the law (Lk. 16:16, Lk. 1:6 - Is the definition of righteousness in time past. Now: Rom. 6:10; 10:4, etc.)

2. The casting away of Israel had to have happened (Rom. 11:5). Scripture shows that Pentecost day was one of Israel's days of blessing, not casting them away. They got the Holy Spirit on that day. So casting Israel away on Pentecost day did not happen.

3. Some of the branches had to be broken off and the Gentiles be grafted in . The breaking off of Israel did not happen at Pentecost. God did not stop offering the Kingdom to Israel at Pentecost. Peter preached to Israel on Pentecost day, offering the Kingdom in fulfillment of prophecy. Today : Rom. 16:25 - tells us how we preach Jesus Christ! This means the breaking off of Israel did not happen on Pentecost day.

4. God made Jew and Gentile one (Eph. 2:11-18).

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek. (Col. 3:11, Gal. 3:28)
This had to happen before the body of Christ was formed. We know Jew and Gentile did not become one at Pentecost (1Cor. 12:13). When God told Peter to go to Cornelius' house, he did not want to go to a gentile's house. This happened 8 years after Pentecost. When Peter came back to Jerusalem, the brothers asked why did he go to the uncircumcised and eat with them. This means the wall of partition was still there. Acts 11:19 : " Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled . . . preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only".

This means the middle wall of partition was still there. In other words the body of Christ was not formed at that time.

"B"-- The Body of Christ formed after Paul's conversion : This is the only logical explanation. If you select the answer "B" you are no longer a Pentecostal. That means you are understanding that the basic Pentecostal Doctrine that Peter preached on Pentecost day, was set aside as they came to understand and believe Paul's message (Acts. 11:15; Gal 2:7-9; 2 Pet. 3:15,16).

Question #3

Why does James say you are justified by works (James 2:14, 24) and Paul says just the opposite, not by works but by faith alone (Gal. 2:16, Rom. 3:21-28, 4:4,5, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:4-7)? Compare Matt. 25:34 "**from** the foundation of the world," with Eph. 1:4 "**before** the foundation of the world." These are two distinct, separate time periods and separate programs! This answers the question.

Isn't it interesting that the books of the Bible are divinely laid out exactly the way history has transpired:

- Israel's kingdom prophesied (Earthly) (Dan. 2:44 - Genesis to Malachi)
- Israel's kingdom at hand (Mat. 3:24, 4:17, 10:7 - Matthew through John)
- Israel's kingdom offered (Acts. 1:6, 3:19,20)
- Israel's kingdom postponed (Rom. 11:11, 12:25,26 - Romans through Philemon)
- Israel's kingdom established (Rev. 11:15, 20:4-6 - Hebrews through Revelation)

Notice that this kingdom which is in heaven right now (Heb. 12:22) will come back down to earth in fulfillment of prophecy (Rev. 21:10, 23,24).

We have been given a trust by God - to preach and teach Paul's Gospel (1 Thes. 2:4, 5:9; 2 Thes. 2:13,14; 2 Tim 2:1,2 etc).

My friend, please read carefully and prayerfully the following 5 chapters in the Bible and parts of 2 others:

Read Psa.78, Psa. 106, Acts. 7 , Acts. 13 and Rom.11.

Read Isa. 5:1-8 and Mat. 21:33-46. (Israel, not the Body of Christ, is defined as the vineyard).

This will be a condensed history of the nation of Israel from Egypt to their fall in Romans 11:11. The fall and rising again of Israel is an **all important** key to the understanding of the scriptures (Lk. 2:34).

Our eternal destination is Heaven, not the Earth (2 Cor. 5:1, Eph. 1:3-11, 2:6, Phil. 3:20, Col 3:1,2; 2 Tim 4:18, 1 Cor. 6:3). **Israel's eternal destination is Earth , not Heaven.** (God promised Israel a literal, physical, visible, earthly, Davidic, Messianic kingdom, with Jesus Christ as the king of kings, ruling over the twelve apostles, who would rule over the twelve tribes of Israel, who would rule over the nations of this earth. - Gen. 12:7, 13:14-17, 17:8, Num. 33:50-56, Deut. 6:23, 11:21, Isa. 11:9, Jer. 23:5, Psa. 37:9-11, Matt. 5:5, Matt 6:10.)

Let me stop here. Too much may confuse you. Please consult with your Pastor and other brothers. I expect an answer soon if it is possible. If you order the Album you may know more about the Dispensation of Grace, what God is doing today, and what God expects you to do today. God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

The Monthly Newsletter of the Pentecostal Church Fellowship of Chicago

DIVIDING THE WORD OF GOD and BAPTISM

Recently, certain audio cassettes and booklets, are freely being distributed, among our midst, about rightly dividing the word of God, and whether baptism is for the Jew or the Christian. In this context, children of God are cautioned with a verse from the Bible. [Hebrews chapter 6:4](#) says that "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Johny Varghese
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Phone 847-965-6069
Nov. 16, 1996

Dear Pastor / Brother / Sister,

The above monthly AGAPE (The Monthly Newsletter of the Pentecostal Church Fellowship of Chicago) warns Pentecostal and other saved people not to listen to either the tapes or literature that I have sent. The assumption is that I have "fallen" or am about to "fall" from salvation. Hebrews 6:4-6 was used as a warning both to me and to anyone else who might give heed to the information that I have presented.

Once again, you have made a fundamental error in your use of Hebrews 6:4. I nor you are Hebrew (to whom this epistle is written to) nor are we "spiritual Jews" (Galatians 3:23). Also, a believer today cannot lose their salvation in this dispensation of grace. See for example, Romans 8:31 - 39 "**who shall separate us**"; Ephesians 1:13 "**we are sealed**"; Romans 5:9 - 11 "**much more than...**".

Unfortunately, Hebrews 6:4-6 is often used as a proof text that one can lose their salvation, even in this age in which we live. Once again, the answer is found by applying **God's** prescribed method of Bible study... "*rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Tim. 2:15). The book of Hebrews is **not** written to the church the Body of Christ nor does this passage even concern "salvation" as church tradition often says. Hebrews is written to *Hebrews*, consistent with God's program with Israel in prophecy. It is a transitional book taking Israel from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant (which covenant God never made with Gentiles, see Eph 2:11-12 & Rom 9:4-5).

We read in Acts 3:25,26 "ye (Israel) are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant

which God made..."; "...unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Hebrews contains progressive truth to this nation, see Heb. 1:1-2. Therefore, Hebrews 6:4-6 must be studied in this context. Let us briefly examine this passage.

Israel *was* once enlightened (John 1:7-9, Heb. 10:32); Israel *did* taste the heavenly gift (John 4:10 - please note this refers to salvation); Israel *did* partake of the Holy Ghost (Heb. 2:3-4, see also Acts 2:4, 16-21, 33; Acts 7:51); Israel tasted the word of God (2 Pet 1:20-21); Israel tasted the power **of the world to come** (Acts 1:8 see also Acts 2:16-20). This being true, if they shall fall away (from **the faith**, not salvation, "if we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself"...2 Tim 2:13) they crucify the Son of God afresh. The warning here is directed to those of the tribulation period not to give heed to "damnable heresies" (2 Pet. 2:1-3). These "damnable heresies" will deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, as the new covenant provision for sin. Anti-Christ will deceive the masses into believing that he is the true messiah, hence many will deny the Lord Jesus Christ and his first coming. This "falling away" or "denying" can be studied in Heb. 10:4-31 (see esp. :29); 1 John 4:1-3; 2:18-23; Matt. 10:23,32,33.

The warning of this passage Heb. 6: 4-6 is directed to the entire nation as a whole. It does not serve as a warning to the believing remnant which possess and cannot lose eternal life (see 1 Jn, especially 3:1, 2; 4:13-19; 5:1, 4, 11-13, 18). During the tribulation, there be a great apostasy that will seduce many into believing the damnable heresy that Jesus Christ was not Messiah nor the propitiation for sin at His first coming. Those apostates were never part of the believing remnant (1 Jn 2:19). They never possessed eternal life. Those "falling away" in Heb 6:6 are not members of the believing remnant. They are outside the remnant who deny the truth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ in spite historical testimony of God's goodness to the nation. The "falling away" concerns the faith (or message) & not individual salvation.

If you have any questions or desire any information please feel free to contact me anytime.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

ELSIE B. MATHEW
280 South King St.
Elmont, NY 11003

Dear Bro. Johny Varghese,

Thank you for the tape and the printed matter. As a matter of fact I was upset with your

tape and ignored it. But now when I received the printed matter I have decided to examine it. I do appreciate your desire to go deep into the word of God and study. But people get confused. I have a few points to discuss.

1. The church of the apostles and the Body of Christ.

According to your theory there are three churches. 1. Moses' 2. St. Peter's 3. St. Paul's - the Body of Christ. According to Mat. 16:18 Jesus said: Thou art Peter (= stone) upon this Rock (= Jesus) I will build my church. This scripture confused so many - & you. Who is the Rock on which Jesus is going to build his church? On Peter? that is: on a stone? or Jesus - on a Rock? "This Rock" = the Rock of Ages - Jesus Christ? - you are Peter - only a stone - but "I am the Rock upon I build my church." See Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11; Rev. 21:14. Jesus Christ is the foundation and corner stone of the church. Apostles and the NT prophets are the foundation stones - Rev. 21:14. Did Peter ever claim that he is the foundation of the church? Did Paul ever mention about him? Please read 1 Cor. 3:11; 1 Cor 1:12-17.

2. Where is Heaven? Who is Bride?

The Body of Christ - The Church was formed on the day of Pentecost - Acts 2:47. Read Rev. 21.

1. City surrounded by a massive wall with 12 gates - guarded by 12 Angels bearing the names of 12 Tribes of Israel.

2. 12 Foundations of the wall bore the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamp - where is Peter, where is Paul?

V:22,23 No temple is necessary because the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are there - The glory of God illuminates it and the Lamb is the Lamp. Who lives there? V:27 only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. This is in the New heaven and New earth? There is a New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband - who is the bride & husband? V:3. The Tabernacle of God is with men and that He will dwell with them - where is heaven? Heaven is the place where almighty God and the Lamb dwell - Hell is the only place where the presence of God is absent.

3. Now the separation of Jews & Gentiles - Atonement

Jesus Christ died before the day of Pentecost - Remember the two major events took place at the death of Jesus Christ.

1. The High priest rent his clothes - Mark 14:63-64. According to Lev.21:1 the high priest is not supposed to rent his clothes! Now - why did he rent his clothes? The priesthood is no more needed. Jesus Christ is the only high priest for all men & women from then & onwards forever.

2. The veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. Why? No more sacrifice is needed. The Lamb of God is slain once for ever. The throne of grace is opened forever - Heb. 4:16.

Please read the book of Hebrews.

4. Justified by faith and works (James 2:14-24). Here James insists that a faith that does not result in good works can't save. What does it profit if one says he has faith? It is not a question of a man who truly has faith, and yet is not saved. He says, he has faith but there is nothing about his life that indicates it. Can that type of faith save him? Please read Rom. 13. Look at Abraham's faith. He was justified by believing - by faith - His good works identified him as the

friend of God. Therefore a man is justified by works and not by faith only. He was justified by faith - Godward, and by works manward. God justified him the moment he believed. Man says "show me the reality of your faith." The only way to do this is by good works - read Rom. 10:9.

5. Gospel and Baptism. It is true there are several gospels?

The gospel - the good tidings of great joy for all people are proclaimed by the angels at the birth of Jesus Christ. "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour which is Christ the Lord." When Jesus Christ died on the cross that was fulfilled "it is finished." After the resurrection of Jesus Christ He said to Mary - "Go to my brethren and say unto them I ascend unto my Father and your Father and to my God and to your God"- Luke 2:11-John 20:17. Then He gave the commission to His disciples to "go unto all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" - Mark 16:15-18. There is no difference between Peter and Paul - both preached the same gospel of salvation. When you read the Acts of the Apostles carefully, you will understand. Also read Rev. 5:8-14.

Dear brother, all I have to say is pray carefully and examine the word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Remember: There are only 2 Testaments - Old & New
There are only 2 Types of people - Righteous & Unrighteous
There are only 2 Churches - God's & Satan's
There are only 2 Final destinations - Heaven & Hell
All other divisions are man made.

Thank you
Yours in His love
Signed
Sr. Elsie Baby

Johny Varghese
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Phone 847-965-6069
Jan. 15, 1997

Dear Sr. Elsie Mathew,

Thank you very much for your reply and I appreciate your time. I'd like to point out that you did not address the topics and verses given in the last letter. Instead, you fell back on your own knowledge and did not answer the doctrinal points that I brought up according to God's words. My foundation is fully scriptural and rightly divided according to 2 Tim 2:15. I used to think as you did: one church, one gospel, and one destination. When one learns how to study the Bible dispensationally you come to understand that this is not the case. People get confused when they hear about different gospels, different churches, and different destinations because

they have never heard or studied these things in the first place. If you are ignorant about these things (most people are) you end up focusing on the wrong issues and your work / service for the Lord will be burned off. You shall suffer loss; but you yourself shall be saved (I Cor. 3:15). Also, you end up living a Jewish life instead of a Christian life. Let me start answering your letter from the last part first.

- You said:
1. There are only 2 Testaments - Old and New.
 2. There are only 2 types of people - Righteous and Unrighteous.
 3. There are only 2 Churches - God's and Satan's.
 4. There are only 2 final destinations - Heaven and Hell.
 5. All other divisions are man made.

According to scripture we should believe that every word in the Bible (1611 KJV) is true, inspired (2 Tim. 3:16) and our final authority in matters of faith and practice.

1. You said that there are only 2 Testaments - Old and New.

Answer: I agree, but if you pay attention to what the words say and you believe what you are reading, Paul's epistles are the only place in the Bible where God is dealing with Jew and Gentile on an equal basis (Eph. 2:11-18). There is a page before Matthew separating the Old and New Testaments. God did not write this page. Some nameless person in a dateless past placed that page there and unfortunately we believe it as inspired right division. In other words, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are scripturally not new testament books, but a continuation of the Old Testament. The New Testament starts only after Jesus' death (Heb. 9:16). We need to believe what scripture says, not what a man added. Read Matthew chapters 5 to 8, to see Jesus Christ giving more than 50 commandments including various religious laws and ceremonies for obedience and practice. Christ did not remove the law in his kingdom ministry but made it more rigid. In Matt. 5:19, Jesus said "whosoever shall break one of these commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." People in the new and old testaments are under law but today we are not under the law. This truth is only seen in Paul's epistles. Compare Matt. 5:17,18, with Rom. 6:14, Col. 2:13-23. We are under grace. Also we have no ceremonies to practice. In Matthew through John, the word "grace" is found four times. In Paul's epistles you see this word approximately 100 times. God's people should know the difference between the word "grace" and the dispensation of grace. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are addressing the nation Israel. This is during Jesus' earthly ministry to the Jews (Rom. 15:8, Matt. 15:24, 10:5-8). If you try to apply these principles (you can), you are living a life on Jewish ground. I have never met anyone who does everything Jesus Christ said to do in the gospels and early Acts (Matt. 19:21, Lk. 12:32, Acts 2:44,45, etc.). Anybody who teaches the scripture and does not distinguish the difference between the gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of the grace of God, is certainly not a faithful steward of God (Acts 20:24, Eph. 3:1-9, I Cor. 4:1-4) but is rather a workman who needeth to be ashamed because he does not rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

2. You said there are only 2 types of people - Righteous and unrighteous.

Answer: There are 3 types of people - Saved: the nation Israel (yet future - Rom. 11:26)

and the Body of Christ (members of the church the Body of Christ - this church is only mentioned with Paul's direct revelation from the Lord - which means well after Acts 2); and unsaved (unrighteous people). Saved Israel and the Body of Christ are righteous people by the blood of Jesus. Only the Body of Christ will be resurrected at the pre-tribulation (I Thes. 4:14-18) rapture (not Israel saints) and will go to the heavenly kingdom (II Cor. 5:1). Remember, if you are paying attention to the doctrinal content and clarity of God's words, the Pauline epistles are the only place in the Bible where it says there is no difference between Jew and Gentile (spiritually speaking). We are "new creatures" (Gal. 6:15) created to dwell in the "heavenly kingdom" (Phil. 3:20,21). In the second coming of Jesus, all of Israel's dead saints and saved Jews and Gentiles in the tribulation period - those who endured and kept themselves unspotted (mark of the beast - Jas. 1:27, Rev. 20:4) will be resurrected to go into the earthly kingdom. At the end of the millennium, the unrighteous of all ages will be resurrected and go to the white throne judgement and to the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15). You can see here 3 groups of people, 3 resurrections, and 3 destinations.

3. You said there are only 2 churches - God's and Satan's.

Answer: Church in Greek is "Ecclesia" - that means a called out group of people for a special purpose. God had many churches. In the dispensation of grace, God has only one church. When one studies God's plan and purpose in the scripture, we see God had 2 purposes, one is in the earth and the other is in the heavenly places (Gen. 1:1, Col. 1:16). God made heaven and earth for his purpose and made man in his own image to rule over heaven and earth. God dwells in the 3rd heaven. We (Body of Christ), are going to rule in the 2nd heaven (Eph. 2:2 - the word "power" means ruling authority, Col. 1:16,20) and Israel is going to rule on the earth. Israel will be the head of the nations (Micah 4:1,2). The kingdom on earth program has been prophesied since the world began (Acts 3:21). It has been temporarily interrupted for the unprophesied program. This unprophesied heavenly program was kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25). Again, after the pre-tribulation rapture, God's prophetic time-clock will resume to establish the kingdom on earth (the one promised to Abraham and his seed). In other words God's church is not limited to only one church. It is scripturally wrong to say there is only one church in the Bible. There was the Mosaic church (Acts 7:35-39), there will be the Messianic church (Matt. 16:18) built on the confession that Jesus Christ is Israel's Messiah and this will be on the earth, and there is the Mystery church (the Body of Christ - Eph. 1:22,23) the one being formed today with the ultimate goal of occupying the heavenly positions of rank and authority.

4. You said there are only 2 final destinations - Heaven and hell.

Answer: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Regenerated people have two destinations, heaven and earth, and unregenerated people have the lake of fire. Israel, as a nation, has not been regenerated yet (Jn. 1:11, 3:3,5, Rom. 11:26). If you read I Cor. 15:39-49, you will see God's distinction between the earthly (natural) body and the heavenly (spiritual) body. One is made to live on this earth and the other for the heavenly places. This is totally consistent with God's two-fold purpose: to regain control and dominion over the earth and over the heavenly places, the two realms of activity Satan usurped in his rebellion against the authority of God, "possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19). (See also Isa. 14:12, Ezek. 28:11-19). We, the body of Christ, are citizens of heaven, not citizens of earth (Phil.3:20). We

come to find that at the moment of salvation, in this present time period, the dispensation of grace, a person is regenerated (Tit. 3:5), they have a position in Christ with a heavenly destination. Also, they have all the heavenly blessings, not earthly blessings (Eph. 1:3, II Cor. 4:16-18). Israel, as a nation, has not been regenerated yet (Jn. 3:3,7). They have been set aside, temporarily (Rom. 11:15,26), until God's present purpose in the world (the formation of the church, the Body of Christ, "new creatures") is accomplished.

5. You said all other divisions are man made.

Answer: The division between Malachi and Matthew is man made. If you look closely you will notice that there is a God-made three-fold division in the Bible: 1. **The time past** (Eph. 2:11,12), 2. **But now** (Eph.2:13-14), and 3. **Ages to come** (Eph. 2:6-7). In the 'time past' and 'ages to come' time periods, the people are under the law. In the 'but now' time period we are under grace. Law and Grace are the two fundamental divisions God made in the Bible consistent with prophecy and the revelation of the mystery. If we don't recognize this division, we misunderstand God's plan for man. We don't know what God did in the past, what God is doing today, and what God is going to do in the ages to come. If we know what God is doing today we can do things related to what He is doing. That is the will of God. If we do something else we are wasting our time. It is only in Paul's message that you see the reconciling of the world (II Cor. 5:19), reconciling of Jew and Gentile into one body (Eph. 2:16), where we are not under law (Rom. 6:14), etc., and most important of all is that our ministry is defined as "the ministry of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18). This is the message we are to speak and this is only found in Paul's epistles.

Now let me start from the beginning.

#1. Your theory: The church of the apostles and the Body of Christ are one.

Answer: There is more than one church other than the satanic church. The 7 churches in Revelation are the churches in the tribulation period. The people of these churches are saved by works plus faith as James says. If you compare James 1:26,27 with Matt. 25:35-46, you will see the works needed for this time period. This is consistent with prophecy, not the mystery, as I am trying to explain. As you can see by the verses this is a time of great wrath, and only those overcomers, those who endure to the end or die for their faith, will be saved to be resurrected into the earthly kingdom. We (the Body of Christ) are saved by grace through faith (and also from this time of wrath - by the pre-tribulation rapture - I Thes. 4:13-18) - just the opposite. The 12 apostles, including Peter, represented a church, Moses represented another church, Paul represents another church. There may be more churches, but there are only 2 plans, an earthly plan and a heavenly plan. God will use the entity the church, the Body of Christ, to reclaim the heavenly places, and the entity the nation Israel (the Messianic church) to reclaim the earthly realm. Both these spheres of activity, scripture will show, Satan usurped from God (Jn. 12:31, Eph. 2:2). You said Jesus was represented as the rock in Matt. 16:15-18 upon which the church is built. The "rock" (small "r" - see Deut. 32:4,15,18, etc.) is Peter's profession of faith that Jesus Christ is Israel's long prophesied Messiah. Here, Jesus' statement was before the revelation of the mystery to Paul (1 Cor. 3:10, Gal. 2:6-9, 1 Tim. 1:16, Eph. 2:18-22). Also, "church" is a generic term. Israel's expectation and promise was an earthly kingdom - therefore an earthly church (Acts 1:6, Mk. 11:10). According to you there is only one church for God's people. I

hope you can see that because God has more than one plan, there is more than one called-out group of people / church. In another place you said the church was formed on Pentecost day. If the church was formed on Pentecost day, the saints before must have been another church. Now you are contradicting yourself. Jesus Christ is the corner stone and foundation for both the kingdom/Messianic church (Israel) and the Body of Christ church. Jesus was represented to Israel with many names like Son of Man, Judge, Redeemer, the Ancient of Days, Jehovah, Son of Abraham, Son of David, the Branch, the Rock, Shepherd, etc. These names show what His ministry was to the kingdom church. Today in the dispensation of grace, He is called the "Head" of the church, which is His body. This name has nothing to do with the nation Israel. From these names you can see that God has two distinct churches. There are also names for the Lord which are common to both of God's plans, such as, Saviour, King, etc.

You mentioned the reference Eph. 2:20 and I Cor. 3:11 as the present church - the Body of Christ. Answer: Yes, but this is not Israel. The nation Israel (temporarily set aside - Rom. 11: 12,25,26) and the Body of Christ are two distinct entities, one under law and one under grace - they cannot mix (Rom. 11:6). The dispensation of grace, the revelation of the mystery, was not known when Israel was still under the law. This fact alone tells us that the two churches are not the same. As you have just seen in Rom. 11:6, law/works and grace/free gift are opposites and their doctrines are totally different. One says to perform, one says to rest in belief. One says you have to earn it, one says you have been given it. Faith is the only thing you can do without doing anything because you trust in what *Somebody* else has done for you. Our doctrine today can be found in Romans to Philemon. Paul's epistles are the only place in the Bible we see that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, spiritually speaking. We can study many dispensational issues in the Bible, but according to what the word of God says ,today we are to follow only the doctrine of the dispensation of grace (I Cor. 11:3, Eph. 3:9, I Tim. 1:16). In I Cor. 3:10,11 you can see Paul as a wise masterbuilder laying the foundation, which is Jesus Christ, for the church, the Body of Christ. Before he laid the foundation for this church it did not exist. With regard to God's two distinct programs, read Eph. 2:18-22 and think of a duplex, two houses joined together, but with one foundation. One side of the duplex is God's prophetic program, the other side of the duplex is God's mystery program. This should help your understanding. Jesus Christ, the foundation, is common to both programs. This is consistent with prophecy's goal of God's reclaiming of the earth with Israel as the head of the nations, and the mystery's goal of God's reclaiming of the heavens, through the entity the Body of Christ. Because the word of God is complete, there is no prophecy today and there is no need of prophecy today. Prophets and apostles were needed until the completion of the canon of scripture (I Cor. 13:8-10, Eph. 4: 11-16). If you believe what you are reading in scripture, it was through Paul that we received God's final revelation (Col. 1:25, II Tim. 4:17).

God will renew heaven and earth into a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21) for purification reasons (the land and the heavenly realm are sin stained because of Satan). Another reference you mentioned is I Cor. 1:12-17. In these verses Paul is saying that Christ sent him not to baptize but to preach. This is what we are supposed to do today. Paul did not preach water baptism because in the dispensation of grace the issue is Spirit baptism (I Cor. 12:13). You can also see this in Rom. 6:3-5, Gal. 3:27. Paul taught the doctrine of one baptism (Eph. 4:5). This is the Holy Spirit baptizing the believer into "one body" at the moment one trusts in Jesus Christ and what he accomplished for us on the cross. For example, read Matt. 3:11. There

are three baptisms here. Which one is for us? If you do not rightly divide the word of truth, you will not know. Notice one other thing. In Matt 3:11, it is being baptized with the Holy Ghost. Now read I Cor. 12:13 - baptized by the Spirit. *By* and *with* have different meanings. Paying attention to the details of God's words is crucial.

#2 Church ? Heaven ? Bride ? Answer: You said the church was formed on the day of Pentecost by referring to Acts 2:47: "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." At least you are confessing that there is another church which started at Pentecost. Please read Acts 2:41. Here it says "the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." In both verses you can see people being added to the existing church. Please read Acts 2:36. This church is the house of Israel. On the other hand, there is not one verse in the Bible that says the church, the Body of Christ, began on Pentecost day. I explained in the last letter that the Body of Christ did not and could not have started on Pentecost day because:

1. The middle wall of partition had to be broken down before the body of Christ started (Eph. 2:14)
2. The casting away of Israel had to happen before the body of Christ started (Rom.11:15)
3. Some of the branches had to be broken off and Gentiles be grafted in (Rom. 11:17)
4. God had to take away the spiritual difference between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:11-13, Col. 3:11, Gal. 3:28)
5. God had to make Jews and Gentiles one, spiritually (Eph. 2:14 -18).
6. God had to baptize and reconcile Jew and Gentile into one body (I Cor 12:13, Eph. 2:16)
7. The administration or dispensation of law had to be changed to the dispensation of grace (Lk. 1:6, Jn. 1:17, Rom. 10:4).
8. When the dispensation changed, the apostleship had to change. (Moses/law versus Paul/grace)

None of these things happened on Pentecost day. In fact Peter was not supposed to preach the gospel to the Gentiles according to God's last command (Acts 1:8). If you pay attention to the order in Acts 1:8, they had to preach to Jews first, which is consistent with Acts 3:24-26, which is part of prophecy, not the mystery. This is what Peter did. Scripture shows that The Twelve never made it out of Israel, so they could not have gone to the Gentiles at that time.

Where is Peter? Answer: Peter will be part of the first resurrection in the kingdom on earth, judging one of the 12 tribes in the millennium. Notice the city of this earthly kingdom will come back down to earth in fulfillment of prophecy (Rev. 21:10).

Where is Paul? Answer: Paul will be in heaven (II Cor. 5:1-4). The thirteenth apostle is one too many for the twelve tribes of Israel. The book of Revelation describes the things that are going to happen on the earth in the future in relation to Israel and the promises and covenants God made with that nation, not the Body of Christ. Rev 21 talks about the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem. Heaven and earth are going to be renewed. The Body of Christ will be in the New Heaven and the believing remnant of the nation Israel will be in the New Earth. New Jerusalem will come down from heaven. The 1st heaven is where the birds fly (Gen. 1:20), the 2nd Heaven (Gen. 1:8) is where the Body of Christ will live eternally (presently Satan's

domain), and the 3rd heaven is where God the Father dwells and the throne of grace is manifested (II Cor. 12:1-4).

According to you, you are waiting with Israel's saints for the New Jerusalem which is the bride to come and you think your name is in the book of life along with Israel according to Rev. 21:27. Answer: Bride in Rev. 21:2, 9, 10 is a typology. In John 3:29 "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled". John's joy is fulfilled. At this point in time, the Body of Christ had not been created yet. It existed only in the mind of God, until He began to reveal the mystery to Paul, in Acts 9:15. It didn't begin until mid Acts, not on the day of Pentecost. Is the Body of Christ the bride of Christ? It is not. Paul uses a bride as a figure of speech in relation to the Body of Christ in Rom. 7, but this does not mean the Body of Christ is the bride of Christ spoken of in prophecy. When we talk about the bride of Christ, it is a reference to redeemed Israel after John, because John said his joy is fulfilled. Israel is called the wife of Jehovah in the Old Testament. Israel is also called the son of Jehovah. How can His son be his wife? It is impossible. In God's word, He will use the word "son" to illustrate one aspect of His relationship, and "wife" to illustrate another aspect, but both pertaining to the same people, Israel. We today, are the mystery church, the body of Christ, which was unprophesied and therefore unsearchable until the writings of Paul. This is what Rom. 16:25 is talking about: "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery." We are the body of Christ and Christ is our head. Israel is spoken of as a bride. They are the one waiting for the marriage. As prophesied, God will marry Israel back to her land (Isa. 62:4), part of prophetic fulfillment. This has nothing to do with the revelation of the mystery. The New Jerusalem is also spoken of as a bride and you can see this marriage in Rev. 19:7-10, 21:2,9-10. This will happen on earth, not in heaven. After the pre-tribulation rapture, the Body of Christ will eternally occupy the heavenly realm (II Cor. 5:1), not the earth. This is the resurrection for the church, the Body of Christ (I Thes. 4:14-18). The first resurrection spoken of in Rev. 20 is for Israel's saints, those who were saved in time past, under the law, and those who lose their lives in the tribulation period for the witness of Jesus Christ and the word of God. There is a book of life for Israel and another one for the Body of Christ (Phil.4:3). As I mentioned earlier, the names of saved saints in time past and saved saints in the tribulation period will be written in the book of life. In the dispensation of grace, if you are "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17), you are already in the book of life (II Cor. 5:21). Because we, the Body of Christ, are in Christ, and have a different destination, we have no judgment (Rom. 1:5-11). Our cleansing is over when we become new creatures in Christ (Gal. 6:15). We are no more enemies of God (Rom. 5:8). According to scripture, the Body of Christ is saved from this tribulation wrath (Rom.5:9, 1Thes. 5:9). Israel and other nations will have to go through the cleansing and purification process of the tribulation, also known as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7). Again this is consistent with prophecy, because the name Jacob means Israel. Though all will be affected, this will be the fulfillment of the 70th Week prophesied in Daniel 9 (a week in this context is 7 years). This is the purging of the nation Israel, separating the wheat from the tares (Mt. 13:24-43).

You said heaven is where Almighty God and the Lamb dwell with men in the tabernacle of God which is coming to earth and hell is the only place where the presence of God is absent.

Answer: I believe I know what you are thinking and this is what people generally think. Look

at Gen. 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth". Col. 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible". Here you see heaven and earth are two distinct places, having thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers in each of these two spheres of activity. May I point out to you again, God's plan to retake control of this spiritual/invisible realm is never seen until God reveals this secret/mystery to Paul.

#3 You wrote: The high priest rent his clothes and the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom - why? The throne of grace was opened for everyone when the Lamb of God was slain and no more sacrifice is needed.

Answer: It is not so. Both of these things are related to Israel, not to the Body of Christ. Christ died for Israel and the mystery church. In the "ages to come," (the doctrine found in Hebrews to Revelation) Israel will continue to be under the law, with one exception: no more sacrifices. We, the Body of Christ, don't need any ceremonial laws because we are not under the law. You said the throne of grace was opened forever at Christ's death. This is not what scripture says. Israel was still the favored nation. Gentile salvation was to come through the nation Israel (Acts 3:24-26). There is an interesting parable in Luke 13:6-9. God planted a fig tree (the nation Israel), sought fruit and found none. God said to the dresser of the vineyard (Jesus Christ) to cut the fig tree (Israel) down because it bore no fruit for three years. The dresser (Christ) said to his Lord to give the tree one more year to bear fruit, if not, he would cut it down. This one year time extension corresponds exactly with Acts 2 through 7. Israel did not bear fruit (Acts 7:51 ff). Israel was scattered (Acts 8:1), and instead of the prophesied wrath, the ascended Lord reached down from heaven to save Saul/Paul to reveal something He had kept secret since before the foundation of the world. In Acts 9:15, you will notice something very important: Gentiles are mentioned before Israel. This is the first occurrence of this in scripture. Something new and unprophesied has begun - the revelation of the mystery. Gentiles could not go to the throne of heaven as long as the middle wall of partition existed. Please read Acts 14:27 "God . . . had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." If the door of faith was now opened to the Gentiles, it could only have been closed to them before. This was well after the Lamb of God was slain, as well as after Pentecost. The door was opened to the Gentiles at the conversion of Paul. We, Gentiles, are now saved through the fall of Israel (Acts 28:28, Rom. 11:11,12,15).

#4 You stated justification is by faith and works, not by faith alone.

Answer: Members of the Body of Christ are saved by grace through faith alone, not by works (Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5, etc.). In fact, in all ages, everyone has been and will be saved by having faith and abiding by whatever program was in effect at that time. Israel needed works as evidence of their faith. James is writing to the scattered tribes of Israel (Jas. 1:1). Israel needed works along with faith in their economy. The believing remnant of Israel will be resurrected into a literal, physical kingdom. So it stands to reason that they will need physical works as evidence to not only show their faith but also to keep and sustain this kingdom. As prophesied, they get the physical blessings first (after the physical purging), then the spiritual blessings. By contrast, the Body of Christ gets the spiritual blessings first (Eph. 1:3) non-experientially, and the physical blessing at the rapture. Hence, physical works are not necessary for salvation - rather faith alone.

Please read Rom. 3:21-28: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...". Rom. 4:4,5: "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness". Rom. 11:6 "And if by grace, then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace...". Notice two words "**BUT NOW**". This indicates the period of the dispensation of grace. No works are needed for salvation in this period. The "time past" and "ages to come" time periods are Israel's program (prophecy) and require works along with faith. See Rev. 2:26 "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations". ("Nation" singular, in the Bible, is a reference to Israel. "Nations" plural, is a reference to everybody else.) Rev. 2:26 is consistent with prophecy in that Israel will rule over the nations (Mic. 4:1,2, etc.). See James 1:22,27, Heb. 6:10-12. The Body of Christ is saved by faith, and sealed unto the rapture, no work involved. God has called us for good works (Eph. 2:10) and we will be rewarded accordingly (I Cor. 3:13-15). The difference is that in the "but now" time period salvation and works are totally separate and apart from each other. Studying all of Paul's "but nows" would prove to be a very enlightening study.

You said "therefore a man is justified by works and not by faith only." If this is your doctrine for salvation today, I am afraid you are not yet saved! Millions of people are believing the way you believe, trying to do good works for salvation along with faith also, to stay saved. You must ask yourself this question: If God has sealed us unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30), can you break God's seal? Is it salvation, or probation? People mix works with salvation because they do not understand the present time period we are in, the dispensation of grace. This is what the book of Galatians is all about. Read Gal. 2:21 & 3:1-3. Paul rebukes the Galatians for falling back under the law. Read Gal. 2:20 & Phil. 2:13 - "for it is God which worketh in you . . .". I hope you change your doctrine before it is too late. In the dispensation of grace salvation is simple (II Cor. 11:3)! Just trust in what Christ did on the Cross for you. Believe in the total saviourhood of Christ. Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died and rose again according to the scriptures, and you will be saved (I Cor. 15:1-4). You will become a new creature in Christ and you will be sealed by the Holy Spirit until the rapture. This is a free gift! You said we have to be justified by works by man-word. Where do you find this in the scripture? You said to read Rom. 10:9,10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Here the context is Israel, and faith is inner faith. What about people who cannot speak? Romans 9 to 11 explain what happened to the nation Israel and why they were set aside. (Rom. 9 - Israel in the "time past" period, Rom. 10 - Israel in the "but now" time period, Rom. 11 - in the "ages to come" time period.)

#5 You said "the good tidings of great joy for all people are proclaimed by the angel at the birth of Jesus Christ."

Answer: It is not so. Here all people means all Israel. Pay attention to all the words and to whom it was written to. In other words, the context. Look at verses Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name 'Jesus' for he shall save his people from their sins." Here his people means Israel. See Matt. 20:28 "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Here many means Israel, not every- body in the world. Matt. 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament,

which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Here also, many means Israel, Gentiles are not included. It is only in Paul's epistles where you see salvation made available for all. See I Tim. 2:4 "who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

You said the good tiding that angles proclaimed was fulfilled when Jesus said "it is finished" at the cross.

Answer: It is not at the cross, rather it is by the cross. If it was fulfilled at the cross for the Body of Christ, why did the glorified Christ from heaven call Paul as an apostle (Rom. 11:13)? Matthias replaced Judas' empty seat. As prophecy indicates, Israel needs 12 representatives. Through the distinct gospel given to Paul the door of salvation was opened to the Gentiles, apart from the nation Israel. This is the heart of the revelation of the mystery (Rom. 16:25,26).

Gospel: There are many gospels in the Bible, but two distinct ones: the kingdom gospel and the grace gospel, one for God's earthly program and the other one for God's heavenly program. One is for the circumcision and the other one is for the uncircumcision (Gal. 2:7-9), one is for Jews and the other one is for Gentiles, one is under the law and the other one is under grace. Keep in mind that in the present time period we are "new creatures", neither Jew nor Gentile.

You said: "Then he gave the commission to his disciples to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whosoever believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:15-18)."

Answer: According to Mk. 16 - Can you drink a glass of poison or handle snakes today or did The Twelve go unto all the world? Acts 1:8 will give you the order in which they were to start. My point is that The Twelve never made it out of Israel in the Acts time period. Peter went to only one gentile, Cornelius' house, 8 years after Pentecost. What happened to the great commission? Stephen in Acts 7:51 said "...ye (Israel) do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye". This is what happened. God set Israel aside and revealed a new program called the mystery. This simply means "secret". Paul is the spokesman/apostle for the Mystery program (Acts 26:13-19). He received the last commission from the glorified resurrected Christ (I Cor. 15:8, Col. 1:23-27). Paul went all over the world, not The Twelve. Water baptism is not included in the commission that he received. There is only one baptism today, that is Spirit baptism. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into Christ.

You said: Peter and Paul preached the same gospel of salvation.

Answer: Please read I Cor. 2:6-8 "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world that come to nought: . . . even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." Here Paul explains what kind of gospel he was preaching. It was a mystery - hidden in the wisdom of God. What is Peter preaching? See Acts 3:21 "...which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." These are two gospels - since and before the world began.

You said to read Rev. 5:8-14 and 12:17 as if it is related to us. These verses are related to Israel in the tribulation period (the dragon is Satan, the woman is Israel, and works are associated with the faith of Jesus Christ - Rev. 12:17). Read Dan. 12:4,9. Also please read who Israel was supposed to be and what they will become: Ex. 19:1-6 and I Pet. 2:8,9. This also is in accordance with prophecy, not the mystery.

Peter and Paul preached the same Jesus, they both preached a gospel of salvation, but

Peter preached the kingdom gospel and Paul preached the grace gospel; Peter preached under the law and Paul preached under grace; Peter preached the Messiah and His second coming as the king (Acts 3:19-21 - Israel as a nation still waiting for their salvation - Heb. 9:28), and Paul preached the cross and Christ crucified (I Cor. 1:18,23) and that we have now received the atonement (Rom. 5:1-11). The death of Christ was a source of shame for Israel (Acts 2:36), but a source of good news for us (Rom. 4:24,25, Rom. 5). Peter preached the gospel of circumcision and Paul preached gospel of uncircumcision (Gal. 2:7). In the 30 year span of the Acts time period, Peter went to only one Gentile, but Paul went to thousands of Gentiles all over the world. Peter received a great commission to go to the uttermost parts of the world, but that program was set aside temporarily because of Israel's non-acceptance of their king. Paul received a greater commission to reconcile sinners (not just Israel) to God (II Cor. 5:19). Paul's the one that did the traveling, as attested by his three missionary journeys. I hope you see the difference. The kingdom program in Mark 16:15-18 is temporarily terminated and laid aside until sometime after the rapture. In the new program which Paul received from heaven there is no commission for water baptism (I Cor. 1:17). There is only one baptism in this dispensation, that is the Spirit baptism, the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into Jesus Christ.

Sister, if you preach any other gospel other than the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24), in this dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:2), you are wasting your time and energy, your work will be burned off and it will be a curse (Gal. 1:8-9). Remember, it is only in Paul's epistles where it says, "Not I, but Christ that liveth in me" (Phil. 2:13, Gal. 2:20, I Cor. 15:10, 2 Cor. 4:7, Eph. 3:20), with regard to our service for the Lord. This is grace, where you rest in what Christ has already done - not the law (which is what you do to please God - your own performance). We are to follow one dispensation, not all dispensations. All the prophetic utterances foretold will be fulfilled in the last dispensation. We are the mystery church. That is why our doctrine, position, walk, destination, etc. are only found in Paul's letters, which was kept secret since the beginning of the world (see Scofield's, page 1252, and Dake's Reference Bible, page 214). In this period every person comes to God through Jesus Christ as the "Son of Adam" and not with special priority claims as "The children of Abraham" (Mt. 1:1). In the "ages to come" (Hebrews through Revelation), there will again be the separation between Jews and Gentiles. The only difference being that what God had originally purposed for the nation Israel to do (to be His representative on earth - a role which they failed to accomplish), He will "cause" them to do (Heb. 8:7-13,) because His promises, plans, and purpose will be accomplished - both on the earth (Isa. 43:15,21,25) and in heaven (Eph. 1:3, 2 Cor. 5:1, 2 Tim. 4:18).

I hope this letter will encourage you to search the scriptures more thoroughly and to study the word of God rightly divided as He tells us in II Tim. 2:15. Studying the Bible in this Godly ordained way takes away most of the seeming contradictions you may have noticed when reading His word (Eph. 2:8,9 - Jas. 2:24). You can now address these contradictions with the word of God - not with human reasoning/wisdom (I Cor. 3:19). When you study dispensationally, don't stop at the 12 apostles. This is the mistake most Christians make. The Dispensation of Grace started with Paul. As I mentioned in the last letter, please try one quarter of the dispensational home study video course. It is free. It will cost you \$15 for registration plus the cost for mailing the tapes. For more information please call Grace School of the Bible: (630) 529-0520. If you think I can be of any help, don't hesitate to call me.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

Chicago,
Jan 15, 1997.

Dear Friends,

This letter is intended to answer some of the questions that have arisen from the tapes and literature which I have sent in recent months. Many people became angry and were unkind in their responses to me through telephone calls and letters, but a few of the responses were very educational in nature. I would like to answer those letters with some other questions and answers. I am financially unable to send 2000 letters each time. If you would like all the material, with a small donation to cover the cost, I can send the material to you and continue this ministry. Your donations to Maranatha Tape Ministry will be tax deductible.

I visited my Pentecostal fellowship the other day. Immediately they prophesied that if I did not come back, I would fall away from grace. In other words, I could lose my salvation. In "time past," when God was dealing exclusively with the nation Israel, this was the case. If they did not keep the law, they could lose their salvation (Lk. 1:6, Josh. 1:8).

Today, in the dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-5), if you are "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17), God's Word says that we are "sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30, 1:13,14). Notice that I am showing you what God's Word says. According to God's Word, if you could not do anything to get saved (Rom. 5:15-21, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5, etc.), what makes you think that you can do anything to become unsaved? **Salvation is the operation of God** (Col. 2:12-14), not our own ideas, whims, or even guilt feelings. Read I Cor. 3:12-15. Verse 15 states it very clearly. II Tim. 2:13 repeats what Eph. 4:30 teaches. If Christ is in you (through faith in His blood and by the operation of God), even if you stop believing, the Holy Spirit is still in you because God has "sealed" you with the Holy Spirit of promise. This is an assurance of salvation that most Christians do not understand. If you are "in Christ," God's Word says you have eternal life in the presence of Him (Tit. 1:2).

Why am I writing this? My concern is for my family and friends. What you are relying on is false teaching, foolishness, and utter confusion. How do we know God loves us today? We look back to the Cross and what He accomplished, not at our own physical circumstances, conditions, or what others tell us. The preaching of the Cross comes through the apostle Paul (I Cor.

1:18,23).

I am advertising some very famous sermon tapes along with this letter. These tapes are not dispensational though. For example, in the late Pastor P. D. Johnson's famous Pentecostal message, he referred to Isaiah 5:1-5: "...if it bring forth wild grapes...". The context here is the nation Israel, not the church, the Body of Christ. This was long before the mystery revelation given to Paul (Rom. 16:25,26, Eph. 3:1-9, Col. 1:26,27) which initiated this previously unprophesied church.

Prophesying in the dispensation of grace is unscriptural (I Cor. 13:8-10). We have God's full revelation in our completed canon of scripture (Col. 1:25). We can grow towards perfection (spiritual maturity) only through His words (not man's) and our proper understanding of them. Prophesying today is blasphemy because you are making yourself the final authority. Think about it: This denies that the Word of God is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Understanding "rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15 - KJV), is crucial with regard to your service for the Lord today.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghes

Maranatha Tape Ministry

9834 Maynard Terrace, Niles, IL 60714

May 6, 1997

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Our prayer is that you are rejoicing in the grace and goodness of our Lord and Saviour.

Dear friend, I am sending you this packet which contains a copy of some correspondence that I have had with a brother along with a video. The burden of my heart is to fulfill the charge of Eph 3:9 " *to make all men see what is the fellowship of the MYSTERY...*" I sincerely pray that you would prayerfully study the material I'm presenting you with. Please, search the scriptures to see whether these things be so (Acts 17:11). The copy of the letter is a response to questions that were posed to me, attempting to refute dispensational Bible study. I believe the answer to much of the confusing traditional Christian theology is answered by recognizing the dispensational layout of scripture (2 Tim. 2:15). The video tape contains material taught by Pastor Richard Jordan who is President of Grace School of the Bible, Bloomingdale, IL. The tape contains about two

hours of material titled "Fundamentals of Dispensationalism." Its purpose is to teach the student how to understand and enjoy the Bible, rightly divided.

If you find this material instructive and a source of true spiritual blessing, we desire to continue to provide you with sound Bible study material. In order to reach many more people, we kindly ask that you return the video tape and literature back to Maranatha Ministry using the envelope provided. The purpose of this is to recycle the material to reach many others. If you desire to learn more and to continue to receive additional Bible studies through video correspondence we offer the following program. We can send you a set of three video tapes per month, which includes 6 total hours of instruction on a monthly rental basis. The cost of rental is \$15.00 per set per month, that includes postage and handling. Or, if you would like to own the set of tapes, we ask a donation of \$7.00 per tape.

To begin the program simply send the first month rental fee to Maranatha Tape Ministry at the above address. If you are in the Chicago area, come for a Bible study on Saturday 3 to 5 PM once in every month in my house. If you want to attend the Bible class or need additional information call me at (847) 965-6069.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

Praise the Lord

Pastor N.T. Jesunathadas
7632 Artesian
Detroit, MI 48228
Nov. 11, 1996

Mr. Varghese,

I received your communication dated Oct. 20, 96. After reading it, I am convinced that you are a very confused person. You want to outshine and discredit others through inappropriate dialectic questions. You are probably possessed by some influence, which wants to disrupt the tranquility of devote people's minds.

I am not surprised people call you 'Crazy'. Have you searched your innerself to unravel

the reasons why you appear crazy to others? Casting a bombshell, to you, seems fashionable!

I analyzed your presumptions and have in the attached sheets tried to show in a sketchy way the correct perspective of the scripture truths.

I pray God may release you from the bondage of Satan and help you to read and understand His word more clearly. I am sure you have not read the scriptures thoroughly! Please read with a prayer for the spirit to lead you into truth.

Maranatha.

Signed
Pastor N.P. Jesunathadas

Mr. Varghese's premises	Scriptural position
<p>1. Are there many Gospels? Mt. 4:23 Jesus went about preaching <u>the gospel of the kingdom</u>. Acts 20:24 To testify <u>the gospel of grace of God</u> Gal. 2:8-9 Grace given to Paul. Rev. 14:6-7 Everlasting gospel--worship God</p>	<p>There is only one Gospel called by different names. Jesus preached repentance for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mark 4:17. Jesus taught his disciples to pray "thy kingdom come". As there is only one kingdom and God wants all people to enter into that kingdom, Jesus and disciples preached the gospel or good news of that kingdom. What the angel preached is also of that kingdom - worship God to enter into the heavenly kingdom.</p>
<p>2. Is there more than one church? Acts 7:38. This is he that was <u>in the church</u> in the wilderness. Ex. 19:3-6. Unto me a kingdom of priests. Isa. 63:7-9. They are my children. Mt. 16:15-18. I will build <u>my church</u> Col. 1:24. Church is the body of Christ.</p>	<p>1. Moses was in the church. He had no Church. Only God has a church. Man has no Church. 2. Not only old testament Levites and Israel but also the New Testament believers are a royal priesthood. 1 Pt. 2:9 3. The New Testament believers are also God's children. Read Jn. 1:12; Gal. 4:6 4. It is clear that apostles had no church. Like Moses they are part of the church. James said my church. It is emphatic. The distinction between Jew and gentile was done away - read Eph. 2. Church is a progressive organism. It started from the foundation of the world. When the lamb of God was slain Rev. 13:8. Parts of the body of Christ do not become the whole. There is one church as evidenced by the New Jerusalem where the Israel and the New</p>

	Testament saints jointly make the city beautiful.
3. Did Moses have a church? Acts 7:38.	Moses was only a messenger. Heb. 3:5. He had no church.
4. Did Apostles have a church? Mt. 16:18 on this rock I build my church. Mt. 9:35 Preaching the gospel of the kingdom.	When Jesus is building His church, how can apostles have a church? Church is built on the foundation of apostles and prophets. Because the apostles preached the kingdom, they cannot claim ownership to church. They are only messengers sent to proclaim the gospel. Jesus went about preaching to build His church and usher in the kingdom.
5. Is the gospel of the kingdom different from Paul's gospel? Acts 20:24 Gospel of grace of God. Mt. 4:32 Gospel of the kingdom	Gospel of the grace of God was regarding the kingdom of His Son Jesus. See Col. 1:13. God's kingdom is the same as His Son's kingdom. See Cor. 15:28. Paul preached the kingdom of God. Acts 19:8. The gentiles of Thessalonica were found worthy of the kingdom of God. 2 Thes 1:8.
6. Was the kingdom only for Israel? Mt. 10:5-7 Preach to the lost sheep of Israel. Mt. 15:24 To the lost sheep of Israel. Jn. 4:22 Salvation is of the Jews. Rom. 15:8 Jesus - minister of circumcision.	Read Eph. 2:16 "that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross". Also read - Rom. 9:22-24 "Even us whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles."
7. Cross a stumbling block to Jews. Why? Acts 2:23-36 Jesus was crucified according to the determinate council of God. 1 Cor 1:18,13.	Jews did not understand the power of God - read Isa 6:9-10. All who hangeth on the tree are cursed. So how Jesus hung on the cross and be Messiah was their puzzle. So it was a stumbling block to the Jew.
8. Is contrasting cross' relation to church - correct? Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18-24.	There is no contrast. Cross on which Jesus died is the symbol of propitiation for sin of mankind. Faith in Jesus makes one a member of his church.
9. Was the wall of separation removed only after Paul's conversion? Eph. 2:14	Jesus said if I be lifted up, I shall draw all men unto me! Jn 12:32. Does 'all men' include

<p>1 King 8:53 Separated Israel for God.</p> <p>Acts 9. Paul's conversion</p>	<p>gentiles? Cross was where Jesus was lifted up and there and then the separation ceased. Consider Philip's ministry at Samaria and on the way to Gaza. Also the ministry of the dispersed at Antioch and other places. These happened before Paul's conversion.</p>
<p>10. Are Israel's promises and Church's different?</p>	<p>Read Acts 2:39. It is equally to the Jew and those afar off who are called by God.</p>
<p>11. Is the kingdom gospel and grace gospel different? Mt. 10.</p>	<p>If Paul preached the kingdom of God even when he was in prison at Rome, then the gospel of Grace is the same as the gospel of the kingdom. Acts 28:31.</p>
<p>12. Is the crosswork mentioned in the Old Testament?</p> <p>Lk. 18:31-34 Apostles did not understand Jesus' death foretold by Him.</p>	<p>So what? They, however, argued from the scriptures that Jesus must have suffered. Acts 17:2-3.</p> <p>Acts 2:31 speaks of resurrection beforehand, "had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree." Acts 13:29</p> <p>Read Lk. 24:25. Jesus rebuked the two for not believing the prophets and beginning from Moses He expounded all the sufferings he had to undergo as prophesied in the Old Testament. Also read Acts 13:27.</p>
<p>13. "repent and be baptized"- Is it only for Israel? Acts 2:38. Repent and be baptized.</p>	<p>If Israelite has to repent to receive the Holy Ghost, which is the earnest of one's inheritance in the kingdom of God, then the Gentiles have to repent more. What does the scripture say? "Now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" Acts 17:38. Gospel according to Jesus is to be preached to all creatures. Those who believe, whether Jew or Gentile, have to repent and be baptized to unite with Christ.</p>
<p>14. What kingdom did Abraham wait for! Lev. 20:24 Canaan Num. 34:1-13 Boundary of Canaan.</p>	<p>Abraham waited for something better than earthly kingdom. He waited with his son and grandson for a city whose builder is God. Heb. 11:10</p>
<p>15. What do we preach? Acts 20:24 Testify the gospel of the grace of God. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 Christ died and rose again</p>	<p>We preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and teach those things which concern Jesus. Acts 28:31</p>

<p>according to scriptures. 1 Cor 1:17,18,23 Preach (1) preach cross (2) preach cross, (3) preach Christ crucified</p>	
<p>16. Is water baptism only for past and future? Eph 2:7,11</p>	<p>Eph.2:7 and 11 has no relation to water baptism. Jesus' command contained in Mat. 28:18-20 and Mark 16:16 are for all times when and where the gospel is preached. Baptism is the only means by which one is united with Christ. Without baptism one cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. It gives newness of life. Rom. 6:3-6 and Eph. 2:5.</p>
<p>17. Is water baptism necessary to enter the earthly kingdom?</p>	<p>You have not quoted any scripture! New Testament believers rule over the earthly kingdom with Jesus. Saints shall judge the world. 1 Cor 6:2. There is no earthly kingdom today. Hence your question is presumptuous.</p>
<p>18. What does Eph. 2:13 say? Blood of Christ</p>	<p>It was shed on the cross. Hence cross is preached with Christ crucified on cross. Without the propitiatory death of Jesus and shedding of his sinless blood there is no means to enter the kingdom of God.</p>
<p>19. Are we destined for the heavenly kingdom only? Gen. 1:1 2 Tim. 4:18 2 Cor. 5:1 Eph. 1:3 Col. 3:1-2 Phil. 3:20. Look forward to His appearing.</p>	<p>You are confused! Earth is given to man. He shall possess it for all ages. The heavenly kingdom is what shall be established on earth. Jesus said my kingdom is not earthly. But it is in this earth. "God's tabernacle with men and he dwell with them." Rev. 21:3. "Let thy kingdom come" is the fervent prayer. The New Jerusalem has to come down to earth.</p>
<p>20. Is salvation only by faith? No repentance and baptism? Rom. 3:24-25.</p>	<p>Salvation is by faith. Without faith you cannot please God - Heb. 11. But salvation is to be worked for all the days of one's life. So that we may achieve the fullness of salvation. 1 Pt. 1:9. Repentance, baptism by water and spirit and holy living and growing in spirit to conform to the image of Jesus Christ are all required for salvation. Any one of these do not constitute salvation.</p>
<p>21. How does one become a new</p>	<p>If you are in Christ you are a new creature. How</p>

creature? 2 Cor. 5:17.	do you come into Christ. Read Gal. 3:26-27. It is by water baptism.
22. Is Paul's gospel the only law used to judge? Rom. 2:16.	Judging is by the Lord. Many books will be used. Rev. 20:12. Those who heard Paul preach the gospel will be judged according to that gospel. The gospel of Paul is the gospel of Jesus Christ who entrusted it to Paul to preach to the gentiles. Rom. 15:19.
23. What does Rom.16:25 mean?	It speaks of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no other gospel whatever name may be used. Gospel of Grace - what is grace or who is grace - Jesus Christ who came full of grace and truth. Gospel of the kingdom - the kingdom ruled by Jesus Christ who invites everybody by His emissaries to enter into its benefits.
24. What is the mystery? Rom. 12:1-2.	There is no mystery in these verses.
25. Are the 'New Creatures' of the New Testament age 'Israel'?	Read Ephesians 2:13-22. There is no distinction of Israel and Gentile. All are fellow citizens of the kingdom of God. "We are the circumcision which worship God in spirit." Phil. 3:3. "We have come to heavenly Jerusalem" - Heb. 12:22. Jerusalem which is above is the mother of <u>us all</u> . Gal. 4:22
26. Does the church share in the promise in Heb. 8:10?	Yes. It is a question from Ezekiel 36. Read - Heb. 9:15 "they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Read - Acts 2:39. Promise is to the faraway strangers also.

Are there two destinations, heaven and earth? Answer: No.
Only one church and one New Jerusalem. Saints are not destined to abide in heaven forever - though for a short period - they may be moved from earth. They come back to earth to rule during Millennium. Then again they come to earth as New Jerusalem to abide forever - when God and Jesus will be with men - Read Rev. 21:3,22.

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Mar. 15, 1997

Dear Pastor Jesunathadas,

In recent months, I have sent thousands of tapes and pieces of literature that, I believe, can help the sincere student of scripture come to an understanding of the *"preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began."* Rom. 16:25. My motive is based purely on the instruction given in Eph. 3:9 *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery..."* My method is in accord with 2 Tim. 2:15 *"...rightly dividing the word of truth."*

It has been a joy to receive letters of response! Many have been written in an unkind spirit. I desire to reply to yours, because I appreciate your faithfulness to scripture and your generous spirit towards me. It would be such a joy to my heart if I can at least help you gain a better understanding of my position and an even greater joy if you too, come to see and enjoy the *"..unsearchable riches of Christ..."* Eph. 3:8.

Acts 18:24-28, serves as an interesting example of some in the church today. Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the scripture. The problem with Apollos was that he possessed limited knowledge. Apollos only knew John's baptism, hence, he wanted to take his hearers back to John's teaching. Aquilla and Priscilla, however, expounded unto him the way of God more **"perfectly."** The result of this was that Apollos helped them which had believed through **"grace."** This is what the church as a whole lacks. It lacks the doctrinal "perfection" that the revelation of the mystery provides (1 Cor. 2:1-7). How sad it is that so many would have Christians go "back" to John or "back" to Pentecost or even "back" to the circumcision ministry of Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:8)! God, our Father, would have us "grow on to perfection" based on **His** now revealed mystery message and mystery program of **Grace!** Prayerfully consider Col. 1:25-28:

"Whereof I (Paul) am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the MYSTERY which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **PERFECT** in Christ Jesus:"

The reason the church today is weak, confused, fragmented and irrelevant is due to **not** making the distinctions in scripture where God makes the distinctions. This is the "key" to understanding, enjoying, and applying the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)! Please study some of the *differences* God has made between his Heavenly Program (the Mystery) and his Earthly Program (Prophecy) at the end of this letter. Beginning on the next page, I will attempt to answer your claim that there is, in scripture, only "one" gospel, only "one" church and only "one" destination. I have never found any verse that would support this "all is one" position. If this were the case, why the admonition to *"..rightly **DIVIDE** the word of truth?"*

#1. One or more Gospels?

You have stated that there is only "one" gospel called by "different" names. What verse or verses do you use to prove your theory? It appears to me that you have assumed that every time the word "gospel" is used it must refer to the same thing. Why do you do it? What saith the scripture? Do specific words in scripture have specific meaning? Man shall live by "...every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" Mat. 4:4.

If there is only "one" gospel why does God use *distinctive* terms to designate the various items of good news (or gospels) and why are there clear differences between the "Gospel of the Kingdom", the "Gospel of Grace", the "Gospel of the Circumcision", and the "Gospel of the Uncircumcision"? Note some distinctives or divisions (2 Tim. 2:15).

[Gospel of the Kingdom \(Matt. 9:35\)](#). This gospel takes us back to King David. See 2 Sam. 7:16; also 1 Chron. 17:4-15; Psa. 89:34-37. This glorious kingdom which God will establish on the earth is the goal of God's prophetic plan. See Jer. 23:5,6. This kingdom was preached as "at hand" during our Lord's earthly ministry. See Mat.3:1,2; 4:17,23; 9:35; 10:5-7. The people of this gospel is Israel. See above verses and also Acts 2:29-36, (esp. : 36). Note that this kingdom blessing goes to Gentiles through the agency of Israel. See Psa. 67:1,2; Isa. 40:5; Isa 42:6.

[Gospel of the grace of God \(Acts 20:24\)](#). This gospel is first revealed by our Lord Jesus Christ to the Apostle Paul. See Eph. 3:1,2-9; Col. 1:25-29 (note it is called the Dispensation of Grace). This gospel is the subject of the mystery in the heavens. See also Eph. 3:1-ff, Col.1:25-29; Eph. 1:18-ff; 2:4-6; Col 3:1-4. The people of this gospel are all people without Israel and through her fall. Rom. 11:11-15 (note Israel is viewed as "diminished" :12; as "cast away" and as " dead" in :15).

[Gospel of the Circumcision \(Gal 2:7\)](#). This gospel is based on the covenant God made with Abraham that, through his seed all nations will be blessed. See Gen 17:11; 22:17,18. Circumcision was the "token" or seal or sign ratifying the covenant God made with Israel (the Circumcision - See Rom 9:3-5; Eph 2:11). According to Gal 2:7 this gospel was committed to Peter, which gospel he did preach to Israel in Acts 3:25,26 (note "unto you first). The Lord Jesus Christ was a Minister of the Circumcision,- Rom. 15:8.

[Gospel of the Uncircumcision \(Gal 2:7\)](#). This gospel has no "covenant" as its basis (Eph 2:12). Paul takes us back before Abraham and the sign of circumcision to Abram when he was yet uncircumcised. See Rom. 4:9-11. It's message is one of justification by faith alone! See Rom. 4:1-4. Again, made possible to Gentiles (the Uncircumcision - See Eph. 2:11,12) through the fall of Israel. Paul was a Minister to the Gentiles - Rom. 15:16.

In summary, the notion that there has always been only one gospel is unbiblical. Always study what is being spoken, who is speaking it and to whom it is spoken to. We can never be approved workmen of God by failing to rightly divide the word of truth. 2Tim. 2:15.

#2 One or more Churches?

Your response to this question is similar to #1. We must not assume that when the word "church" is used in scripture that it always refers to the same group of people. Without question, there is but one household of God (Eph. 2:19). This does not mean however, that God has only been calling-out one group of people, with one common goal, with one set of doctrine. Surely you must agree that scripture lays out specific instruction to Israel in time past that is not in operation today in Grace. (One example would be the dietary laws. Compare Lev.11:1-ff with 1Tim. 4:3,4. This would be a clear contradiction if you did not rightly divide!). Let's look at how God distinguishes churches in scripture:

In Hebrews 3:1-6 we learn that Moses was the builder of the Old Testament house and that Christ was the builder of the New Testament house. In 1 Cor. 3:10 we learn that Paul is the builder of a "house," this being the Church the body of Christ (Eph 1:22,23).

The Mosaic Church. This is the church of the wilderness referred to in Acts 7:35-39. Moses was the "man of the age." He was given the specific word of God to this church which governed their lives. See Acts 7:38. (See also Rom. 2:17,18; 3:1,2; Duet. 4:5-9; Psa. 147:19,20). This is clearly a Jewish church comprised of Israelites. She was given the **law** of Moses which included moral, civil and ceremonial laws. This church is the House of Israel.

The Messianic Church. This is the church built on Messiah. See Mat. 16:18. This new testament church is built on the confession of Christ as Messiah, as Son of God, as King of Israel. (See remarks above under "Gospel of the Kingdom"). This is the Kingdom church. Jesus Christ does not replace the **law** (Mat. 5:17-19; 23:2,3) but actually adds or intensifies the **law**. See Mat. chapters 5 through 7. This church still had in view Israel as God's favored nation. See Mat. 15:24-27; 10:1-7, compare with 1Pet. 2:5-9 (this royal priesthood is **Israel**...Exo. 19:3-6).

This church has been temporarily set aside as a result of Israel's rejection of Messiah. See Acts 2:22,23; 7:51-ff with Rom. 11:11-15). This church will be established by God at the second coming of Jesus Christ during His millennial reign (hence, Heb 3:1-6).

The Mystery Church. This is the church which is Christ's Body. Eph 1:22,23; Col.1:18,24. This church is comprised of both Jew & Gentile on an absolute and equal basis. See Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:13-16. This church is possible through the fall of Israel. This church begins **with Paul** who is the first member. See 1Tim. 1:16 "...that **in me FIRST** ...". Just as Moses was given the law of God to give to Israel, so it is that Paul is the "...wise masterbuilder..." for this dispensation of grace. See 1Cor. 3:10-15. (Note that Jesus Christ is the foundation of all three called out groups). To Paul is given the specific word of God to the body of Christ **which excludes the law!** See Rom 6:14 "...not under **law** but under **grace**." Eph. 2:15"...Having **abolished**...the **law of commandments**...". Col 2:14 "...blotting out ...ordinances...and took it out of the way..."

In summary, we see differences in these three churches. Paul is **God's** chosen vessel for this age (Acts 26:17,18). Through Paul alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church which is His body. (The Scofield Reference Bible has some excellent comments on page 1189 "The Epistles of Paul").

#3 Did Moses have a Church?

Your answer is correct. Moses was a messenger and clearly the Church in the wilderness is God's called-out people. But, Heb 3:2-5 teaches that Moses was the "builder" of "his" house. (He was given the law from God to Israel). Moses was the divinely appointed leader over God's "called-out" assembly in the wilderness, this is why Israel is said to have been baptized unto Moses in 1 Cor. 10:2. Also, note how Paul calls himself a "master**builder**" in 1 Cor. 3:10. What was Paul a builder of? Please see answer #2 "The Mosaic Church".

#4 Did the Apostles have a Church?

Clearly ownership of any church belongs to God. What I am saying is that the Apostles were the divinely appointed leaders over the little flock. (Just like Moses in time past and Paul over the Body of Christ in this dispensation). Please see #2 "The Messianic Church".

#5 Is the "Gospel of the Kingdom" different from the "Gospel of Grace"?

Yes, it is in scripture. Please see answer #1. Also, it is important to distinguish the use of the word "kingdom." It appears from your answers that you believe that all references to the "Kingdom of" always refer to the same thing. (If this is true why are there different expressions used to describe the same thing?) But is this the case? Why does the Apostle Paul not even once refer to the "kingdom of heaven"?

The kingdom of God is universal, including all moral intelligences willingly subject to the will of God, whether angels, the church, or saints of past or future dispensations. The kingdom of heaven is Messianic, mediatorial, and Davidic, and has for its object the establishment of the kingdom of God in the earth (Mat 3:2)...the kingdom of heaven is in the earthly sphere of the universal kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven refers to the rule of heaven on earth...see Duet. 11:21; Dan. 2:34-35,44; 7:23-27; Matt. 6:10. It is the kingdom covenanted to David's seed in 2 Sam. 7:7-12 (which covenant was never made to Gentiles... see Eph 2:12). All the passages in the Bible where this expression is found is in the book of Matthew. The reason for this fact is that this gospel [Matthew] presents Christ as Jehovah's King. It is a dispensational term and refers to the Messiah's kingdom of the earth. The sovereignty comes from Heaven, because the King is from there...John 18:36. When Paul makes reference to the kingdom he does not use the phrase "kingdom of heaven," but "kingdom of God." The Body of Christ are part of the universal "kingdom of God" but not of the prophetic "kingdom of heaven" to be established on earth. The Body of Christ is destined for the heavenly places (not earth)...see Eph. 1:3; 2:6.

#6 Was the kingdom only for Israel?

The kingdom of heaven is preached to the house of Israel. Mat. 10:5-7. This kingdom is also going to bring blessing to the Gentiles...see Isa 60:1-4; 62:1-4 ..."*the Gentiles shall come to thy light.*" You refer to Eph. 2:16. This passage clearly teaches that God's church in this age is "one new man" (2:15), "one body" where there is no Jew or Gentile...see Gal. 3:28.

#7 The cross and the stumbling block.

It appears there is some confusion about what I was saying in regard to the cross. Your point about Messiah hanging on a cross being a puzzle to Israel is very well stated. My point was that Paul is the *first* to declare the cross as **good news**. We now know through the gospel of grace that sin has been fully paid for by Jesus Christ at Calvary. When did Peter or the others preach the cross in relation to sin? Before or after Paul? The heart of grace is the preaching of the cross...see 1Cor. 1:17-24.

The Lord Jesus Christ became a stumbling stone to Israel. See Rom. 9:31-33 and 11:9-13. The cross (which is the place of propitiation) was a stumblingblock. Why? Because Israel sought to establish her own righteousness...see Rom. 10:3,4. They stumbled at the cross but they did not fall at that time (Rom 11:9-13). The reconciliation of Jew and Gentile was only possible after Israel's fall. The reason the "fall" of Israel did not occur *at* the cross was because Christ asked for forgiveness on their behalf...see Luk. 23:34. This is consistent with Luk. 13:6-9 where Jesus teaches a parable about the fig tree. In it the Lord teaches that Israel will have one year extended to them to bear fruit. Historically, this occurs in the first seven chapters of the book of Acts. Israel again rejects a renewed offer of the kingdom of heaven on earth by stoning Stephen. At this point God chooses to save Saul of Tarsus (Acts chapter 9) for the purpose of revealing the mystery...see Eph. 3:1-ff *et al.* Historically the *diminishing* of Israel (Rom. 11:12) occurs from the saving of Saul (Paul) and continues through the book of Acts. The *fall* is "complete" when Paul makes the declaration in Acts 28:28 "... *the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles...*". (Paul makes the same statement in Acts 13:46 and 18:6 each time traveling further west and each time demonstrating Israel's "diminishing").

#8 & 9 The cross and the middle wall of partition.

We now know (through the revelation of the mystery) that the cross (or propitiatory death of Jesus Christ) is the **only** way to heaven. The issues of redemption, righteousness, forgiveness of sins *etc...* are **only** made possible through the blood of Christ at the cross. But please read Eph 2:13-16 and note, especially, verse :16 "...**by** the cross...". Verse 16 states "by" the cross not "at" the cross. The cross is the means (not the chronological place) by which the middle wall of partition is broken. If the "wall" was broken "at" the cross, then why does Peter in Acts 10:28 still believe it was wrong for a Jew to eat with a Gentile, except that God just taught him otherwise? See Acts 10:14. Also note that *after* the cross the Lord and his disciples are still concentrating the work on Israel...see Acts 1:6; 2:5, 36; 3:12, 25-26; 4:8; 5:31 *et al.* The wall is still up!

You used John 12:32 as a proof text. Where in this passage do you read anything about the middle wall of partition coming down "at" the cross? Again, in the kingdom (of heaven) program blessing is also to be extended to the Gentiles **through** Israel....all because of the cross.

In the case of Philip, he was faithful in carrying out the commission of Mat. 28:19; Mark 16:15-20; & Luk. 24:47. The man from Ethiopia had come to worship in *Jerusalem*...Acts 8:27. Why? Because Jerusalem must first be brought to Messiah's "feet" according to prophecy. What message was Philip and those at Antioch preaching? Read Acts 11:19

"Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, ***preaching the word to none but unto the JEWS ONLY.***"
The wall is still up!

#10 Are Israel's promises the same as the Body of Christ?

Absolutely not! Please read the page comparing Prophecy and Mystery.

Remember Israel's promises concern the Kingdom program on Earth, whereas, the promises made to the Church the Body of Christ concern the program of God in the Heavenlies.

#11 Is the kingdom gospel and gospel of grace the same?

No. Please see #5 and #1 above.

#12 Is the crosswork mentioned in the Old Testament?

Please allow me to clarify. My point was that the "cross work" or sufferings of Messiah as foretold in prophetic scripture or even during our Lord's earthly ministry was never viewed as "good news." Paul is the first (see 1Tim. 1:16) to receive from Jesus Christ the meaning and full scope of Calvary as good news to sinners.....as Paul says in Gal. 6:14 he "gloried in the cross." Paul, also, is the first to have revealed to him the effect that the cross has against Satan and his policy of evil in the heavenly places. If Satan had any knowledge of what God intended to do in the heaven, he (Satan) would not have crucified the Lord. See 1 Cor. 2:6-8; Col. 2:14,15. The preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Rom. 16:25) exalts the cross as God's manifold wisdom in crushing and spoiling Satan's rebellion in the heavenlies.

#13 Is "repent and be baptized" only for Israel?

Yes. The word "repent" simply means a change of mind (or heart). Even God repented in Exo. 32:14 and Gen 6:6 etc... Never does Paul command any one to "repent and be baptized." In fact Paul understands that his message (of grace) excludes water baptism! See 1Cor 1:17. How could Paul say that, in light of "the great commission" as found in the four gospels? Today, in this dispensation of grace, there is only **one baptism**. See Eph 4:5. This baptism excludes water. This baptism is performed by the Holy Spirit when he places us into the church the body of Christ. 1Cor. 12:13 and Col 2:12 (note "*through the faith of the operation of God.*").

#14 What kingdom did Abraham wait for?

The city referred to in Heb. 11:10 is the same city referred to in Heb. 12:22. This is the heavenly Jerusalem of Rev. 21:2,10. All of this is consistent with the Abrahamic & Davidic Covenants regarding God's purpose on the Earth. See Isa. 61:11; 11:9; Psa. 2:8; 72:11; Jer. 23:5; Dan. 7:14; Zec. 8:22; Mat. 5:5; 6:10. The Body of Christ will function eternally in the Heavens. See 2 Cor. 5:1; Eph 1:3, 20-23. Remember God has two realms of governmental dominion, Heaven and Earth.

See Gen 1:1; Eph. 1:10; Rev 21:1.

#15 What do we preach?

We preach the gospel that was first revealed to Paul. See 1 Tim. 1:16. In Gal 1:6-9, Paul **warns** the Saints not to preach any other gospel (which is not another - meaning it was scriptural but not dispensational) that Paul didn't preach. This is the Gospel of the Grace of God...Acts 20:24, because we are now living in the Dispensation of the Grace of God (first revealed to Paul!...Eph 3:3!). Also see above question # 1. We preach the commission of 2 Cor. 5:14-20. This is the **only** message in operation today that saves men's souls! All made possible through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:4-7; Rom 6:23; 5:17. PRAISE GOD, IT IS A GIFT!

#16 Is Water Baptism for today?

Water plays no part in the program of God today. Eph 4:5 teaches us that in this dispensation of grace there is only ONE baptism. Which is it? Scripture teaches that this ONE baptism is DRY.....*NO WATER!* 1 Cor. 12:13 reveals that this baptism is by ONE SPIRIT; Col 2:12 teaches that this baptism is "through the faith of the operation of God." How can you claim that this is a water rite performed by a man to another man? Why is it that when Paul refers to water baptism it is in a negative response. See 1 Cor 1: 13-17. When we rightly divide the word of truth we see that this Spirit baptism of Eph 4:5 is the only baptism associated with the Revelation of the Mystery.

Also see # 13 above.

Dear Friend, you cite Mark 16:16 as being in operation today. I will believe you if you are willing to practice Mark 16:18. Can you honestly say that if you drink poison (*any* deadly thing) you would not be harmed? Please study Mark 16:16-20 very carefully and believe what you read. There are no signs today! Why did Paul leave Trophimus sick at Miletum? (2 Tim. 4:20) Why did Paul tell Timothy to drink wine for his *often infirmities* (1 Tim. 5:23)? Why could Paul not heal Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-28 - note that even after "God had mercy" Paul still sent him "the more carefully" :28, because Epaphroditus was still not fully recovered).

I agree with you that baptism *is* the only way to be united with Christ. But what right do you have to assume that it is water baptism? Rom 6:1-3 makes no mention of water! We are placed into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). Water cannot place anybody into anything.

#17 Is water baptism necessary to enter the earthly kingdom?

Yes. See Matt 3:1-6.

18 Eph 2:13. The Blood of Christ.

I agree with you, that the blood of Christ is the **only** means of divine acceptance. Be aware that we today as the Body of Christ have now received the atonement (Rom. 5:11), whereas, Israel still awaits it...Acts 3:19-21. My point in Eph 2:13 is that there has been a change in God's dealings

with man. At one time we as gentiles were without God in the world having no hope...Eph 2:12. But now, (through the blood of the cross) we are made nigh to God...Eph 2:13. Eph 2:14 tells us that it is because of the one new man (the church the Body of Christ) not because of Israel or her covenant promises or the law that we are made nigh. This is part of the Revelation of the Mystery preached by Paul as the context of Eph 2: and 3: demonstrate. This one new man is formed *by* the cross, not *at* the cross.

#19 The Body of Christ in the Kingdom?

Failure to rightly divide the word of truth and failing to acknowledge the mystery as in Col 2:2 will result in tremendous confusion. We see an example of this in 2 Pet. 3:15,16. You are assuming there is only one people with one program with one hope, this position is very unbiblical and dangerous.

I refer you above to #5. There is not one passage in all of Paul's epistles were we are told that the Body of Christ is given an earthly kingdom with earthly blessings. We do, however, see our place in the heavenlies. See Eph 1:3; 2:6; Phi.3:20; Col. 3:1-4 *et al*.

Israel is looking for a heavenly kingdom (the days of heaven) on earth. She will possess it for all ages. It was given to her. The gentiles in that day "enter" via the Abrahamic Covenant... "them that bless I will bless," etc.....See Deut. 11:21; Isa. 11:9; Jer. 23:5; Psa 37:9-11; Mat. 5:5; 6:10; also Ezk. 37:21-28; Isa. 62:1-4; Ex. 19:4-6; Rev. 5:10.

See also page 2.

#20 Saved by faith or by works?

Which "work" saves a person?

The Revelation of the Mystery contains the only way a soul can be saved in this dispensation of grace. Salvation is by Grace through Faith. Eph 2:8,9: "**FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, / NOT OF WORKS, / NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.**" You CANNOT work for it. It is a gift. Rom 4:5: "**But to him that worketh NOT BUT BELIEVETH ON HIM that justifieth the ungodly, his FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Faith is never "worked" for. No verse teaches that. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17. Faith means you believe. Rom 4:3,5. God in his infinite GRACE provides the ONLY sacrifice that can pay for your sins. The Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 3:25. We as a result of salvation are now created *unto* good works. Eph. 2:10 . But our salvation is never *based* on good works. See Titus 3:5-7: "**Not by WORKS of righteousness which we have done, but according to HIS MERCY he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our SAVIOUR ; That being justified BY HIS GRACE, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."**

Your answer, to what salvation is, will send a person to HELL! Why did Christ die? Gal. 2:21 " I

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

We are justified by FAITH which excludes WORKS. Rom. 3:27,28 : **"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? nay: but by the law of FAITH. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Rom. 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."**

Eternal life is a free gift to all who trust in Jesus Christs' death, burial and resurrection as the absolute, total and complete payment for sin. Rom. 6:23: **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ is the result of the work of God, the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, as a RESULT of salvation, never in working FOR salvation. How and why would God conform a lost hell bound sinner? See 2 Cor. 6:14-18. Sinners are dead Eph. 2:1-3. They are the children of wrath. Eph 2:3. They are children of disobedience. Eph. 5:6. No man can ever do "enough good." Rom. 3:10-18: **"As it is written, there is NONE that understandeth. there is NONE that seeketh after God. They are ALL gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is NONE that doeth good, NO, NOT ONE.**

WHAT SINNERS NEED IS LIFE! ETERNAL LIFE! THAT IS WHY JESUS CHRIST DIED!

1 Tim. 1:15,16: **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to SAVE sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained MERCY, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all LONGSUFFERING, for a pattern to them which should hereafter BELIEVE ON HIM to life everlasting."**

Please show me the verse or verses where, as you say, repentance, baptism by water, holy living, or growing in the spirit all result in salvation. Especially in light of the free gift principle that I just shared with you from the word of God.

p.s. You misquoted 1 Peter 1:9. This verse says nothing about "achieving the fullness of salvation," as you wrote to me. The verse does say something about receiving salvation. There is a **tremendous** difference between *achieving* something or *receiving* something! (Remember what Jesus said..."every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God!).

#21 New Creatures in Christ.

You are correct. We do become new creatures by being placed into living union with Jesus Christ. This, however, is accomplished by the one baptism of Eph. 4:5 which is by the one Spirit of 1 Cor. 12:13. No water is even hinted at in Gal 3:27. It is the operation of God. Col 2: 12.

22 How will men be judged according to Paul's gospel.

The point of Rom. 2:16 is that men will be judged according to information that was given to Paul. To Paul alone was revealed the truth that men are saved because God gave his Son as a "propitiation

through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God"- Rom 3:25. Men in all ages are essentially saved by faith. The object of faith is always God. The content of faith varies depending on what dispensation is in operation. Paul reveals that the basis of salvation for any person in any age is the blood of Christ. Not that men in time past had faith in the blood, but God in his forbearance imputed the work of the cross to their faith, though in time past men didn't know it. Paul's gospel reveals the full meritorious effect of Calvary. Men will be judged on the basis of their faith to what God demands. The good news for today is Rom. 4:5: "**But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**"

#23 What does Rom. 16:25 mean?

You are again assuming that there is only one gospel with different names (which is unbiblical). Please refer to question #1 above. Not all gospels are the same.

My point in Rom. 16:25 is that we preach Jesus Christ not according to his earthly ministry. He *was* a minister of the circumcision - see Rom. 15:8. Our Lord's ministry was based on information that was revealed since the world began - see Luk. 1:68-70 and Acts 3:21-24. Today our Lord Jesus Christ is preached according to "the mystery" which was hidden since the world began - see also Eph 3:5,9 and Col. 1:26.

#24 What is the "Mystery"?

The "mystery" is that body of truth which God kept hidden in himself then *first* revealed to the Apostle Paul (Eph 3:1-5), regarding the heavenly ministry of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:19-23). Please note some characteristics:

1. It is called "Mystery" because it was kept a secret. Rom.16:25; Eph 3:9; Col. 1:26; Eph 3:5. Here are three Biblical reasons why this revelation is called a Mystery. It was a.) kept secret, b.) hid in God, c.) and hid from ages and generations.

2. The Mystery came from the Lord Jesus Christ by DIRECT REVELATION. Gal 1:11,12; Eph 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:1,7.

3. This Mystery was revealed to the Apostle PAUL. He was the ONLY Apostle to be taught the Mystery personally by the Lord Jesus Christ. Gal 2:7; Eph. 3:2; Col 1:25; Gal 1:11. Paul's Apostleship came DIRECTLY from the Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 1:15,16; 2:8; Acts 9:15; Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles. 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; Acts 26:16,17; Rom. 11:13; 15:16.

NOTE: The 12 Apostles were to go to the Gentiles AFTER the Nation of Israel had repented (Acts 1:8 & Isa 48:20). BUT ISRAEL DID NOT REPENT! The Gentiles, now, are being saved through the fall of Israel (Rom. 11:11,12) and this, by the Gospel of the Grace of God revealed to the Apostle Paul.

4. The Mystery contains information on: a. The One Body: 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph 4:12; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12,13; Eph. 4:4; Eph 1:22,23; 2:14-18 etc..... b. The present Dispensation of Grace: Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25; c. The Gospel of the Grace of God: Acts 20:24; Eph 2:8,9; Titus 3:7;

Rom 3:24. d. The temporary setting aside of Israel: Rom. 11:25; Acts 28:27,28. e. The "ONE BAPTISM": Eph 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12,13; Col 2:12. f. The New Commission: 2 Cor. 5:14-20; Eph 3:9. g. The Heavenly position of the Christian: Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:20; Eph. 1:3; Col. 3:1-3. h. Christ as Head of the Body: Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23; Col. 1:18. i. The coming of Christ in the air for His Church: 1 Cor. 15:51,52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Col 3:4. j. The Judgement Seat of Christ: 2 Cor. 5:10,11; Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15. k. The Mystery alone contains the plan of salvation TODAY: Eph. 2:8,9; Gal 3:26; 1 Cor. 15:1-3.

The Mystery program is revealed to the world apart from the prophetic program instituted with the nation of Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ is the CENTER and the CIRCUMFERENCE of this Mystery. It ALL revolves around HIM and it is ALL about HIM. He is the source as well as the object of the Mystery.

[#25 The new creature and Israel.](#)

You are correct. Eph 2:13-22 clearly teaches NO DISTINCTION between Jew and Gentile. This IS MYSTERY TRUTH! Please read the context in Eph. 2:11,12. The prior dispensation had a "wall of partition" placed between Jew and Gentile, which wall is NOW done away! The agency God is forming today is the "one new man" or "new creature," i.e. the Church the Body of Christ, which can not be the same as Israel and her 12 tribes.

[#26 The promise of Heb. 8:10](#)

Please read the passage. The covenant is made with THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL! You and I as Gentiles are not part of any covenant program. See Rom. 9:4, 5 and Eph 2:11,12. Today God deals with people based on his DISPENSATION of Grace as Jesus Christ is preached according to the revelation of the MYSTERY. You refer to Heb. 9:15. When were you ever under the "first testament." The eternal inheritance of this passage is reference to the covenants made to ISRAEL through Abraham, Moses, and David regarding the EARTHLY program, which covenants will be fulfilled in the future as the direct result of Calvary. You also refer to Acts 2:39. The strangers here refer to the Gentiles (who remember are STRANGERS, that is, alienated and outside of the covenants, see Eph. 2:11,12). The nation of Israel did have Gentiles that were "strangers within thy gates" (Exo. 20:10; Deu 5:14; 24:24). These Gentiles were entitled to the sign of circumcision (Exo. 12:48); They had a right to the cities of Refuge (Num. 35:15); They had a right to an inheritance among the Hebrews (Ezk. 47:22,23). Thus the Heathen "joined themselves to the Lord" and became Jews (i.e. proselytes, Isa 56:3-8; Esther 8:17; Acts 2:10). God has always desired blessing to the Gentiles THROUGH ISRAEL. (Rom 15:8-12; Isa. 61:6-9; Zach. 8:13-23) Today, there is no "Israel" (Rom. 11:11-15; Acts 28:27,28) hence, there are no "promises" fulfilled, or any "covenants" being carried out. The Gospel of the Grace of God is not related to the covenants God made with Israel. This Gospel is part of the Mystery that was hid in God until revealed to Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

In conclusion, for you to say that there is no distinction between Heaven and Earth and that there is no distinction between Israel and the Body of Christ, and that there is only "one destination" for all believers is to violate the clear teaching of scripture as well as make God out to be a LIAR!

Scripture is so clear that there is a Heaven and an Earth (Gen 1:1, Eph 1:10, Rev. 21:1). The word of God is God's revelation concerning HIS eternal purpose in BOTH of this realms"That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one both WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN, and WHICH ARE ON THE EARTH; even IN HIM" (Eph 1:10)... "by HIM to reconcile all things unto HIMSELF; by HIM, I say, whether they be things IN EARTH, or things IN HEAVEN (Col.1:20). After the rapture we are caught up in the air with our Lord Jesus Christ and then placed into the heavenlies ETERNALLY! (2 Cor 5:1) What verse teaches that the Church the Body of Christ will be moved down to Earth after being placed into the Heavenlies (Eph 1:20-23; Col. 1:16-20)? The Body of Christ are a Heavenly people with Heavenly blessings and a Heavenly hope! See Eph 1:3; 2:6; Phil 3:20; Col. 3:1-3.

Please know that I desire truth. I am not interested in religion, denominationalism, or traditional view point. My heart beats "WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURE." Scripture is my only sole authority. My method of study is divine "rightly dividing the word of truth." I sought not to use cunning or crafty words and methods. Let us all just let the very words (each and everyone) of scripture lead, guide, and direct. I trust you will "search the scriptures to see whether these things be so." Remember, "But though we or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which WE have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8,9 -The Apostle Paul)

Thank you for your time and God bless you,

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

DISPENSATIONAL BIBLE STUDY / 2 Tim. 2:15 (KJV)

THE MOST IMPORTANT DIVISION IN THE BIBLE PROPHECY AND MYSTERY

Compiled by Pastor Ray Keable

THE PROPHETIC PROGRAM: God's purpose to establish a literal, physical, earthly, Davidic, Messianic kingdom, with Jesus Christ as the king of kings, ruling over the twelve apostles, who will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel, who will rule over the nations of this earth.

THE MYSTERY PROGRAM: God's purpose to form a spiritual body of believers called "the Body of Christ", with Christ as their Head. This body will be perfectly "conformed to the image of His Son" and will rule and reign with Christ in the heavenly places.

PROPHETIC PROGRAM	MYSTERY PROGRAM
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<u>"PAST" - GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM</u>	<u>"NOW" - GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD</u>
1. SPOKEN about <u>since</u> the world began (Lk 1:68-70; Acts 3:21-24)	Kept SECRET, hidden <u>since</u> the world began (Ro. 16:25; Eph. 3:5,9; Col. 1:26)
2. Focus is THE EARTH (Gen. 1:28; 9:1; 13:14-17; Deut. 11:21; Isa. 11:9; Jer. 23:5; Psa. 37:9-11; Mat. 5:5; Mat.6:10)	Focus is THE HEAVENLY PLACES (Eph. 1:3; 2:6; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-4)
3. Jesus Christ is THE KING of Israel and the whole world (Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14; Zach. 14:9,16; Matt. 2:2; Jn. 1:49; Lk.1:31-33)	Jesus Christ is THE HEAD of the Church, the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18)
4. ISRAEL is God's chosen nation and will be given supremacy over all nations (Deut. 7:6; 28:13; Isa. 6:1-5; Matt. 10:5-10; Rom. 9:6)	In the Body of Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile (Ro. 10:12; 3:22; Gal. 3:26-28; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:16-17)
5. Redeemed Israel to rule and reign with Christ on the earth (Isa. 62:1-4; Ezk. 37:21-28; Ex. 19:4-6; Rev. 5:10)	The Body of Christ to rule and reign with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:14-16; 3:6; Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:20; 1Cor 6:3)
6. Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's RISE to kingdom glory (Gen. 12:1-3; Isa. 61:6-9; Zach. 8:13-23)	Gentiles blessed through THE FALL of Israel (Ro.11:11,12,15; Acts 28:27-28)
7. The central gospel is the Gospel of the kingdom (Mat. 3:2; 4:17,23; 9:35; 24:14)	The central gospel is the gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24; Ro. 1:16-17; 3:23-25)
8. The chief Apostle is Peter (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 1:15; 2:14)	Paul is the Apostle for this age (Ro. 11:13; Eph. 3:1; 1 Tim. 2:5-7)
9. The number 12 is associated with Israel (Mat. 19:28; Rev. 7:4-8)	ONE is the number for the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:3-4)
10. Physical and spiritual baptism (Ex. 29:1-7; Mat. 3:2-7; 28:19-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Ezk. 36:25-27; Mat. 3:11; Acts 1:5,8)	Spiritual baptism only (Ro. 6:1-5; Eph. 4:4; 1Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-28)
11. Physical and spiritual circumcision (Gen. 17:9-14; Lk. 2:21; Deut. 30:6)	Spiritual circumcision only (Col. 2:11-13; Ro. 6:1-6)
12. Atonement yet FUTURE (Acts 3:19; Matt. 25:31-34; Rom.11:25- 27)	Atonement NOW ((Ro. 5:11; Col. 2:13-14)
13. The Goal: The God of Heaven to set up the Kingdom of Heaven on earth; Christ to have the preeminence on earth (Deut.11:21; Dan. 2:44; Mat. 25:34)	The Goal: To form a spiritual body of believers perfectly conformed to the image of Christ and through whom Christ will have the preeminence in the heavenly places (Ro. 8:29; Col. 1:16)
14. This has been God's purpose FROM the foundation of the world (Matt. 25:34)	This has been God's purpose from BEFORE the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4; 3:11)
15. This program has been temporarily DELAYED (Ro. 9-11)	This program is NOW in effect (Eph. 3:1-11; Col. 1:24-27)

<p>16. The 12 Apostles called by the Lord while He was on the earth (Mat. 10:1-4)</p>	<p>Paul called to be an apostle from the ascended Lord (Acts 9:1ff, 1 Cor 15:8-10)</p>
<p>17. The apostleship of the 12 was to Israel alone, and then to Israel first (Mat. 10 ff, Acts 3:25,26)</p>	<p>Paul was commissioned as "the apostle of the Gentiles" because now the program of God is different (Rom. 11:13, Eph 3:1-9)</p>
<p>18. The 12 Apostles had the gospel of the circumcision committed unto them to proclaim the "good news "of Israel's covenanted Kingdom & Blessing (Mat. 10:6-8, Gal. 2:7,8)</p>	<p>Paul had gospel of uncircumcision committed to him, the "good news" of God now being longsuffering towards ALL to accomplish a secret purpose (Gal 2:7,9)</p>
<p>19. Israel has to be "born again" (John 3:3-7)</p>	<p>In present program, those "In Christ" are made a "new creature" (Eph. 2:15, 1 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15)</p>
<p>20. The 12 Apostles under their commission, sought to bring the Nation of Israel to repentance in view of them crucifying their Christ. They indicted them for the crime but offered them the forgiveness and blessing of God so they could participate in Israel's "at hand" kingdom (Acts 3:12-26, 5:27-32)</p>	<p>Paul, under his commission, announced that Israel had fallen and that God has temporarily set Israel's program aside and Israel's fullness and kingdom won't come until after the fullness of the Gentiles be come in (Rom. 11:11-25)</p>
<p>21. The 12 Apostles announced to Israel that her last days were present. They lived in the days that all the prophets from Samuel and after had foretold of (Acts 2:16-21, 3:24)</p>	<p>Paul announced that God is now long-suffering and He had set Israel and the things on her time schedule aside and that the times and seasons are not being fulfilled now in this dispensation (Rom. 11:11-25, 1 Thes. 5:1-11, 2 Thes. 2:1-7)</p>
<p>22. The 12 Apostles under their commission operated on a God established distinction existing between the Jews and Gentiles (Num. 23:9, Mat. 10:5-7, 15:21-28, Acts 3:25,26)</p>	<p>Paul under his commission declares that the "time past" distinction is now done away and the middle wall of partition broken down. God having made both one. Now there is no difference (2 Cor. 5:14-19, Eph. 2:11-14)</p>
<p>23. The 12 Apostles operated with the law still in view along with the rudiments of the world that it employed (Mat. 5:17-19, 23:1-3, Jas. 2:10, Mat.28:20)</p>	<p>Paul is given to declare to us that God has not put us under the law, but under grace and that today He is not treating us as children under the law with the rudiments of the world (Rom. 6:14, Gal. 4:1-11, Col. 2:8-17, Rom. 7:4-6)</p>
<p>24. The 12 Apostles warned Israel of the coming wrath of God on the time schedule and were prepared by the Lord to see and also go through the tribulation period (Mat. 24:1-35, Acts 2:14-40, 3:19-23)</p>	<p>Paul was given to declare the long-suffering of God, the coming of the Lord for us to gather us together unto Himself, delivering us from the wrath (Rom. 5:9, 1Thes. 1:10, 4:13-5:11, 1Thes. 5:9, 2Pet. 3:15,16)</p>
<p>25. The 12 Apostles during the 3 years of the Lord's earthly ministry never understood or appreciated the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection (Mat. 16:21-23, Lk 9:43-45, 18:31-34) Following Christ's resurrection and the 40 day Bible seminar they had from Him they understood the necessity of Christ's sufferings and the benefits received from it, as it pertained to the establishment of Israel's kingdom glory (Lk. 24:25-27, 44-49, Acts 1:1-2, 2:22-36, 3:12-21, 4:8-12)</p>	<p>To Paul God committed the full meaning and significance of the cross of Christ. He preached the cross and Christ crucified. The good news about His death, burial and resurrection - proclaiming it in all its glory as "the power of God and the wisdom of God." Also to Paul was committed the testimony concerning Christ giving Himself a ransom for all men (1Cor 1:18,23; 1Tim. 2:1-7, 1 Cor. 2:6-8, Eph. 1:8-10)</p>

<p>26. The 12 Apostles were commissioned in their apostleship to bring Israel's rebelliousness to a head and in so doing vindicate the outpouring of God's wrath upon that generation (Mat. 23:29-36, Lk. 11:45-51)</p>	<p>Paul was commissioned to proclaim that God is now longsuffering and is extending mercy and grace to all in spite of Israel's climactic rebelliousness (Rom 11:28-36)</p>
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"..that in all things He might have the preeminence..". (Col. 1:18)

It is by means of these two programs that the Lord Jesus Christ will have the preeminence on the earth and in the heavenly places.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL JOHNY VARGHESE (847) 965-6069



PLEASE TAKE A FEW COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND GIVE IT YOUR FRIENDS.

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 June 18, 1997

Dear Pastor Chacko,

I have received all three of your letters in response to my first letter, of which I have sent/mailed two-thousand. It has been a joy to receive friendly responses like yours with kind and concerned words. I have received and am still receiving very unkind and unfriendly responses. My foundation is fully scriptural and rightly divided (according to II Tim 2:15, KJV), and totally in accordance with, nor departing from, the Word of God. I love you and your family. I understand that you have studied ten years at Bible colleges and have taught many years at Pentecostal Bible colleges. You know we differ on many points. Our differences should not separate us though. Rather, it should be our earnest desire to study and to go a little deeper into God's Word and its meaning in our lives today. When I started to study the Bible God's way (dispensationally), I had to abandon many of my previous traditional Pentecostal beliefs. As you know, God's Word speaks to

our hearts (Rom. 14:22). If I hadn't found further truth and deeper meaning through my study, do you honestly think I would be taking the stance I've taken today - risking disfavor, wrath, and ridicule from many of my brothers and sisters in Christ? In the past, I've had the opportunity to do some ministry (make, duplicate, and distribute fifty to one hundred thousand sermon tapes in the last ten years in the USA and other countries). I know many people have been blessed by my tape ministry, but now is the time to take a closer look at the doctrine. With regard for your service for the Lord, it is a serious mistake to follow the wrong doctrine or to mix messages from different dispensations!

I will endeavor to answer your points one by one, according to my newly found (through dispensational study) understanding. God's Word is so wonderful, and yet so much deeper, than I had previously thought. Paying attention to the small details, having an overview of the Old Testament, and just basically believing the words that I read (literally), has made the difference. I submit for our mutual study and benefit.

#1. In your second letter you wrote, "Do not follow false teaching. God has given you a ministry. May I urge you to use it for the salvation of souls. When the trumpet will sound, the question is not what theological issue you handle rather how many souls you have won, will be the question. You have done so much for the kingdom of God . . . "

Answer: Before, I always wanted to do something for the Lord. Now I understand that whatever I accomplish for the Lord is not me - it's God in me that gives me the desire and motivation to do it. Read Phil 2:13: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Now read II Cor. 4:7: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (the Holy Spirit), that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." This "power" can be seen again in Eph. 3:20, Gal. 2:20, I Cor. 15:10, etc. Understanding this written truth takes the focus off our own performance - what we can do. If God says we are now "complete in Him" (Col.2:10) and if "in Christ," we have "the righteousness of God" (II Cor. 5:21), what more do we have to do to be any more complete? The iniquity found in Satan (Ezek. 28:14,15) was pride (Obadiah 3,4). What's the middle letter of "pride"? Now read the five "I wills" of Satan in Isa. 14:12-15. What's the middle letter of "sin"? I hope you're starting to see my point. God will accept none of man's evil (which is easily understandable), but He also will accept none of man's good! How do I know this? God's Word makes it very clear. Eccl. 7:20 says "There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not." Read Isa. 64:6, Rom. 3:10-12, 3:23, etc. The "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:17), gave Adam and Eve the knowledge not only of evil, but also of self-righteousness (one's own good). This was the downfall of man and something we've all inherited, since Adam is the father of us all.

God promised a redeemer (Gen. 3:15), to come through the nation Israel (Gen. 12:3 - "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He sayeth not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" Gal. 3:16), to come and do for man what man could not do by himself - live a sinless life (Jn. 15:24, I Jn. 3:5). In "time past" (Eph. 2:11: Gen. 12 through Acts 7), the nation Israel had the "law" to keep them righteous (Lk. 1:6, Josh. 1:8). But what was the law designed to do? Read Rom. 3:19,20: "for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Instead of this happening, read Mark 7:1-13 to see what Israel did. Rom. 9:31-33 and Rom. 10:1-4, will shed more light on this issue. This is performance based salvation. In the "ages to come" (Eph. 2:7:

Heb. through Rev.), the focus again is the nation Israel, and they will again be under the law (Heb. 7:12, Rev. 12:17). There will be one difference though - no more sacrifices/offerings needed to atone for their sins (Heb. 10:11,12). The Hebrew epistles (Heb.- Rev.) explain the cross to Israel while they go through their final purging because of their transgressions against the Lord (Dan. 9:11, 24-27, Rom. 10:19-21, 11:26,27, etc.). By the way, in time past, before the message of faith only as the means for justification (Rom. 3:28), how were Jews saved? Luke 1:6 talks about being under the law and maintaining a righteous standing before God. If you read Gal. 3:17-19, you will see that keeping the law could never save. Salvation came from believing in the promise - of their Redeemer. Also, given the title of the book of "Hebrews," who do you think the book was written to? Read James 1:1 to find the answer.

Today, in the "but now" time period (Rom. 3:21, Eph. 2:13: Rom. through Phile.), God's Word says we're not under the law (Rom. 6:14, 3:21,28) - rather we're "under grace." "Grace" is a gift from God (Rom. 5:15, Eph. 2:8,9), obtained solely by one's faith in the finished crosswork of Jesus Christ. Grace and the "works" of the law are mutually exclusive (Rom. 11:6). You cannot mix the two (Gal. 3:1-3). When you do this, the motivation for anything you do for the Lord comes from your flesh - your own self-will/ self-righteousness/ self good. That's why salvation and service are separate in the "but now" time period (the dispensation of grace - Eph. 3:1-9). Our righteousness comes from our position "in Christ," and it's the Lord Himself working in us and through us, for the glory of God the Father. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20).

When the trumpet will sound, nobody can claim that they have earned or won a single soul for the Lord. I know this from another verse, I Cor. 3:7: "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God giveth the increase." . . . "God gave the increase" (I Cor. 3:6). This takes the focus off our own performance and puts it where it should be - on Jesus Christ, and how He's working today. What's our motivation for service today? Love! "For the love of Christ constraineth us," (II Cor. 5:14). This explanation of what the crosswork accomplished came to and through the apostle Paul (I Cor. 1:18,23, 2:6-8). We can now rest in the position we've been given (in Christ - II Cor. 5:17), and then proceed to grow in "the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:9,10). Rom. 12:1,2 calls it "the renewing of your mind." Being "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18), is having "the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom . . ." (Col. 3:16). John 6:63 says " . . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22,23). Notice that in all these "fruits of the Spirit" there is not one physical work: salvation and our response to this knowledge is totally "through the faith of the operation of God" (Col. 2:12). "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Gal. 5:18). Being "led of the Spirit" is understanding how God is working today in the dispensation of grace (Rom. 8:14). "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:5). These are all responses to the knowledge of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross - with love being the motivation. "For Christ is the end of the law (our own works/performance) for righteousness to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 10:4). "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Gal. 2:21).

Other than in Paul's epistles, I humbly ask you to show me (anywhere else in the Bible), where it speaks of obtaining salvation in this manner; where there is not a difference, spiritually speaking, between Jew and Gentile (I Cor. 12:13); where God is "reconciling the world unto to Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them . . ." (II Cor. 5:19); where the only thing He asks (not commands), is that as His ambassadors, we bring this message of "reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18, I Thes. 2:4); where all our sins/trespasses have already been forgiven (Col. 2:13); where we've been made "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17); where we cannot lose our salvation "whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 1:13,14, 4:30); where even if we stop believing, if you have the Holy Spirit in you, and because we've been sealed, we cannot lose our salvation: "If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself" (II Tim. 2:13); and last but not least, where our "service" for the Lord is totally separate and apart from our salvation as I Cor. 3:14,15 clearly shows, "If any man's work abide which he had built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." The context in this passage is rewards, not salvation, two separate issues.

In "time past" and in the "ages to come," Israel had and will have their own ministry to win souls as prophecy indicates. The so-called "great commission" of Matt. 28:19,20, will be fulfilled by Israel in the Millennium, under the "New Covenant" (Heb. 8:7-13), after the Lord purges the nation for their transgressions (Dan. 9:20-27). "But now" we preach Christ "according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25).

These are God's words, my friend - not mine. If we try to follow Israel's performance system (under the law), we are wasting our time. This is a very important theological issue for you to understand because the salvation message today is totally different from that time period! Compare Luke 1:6 "and they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless," and Rom. 3:28 "therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Israel's salvation was and will be again "performance based," consistent with the Hebrew epistles, Hebrews through Revelation. Read James 2:24 "ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Remember, who was James written to? James 1:1 "... to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." Now read Rom. 11:6 "and if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more of grace: otherwise work is no more work." Go back and read Rom. 4:5 once again. Read Rev. 12:17. The "woman" is the future believing remnant of Israel, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Romans explains the cross to God's "new creatures" (II Cor. 5:17), members of the church, the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22,23). Hebrews explains the cross to Israel, in her tribulation period (last days - Isa. 2:1-5), fulfilling what God prophesied in the Old Testament and what Jesus Christ came to fulfill in the gospels and early Acts. Israel's leaders rejected the offer of the earthly kingdom (Acts 1:6, Mark 11:10, Acts 7:51-53). God set Israel aside (as the head of the nations - Rom. 11:11-15) and started a new program, and a new dispensation, with a new apostle - Paul. This is why Paul says in Eph. 3:2,3 " . . . the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery . . ." God gave a later and greater commission to us through Paul (II Cor. 5:14-21). "And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." I Cor. 14:37 tells us: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the

commandments of the Lord." We are **not** one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 49:28, Lk. 22:29,30, Jas. 1:1, Rev. 21:12, etc.). Paul makes this very clear (I Cor. 12:13, Gal. 6:15). Paul was not one of The Twelve, and he was the last one to see the Lord (I Cor. 15:8, Acts 26:12-19). The ascended Lord gave to Paul the "capstone of progressive revelation" (Col. 1:25, II Tim. 4:17).

I mentioned earlier "believing what you read." If the O.T., the gospels, and early Acts, and Heb.-Rev. deal with Israel and the twelve tribes, as clearly indicated, why Paul? Clearly, God directed him with a new message (Acts 9:15). When Matthias was chosen in Acts 1, this brought their number back to twelve, consistent with the word of God. The saving of Saul/Paul makes thirteen, inconsistent with God's prophetic purpose in having twelve apostles ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel, and all the nations of the earth coming to Israel to get the word of the Lord and to be taught the path of righteousness (Mic. 4:1,2). This is God's original intent in forming that nation and all the things He promised them (like being the "head of the nations" - Ex. 19:5,6, I Pet. 2:9,10) will be fulfilled. Read again Heb. 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I **will make** with the house of Israel **after those days** . . ." and Rom. 11:26 "and so all Israel **shall be saved** . . ." What "days" is Heb. 8 talking about? Rom. 11:25 "that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." "Blindness in part" is consistent with Paul's mystery revelation. Individually, a Jew can be saved today just like a Gentile because there is no difference, spiritually speaking. Eph. 2:16 states "in that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross..." The nation Israel, being head of the nations on the earth, will come to pass sometime after the rapture of the church, the Body of Christ, and after the seven year tribulation to purge His nation (the time of "Jacob's [Israel's] trouble" - Jer. 30:7).

We have to be updated as Aquila and Priscilla expounded unto Apollos "the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:26). They taught Apollos the grace message, as committed to Paul "which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). This "dispensation of grace," was a "mystery," "which in other ages was not made known" (Eph. 3:1-5). According to God's Word, the understanding of this "mystery" is extremely important because He wants "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:9).

The problem with Christianity today is typified in Mark 7:7-13 (man's doctrines and traditions). Throw away what you've been taught, if it's contrary to God's current message, and swallow your pride, my friend, and just believe what you can read in God's Word. If God gave to Paul a body of information that He kept hidden in Himself "from the beginning of the world," then that's what He did! "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).

We know what happened to Moses. He disobeyed God by striking the rock the second time instead of speaking to it. The result: He was not allowed to enter into the promised land. Gen. 1:29 shows Adam and Eve to have been vegetarians. After the flood, meat was added to man's diet (Gen. 9:3). In Lev. 11, we see dietary restrictions and regulations (for Israel). Finally, in I Tim. 4:4,5, Paul says we can eat anything, as long as "it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." This is one of many examples to show that while the Lord Himself does not change (Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8) in His character and integrity, His dealings with man have. We have to understand this in order to understand God's will for us today. Paul curses the man who doesn't follow his gospel. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we

have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8,9). This cursing does not mean you'll go to hell because whoever is "in Christ" today has been saved from that torment (Rom. 3:21-28, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5). It means your service, or what you consider to be your service for the Lord, will be totally irrelevant. Remember what I said earlier. It's only in Paul's epistles where we find out what "walking in the Spirit" really is. It's God Himself working in us and through us to produce the desired behavior that He wants. All the laws and ceremonies were carnal (pertaining to the flesh), as Heb. 9:9,10 explains (carnal ordinances). Paul says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God . . ." (Rom. 8:6,7). We don't want to be against the will of God, but going back to Israel's program is doing just that. Remember, today we're saved through the fall of Israel (Rom. 11:11,12), not their rise, which is part of this mystery revelation given to Paul.

Now let me start from the first letter onwards.

2. You wrote: "When Paul and Peter mentioned the 'scripture' and 'prophecy' there was no New Testament in existence. In fact they were still writing the New Testament . . . Then by God's grace He provided us another 27 books equally inspired . . . Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, nor the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:17-19)'."

Answer: The division between the Old Testament and the New Testament was not put there by God. How do I know this? Heb. 9:16,17. Technically speaking, until the death of Jesus Christ you're still on Old Testament ground, which means being under the law and all the things associated with it. Paul's epistles are clearly an interruption in that program "for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). You speak of Paul and Peter as if they give the same message.

You also seem to believe that for some reason Peter and Paul did not have any scripture, written after the death of Christ, to study from. However, they say something very different. Read II Pet.3:15,16, where Peter says that if you do not understand Paul's truth you will "...wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." Peter knew that Paul's message was scripture and different than his own (Gal 2:7-9). Paul also knew that he had scripture in his hand when he quoted Luke 10:7 in I Tim. 5:18. I choose to believe Peter and Paul rather than what men today teach about them. Paul says in Col. 1:25, that he "fulfilled" the word of God. This means that before he was killed, we had a completed canon of scripture (all 66 books). It was put in the order as we have it today and it had been communicated and distributed by the apostles.

With regard to your quote of Mt. 5:17-19, this may come as a shock, but there is more than one commission in the "New Testament." In Mt. 10:5-7, the context is the nation Israel, very specifically the southern part, Judea (Samaria is one of the names for the northern part of Israel). Then after His resurrection, Christ changed the commission. He then says to The Twelve to not only go to Jerusalem and Judea first (southern Israel), but then Samaria, and then to the uttermost parts of the earth (Lk. 24:47, Acts 1:8). As Acts 3:24-26 teach, salvation was to come to Israel first!

So when you are quoting Matt.-John and early Acts, who's gospel are you quoting? But today, instead of Israel being first, Paul now says Israel has fallen (Rom. 11:11,12,25-27). Scripture will show that Israel fell before she could complete her task. As I mentioned earlier, Heb. 8 shows how and when this will be fulfilled. As always, it is through the operation of God (Heb. 8:10).

You mention the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom talked about to Israel is the earthly kingdom promised to that nation (Mic. 4:1,2, Acts 1:6, Mk.11:10). This is the Abrahamic covenant God made with Israel. If you read Rev. 21:2,10, etc., you will see "the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven ..." Abraham was promised a land on the earth with specific boundaries given by God. Members of the church, the Body of Christ have "a home eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1, Col. 3:1,2, Eph. 1:3, 2:6, II Tim. 4:18).

You mentioned keeping the commandments. This is the law. The "if you do - then you get" principle of the law (given to Israel) assured that the knowledge of sin would abound (Ex. 19:5, Rom. 3:19,20). Because of her failure, Israel soon found herself in need of a Redeemer.

As I mentioned before, Paul's epistles, Romans through Philemon, are the only place in the Bible where it says that we are not under law, but under grace (Rom. 3:21, 6:14, 10:4, 11:6, Gal. 2:21, Eph. 2:8,9,etc.,etc.,etc.). His thirteen epistles show forth the mystery (secret) that God kept to Himself until He revealed it to Paul (I Tim. 2:6,7). Basically, again, this mystery explains how God is making "new creatures" (II Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15), capable of occupying the heavenly positions of rank and authority (Col. 1:16-20). This is part of the secret God revealed to Paul, heretofore unknown in scripture, because God's focus was always, and will be again, on the nation Israel and the land promised to Abraham (a literal, physical, visible, earthly, Davidic kingdom).

Satan thought his usurped heavenly realm (Eph. 2:2, 6:12) was off limits because God had previously only dealt with the repossession of the earth (with Israel as head). "But now" God is making "new creatures" who will be given new, glorified bodies (Phil. 3:20,21) capable of living in that realm. This has made Satan very angry. Had he known this, Jesus Christ would not have been crucified (I Cor. 2:6-8). This "mystery truth" humiliated Satan (Col. 2:14,15).

Another thing you should understand: a covenant is always a testament, but a testament is not always a covenant. A testament, by definition, is a devisory will, like our own personal wills (when I die, this is my will as to the distribution of my property). A covenant is a contract. If you do, then you get. It is an agreement between two parties. With the exception of the two covenants God made with Noah, about the ark and not destroying the earth by water again (Gen. 6:18, 9:15), all covenants made in the Bible were with Israel (Rom. 9:4). Also, when God did this with Noah, it was before He separated Israel - before any such distinction as Jew and Gentile.

Under grace, we are under no contractual obligation with God. Grace is a free gift, appropriated by faith (Rom. 5:15,16, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5,etc.). To add anything else to this would be denying the completeness we have in Christ (Col. 2:10) and the fact that He did it all for us. Again, this puts the focus on what Christ had done for us and what He is doing through us today, as we yield our bodies as willing vessels (II Cor. 4:7,10,11, Rom. 12:1).

What you are doing is mixing the truth with error. This is a Satanic ploy to keep the saved

from understanding how God is truly working today. This is what Paul is dealing with in the book of Galatians (Gal. 1:6-9, 3:1-3, and other places in his epistles), his letter to them rebuking them for falling back under the law.

3. You wrote: "Brother, you received the teaching of grace church movement. I have no intention to knock any individual church or denomination . . . The way grace church divides the Bible is wrong ... His plan of salvation never changes, it is grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ . . . Genesis through Revelation is equally applicable to you and me today. The only way to divide the scripture is the way the church fathers divided the Old and the New Testaments."

ANSWER: You said the grace church dividing the Bible according to II Tim. 2:15 is wrong. Again, you are missing the overall meaning of Paul's epistles and a completely new revelation from the ascended Lord. Paul's message was a mystery/secret until God revealed it to him (I Tim. 2:6,7). How many times will it take you before you believe what you are reading? The grace church divides the Bible into "law and grace." In the Bible, there is a three-fold division: "time past," "but now," and "ages to come" (Eph. 2:11-13, 2:7). In the "time past" and "ages to come" time periods, Israel is under the law. But in the "but now" time period (Paul's epistles), we are under grace, not law. This is the scriptural, or God's way of dividing His Word of truth! There is no division between Malachi and Matthew according to scripture. This is man's way of dividing (and probably done first by the Catholic Church in its early days).

You said the plan of salvation never changes. Yes, it does. Rom. 3:21-28: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference . . . therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." While we know that God Himself never changes (Heb. 13:8), His dealings with man have changed from time to time (if not we would all still be wondering which tree not to eat from, or building arks in our yards). These changes are recorded in the Word of God and thus the necessity to "rightly divide the word of truth." All scripture is for us, but not all scripture is written about us. Please note three things: A. righteousness of God, B. unto all and upon all, C. justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

A. Righteousness of God: was different in time past.

Under law: Luke 1:6: "And they (Zacharias and his wife) were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord." Here you see, righteousness is the obedience to the law.

Under grace: Romans 10:4: "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." Here you see just the opposite.

B. Unto all and upon all:

In "time past," or under the law, salvation was only for many (Mt. 20:28), which meant Jews only, not to all the world. Luke 1:68: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people." Notice, "His people" here is Israel. Remember God's order of salvation:

Israel first, then everybody else. Why this order? Because Israel is God's formed and chosen nation, and was to teach all other nations the way of the Lord (Mic. 4:1,2, Isa. 2:1-5).

In the grace period (the current dispensation), salvation is for all people (Rom.3:21, I Tim.2:6).

C. Under "grace," justification is by faith alone without the deeds of the law. Eph. 2:8,9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." Tit. 3:4,5: "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Under "law," faith and works are needed for justification: James 2:14,24 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he have faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only."

It is very clear there are two ways of salvation! Both are through the shed blood of Christ! One is for Israel, the other for the church, the Body of Christ. One is the subject of prophecy, the other the subject of the mystery. One is under the law, the other under grace. The question you have to ask yourself: "Which program is God working today?" Do we go to Israel today to receive our instructions, as Isa. 2:1-5, Mic. 4:1,2, say, or has Israel fallen and temporarily been set aside as Rom. 11:11,12, 25,26, say? Understanding these two programs is the real division in the Bible. This division is seen in Eph. 2:11-13, and this is what grace churches should teach.

You said Gen.- Rev. is equally applicable to you and me today. I can give you tons of scriptural examples to show you that this is incorrect! If we follow any of the 613 laws given to Israel today, we are under the curse of Gal. 3:10-13, 1:8,9. Law and grace are perfect and spiritual, but they are opposite and cannot be mixed (Rom. 11:6 - mutually exclusive).

4. You wrote: "Jesus commanded us to go in all the world and teach and baptize believers, Jews and Gentiles, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit. Once they are saved and baptized, they are neither Jews or Gentiles, we are all the children of God, partakers of the kingdom of God. May I plead with you to utilize your energy for the salvation of the perishing souls."

Answer: The "us" is not us - it's Israel, as the context will plainly show. That distinction between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14) had not been removed yet. The baptism spoken of was with water. This was the ceremonial cleansing as prescribed by Jewish law for the purpose of identifying themselves with the believing remnant of Israel.

You quote Matt. 28:19,20, the so called "great commission." If you would believe what you are reading, instead of something somebody taught you, you would see that Jesus Christ gave more than one commission. During His earthly ministry He commissioned The Twelve in Matt. 10:5-7. The fact that this was southern Israel is obvious because Samaria is the northern part of the country. This commission was given before they knew, understood, and believed the fact that He had to go to the cross (Mt. 20:17-19, Lk. 18:31-34). The resurrected Lord gave a similar commission but with a seemingly small, but very important, change (Lk. 24:47, Acts 1:8). Again notice the order in

which the apostles were to go: Jerusalem, Judea (southern Israel), Samaria (northern Israel), then everywhere else. Israel as a nation was to repent (change their mind and recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ was their prophesied Messiah) and be water baptized (for identification purposes) (Acts 2:36-39, 3:24-26). If you read Acts 7:51ff, you will see that Israel, as a nation, did not accomplish this goal. Later, the ascended Lord gave to the apostle Paul another commission for us today (II Cor. 5:14-21).

Now, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, spiritually speaking (Gal. 6:15, Eph. 2:14)! Now, we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom. 6:14)! Now, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body (I Cor. 12:13, no water involved)! This is in total accordance with how God is working today. Under the law, being baptized with water was something done by the Levitical priests, to Jews and proselytes. Today, we are baptized by the Spirit - totally the operation of God (Col. 2:12). After the rapture of the church, the Body of Christ (I Thes. 4:13-18), Israel will again have that special separated status. Again, compare Isa. 2:1-5, Mic. 4:1,2, Zech. 8:1-3, etc. with Rev. 21:10-12, 22-24. This is scripturally consistent! This is prophecy! The nation Israel will be purged in the tribulation, but for those who endure and remain unspotted, God says "he that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). Then they will be a "kingdom of priests and an holy nation" as prophesied in Ex. 19:5,6. In the "new covenant" and by the operation of God, they will be the nation He once purposed them to be (Heb. 8:8-13). The new and later commission given to the apostle Paul was a mystery (secret). Paul was the "due time" testifier (Acts 15:7,8, I Tim. 2:4-7, etc.).

You have to ask yourself another question. Why would the Holy Spirit prevent Paul and Silas from preaching Christ in Asia and Bithynia (Acts. 16:6,7)? If you read I Pet. 1:1, you'll see that Peter wrote to the Jews in those areas. Now read Rom. 15:20 - Paul says "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation." This is consistent with Acts 19:11 " . . . preaching the word to none but the Jews only." It's also consistent with what Paul says in Rom. 16:7 "Salute Andronicus and Junia ... who also were in Christ before me." Peter's foundation pertained to the rise of Israel as head of the nations and her physical, Davidic kingdom upon this earth (Mt. 25:34, Acts 3:21, Heb. 9:26). This is the subject of prophesy - made known "since the foundation of the world." Paul's foundation (I Cor. 3:10) pertains to the church, the Body of Christ, and our heavenly kingdom and home (II Tim. 4:18, II Cor. 5:1). This is the subject of the mystery (Col. 1:21-29) which "was kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25, Eph. 1:4). Obviously, God set Israel's program aside (temporarily). This is consistent with Rom. 11:26 "and so all Israel shall be saved."

Christianity, as we know it (no difference between Jew and Gentile), started not in Jerusalem, but in Antioch (Acts 11:26), through the ministry of the apostle Paul. The church, the Body of Christ, has a greater commission today: "and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18). This is our ministry! We are not to preach and teach to the world the "kingdom gospel," which teaches to observe the laws and the ceremonies. In our commission, there are no ceremonies to teach or to observe (Col. 2:16,17, 20-23). The Twelve apostles could not continue their commission because the leaders of Israel rejected the offer of the kingdom and Jesus' kingship (Acts 7:51). The Lord foreknew this, that is why He told the parable: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return ... but his citizens hated him, and sent a message after

him saying, we will not have this man to reign over us" (Lk. 19,12-14). This parable was the foretelling of the stoning of Stephen. Stephen saw Jesus Christ in heaven standing (not sitting) on the right hand of God - ready to pronounce the prophesied judgement (Dan. 9:26,27, Mt. 12:31,32). Instead of sending wrath upon Israel, He raised up a new apostle, with a new commission, and a new dispensation (Rom. 11:11-15, Eph. 3:1-9). Now, Jews and Gentiles are saved the same way (Rom. 3:21,22, Acts 15:7-11, Gal. 2:1-9 KJV).

You also wrote, to utilize my energy for the salvation of the perishing souls. I do now more than ever! According to you we are partakers of the earthly kingdom. We are not! Our destination is heaven (Col. 3:1,2, II Cor. 5:1). We are heavenly kingdom people, not earthly kingdom people - "new creatures." We should preach "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), instead of the kingdom gospel. Its doctrines and destinations are different. Many people don't know the difference between the kingdom gospel and the grace gospel. The result is that lost people stay lost, and saved people stay confused and divided! There are many moral and spiritual truths that apply throughout the Bible, but read again Rom. 9:4,25-33, 10:1-4, 11:11-15,25-27, and see if this does not talk about something yet future for the nation Israel. Heb. 9:15,28, etc. "might receive the promise of eternal inheritance," shows the same thing. Compare this to Rom. 5:11, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5, etc. to see that we now have as a present possession salvation (Tit. 1:2). The Hebrew epistles explain the cross and Jesus Christ to Israel, as a nation, as they go through the final purging of their prophesied judgement (Jer. 30:7, Dan. 9:20-27).

When Peter preached the cross to the nation Israel it was not a source of good news (Acts 2:36-38). When Paul preached the cross it was a source of good news (I Cor. 1:18,23, 2:6-8, 15:1-4, Rom. 4:24,25, 5:1-11, etc.)! The good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the subject of the mystery, given to Paul from the ascended Lord.

Peter says we're to be established in "the present truth" (II Pet. 1:12, 3:15,16). This clearly indicated that there was a "past truth" and there will be a "future truth." According to Peter, Paul's gospel is the present truth, and we are not to distort his message. God told Moses to speak to the rock the second time, but he struck the rock again, as he did the first time, instead of speaking to it. As a result he did not go into the promised land. For such a seemingly small mistake, the cost was great! If you use outdated currency, it will not have any value. We are not to follow outdated commands. Read again Acts 18:24-28, and see what Aquila and Priscilla had to do with Apollos. All he knew was the baptism of John. They "expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." This sheds light on why God raised up Saul/Paul. In Acts 1, they had already chosen Matthias to take Judas' place, bringing their number to twelve once again as prophecy indicates (twelve apostles to head the twelve tribes - Mt. 19:28). Paul makes thirteen! This was not prophesied. It was kept secret until in due time God revealed it to Paul (I Tim. 2:6, I Cor. 15:8-10, Rom. 5:6). The "ungodly" in Rom. 5:6, is the Gentiles, as Eph. 2:11,12 will show.

Let me come to the second letter now.

5. You wrote: "The passage in Eph. 2 has nothing to do with dispensation. The apostle Paul speaks of the nature of believers. The 'past' there is before the conversion of the believer. Yes, they were circumcised. The 'present' is the life of the believer during the church age of the period of grace. The 'future' is after the church age."

ANSWER: What you described is the traditional view, but everything I have previously written in response to your letters shows that this is not the correct view, that is, if you are believing what you are reading. Saying Eph. 2 has nothing to do with a dispensation contradicts God's words, Eph. 3:2, I Cor. 9:17 (KJV). Believing what you are reading would greatly enhance your understanding of how God is working today. The word "church," in the New Testament, is the same word "congregation" in the Old (Psa. 22:22, Heb. 2:12). It means "called out group of people." Moses had a "church in the wilderness" (Acts 17:38). Peter and The Twelve had the Messianic church (prophesied with Israel as the head of the nations - Mt. 16:18 - remember Christ was dealing only with southern Israel at this time - Mt. 15:24). It isn't until you come to Paul's epistles that you find out about the church, the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22,23 - Jews and Gentiles on an equal basis). Then there are the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3. The church, the Body of Christ, is raptured out before this time (Rom. 5:9, I Thes. 5:9, 4:14-18, etc.). It is a good thing that "truth" is not determined by majority vote. If you told me that the earth was flat, it would not alter the "fact" that it is round. By the same reasoning, and according to what God has written, God did separate Israel from all other nations (Num. 23:9, Lev. 20:24,26, I Kings 8:53, Psa. 147:19,20, etc., etc.). And He did start a new dispensation with Paul, according to Paul, James, Peter, John, and God Almighty (II Tim. 3:16 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer." Prov. 15:28). We are not to give heed to the doctrines of men, but to the doctrine of God. "And He said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God" (Lk. 16:15). Because of this lack of knowledge of the scripture, the majority of Israel did not believe Jesus Christ was their Messiah either (Mk. 7:7,13, Jn. 1:11, Acts 7:51-53)!

To take away that "middle wall of partition" between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14), the following things had to happen:

1. The casting away of Israel had to happen before the Body of Christ started (Rom.11:15).
2. Some of the branches had to be broken off and Gentiles be grafted in (Rom. 11:17).
3. God had to take away the difference, spiritually, between Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:28, Col. 3:11).
4. God had to make Jews and Gentiles one (Eph. 2:11-18).
5. God had to baptize Jew and Gentile into one body (I Cor. 12:13).
6. The administration, or dispensation, of the law (Jn. 1:17) had to be changed to the dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:2).
7. When the dispensation changed, the apostleship had to change (Rom. 11:13).

None of these things happened on Pentecost Day, and if you would pay attention to the doctrinal content and clarity of God's word, you would also realize that none of these things happened until after Paul was saved (Acts 9:15). The most important division in the Bible, as I have been trying to show you, is between prophecy and the mystery - God's parenthetical insertion between His prophesied events.

6. You wrote: "Jesus in His very first sermon said, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel.' (Mk. 1:15)."

ANSWER: Jesus Christ did indeed say this. Go to Luke 4:16-21, and see Him say it again! This passage shows that Jesus Christ Himself rightly divided the word of truth. Look at verse 19 - this is a quote from Isaiah 61:1,2. He only quoted half the verse, then He closed the book! This "day" had indeed come (Mt. 3:16,17), and Jesus Christ was among His people proclaiming the good news to Israel (their long prophesied Messiah had come - Isa.7:14). Nor did He, by rightly dividing Isa. 61:2, set aside as untrue the last part of the verse (Psa. 2:1-5, 110:1, Lk. 21:22,23, Jn. 19:15, Acts 2:16-32, etc., etc.). God's "prophesied wrath" will come, as Hebrews through Revelation foretell. Today, we preach "grace and peace," as mentioned in the first chapter of all thirteen of Paul's epistles. The opposite of "grace" is "judgement." The opposite of "peace" is "war." Read what Peter has to say about God's withheld wrath: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation" (II Pet. 3:15). Today, if you are "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:21), your sins are not being credited to your account (II Cor. 5:19, Col. 2:13). As I mentioned earlier, this "ministry of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:14-21), is only seen in Paul's epistles.

For our edification, the books of Matt.- John speak of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, teaching "the gospel of the kingdom." Each one gives a different picture of the Messiah: Matthew shows Him as King, Mark as servant, Luke as man, and John as God Almighty. I will mention again, Jesus Christ dealt with Israel during His earthly ministry (Rom. 15:8, Mt. 15:24, Jn. 4:22). They were still under the law (Mt. 5:17,18). Therefore, our position, our walk, our doctrine, and our destination are found elsewhere, as Paul says. We are saved by Paul's gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4), we are established by Paul's gospel (Rom. 16:25), and we will be judged by Paul's gospel (Rom. 2:16)! How could Paul even call it "**my gospel**" (Rom. 16:25, 2:16, I Cor. 4:15, II Tim. 2:8,9) if there is only one gospel throughout the entire Bible? These are God's words, and if you refuse to believe them, read what Paul has to say in I Cor. 14:37,38: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."

7. You wrote: "God promised the Redeemer. 'And I will put enmity between you and the woman ...' Apostle Paul said this prophecy was fulfilled at the fulness of time. He said, 'When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman under the law, in order that He might redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4,5).

ANSWER: See the words "them" and "we." Please believe the words! Again, who was "under the law"? (Rom. 2:17,19, 3:1,2, 9:4 - Go back and read Ex. 9:1-8. In verse 5, the "if" - "then" principle of the law assured that the "knowledge of sin," Rom. 3:20, would abound.) Again, the nations were to be saved through the witness of a redeemed Israel (Gen. 12:3), not fallen Israel (Rom. 11:11,12). You quoted Gen. 3:15, (the proto-evangel). We find four promises in the seedline in this verse:

1. It's the seed of the woman. God has the race picked out (human/ not heavenly - Gen. 6:1-3, Jude 6,7)
2. The nation is established. This is the seed from among humanity (Israel - Gen. 12:2,3, Acts

3:25).

3. God has a tribe picked out from among the nation (Judah - Gen.49:8-12).

4. God has a family picked out from among the tribe (David - II Sam. 7:16,17, Acts 2:25-31).

You have to remember what I mentioned earlier. We are not under a "covenant" relationship with God today in the dispensation of grace. The law principle has been temporarily set aside, having been replaced by the grace principle - a free gift - appropriated by faith (Eph. 2:8,9, Rom. 10:4).

8. You wrote: "The incarnation was at the fulness of time because the time was fulfilled at the coming of the Messiah. That is where the change of dispensation took place from past to present. . . the purpose of the change was to redeem us and to adopt us into the family of God. The dispensation of grace began in the manger at Bethlehem. The church of Jesus Christ was born on the day of Pentecost."

ANSWER: I explained above how God separated Israel from the Gentile nations and through the risen, redeemed Israel the rest of the nations could be blessed. "But now" it is by Israel's fall that salvation has come to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:11-15). At this time, the dispensation also changes from law to grace. This change took place in Acts 9:15 (Rom. 3:21) through the apostle Paul.

You said the dispensation of grace began in the manger at Bethlehem. This is incorrect. Jesus Christ lived His entire life yet under the law (James 2:10, Jn. 15:24). The point of John 15 is that Jesus Christ fulfilled the law perfectly - something no other man could ever do. This is why Jesus Christ could be the only perfect sacrifice for sin. The dispensation of grace started when God laid aside and cast away Israel (Acts 13:46,47, 18:5,6, 28:28, Rom. 11:11-15) and called a new apostle and revealed to him the revelation of a new program called "the mystery" or "the dispensation of grace." It is also called "the gospel of grace" (Acts 20:24). Paul said in Eph. 3:2, that the dispensation of grace was given to him. Read what he says in I Cor. 11:1, "be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Only two people in the Bible said "follow me": Jesus Christ and Paul. Read Jn. 13:20 and Gal. 1:11,12 - Any questions? Just as Jesus Christ Himself elevated the message given to Moses from God Almighty (Jn. 5:46,47), so it is Paul elevates not himself, but the message given him from the ascended Lord (Rom. 11:13, 15:16, etc.). Many people may think we worship Paul. To the contrary! He was the final person to see the Lord (I Cor. 15:8), and his message completed our canon of scripture (Col. 1:25). These are what the words say - this is what I believe.

9. You wrote: "This dispensation will continue until the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ. The rapture will take place on Rev. 4:1."

ANSWER: Rev. 4:1 is not the rapture! Rev. 4:2 ff, clearly indicates that this is the apostle John (in the spirit) in the throne room of God Almighty. Read Rev. 1:9-12,ff, to see that this is John (in the spirit) being called by God to be given this "revelation" which he is to write about, and proceeded to do.

The rapture of the church, the Body of Christ, is in I Thes. 4:14-18. This is in the "air." The whole book of Revelation is the summation of prophecy. It has nothing to do with the Body of Christ - the mystery. I Thes. 5:9 says, "for God hath not appointed us to wrath." Rom. 5:9 says the same thing. This should raise a question in your mind. By the time you get to the end of Romans 3, if you've trusted in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, you know that you are saved from hell fire. So what is this "wrath" in Rom. 5:9 and I Thes. 5:9? It is the tribulation wrath! I Thes. 4 says that the church, the Body of Christ, will be taken out before that time. Study prophecy in the Bible sometime. If you believe what you are reading, you will realize that Daniel is the ABC's of prophecy, and Revelation is the XYZ's. We are not part of prophecy - rather, the mystery.

10. You wrote: "Along with the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God came to earth."

ANSWER: Your statement contradicts God's verses! In Matt. 6:10, Jesus Christ is teaching the apostles to pray for the kingdom to come! Read Acts 1:6,7 - "wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" If you think the kingdom has come, please teach me Acts 3:19-21! These verses say, "shall come," not "has come." This lines up with Rom. 11:26, "and so all Israel shall be saved." The fact that Israel had a kingdom on this earth is undisputed (read about Solomon's reign in the "Old Testament"). She lost that political crown of authority, though, because of her transgressions against the Lord (Dan. 9:20-24, Ezek. 21:25-27, Lam. 5:16, Jer. 2:14-19). If you read just five chapters in the Bible (Psa. 78 & 106, Acts 7 & 13, Rom. 11) you will have the condensed history of Israel - from Egypt to their fall in Rom. 11:11. Then as you read of Israel's future glory in Rom. 11:26-29, maybe you will understand that the "fall and rising again of Israel" is an all important key to the understanding of scripture (Lk. 2:34).

I've repeated myself many times in my response letters. It all boils down to one thing - believing what you are reading, instead of the teaching of men. If you do not understand and recognize Pauline truth to be the doctrine for the church, the Body of Christ, you are preaching a mixed gospel, error mixed with truth (Gal. 5:9 - "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump").

11. I asked in my third letter: "When did you get your atonement?"

Pick your answer: A. - Now.

B. - At Christ's Second Coming.

A. "Now": Rom. 5:11 (KJV) "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have **now received the atonement**. (Eph. 1:7, 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5 - You only see this in Paul's message.)

B. "At Christ's Second Coming": Acts 3:19-21, "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, (2nd Coming, Rev. 19) and he **shall** send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the time of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

(This means it was prophesied to Israel all along and they knew about it.)

YOUR ANSWER: "Both of your hypotheses are wrong according to the New Testament theology. Therefore, a serious Bible student is unable to pick either A or B ..."

My response: Positionally, the atonement was completed not "at" the cross, but "by" the cross. From the above verses, the time element of "atonement" occurs at two different times for two different groups of people! For the nation Israel, the atonement will come at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ only for those who died for their faith or remained unspotted by the mark of the beast. Read Rev. 12:17. This is the fulfillment of prophecy as seen in the book of Revelation, when those who "endured" will be resurrected into the 1000-year millennial kingdom. Then verses such as Isa. 2:2-4, Mic. 4:1-3, etc. will be fulfilled. "Atonement" in the Old Testament and the "gospels" means "expiation." "Atonement" in Rom. 5:11 means reconciliation or return to the Divine favor. Go to your concordance and see for yourself. Since today, there is no difference between Jew or Gentile, if you are "in Christ," this is a present possession.

I have asked you two simple questions. These answers are opposite because one is under the law and one is under grace. Your stand, that all books Matthew and on, are all in the grace dispensation, causes these verses to make no sense to you, so you must reject both of them. I know the verses are not wrong, and that they do mean what they say, and I can believe them literally. How? By rightly dividing the word of truth, as God's Word tells us to do! That way, by keeping the verses in their context, we do not have to change the words or their meanings, to fit what you think is right.

Let me give you another example.

Matt. 6:15: "but if ye forgive men not their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Eph. 4:32: "and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

The first verse says God will forgive us only if we forgive others. This is the "if / then" principle of the law - this is not grace. In the other verse, we already have God's forgiveness. Because of this present standing of forgiveness, God says be similarly minded toward other people. We are adult sons (Gal. 4 - no longer under tutors and governors / the law). "For the love of Christ constraineth us" (II Cor. 5:14). You see that the response under grace is love. The response under the law is fear of punishment and guilt. Two different dispensations, two different motivations, two different responses. Rom. 11:6: "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

12. I asked: When did the Body of Christ begin?

Pick your answer: A - At Pentecost

B - After Paul's Conversion

YOUR ANSWER: You wrote Acts 2:46-47: "'And they (believers), continuing daily with one accord in the temple, . . . the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.' This is the first use of the term 'church' in the New Testament. This incident took place on the day of Pentecost."

My response: You want to prove that the first usage of the word "church" is here, so "the church, the Body of Christ," must have started here at Pentecost. The usage of the word "church" did not come here first (see Mt. 16 & 18, also Acts 7:38 referring back to the "church" of Moses'

day). Also, there are many other places the word "church" is used in the New Testament. These are a few examples: Look at the same verse, "the Lord added to the church." There is no indication the church begins here, but instead, God's words say "added." That means this church spoken of already existed. Now read verse 41. Here it says three thousand were added unto the existing church. If these were added to only 120, what about the much larger "little flock" (Mt.3:5), the believing remnant of Israel? John said, "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom ... this my joy therefore is fulfilled" (Jn. 3:29). When you study out the issue of "the bride" you will see that there is no passage that says "the bride of Christ" and that we, nor Israel, are the bride. Mt. 9:15, Mk. 2:19,20, Jn. 3:29, etc. talk about the "children" and "friend" of the bridegroom. Jesus Christ is obviously the bridegroom. Read Rev. 19:6-8, 21:2,9,10. The "bride" is the "Holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God." The law was a marital covenant, figuratively speaking, between God and Israel (Ex. 19:4,5, Jer. 3:1,20, 31:32), but God divorced them (Jer.3:8). After the tribulation, He will "marry" the righteous remnant back to their land (Isa. 62:1-5, Hos. 2:14-20, Ex. 4:22, Rev. 19:6-8, 21:2,9,10). You see this same figurative language in Rom. 7 as Paul describes our "position" in Christ and the permanency of it as compared to the marital relationship between a man and woman (Eph. 1:13,14, 4:30). These people, in Jn. 3:29, are not "the Body of Christ" because John had no idea about "the Body of Christ," which is never mentioned until much later, during Paul's ministry. Look at Acts 2:45: "And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." The Lord did not tell the Body of Christ to sell all our possessions and share with other believers, but He told the Kingdom church to do that. Read Lk. 12:32-33, "Fear not, little flock, ... sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." Lk. 14:33, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (See what happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they disobeyed this command in Acts 5:1-10. Has this happened to anyone you know of lately? You would only be lying to yourself if you said it had.) This is the instruction to the believing remnant of the Nation Israel to whom God the Father pleased to give the earthly kingdom. But we are going to a heavenly kingdom in "heaven" (Eph.1:3,etc). Look at another word, "temple" in verse 46, "they continuing daily in the temple with one accord." Gentile converts (members of the Body of Christ) could not go into the temple! According to Jewish law it would defile the temple. Peter and John could go into the temple in Acts 3, but see what happened to Paul (definitely a Jew) when it was even supposed that he tried to bring a Gentile into the temple (Acts 21:26-32) - they tried to kill him! A wall was even erected around the temple, signifying that Gentiles must stay out, called "the middle wall of partition" (Eph. 2:14). The Jerusalem church and the Body of Christ belong to two churches and are under two differing doctrines (or programs).

When the Jews killed their Messiah, God's prophesied wrath was supposed to fall on them, but Jesus on the cross prayed to the Father to forgive them. God gave them another chance. Earlier, Jesus even told the parable of Lk. 13:6-9, in which He told those who "had an ear" about how He asked permission of the Father to keep the fig tree (always a reference to Israel) planted in His vineyard one more year to see if it would bear fruit. If you research this time period in a good Bible chronology book such as "Ushers," you will see that there is a one-year time period between Pentecost (Acts 2) and Israel's blaspheming of the Holy Spirit (the unpardonable sin committed in Acts 7). This indicates the nation of Israel getting another chance, a one year extension to repent before their fall. (All parables are about the nation Israel.) The Word says in Rom. 11:11-15, "Through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles." It does not say that by joining together

with Israel, salvation would come unto the Gentiles. God separated the nation Israel for a very definite purpose, and once God chose Abraham, the entire Old Testament tells us the history of that nation, and only that nation. Gentiles were not included! The Body of Christ did not begin on Pentecost day. The term, "the Body of Christ," is mentioned in Paul's writings only, and was unheard of until after his conversion.

I will also write regarding your reference to Mk. 15:2, Acts 13:1, and Rom. 16:13, to establish that a Cyrenian Negro, Simon, his wife, and his sons, Alexander and Rufus, were Gentiles before Paul's conversion.

ANSWER: Yes, they were saved before Paul, just like Cornelius and family and the Ethiopian eunuch were saved Gentiles. They are proselyte Jews. Read Acts 2:5,10 and you will see proselyte Jews from 16 countries were there at Pentecost for the traditional feast. They are saved. In Acts 11:20 you can see scattered Jews preaching Jesus unto the Grecians. These were Greek Jews (Hellenists) as seen in Acts 6:1. Read Rom. 16:13, "Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine," and 16:7, "Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me." These people were in Christ before Paul. The term "in Christ," has nothing to do with any church. As I mentioned earlier, it is a positional term to be contrasted with being "in Adam" (I Cor. 15:22). They are saved people. The Kingdom church and the Mystery church are both saved in Christ, the only difference is one is under law and the other under grace. My conclusion is that your explanation is not valid to prove the church started on Pentecost day. On the other hand, all the evidence from God's Word is that the church, the Body of Christ, started with Paul. It is a grave mistake to follow Peter's Pentecostal message as the Body of Christ's fundamental doctrine because his message is all about salvation into an earthly kingdom and ours is all about the free gift of grace. I Tim. 1:16 "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting." In this verse God makes it very clear that Paul is the first person through which Christ is showing His longsuffering, as a pattern for subsequent believers to follow.

13. **Question #3:** I asked: Why does James say you are justified by works (James 2:14,24) and Paul says just the opposite, not by works but by faith alone (Gal. 2:16, Rom. 3:21-28, 4:4,5, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:4-7)?

Compare Matt. 25:34 "from the foundation of the world," with Eph. 1:4 "before the foundation of the world." If words mean anything, especially God's words, these are two distinct, separate time periods and separate programs! Israel is God's earthly people. Those who "endure" will be resurrected into a literal, physical, visible, earthly kingdom, as God promised (Dan. 2:34,35,44,45). Since outward, physical works can be counterfeited (I Jn. 1:6, Mt. 13:24-30, etc.), believers will have to know scripture well, not to be fooled by the works of the Antichrist! In the last days of God's wrath to purge His nation, physical works will be necessary. They will have to be hearers and doers of the word (James 1:23,25) to show their faith, which means they will have to know the Word to know what to do, but especially what not to do. Many will literally have to die (Rev. 20:4).

But today, our instructions are different. As I mentioned earlier, we, the Body of Christ,

have been saved from that time of wrath! In the present dispensation of grace, God says, "to him that worketh not but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

The only response grace will accept is faith!

These cannot be the same messages. This answers the question.

I sincerely hope you take the time to study out the passages I've given you. Since the spiritual war is in the doctrine (and the understanding of it), it is of the utmost importance that we understand God's words, rightly divided, as He instructs us to (II Tim. 2:15).

Thank you and God bless you and your family,

Yours sincerely,

Johny Varghese

Translated from Malayalam:

Love in the name of Jesus Christ.

Dear Johny Varghese,

In an unexpected way I happened to listen to one of your tapes, "Preach the Word Truthfully."

I was surprised when I heard some strange doctrines which were in the tape. Whose teaching is this? When I heard these doctrines, which are not suitable for the church of God, these questions came into my mind and are given below. Read this carefully and give me a scriptural answer.

In 1988, when I came to America, I was in your house. Now I came to visit again. My permanent and temporary addresses are given below. I pray for you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Signed,
Pastor A. G. Thomas

Preach the Word Truthfully (Malayalam translation).

PASTOR A.G.THOMAS
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Rightly Divide the Word of Truth (English translation, KJV).

This tape was by Johny Varghese.

Please give me answers to these questions.

1. You have divided the gospel into the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of the Grace of God. Matt. 28:19,20 says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Is this the Gospel of the Kingdom or is it the Gospel of the Grace of God? If it is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, why is it given with instruction to preach to the nations? If it is the Gospel of the Grace of God, it should contain the preaching of the cross and the preaching of baptism. Why is there instruction to baptize in Mark 16:15,ff?

2. If the Gospel of the Grace of God was revealed to Paul only, and preached by Paul only, who baptized Cornelius? Why did God show Peter, not Paul, a certain vessel which contained all kinds of fourfooted beasts of the earth descending from heaven? Cornelius is the first Gentile man saved.

3. According to your tape, the blessings to Abraham are for them (Israel) only. But Paul says, in Gal. 3:14, "that the blessings of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ: that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

So, isn't your statement wrong?

4. At Pentecost, when they spoke in tongues, it is written that they understood in their own languages. How? Acts 2:4,8,11. In these verses, the word "languages" is used. The Galatians spoke in many languages. In the Epistle to the Corinthians, when they spoke in other languages, others did not understand. That is why others needed interpretation.

5. According to your tape, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God was last preached in Acts 3:19. If the subject is repentance, you see from Acts 10:34, that Peter led Cornelius toward repentance. In Acts 17:30, Paul preached repentance. Which Kingdom Gospel is this? If repentance is the subject of all kinds of Kingdoms, which Kingdom Gospel is in Rev. 3:3, 2:5,16?

6. According to your tape, regarding "that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away," what is "perfect?" See I Cor. 13:10-12. At the time the perfect comes, you can see "face to face and then I shall know even as also I am known." Whom shall we see face to face? When our weak body becomes a glorified body, as His glorified body, in other words when Jesus comes, we will see Him face to face. Phil 3:20,21, I Thes. 4:16 - Are we glorified now?

7. What is the Kingdom of God? Paul is not explaining what the Kingdom of God is in Rom. 14:17, but the experience of the Holy Ghost.

8. If the last commandment in Mk. 16:15-18 is not included in the dispensation of grace, then it

was a mistake the disciples made to evangelize the whole world. St. Thomas came to India and got martyred. Did he do this in foolishness? If miracles are only for the millennium, whom will be healed? There will be no sick people then. At that time, Satan will no longer be on the earth, so whom are you going to cast out? Isa. 35:3-6, 3:26, Rev. 20:2,3.

9. According to your tape, the time for prophets and prophesies are over. If this is true, then in I Cor. 14:26, Eph. 4:10-13, explain the spiritual gifts that you should have when you gather together, also the prophets that are needed for the work of the restoration of the saints, and for the edification of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:14). Do not be deceived by men. Don't you think they are needed until the rapture of the church?

10. You said baptism is for Jews and not for the dispensation of grace. Matt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:16. Does anything in these verses say when the baptism starts and when it stops? If that is the case, who made the change? If it is Paul in Acts 19:1-7, twelve people were baptized. In Acts 16:30-34, the keeper of the prison and his family got baptized. Are they members of the Kingdom or the Church of God? Paul baptized Crispus and Gaius in I Cor. 1:14-16.

11. Where is it written that the Jews are going to preach the gospel to Gentiles after the rapture of the church? Where is the proof? Is it in the tribulation period or in the millennium? When the grace period is over, who can bring anyone into the church? Matt. 25:1-13, Rev. 3:1-3.

12. If the Twelve Apostles are for the millennium, why do we need their epistles? I Pet. 1:2 - To whom is it written?

13. According to you, salvation comes only by believing in the cross. But the words say, if they don't obey the word they won't be saved. Lk. 6:46-49, Matt. 7:21-23. They are going to be in outer darkness. The Lord did 100% of the redemptive work on the cross. If man doesn't have 100% obedience to His word, what is going to be his fate? When did Naaman get healed? The rejected five virgins - why are they rejected?

14. In Matt. 24:14 it says "the Gospel of the Kingdom," but it does not say which kingdom. Can't it be the Kingdom of Heaven? Whom did the Lord command to preach the gospel, the Apostles or Jews? Matt. 28:18-20. In II Pet. 3:9, why is the Lord's coming delayed? The Lord is waiting for all to come to repentance.

Brother, you are hiding these truths and then telling us to preach truthfully. Are you not lying? I have many, many more questions to ask, but now I want to stop here. Rev. 2:5 says, "Therefore from whence thou art fallen, repent and come back brother." May the Lord help you.

Johny Varghese
9834 Maynard Terr.
Niles, IL 60714

July 25, 1997

Dear Pastor Thomas,

The doctrinal questions you asked me in response to the tapes I sent you can best be addressed, I believe, by asking you a few questions of my own.

Are you a Jew, a physical descendent of Abraham? If your answer is no, then why do you think (as many other Christians do) that you can get your doctrinal instructions for **today** in parts of the Bible where the Lord is dealing exclusively with the nation Israel? Do you not believe what you are reading? Romans 15:8 says, "Now I say that Jesus Christ **was** (past tense) a minister of the circumcision (Jews) for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers." Now read Acts 3:24-26. The context is the nation Israel, as many other verses in the "gospels" and early Acts show (Mt. 10:5-7, 15:24, Mk. 1:5, 7:24-28, Lk. 1:68, 2:25, 24:21, Jn. 1:11,31, 4:22, Acts 1:11, 2:14,22, 36, 3:12, etc., etc.). Of course, this is not mentioning the focus on Israel in the Old Testament from Genesis 12 onward (Mal. 2:16, 4:4, Zech. 10:3, 12:7, Mic. 4:1,2, Joel 2:27,32, 3:2,16-21, Hos. 1:11, Dan. 9:2,11,20,24, Jer. 31:31, Isa. 43:15,21, 25, 2:1-4, 3:1, 5:7, etc.).

II Tim. 2:15 (KJV) talks about "...rightly dividing the word of truth." This means there must be a wrong way to divide it. This does **not** mean we are to study only one part of the Bible. Rather, it means that while the whole Bible is for us (Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 10:11), it is not all to us or about us. By "us" I mean "the church, the body of Christ," where there is no difference (spiritually speaking) between Jew and Gentile. The **only** place you see this in the Bible is in Paul's Epistles (Eph. 2:11-18, Gal. 6:15). Things used to be one way, "but now" (Rom. 3:21, Eph. 2:13) there has been a change. II Cor. 5:14-21 says it again. "We know no man after the flesh" (v.16 - this is Gal.3:28). If "in Christ" we are "new creatures" (v.17). "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (v.19). If "in Christ," our trespasses (sins) are not being imputed (credited to our account)(v.19 - Col. 2:13). This change in the way God is **now** dealing with the world (Eph. 2:11-16) was a "mystery" - until revealed to and through the apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-9, Col. 1:24-27, Rom. 16:25,26). When you begin to see, understand, and believe these written distinctions, you will realize that the most important division in the Bible is between "prophecy" (made known since the world began - Lk. 1:70, Acts 3:21) and the "mystery" (kept secret since the world began - Rom. 16:25).

When the "but now" time period church is raptured (I Thes. 4:14-18, Phil. 3:20,21 - the church the Body of Christ), those of us "in Christ" will go to our home "eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1, Eph. 1:3, Col. 3:1, II Cor. 4:18, etc.). "Eternal" means just what it says! This means we will have no part in the earthly kingdom that will be established at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This earthly kingdom has to do with the nation Israel, and their "prophesied" glory (Isa. 42:6, 61:9, Dan. 2:34,35,44,45, Mic. 4:1,2, etc.). After having been with the Lord for three years and then for forty days of instruction in the scriptures before His ascension (Lk. 24:45, Acts 1:3), these eleven "Jewish" apostles had no doubt as to the character and location of the "kingdom" they asked about in Acts 1:6, when they asked "wilt thou at this time restore **again** the kingdom to Israel?" Genesis 12 through Acts 7 clearly indicates that this will again be a literal, physical, visible, **earthly**, Davidic kingdom!

Reading chapters such as Psa. 78, Psa. 106, Acts 7, Acts 13, and Romans 11, will give you a condensed history of Israel from Egypt to their fall in Romans 11:11. Then, as you read of Israel's **future** glory in Rom. 11:26-29, you will learn that the "fall and rising again of Israel" is an **all important key** to the understanding of the scriptures (Lk. 2:34).

Paul's epistles are a parenthetical insertion in God's written, prophesied timeline. Remember, this is called a "mystery" (secret). When the Lord is finished forming this spiritual group of people called the "church, the body of Christ," He will resume His prophesied program and fulfill all the promises He made to the nation Israel - both the blessings and the curses (Deut. 28, Dan. 9).

The last nine epistles in the Bible, Hebrews through Revelation, deal with God's resumption of the things He promised and prophesied to the nation Israel, with the end result being that Israel will be the "head" of the nations again, fulfilling what God had originally formed and purposed this nation to be (Isa. 43:15,21,25). All nations were to be saved **through** a risen and redeemed Israel (Gen. 22:18, Isa. 2:1-5, Zech. 8:1-3, Lk. 2:34,35). "But now," temporarily, we are saved through a spiritually **fallen** Israel (Rom. 11:11,12,15). This was a "mystery" (Rom. 11:25) - but - "all Israel **shall be saved**" (Rom. 11:26). This is "future" from where we are now, and again, this is what Hebrews through Revelation is dealing with.

In your questions to me (specifically #14), you call me a "liar" and quote Rev. 2:5 to say that I have lost my salvation. I will not respond in like manner, but I will refer you to I Cor. 4:3,4 and say to you that with regard to your "doctrinal" understanding as to how the Lord is working today, you are confused - yet - you don't even know it. "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16) I can demonstrate this confusion by making a simple, scriptural comparison. As **you** did, many well meaning people use verses from the Hebrew epistles to show and prove that we can lose our salvation (Rev. 2:5, Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26,36, etc.), yet, in Paul's epistles, he says we cannot (I Cor. 3:9-15, Eph. 1:12-14, II Tim. 2:13,etc.). He says our salvation is "through the faith and **operation** of God " (Col. 2:12), "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9, Rom. 4:5). If we are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit of God, "unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30), who are you to say that we can change this written promise of God? (II Tim. 3:16)

There is a **vivid** contrast here. You cannot have it both ways! One part of the Bible says that we are secure in the knowledge of our salvation and another part says just the opposite! Both are scriptural, yet only one can apply to us. No amount of rhetoric can change the meaning of these verses if you **understand** the **context** in which they are written. Understanding the context is the **KEY** to your understanding and it is what "rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15 - KJV) is all about.

Given all this, let me go back to my original question. Spiritually speaking, are you a Jew, a Gentile, or a "new creature" (II Cor. 5:17, Gal. 5:6, 6:15), where there is no difference? (Gal. 3:28, Rom. 3:22, I Cor. 12:13, Col. 3:11). Are you under the law as Israel was and will be again (Deut. 4:1-8, Mt. 5:18, Heb. 7:12), or are you under grace? ("...for ye are not under the law, but under grace" -Rom. 6:14, 11:6, Gal. 5:18) Will you spend eternity in the heavenly places / kingdom (II Cor. 5:1, Eph. 1:3, II Tim. 4:18), or in the earthly kingdom promised to Israel? (Rom. 11:26,27,

Heb. 8:8-13, Ex. 19:5,6, Rev. 20:6) Gen. 1:1, Col. 1:16,20, Rev. 12:7-12 clearly show two realms of activity - one visible and one invisible. Matt. 4:8,9, John 12:31,14:30, show Satan as the "prince of this world" (visible) while Eph. 2:2, 6:11,12, show Satan as the "prince of the power of the air" (that invisible but real realm).

Do you really know if you are saved and do you really have an assurance of your salvation as Paul's gospel teaches (Rom. 3:21-28, 5:1-11, 8:35-39, I Cor. 3:15, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5)? Are you identifying yourself with the completeness that comes from the **finished** crosswork of Christ (Col. 2:10) - or - are you identifying yourself with the nation Israel (Rom. 10:1-4) and her **future** restoration, hoping that you "**might** receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15) "when the times of refreshing **shall come** from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19-21) when He "**shall** appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28)?

You asked about water baptism (Mt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:16) and why it is not necessary today. There are scriptural answers (I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 4:5) and reasons why Paul (during the Acts period) did baptize some people (I Cor. 9:19-23). But the question you have to ask yourself is this, "How could Paul say what he did in I Cor. 1:17 and still have been under the same commission as the apostles in Mt. 28 and Mk. 16?"

Another question to ponder is, "Why was the book of Acts placed between John and Romans when we know that Galatians, I & II Thes., I & II Cor., and Romans were written before the book of Acts was written?" The book of Acts was placed between John and Romans for a reason - it is a transition book - taking you from one gospel (kingdom) to another gospel (grace). Yes, there are different gospels (II Cor. 11:4, Gal. 1:8,9).

You see this again (different gospels) in Gal. 2:7-9 (KJV). James, Cephas (Peter), and John had the gospel of the circumcision, and Paul and Barnabas the gospel of the uncircumcision. It is interesting to notice the order of the Hebrew epistles: Hebrews, James, Peter, John.

Now see that same order in Gal. 2:9 (James, Cephas, and John "who seemed to be pillars"). This phrase ties in with Rom. 11:11,12 - the fall and diminishing of God's formed and pre-eminent nation (Isa. 43:15,21). By the way, who was "James" written to? James 1:1: "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." See Lk. 22:30, Acts 8:1, 11:19, Rev. 21:10-12. Which tribe do you come from?

In your questions, it is obvious that you attach your own works with righteousness, justification, and salvation. This is consistent with God's future restoration of the nation Israel and His past dealings with them (Lk. 1:6, James 2:14,24, Rev. 12:17). How come Paul teaches just the opposite? (Rom. 3:28, 4,5, 11:6, Eph. 2:8,9, Tit. 3:5, etc.).

You questioned the blessings of Abraham being for Israel only and then you quoted Gal. 3:14. Read Rom. 9:4, 3:1,2, Acts 3:24-26, and then look closely again at Gal. 3:6-14. The issue here is the so-called righteousness of the law (Rom. 3:19,20, Gal. 3:22-24) versus righteousness by faith only. Understanding Romans 4 would greatly help your confusion on this issue. Rom. 5:1 sums it all up: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Notice that this is written in the past tense - believers are already justified, and only by

faith.)

The things that I have talked about and that you heard on the tapes I sent you come right out of your Bible, yet, they are strange to your ears. There is something wrong with this, don't you think?

This "present day" confusion (which many Christians are unaware of), comes from Christianity trying to start the "present day" church, the Body of Christ, in Acts 2, and in the mixing of Paul's gospel with the other gospels in the Bible, which we are warned against doing (Gal. 1:8,9, 5:9).

In the Pentecostal church of Acts 2, the speakers were Jews (the apostles of Rom. 15:8), the hearers were Jews, as Jews they were addressed, the converts were Jews, the testimony was intensely Jewish, their Bible was the Jewish scriptures, the Jewish temple was their house of prayer and common meeting place, their beliefs, hopes, words, and acts all marked them out as Jews. In other words, what was going on in Acts 2 was the culmination of prophesied events to the nation Israel. Read Acts 2:16: "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." **The idea of evangelizing Gentiles was never even discussed!**

To represent this as "Christian" doctrine for today or the institution of a "new religion" is to betray your ignorance of Judaism as well as Christianity. The word "Christian" was first used in Acts 11:26. But notice, it was through Paul's ministry and outside the nation Israel.

Jesus Christ came in fulfillment of many scriptures prophesied and written to the nation Israel. In fact, the phrase "that the scripture might be fulfilled," is written over 40 times in the gospels and early Acts. How did Israel's leaders respond to this? Read Isa. 6:9,10, Mt. 13:13-15, Lk. 7:30, Jn. 1:11, Acts 7:51-60, etc. to see for yourself. This is prophecy, my friend, not the mystery/secret which was revealed to Paul by the ascended Lord (Acts 9:1-16).

While there are many moral and spiritual truths throughout the Bible that apply to all of us, our present day walk, position, doctrine, and destination come from Paul's epistles as scripture indicates (Jn. 13:20, Gal. 1:11,12, Rom. 2:16, 11:13, I Cor. 11:1, 15:1-4, II Pet. 3:15,16).

Just as departure from God's appointed messengers to the nation Israel caused the leaders of that nation to reject their Messiah (Jn. 5:46,47, Mk. 7:6,7,13, Acts 7:51), so it is today that rejecting and refusing to understand the unique and distinctive message given to Paul can make you the unwitting pawn of Satan (II Cor. 11:15, II Tim. 2:24-26).

I Cor. 2:6-8 tells us that if Satan had known about the secret message (mystery) given to Paul, the Lord Jesus Christ would not have been crucified. "Faith in" and "justification by" His blood (Rom. 3:25, 5:9) is seen for the first time in Paul's epistles and is part of the mystery revelation given to Paul. This is why we have been instructed "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God who created all things by Jesus Christ." (Eph. 3:9)

(No name)
November 8, 1996

Dear Johnny:

I have received your correspondence and tape. Thank you.

I believe that the devil is working through you in these days. Why don't you tarry in God's presence and get the real spirit "Holy Spirit?" Since the time Jesus came to this world, Satan is trying on people like you to stop the power of God. You know well that He defeated Satan and smashed his head for ever. STOP working for Satan. Get out of his grip and get hold of Jesus, before the hand of God comes heavy on you. He is the consuming fire.

Why don't you spend your time in spreading the Gospel to save sinners, instead of condemning God's word and His power by manipulating the meaning of God's word.

I pray and hope that these days God will open your inner eyes to see the truth. Otherwise you are going to get the reward the same as "Lucifer" and his agents.

I have no more time to waste in replying to this type of garbage.

GOD BLESS YOU BROTHER.

Signed.
Yours in Christ. (No name)

Rev. Samuel Koshy
730 E. Grubb Dr.
Mesquite, TX 75149
Nov 8 - 96

Dear Br. John Varghese

I received your tape. I heard it once, then I put it in the trash - that is all it is good for, because it is all false doctrine. Please stop spreading false doctrines. There are many other ways you can use your talent for God's glory. You may have a demon in you, I will pray to God for your deliverance.

Thank you.

Signed.

Rev. Samuel Koshy.

Pastor Manuel Johnson
25753 Salem
Roseville, MI 48066, U.S.A.
Sept. 16 - 96

Dear brother Johnny Varghese,

Please make sure your writings are 100% correct before you publish anything. For example, most of the older Pentecostal folks used to believe in the 'dispensational teaching.' Now for your information, most Pentecostal scholars don't teach to their students what others in the past used to. Moreover, dispensational teachings came out not from the Pentecostal teachings, but from the non-Pentecostal. I think you need to be a little more aware of who is who in Christianity and what is right and wrong before you can touch any of such a wide range of subjects.

Brother, these issues have been argued by scholars back and forth for centuries, but never reached to a conclusion. Don't misuse your time, money and talents, but try to preach Christ and Him crucified. Allow people to have their own convictions in the debated theological issues. But you should focus on doing Christ's command to you written in Acts 26:14-18; Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-18; Lk. 5:10; John 21: 15-19. The devil can bring so many things between you and your focus on giving Christ to this world.

Brother, please focus on Evangelism
and Evangelism alone.

Your brother in the Lord

Signed
Pastor Manuel Johnson

P. Joseph Raju
13939 Wales Court
Sterling Hts. MI 48312
Nov. 21, 1996

Dear brother Johnny:

Last weekend I was in Chicago to attend the Benoy concert and then a conference. Though you

were there, I didn't get a chance to see you.

While I was in Chicago, Pappachen showed me the letter you have written to many people with a hope to get responses from them to clear some of the confusion that you have regarding the Scripture. In one reading of the letter it became so obvious to me that Satan played a number on you using the scripture itself as he did in the garden of Eden. I have no intention to argue with you based on the verses you have cited in your letter. But I will definitely draw your attention to one verse, Gal. 1:9. Please take this verse very seriously. Also, read the entire book of Galatians when you get the chance. Your present pursuit to confuse yourself and your fellow believers is a matter of great concern to me. I pray that God helps you to understand His own word through the guidance of His own Spirit. We as a family are very concerned about your family. We want you to know that we love you. I have requested a few believers in Chicago to fast and pray for you. Only God can deliver you from the influence of demonic power. Keep reading the Bible. If "word of God is your foundation of the truth" why do you need to send out those video courses or need to contact "Grace School of the Bible?" Dear brother, God's business is a serious business. Please don't take it lightly because His wrath is unbearable.

In the past you have done a marvelous job for the Lord by spreading His word through tapes and videos. Sadly speaking, Satan saw your enthusiasm and took control of your enthusiasm and is using it now for his glory. If it is a scriptural interpretation, someone can help you. Since this is "total confusion," only God can help you. So, we are praying for you and your dear family. We are worried about them too. May God show mercy and kindness to you. With deep regards and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Signed
P. Joseph Raju
MARANATHA

PART 3

Articles from various pastors

FINAL AUTHORITY

Compiled by Pastor Ray Keable

Many Christians, unknowingly, are unfamiliar with one of the most important doctrines taught in the Bible. This doctrine is the issue of "scriptural infallibility," God promising to preserve His WORD throughout all time and history. The importance of the individual words in the Bible cannot be underestimated. The apostle Paul even preached the importance of just one letter (Gal. 3:16). How can you preach infallible truths from a fallible Bible? The 1611 King James Bible (The Authorized Version) is the only English version that can stand up to the test of scriptural infallibility. All other Bibles (English) contain very obvious and blatant errors.

Saying this is one of the most important doctrines taught in the Bible will seem ridiculous and offensive to many people. This is because they don't fully understand just how Satan is working today. The war with Satan today is in the doctrine - the words that can renew your mind (Rom. 12:1,2). One of the best examples of this can be seen in Gen. 3:4. Satan merely adds the word "not" to God's words from Gen. 2:17 to deceive Eve.

The "wiles of the devil" are the cunning craftiness of this creature who imitates the Lord Jesus Christ because he wants to be like "the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19). Read of Satan's plan and desire in Isa. 14:12-14, "...I will be like the most High." Satan's impersonation of Jesus Christ is very clearly taught in scripture. Why else would he be called "anti-Christ?" John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It is very obvious the importance God Himself places on His word.

John 1:4 says, "In Him (the Word) was life; and the life was the light of men." John 6:63b says, "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." If God's words are the light and life of men, is it any surprise when we read II Cor. 11:13-15, "... Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness ..." "Ministers" are men who stand behind pulpits and speak words!

I am not saying that such men are knowingly doing this. What I am saying is that they have become the unwitting pawns of Satan. In "time past," "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14). "But now," all we have until His return is a completed canon of scripture (Col. 1:25-27). Because of this, God, in His wisdom, has put many verses throughout His Book to draw our attention to this most important teaching: an inerrant, providentially preserved, completed canon of scripture - our final authority in all matters of morals, faith, and practice. Eph. 6:11-17 speaks of the armour God has given us to fight this real but invisible foe. "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," is the only "offensive" weapon He gives us in our arsenal. All the rest are defensive weapons. The Lord says in Rev. 1:11, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last..." These are the names of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Letters make words. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword..."(Heb. 4:12).

Do you consider yourself a "soldier" for the Lord Jesus Christ? (II Tim. 2:3,4) Are you

capable of fighting "a good fight" (II Tim. 4:7) against the adversary? Does this spiritual battle seem real to you? Would a true soldier go to battle without first checking his weapon?

Are you an "adult" in your understanding of this warfare, heeding the advice given by our "commander-in-chief" in Eph. 4:14? "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Passages such as Deut. 6:6,7, 11:18-21, show Moses speaking to the nation Israel. He spoke of the importance of learning God's word and then teaching it to their children. This is an impossible task if a new Bible version is needed each year or even for each generation (over 100 new versions have come out in English since 1881, most in the last few decades). When you come to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), he says the same thing to Timothy: "...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15). II Tim. 1:5 clearly shows this "generational" teaching also.

II Tim. 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." Psalm 12:7, referring back to God's words in v.6, says, "...Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." Isa. 40:8 says it again, "...but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

I mentioned earlier how that John 1 shows the importance of God's word. Now read Psalm 138:2b, "...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." When your heart begins to understand the importance of these verses, you will be able to make your own comparisons between different Bible versions. You will be shocked to see how successful Satan has been in his plan of evil to corrupt the Word of God.

You might say that we do not have the original manuscripts, so no one can be sure that they actually have the words of God. This did not seem to bother Jesus Christ when He said, "...have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying ..." (Mt. 22:31). Jesus Christ believed in the inerrancy and preservation of the Word. They did not have the original manuscripts at that time either! Read Jn. 5:46,47.

The example of Satan's doctrinal perversion in Gen. 3:4, all the way to Rev. 22:18,19, vividly shows the importance of this most important, scriptural, teaching.

Very briefly, the text of the 1611 King James Bible is the only version in English that is not bound by a copyright. In other words, no author or publisher receives any royalty payments from its sale. II Tim. 2:9 says, "...the word of God is not bound," and Mt. 6:24 tells us, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money)." "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:8). There are approximately 5200 manuscripts of the New Testament in existence today. Over 99% of these agree with each other in word and content. This "majority text" is where the KJV comes from. All other English versions come from the remaining 1%. Remember, Satan is a master at mixing truth with error. Gal. 5:9 says, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

The question you have to ask yourself is, "Am I a Bible believer or a Bible corrector?" Your attitude and point of view about this is most important! Titus 2:10 says we are to "...adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour ..." - not change it. Read Rom. 13:9 in the KJV: "...Thou shalt not bear false witness..." This part of the verse is omitted in the NIV, NASB, and almost every other new version. I wonder why?

We used to have a word-based culture, but now we have an image-based culture. The Bible starts out commanding: do not make any images; and it ends up with people worshipping the image of the beast (Ex. 20:4,5, Rev. 13:12-18, 14:9-11). The people, at this time, will do this unknowingly. This push toward the one world religion, in deference to world ecumenism, coupled with the ongoing omission of "Christian" doctrinal distinctives in the new Bible versions, removes "sound doctrine" (I Tim. 1:10), diminishes our "mediator" (I Tim. 2:5), and introduces the "doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1, Rev. 13:5-10), all brought in by "false apostles" projecting themselves to be the "ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Understanding this God-breathed doctrine of preservation is very important, so I urge you to take the time to prayerfully consider and study out this issue.

Remember, the King James Bible is a literal-equivalent (word for word) translation of the word of God from the majority text, versus the dynamic-equivalent (paraphrasing) of the new versions, essentially a different Bible.

Do not forget the words spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ in John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." The consequences of this are eternal! (Mt. 10:28, Rev. 21:8)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." Col. 3:16

PRAYER

By Pastor Richard Jordan

Prayer is one of the most asked about subjects in the Christian life. Instinctively we know about it, yet experientially we face question after question: If God knows all my needs, why should I pray? Can I change God's mind or my circumstances through prayer? Is it enough to pray only once or should I pray persistently for the same thing? How can I be sure God hears my prayers? How does God answer my prayers - and why does He *not* answer them?

We pray. We know we should. But questions like these haunt our minds. We pray about our fears, anxieties, problems, joys, wishes, dreams - yet often it seems the heavens are brass; God is silent and it seems "no one cares for *me*." Prayer becomes confusing, a burden and a cruel

mockery.

THE BASIC PROBLEM

The fundamental fallacy in the prayer arena comes from a failure to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15) - that is, the claiming of prayer promises that *have nothing to do with the dispensation in which we live*, but belong rather to a program which God Himself has interrupted and is temporarily holding in abeyance.

For those who fail to recognize the distinctive ministry and message committed to the Apostle Paul, the topic of prayer poses a difficult and perplexing problem. Consider the prayer promises made during our Lord's earthly ministry:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7,8).

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13,14).

Wonderful promises, indeed! But who among us does not know the disappointment, confusion and heartache of claiming one of these promises and having it fail. That's why we develop theological "gimmicks" to explain away the seeming failures. The fact is that these promises do not work for us because *they do not apply to our dispensation*.

For even a casual Bible student nothing could be clearer than the fact that our Lord came as "*a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God to confirm the promises made unto [Israel's] fathers*" (Romans 15:8). He proclaimed the "gospel of the kingdom" long promised to Israel and declared:

"...I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24).

This is why, in His first great commission to the Twelve, He commanded them:

"... Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:5,6).

These verses need to be faced honestly so they have their full impact: the simple fact is that the prayer promises made by our Lord during His earthly ministry have *nothing to do with the dispensation of grace or the body of Christ*.

The record is clear that the nation of Israel rejected her Messiah both in His incarnation (the books of Matthew through John) as well as in His resurrection ministry through the Apostles and the "Little Flock" in early Acts. It was only then that He raised up a *new* apostle - Paul - and sent him forth to usher in a *new* dispensation - the dispensation of grace (Ephesians 3:1-9; Romans 16:25; Colossians 1:24-26; 1 Timothy 2:4-7).

We simply *cannot* go back to the so-called Four Gospels or the early Acts period to find instructions for living in the current dispensation of grace. In vain these records will be searched for instructions for the Body of Christ.

This is the explanation for the many seeming failures of the Kingdom prayer promises. In that program these promises function perfectly. To remove them from where God has placed them, to "rob Peter" of his program to "pay Paul" with coinage he cannot use, is a blunder without equal where the subject of prayer is concerned.

WHAT PRAYER IS NOT

Prayer is a vital part of every believer's life. Too many of us, however, view prayer as a performance - as a ritual to make us more spiritual or as a means of getting what we want. To turn prayer into a means of manipulating God to be more favorably disposed toward us is to not only miss the purpose of prayer altogether but also to thwart the grace of God to us in Christ. We need to understand just what prayer is *not*.

For many sincere believers prayer is *a way to relieve guilt*. Through "keeping short accounts with God" by constantly confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness they hope to have Him forgive their sins. Rather than relieving the guilt of past failures, however, this in fact demonstrates a sad *misunderstanding* of the finished work of Christ - the very *basis* on which we pray.

Consider just one verse:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Both redemption and forgiveness are found in Christ. In order to be redeemed, must we ask God to redeem us every day? No! Then why would we ask Him to forgive us daily?

The truth is that God's *only* answer to the guilt of sin is the cross-work of Christ. It is our faith resting in the facts of what Christ has accomplished for us at Calvary that settles the sin question and removes the burden of guilt from our shoulders (Romans 4:6-8; Colossians 2:13; 3:13; etc...).

Prayer should never be motivated by guilt. When we pray "*in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Ephesians 5:20) we are doing far more than simply tacking a phrase to the end of our prayers. This is actually an expression of a vital understanding: that we have no righteousness of our own by which we can approach God but that Jesus Christ has given us His righteousness -

and this is the source of our confidence in speaking to our heavenly Father; this is the *basis* of our prayer.

Prayer is also often used as *a way to get financial or material gain*. Surprisingly even grace believers can be found clinging to this idea.

A passage we all could take more to heart is 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

Read those verses again, will you, and ask yourself: Am I truly content with what I have while I am asking for more material things at the same time? Can material things bring contentment?

Another underlying motive for many peoples's prayer life is the desire to *gain God's favor and blessing* by their prayers. By using just the right formulas, by employing certain words, by their "*much speaking*" (Matthew 6:7) they hope to have God accept and bless them with otherwise unattainable benefits. Such *performance-based-acceptance* is, of course, the very antithesis of grace - of being "*blessed with all spiritual blessings*" in Christ and made "*complete in Him*." It serves only to reduce prayer to a formula for approaching God and gaining His favor rather than intimate communication resulting from our personal relation with Him through Christ Jesus.

Often prayer is seen as a mechanism to either *find or change God's mind*. People try to get God's permission and agreement to do what they want to do - buy this house, sell that car, take a certain position, attend a particular event, etc. - praying fervently that God would reveal His will for them in such matters. But we must ask: Hasn't He *already revealed His will* for us in His Word? Hasn't He already equipped us with the capacity for - and challenge of - applying His revealed will to the details of our lives?

If, as 2 Timothy 3:16,17 indicate, the Scripture completely equips "*unto all good works*," are our feelings, impressions and circumstances really means by which we are to receive revelation from God?

WHAT PRAYER IS

When we understand what prayer really *is* it becomes one of our greatest spiritual assets. So let's think about what prayer in the dispensation of grace is all about.

As children of God we have a personal relationship with Him through Christ. Because of His finished work at Calvary we can approach our heavenly Father, being assured of His unconditional love and acceptance of us "*in Christ*." This is the *basis* of our prayer.

In the most basic terms, prayer is simply talking to God. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*

defines prayer as "*to pour forth sound or words*" and uses Lamentations 2:19's "*pour out thine heart*" as an illustration.

Prayer, then, is pouring out our heart's concerns to God. It is our intelligent, personal communion with our heavenly Father; the means by which we experience an intimate, personal fellowship with Him. To view prayer as a means of getting what we want - be it relief from guilt, winning acceptance, getting material or financial gain, etc. - is to fail to genuinely pray.

Consider Paul's instructions in Philippians 4:6,7 about this:

"Be careful for nothing:" Our focus is *not* to be on the cares of this life - circumstances, possessions, feelings and the like. We are to be looking "not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:18, cf. Colossians 3:1-3).

"But in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God:" We are invited to enjoy the intimacy of fellowship with God as we express to him the matters of our heart.

When we remember that He knows our every thought we realize we never need to ask, "Should I pray about this?" Rather, the path of faith is to commune with our heavenly Father over every detail of our life.

In the dispensation of grace the will of God is executed through the Word of God working in the inner man of the believer. The first issue, therefore, in prayer is *communion with God over what His Word says and how it applies to the various situations we face*. Conscious that He hears and knows our every thought, we thus *talk with Him*.

It is through this pattern of "Pauline Prayer" that we are able to work through matters of discernment regarding the application of God's Word in each area of our life. When we thus pray - when we thus pour out our hearts to God - there is *always* an answer:

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This "tranquilizing" effect of prayer enables us to always be sufficient for all things.

The bottom line to prayer in the present dispensation is this: God loves you. You are His child. Talk to Him. Tell Him what's on your heart, how you feel - He knows it already! Tell Him about your gratitude for what He has done in your life. What He wants most from you is *YOU!* He wants you to grow to know Him, so listen to His Word and appreciate the reality of His Word actively working in your life thus allowing Him to live through you.

The door into God's presence has been opened to us through the person of Jesus Christ. Don't rob yourself of the opportunity to go boldly to the throne of grace. In His presence you always have a hearing!

A DISPENSATIONAL LOOK AT PRAYER

By Dan Gross

To understand what prayer is and how it works, we *must* give heed to 2 Timothy 2:15:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The study of the Bible cannot be by a "hop-skip-and-jump" method. One must "rightly divide" the Word in order to correctly understand God's plan and purpose for the ages. One must "rightly divide" the Word to determine exactly what it is God is doing today in the *dispensation of grace*.

When studying the doctrine of prayer we must distinguish the *dispensations* of scripture. Doing so will not only bring great joy and relief to the heart of the believer, but more importantly it honors God.

A DISPENSATIONAL LOOK AT PRAYER

In Prophecy	In The Dispensation Of Grace
1. There was an emphasis on the physical, both in Israel's requests and God's response to their prayers (Gen. 20:17,18; Exo. 8:12,13; Deu. chap.28; Isa. chap. 35; Isa. 65:20-25; Mat. 5:5).	1. The emphasis is on the spiritual (Rom. 8:18-28; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:7; 12:7-10; Eph. 1:3; Phil. 4:6,7; Col. 3:1,2).
2. Israel's requests were specific and they saw specific answers (Num. 11:1,2; Jud. 6:36-40; 16:28-30; 1 Sam. 1:27; 1 Kings 18:22-39; Mat. 21:21,22).	2. No specific answers to specific requests are given (Rom. 8:26-28; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-19; Phil. 4:6,7; Col. 1:9-12).
3. Israel lived under the Law, an "if - then" system. <i>If</i> Israel met the conditions of the law <i>then</i> God would bless. <i>If not then</i> the curses. Israel's prayer lives were consistent with this system (Deu. 11:26-28; Psa. 66:18; Pro. 15:29; Isa. 59:1,2; Mic. 3:4; 2 Chron. 7:14).	3. The Church today lives under Grace. There is no conditional acceptance. The Church is already blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Rom.5:1,2; 8:32; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:3,6; 2:18).
4. Physical protection was promised to	4. No promise of physical protection is

Israel and provided (Psa. 34:7, 17, 91; Dan. 3:26-28; 6:22; Luk. 1:71-74).	taught (Rom. 8:18-25; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:7; 11:23-27; 12:7-10; Eph. 1:3; 2 Tim. 4:20)
5. Confession and Repentance were required of Israel in order to obtain the promised blessings - <i>including</i> the forgiveness of sins (Lev. 5:4-7; 26:40-42; 2 Chron. 6:26,27; 7:13,14; 34:39; 1 John 1:9).	5. There is no such teaching given to the Church today (Rom. 5:1,2; 2 Cor. 7:9-11; Eph. 1:3,7; 4:32; Col. 2:13).
6. Israel rightly expected to physically see and audibly hear answers to prayer (Gen. 20:17,18; Lev. 26:1-11; Num. 11:1,2; 14:19,20; Deu. 28:1-14; 1 Sam. 1:10-27)	6. The Church today is to walk by faith not by sight (Rom. 8:18-25; Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-19; Col. 1:9-12; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20).
7. When Israel was in disobedience and did not respond with confession and repentance, they lost physical blessings and were disciplined with physical judgements (Lev. 26:14-33; Det. 11:27,28; 28:15-63; Jud. 2:19-23; 3:5-8; 4:1-2).	7. There is no such teaching given to the Church today (Rom. 5:1,2; 8:18-25, 32; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:7; Eph. 1:3,7).
8. Israel was to pray and look for signs (Exo. 4:6-9; Num. 16:36-40; Deu. 28:45,46; Judges 6:15-24, 36-40; 2 Kings 20:8-11).	8. There are no signs given to the Church today (Rom. 8:24,25; 2 Cor. 4:18; 5:7).
9. How Israel physically prayed was important (Ezk. 9:3,4; 10:1; Neh. 9:1-3; Psa. 69:10,11; Jer. 4:8; Mat. 11:21).	9. There are no physical requirements for the Church today (Rom. 5:1,2; 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:18).
10. Israel had specific times and places they were to pray (Deu. 12:2-6; 1 Kings 18:36-38; 2 Chron. 7:12-16; Dan. 6:10; 9:21; Acts 3:1).	10. There is no such teaching given to the Church today (Eph. 6:18; Col. 1:9-12; 1 Thess. 5:17).

ANGELS IN THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE
PASTOR DENIS DURHAM

The subject of Angels is popular among Christians and non-Christians alike. We who are Bible believers should have an intelligent understanding of the nature of angels and how they are operating today. We should not allow our knowledge of angels to be controlled by our imagination or dictated by a superstitious religious system. The purpose of this brief study is to give the biblical perspective on Angels with special emphasis being given to how the activities of Angels changed when God revealed the mystery to the Apostle Paul (Eph 3:1-9).

Angels are portrayed in the scriptures as being God's servants. They are busy doing God's will in the heavenly government. God has a two-fold purpose. One purpose concerns the nation of Israel and the other purpose concerns the Body of Christ. Since Angels are busy accomplishing God's purpose, their activities will change when God's purpose changes. The way Angels operated in Israel's program is different than the way Angels operate today in the dispensation of grace. A failure to rightly divide between these two programs will result in confusion. When studying the subject of Angels, we must be careful to do so in the light of II Tim. 2:15 where the apostle Paul says to rightly divide the word of truth. Let's first consider the activities of Angels in the context of Israel's program.

God promised to Abraham and his seed a land in which the nation would dwell in and establish the messianic kingdom. The nation had to fight for this land. They were instructed to destroy all of the nations that inhabited the promised land. There were times when God employed Angels to fight for Israel. In II Kings 19:35, an Angel fought for Israel by destroying one hundred eighty-five thousand men. The Angel defended the city of Jerusalem by destroying the Assyrians. An Angel was also used to execute judgement on the nation of Israel when they rebelled against the Lord. The Angel destroyed seventy thousand men (II Sam. 24:15-17). Angels were also employed to reveal information. In Dan. 9:21-27, the Angel Gabriel came to Daniel to tell him about the seventy weeks of Israel's prophetic calendar. The Angel Gabriel was also sent to Mary, the mother of Jesus, to tell her that she would give birth to the son of God. Mary's husband Joseph also learned the same information from an Angel. Zacharias had the Angel Gabriel tell him of the birth of his son John the Baptist. Angels also ministered to people in time of suffering. An Angel provided food for Elijah (I Kings 19:4-8). In Matt. 4:11, Angels came and ministered to Jesus after His temptation. These are just a few examples of how Angels helped carry out God's will for the nation of Israel. Let's now consider the role of Angels in connection with the Body of Christ.

While the earth is the inheritance given to Israel, the inheritance given to the Body of Christ is in the heavenly places (Eph.1:3;2:6). Israel had to conquer a physical enemy to receive their inheritance. Today, there is no physical land to reclaim. There is no need for an Angel to fight against a physical enemy. The battleground has shifted from the earth to the heavenly places. Also, God is not using Angels to execute judgement upon unbelievers today as He did in time past. We live in the dispensation of grace. God is offering reconciliation to all men (II Cor. 5:19). He is offering grace and peace, not judgement and war. God is not using Angels to execute judgement on believers either. Once a person trusts Christ as their Saviour, there is peace with God (Rom. 5:1). There is no longer any enmity between believers and God. Therefore, Angels are not engaged in the execution of God's wrath as they once were. As stated before, Angels also gave comfort to people in time of suffering. Again, there is no need for

Angels to minister in this way today. As believers, we have the Lord living in us. Paul calls this the glory of the mystery (Col. 1:27). We don't need an Angel to comfort us. We have God Himself "...who comforteth us in all our tribulation..." (II Cor. 1:4). Angels were employed in time past to communicate information from God. The Word of God was still in the process of being written. Today, we have the completed Word of God. There is no need for Angels to communicate to us today. Everything God wants us to know has already been revealed. The revelation of the mystery given to the apostle Paul completed the Word of God (Col.1:25). The Scriptures fully equip the believer to accomplish God's will (II Tim. 3:16,17). So, as we have seen, the ministry of Angels among men has been replaced by the written Word of God and by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Today, in the dispensation of grace, we don't learn anything from Angels. Angels now learn from us. As the truth of God's grace from the Word of God works in our lives, we make known "...the manifold wisdom of God" (Eph. 3:10; I Cor. 11:10). God is working in the inner man today (Eph. 3:16). His will for us is that we would be established in sound doctrine from the Word of God rightly divided. There is no need for Angels to intervene in our circumstances since God's power is demonstrated in the inner man. The completed Word of God is fully sufficient to accomplish God's will in our inner man. Instead of looking for Angels to minister to us by speaking to us or by manipulating our circumstances, let us rejoice in our position in Christ, and allow the doctrines of grace to strengthen us by the Word of God "...which effectually worketh also in you that believe".

How To Know The Will of God

PASTOR ALEX KURZ

One of the more commonly asked questions among Christians is, "What is God's will for my life?" Every sincere child of God desires to live for and please the Father. Yet, all too often many become frustrated, anxious and at times even fearful because they cannot say with absolute confidence that they are "in the will of God."

How does an infinite God guide finite human beings? Does He even bother? The issues are immediate and clear cut. What should I be doing? Who should I marry? What job should I take? Which church should I attend? Why am I sick? Why do children die? These and many other questions torment many sincere people. The very expression "the will of God" is sorely misused and misunderstood by most in Christendom. It has taken on a "life" all its own! It would seem reasonable to expect God to be involved in such major decisions affecting our lives. But what seems reasonable in "our" mind is contrary to the main theme of the Bible. One verse sums it all up: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). So then, what is the "magic formula?" What is it that God wants from ME and how do I know whether or not I am in *His* will? Simply put, "the will of God" refers to THE PURPOSE AND DESIRE OF GOD. Period! Nothing more and nothing less.

The real issue in knowing "the will of God" is determining how God reveals it. Is God's will KNOWABLE? If not, any search for it would be irrelevant since He would not want us to know! If it is knowable, how is it made known? Notice what our Lord Jesus Christ has to say in this respect in John 7:16,17:

"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."

We will demonstrate that God's bedrock principle in knowing and doing His will is built on DOCTRINE, not on inner impressions, hunches, "still small voices," inner leading, inner burdens or burnings, or any other tricks and gimmicks that Christendom passes off as ways of finding the will of God. All of these approaches require the believer to assess and analyze outward circumstances in their lives and then determine SUBJECTIVELY, based on their own FEELINGS, what to do. This is dangerous ground! Read Isa. 55:8,9 and note Jeremiah 17:9:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

As Christians, we are to walk by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" - 2 Corinthians 5:7. Where does faith come from? Romans 10:17 gives us the answer, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by THE WORD OF GOD." This is what it means to live a life well pleasing to God. It is when we believe God's written word to us (see 1 Thessalonians 2:13) and apply its precepts to the details of life. There is no "mystery" about knowing God's will. There is no such thing as a unique, detailed, pre-determined "life-plan" for every individual's life! The will of God is the same for every believer! What is it? Grow to spiritual maturity as the adult sons God has made us (see Galatians 4:1-7) and conform to the doctrine of God's word. This is the way of wisdom. "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding" (Prov. 1:2).

Since God is silent from heaven today, His will for believers is revealed *exclusively* through His word. THE BIBLE ALONE IS FULLY SUFFICIENT to provide ALL the guidance needed for the believer to know and do God's will.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be PERFECT, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Our responsibility is to grow up in our adult sonship. Note the following verses:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that ye may PROVE what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" - Colossians 3:10 (see also Ephesians 4:23 and following).

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in KNOWLEDGE and in all JUDGEMENT; That ye may APPROVE things that are excellent..." (Philippians 1:9).

Note an interesting parallel with the nation of Israel as found in Romans 2:18, "And KNOWEST his will, and APPROVEST the things that are more excellent, BEING INSTRUCTED out of the law."

God leads by "illumination" - that is, through the intelligent understanding of His word. Study the following passages of scripture in this regard. Psalms 119:105, 130; Job 29:3; Psalms 18:28; 43:3; Proverbs 6:23; Ephesians 5:13; 2 Peter 1:19; 2 Timothy 2:15.

In conclusion, I wish to call your attention to Epaphras. In Colossians 4:12 we read:

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Have you ever considered this prayer of Epaphras to the saints? Have you ever considered the context in which it is found? We learn this in Colossians 1:9,10:

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL in ALL WISDOM and SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the KNOWLEDGE of God."

Where do we find "all wisdom and spiritual understanding?" Continue reading in Colossians 1:25-28!

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in ALL WISDOM; that we may present every man PERFECT in Christ Jesus."

God's Total Forgiveness

The Problem of Unresolved Guilt

by Pastor Ted Fellows

Guilt is that moral sense of blameworthiness that we all feel when we know that we have done wrong. Guilt produces feelings of shame, rejection, unworthiness, and low self-esteem. We deal with feelings of guilt with our fellow man, but we also have the problem of our guilt

before God. The Bible states man's universal problem of guilt before his Creator in Romans 3:19,

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD may become guilty before God."

How can we resolve our problem of guilt before a holy and righteous God? How do we gain the total forgiveness of God?

A Faulty Answer!

Some feel that confession of our sins is the answer. Many either "go to confession" periodically, or "go through a confession process" at the end of the day, in an attempt to wipe the slate clean before God, only to have the slate get dirty again and again - thus creating a cycle of guilt, confession, and then forgiveness, which is repeated over and over again. This doesn't really solve the problem of guilt, but just makes them feel better for a short time.

This is a very discouraging process, for because of its repetition, it actually increases our awareness of our failures and shortcomings! It is like putting a large pot under a hole of a leaky roof. As long as we keep changing the pot when it fills up, we feel a little better, but we haven't solved anything, and our repeated action makes us constantly aware of the problem.

What we wind up doing is putting ourselves in bondage to a leaky roof! So it is with the confession process. As long as we keep confessing our sins, we feel a little better, but have not really solved our problem of sin and guilt! We are actually increasing our bondage to our sins! We would not accept a carpenter bringing us a larger pot to fix our leaky roof, and we should not accept a temporary solution to our sin problem, that is not really a solution at all! Yet this is exactly what we do when we believe we must keep our sins confessed before God to gain His forgiveness!

It should be noted that at one time in the Bible, when God was dealing with the nation of Israel under the law of Moses, He did require the confession of sins. The Levitical priest served as an intercessor between the individual and God. But the law was to be a schoolmaster to point them to Christ! The law of Moses was given, not as a means for salvation and forgiveness, but rather to bring them to a clear realization of their sin and guilt! That is why, after pointing out in Romans 3:19 that all the world is guilty before God, we read in Romans 3:20,

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight, FOR BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN."

This confession process is actually a form of legalism, that, rather than solving the problem of sin and guilt, actually puts us in greater bondage to it! When we read in I John 1:9 that,

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness," we are reading a passage that is from the pen of the apostle John, one of the 12 apostles to the nation of Israel. In their program, Israel had a responsibility to confess their sins

in order to be restored to a favored position with God! This was true on a personal level (see Leviticus 5:5,6), and on a national level as well (see also Leviticus 26:40-42).

Today, when we go back to the principle of, "if we confess, then God will forgive," we are going back to a system that was never intended to relieve guilt, but rather expose it! We are also just going to increase our awareness of our guilt, and not really do anything to relieve it! Should God forgive us just because we ask Him to, especially when He knows we will just do it again? God cannot just let us off the hook. His righteousness won't allow it!

The Answer is in God's Total Provision!

The answer to the problem of our guilt before God is found only in the total provision that God Himself has already provided! Sin can't be overlooked, it must be paid for! The Mosaic law and its priesthood pointed toward a one-time, all sufficient sacrifice that would completely and totally satisfy the justice of God! That sacrifice was offered on a hill outside Jerusalem called Calvary, in the person of Jesus Christ! God offers us total forgiveness for every sin, past, present, and future, when we place our faith, not in the confession of our sins, but in the one-time payment for them on the cross of Jesus Christ!

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (a fully satisfying sacrifice!), THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past..." (Romans 3:25).

"In whom we have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

"...having forgiven you ALL (past, present, and future) trespasses" (Colossians 2:13).

God has replaced the confession process and its short-term results with the riches of His grace in Jesus Christ! God's total forgiveness is available to you by simply making that personal individual decision to trust in the finished work of Christ! It is that simple!

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Trust Christ today and receive God's total, one-time remedy for all your sin and guilt before Him!

If you are saved, you don't have to confess your sins to keep the slate clean and regain God's forgiveness. You already have it, fully and totally (Ephesians 1:7)! Rather than pray to confess your sins, acknowledge them and thank Him for the total forgiveness He has already granted you in Christ! Then let His total and complete forgiveness free you from your guilt and motivate you to faithfully serve Him!

PART 4

Questions to consider and the plan of salvation made simple

Our Beliefs:

1. We believe that the entire Bible is inspired of God, is without error and is of plenary authority (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1 :21). we believe that the Bible has been preserved and exists today for English speaking people in the Authorized Version, commonly called the King James Bible (2 Tim. 3:15,16; Ps. 12:6,7; 119:89; Mat. 5:18).

2. We believe in one God; eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Mat.28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 John 5:7).

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man (Lk. 1:35; Rom. 1:3,4; Phil. 2:6-9).

4. We believe that man is saved by grace through faith. Man is depraved, utterly sinful and his efforts, regardless of how well intended, cannot earn salvation. Salvation is a free gift made available by the complete payment for sin through Christ's death on the cross and our personal faith in this fact (Rom. 3:9-12; 3; 24-28; 4:1-8; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; 15:3,4; Eph. 2:8,9).

5. We believe in the eternal security of the believer (Rom. 5:1, 2: 8:29-34; 8:38, 39; Eph. 1:13, 14; Phil. 1:6) and the eternal damnation of the lost (Rom. 2:1-11; Eph. 5:6; 2Thes. 1:7-9; Mat. 25:41; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:28).

6. We believe that the church of this dispensation is the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23; 3:1-6) which is to be distinguished from the prophesied, earthly kingdom of Christ. The Body of Christ had its historical beginning with the salvation and commissioning of the Apostle Paul (1 Tim. 1:15,10; Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1 :25,26).

7. We believe the mission and commission of the Body of Christ is to proclaim the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:14-21) and to preach Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:8-9). The "gospel of the grace of God" is referred to as "my gospel" by the Apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 2:16; 16:25). It is this gospel with which we are entrusted today (1 Thes. 2:4).

we acknowledge that the above articles of faith do not exhaust the content of our faith which is the entire Word of God. However, we believe this list distinguishes some basic truths which are commonly disregarded today.

Ask Yourself These Questions

Baptism (Infant or Believers)

Trusting in the Word of God and desiring to live by its doctrine is an important decision in one's life, but doctrinal understanding comes through study, and God in His Word has told us how to study (II Tim 2:15 - KJV). We are to "rightly divide the word of truth." You cannot just open the Bible anywhere you want and apply the doctrine to your life without understanding the context. For example: God told Noah to build an ark. Does that mean you should go out and build one too?

Another example would be infant baptism. Water baptism, in the Bible, is consistently associated with repentance and faith regarding the nation Israel. Can infants either repent or believe? There is not one verse of scripture that teaches infant baptism. How then has this so-called "ordinance" become one of the central doctrines of some of the so-called "greatest denominations?" Can those who teach and practice this rite escape our Lord's reproof for "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mt. 15:9)?

Many others, who always mistakenly associate baptism with water insist on others doing this rite after trusting the Lord as their saviour because of Rom. 6:4: "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death ...," Take note, there is no water in this passage - in the English, Greek, or anywhere else. Do you know of any passage of scripture that shows that water baptism means burial? Obviously, baptism is not always associated with water. There is baptism with the Holy Ghost and baptism with fire (Mt. 3: 11). There is also baptism by one Spirit into one body (I Cor. 12:13). Do you see any water in these baptisms? Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." Does this water baptism teach burial? when peter, at Pentecost, said, "Repent, and be baptized ... for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), did he mean ..repent and be buried" or "repent and be cleansed?"

The word "baptism" means to place into, or on, for the purpose of identification. Peter, in Acts 2:38, was saying to the nation Israel, change your mind about Jesus and believe He is your prophesied Messiah, then get water baptized (a Jewish ceremonial cleansing) to show your faith and identify yourself with the believing flock of Israel (Lk. 12:32).

Today, in the dispensation of grace, God has given us some different instructions. The moment you are saved (by faith in the shed blood of the cross - Rom. 3:25), you are "crucified with Christ" and "raised to walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6). How can a pastor bury a believer in a baptismal rite as he is already risen again with Christ? Doesn't this "tradition" violate common sense? Read Mark 7:1-8, to see what Jesus Christ thought about man's traditions.

Some teach that water baptism is performed "as a witness to the world." Is there any verse that says this? If it is witnessing, why is it done only once and why is it inside the church building or among believers only?

Others who get water baptized say they are following Jesus Christ's example. During the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, He was under the law of Moses and He came to fulfill that law for Israel

(Mt. 5:17, 10:5-7, 15:24). Today, are we under law or grace? Read Rom. 6:14 & 11:6. John water baptized Jesus Christ to manifest Him to the nation Israel (Jn. 1:31). But did they, as a nation, believe (Jn. 1:11; Acts 7:51-53)? Are you Christ or part of the nation Israel? Jesus Christ was identified as the Lamb of God ready to be sacrificed. Are you a sacrificial lamb?

My point in saying this is to show you that Jesus Christ is our Saviour, but Paul is our apostle and pattern (Rom. 11: 13; 1 Tim. 1: 15, 16). Instructions on getting saved changed with the raising up of this "new apostle" (Rom. 4:4,5). Jesus Christ was sinless. Paul was a sinner saved by grace, just like you and me! The Lord's perfect, sinless life only shows up our imperfections. His life condemns us! It is His death that saves us !

Today, in the dispensation of grace, getting water baptized is meaningless (1Cor. 1:17). Why? Because by rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), you see that it has been replaced by a spiritual baptism (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6), just like physical circumcision for Israel is replaced today by a spiritual circumcision (Col. 2:11). Paul now tells us (Jew and Gentile - Rom. 2:11) that we are "saved" through faith in Christ's shed blood (Rom. 3:25), we are justified by His blood (Rom. 5:11), and we are "redeemed" through His blood (Eph. 1:7). You will not see this message anywhere in the gospels or early Acts - rather - just faith in His "name."

The preaching of Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry was to the nation Israel (Mt. 15:24; Rom. 15:8). Today, we are reconciled to God by the cross, by one baptism, by one Spirit, and by one faith (Eph. 4:4-6). There is no human merit involved and no other baptism has any legitimate place in this dispensation.

ARE WE CARRYING ON THE GREAT COMMISSION ?

The so-called "great commission" was given to eleven apostles (later twelve). If you believe that salvation is through faith alone in the crosswork of Jesus Christ, apart from any works, read Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ..." Water baptism is a work. Grace (God's riches at Christ's expense) is simply trusting in what Jesus Christ did for you. They are mutually exclusive - Rom. 11:6, "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Because many people don't understand that Paul, our apostle (Rom. 11:13; I Cor. 11:1; I Tim. 1:16), received multiple revelations from the ascended Lord (II Cor. 12:1-7), and was given a different commission with further directives from the Lord that added to the existing Biblical inspiration (I Cor. 15:8; II Cor. 12:11; Gal.2:6-9), which by the way, completed our canon of scripture (Col. 1:25), they change Mark 16:16 to say, "He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized." Acts 2:38 and Mk. 1:4 clearly teach repentance and water baptism for the remission of sins, not because of the remission of sins. Paul baptized a few people in the Acts time period, but it was clearly not a godly directive: "For Christ sent me not to baptize ..." (I Cor.1:17). He had his reasons (I Cor. 9:19-22). Water baptism was essential for salvation in time past. It was a godly directive. Today, it is not necessary or required. This also is a godly directive. This is a

dispensational change. While we know that God does not change in His essence, character, and integrity, His dealings with man have. That is why we do not build arks in our backyards. Adding water baptism to today's salvation message is wrong.

According to Mk.16:15- 18, miraculous signs were the evidence of salvation. Be honest with yourself. Has this happened to you or to everybody that is water baptized? Clearly a change in God's dealing with mankind has taken place. Those who teach water baptism today are contradicting verses such as Rom.3:21-28,4:5; Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5; etc.

II Cor. 5:14-21 shows that the risen, glorified Lord sent Paul forth with a new and greater commission. Compare Jn. 13:20 with Gal. 1:11,12,2:2,7. Now read Rom. 16:25, 26; Eph. 3:1-9; Col . 1:21-29; II Tim. 1:9-11; and Tit. 1:3. According to this commission, the remission of sins is not by water but [by blood](#). Faith in the shed blood of the cross is seen for the first time with the raising up of that new apostle, Paul (Acts 9:15; Rom. 3:25). II Cor. 5:16, Eph. 2:11-18, shows that there is no spiritual distinction between Jew and Gentile today (Gal. 3:28). If water baptism is necessary today, why was Paul not commanded to do so in his ministry? Paul shows us that there is one baptism today (Eph. 4:5), the baptism by which the Holy Spirit unites all believers today into "one body" (I Cor. 12:13). Since God's Word declares that for all members of the church, the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:14; Eph. 1:22,23), there is but [ONE](#) baptism, do we not disobey and dishonor Him if we add another? By the same reasoning and according to the verses, would it not be wrong today to offer blood sacrifices once required for the remission of sins?

Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ died for a reason (Phil.2:8), fulfilling the will of His Father at Calvary (Lk. 12:50; Jn.3:16; Rom. 6:3), taking upon Himself all the shame, disgrace, and penalty for our sins and sin nature- thus removing the fear of the bondage of sin through our own death (Heb. 2:14,15). We become one with Jesus Christ as we are baptized (by the Holy Spirit) into His death by faith (Rom. 6:3 - dry, no water, by faith alone).

If we are still under the " great commission," we have to observe all things Jesus commanded and that means we have to observe the law of Moses (Matt 5:19). It is true the law was nailed to the cross but this was only revealed "in due time" through Paul. He declared this years after Pentecost: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested ..." (Rom 3:21). "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law" (Gal 3:13). "But now we are delivered from the law" (Rom 7:6). Also read Gal 3:24,25; Rom 6:14; Gal 5:1. Did Peter preach anything like this at Pentecost? Surely there is a dispensational change here. Acts 2-7 is a 1 year extension of time for the nation of Israel to change their mind and believe Jesus Christ was their Messiah (Lk. 13:6-9, Acts 3: 12-26). Israel is God's vineyard (Isa.5:7) and the fig tree represents the religious life of Israel. They were still under the law at this time.

Under the "great commission," salvation was to go to all nations through Israel according to prophecy and covenant. But under Paul's grace commission (and ours) we know no man after the flesh (2 cor 5: 16-21). Salvation now goes to all nations apart from Israel, according to the mystery. According to covenant and prophecy salvation was to go to all nations through the rise of Israel (Gen 22:17, 17; Isa 60:1-3). But now by God's grace, thru the revelation of the mystery,

salvation goes to all nations through the fall of Israel (Rom 11:11,12,15). The covenant promise was offered to Israel by Peter (Acts 3:19-26). But when this was rejected, God revealed the mystery of His eternal purpose to Paul and sent him forth to offer to His enemies, reconciliation by grace through faith alone. This message is the gospel according to the "mystery". Peter preached an entirely different message, a message that was according to "prophecy" (Acts 3:21).

WHO WENT TO ALL NATIONS? PAUL OR THE TWELVE?

The Twelve Apostles were to go to all nations according to the so-called great commission. As far as the scripture is concerned they did not go. Later, the Gentile ministry was handed over to Paul. (Gal. 2:7 -9). Why? Does this mean anything? Paul declared: "...I am the apostle of the Gentiles. I magnify mine office" (Rom. 11:13). He magnified his office, not himself. This is the body of information he received from the Lord (Gal. 1:11,12). This clearly demonstrates a change in dispensations, otherwise Paul was acting like a fool by calling himself "the apostle of the Gentiles." Moses was God's steward for the nation Israel. Read Jn. 5:46,47 to see what Jesus Christ said about him.

Why Are There So Many Churches?

Secular education does not qualify one to understand the scriptures. The natural (unsaved) man cannot understand the words of God because they are "spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Jesus says in Lk. 16:15, "...ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Think about this. what do men esteem? They esteem their own wisdom and not God's: "... the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise ...," (I Cor. 1:27,25; Acts 4:13; Rom. 1:21, 22). Men esteem money: "For the love of money is the root of all evil ..." (I Tim. 6:10). "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:8). Men esteem religion. Most people associate the word "religion" with the Word of God, when in reality "religion" is a sprinkling of God's word mixed in with the commandments, doctrines, and traditions of men (Mk. 7:7,13).

Paul, God's chosen representative today for both Jew and Gentile (Acts 9:15; Rom. 11:11-14), was thrown into jail by trained theologians. Trained theologians told Jesus Christ He was demon possessed and sent Him to the cross. Trained theologians led the "church" into the dark ages and forbid scripture possession and reading by the "common folk," claiming that God called them into their vocation, thereby justifying anything they said or thought. If God called them, why couldn't they agree with each other? Why is the Church today so confused and divided, especially with regard to water baptism? Why are there so many denominations? Denominationalism is a sin of the spirit. The only "religion" God ever created was with the nation of Israel. Everything else is some type of outgrowth from that. You might be saying, "What about Christianity?" Here again, try to think a little deeper than what you have been taught. Christianity

is not a religion or a denomination. Christianity is a personal relationship with God Almighty through His written Word. We have a completed canon of scripture (Col. 1:25). Now, He says to grow in knowledge of Him by the renewing of your mind through the only witness He has left us until His return, The Bible (Rom. 12:12; Phil. 1:9,10; Col. 1:9,10; etc.).

Paul tells Timothy in II Tim. 4:4, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Today's gospel is the "gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), not the "gospel of the kingdom" preached to

Israel in Matthew through John and early Acts. It is interesting to note that the word "grace" is never used in Matthew or Mark; it is used once in Luke, three times in John and once in Acts 4. Then Paul uses the word "grace"

98 times in his epistles. Has something changed here or is this just imaginary? If more "religions" paid attention to the study of God's Word, they too would see a significant and blatant change in the gospel Paul was given with regard to how God is relating to man today. We all get to make our choice, though. I hope you make the right one and choose to believe the written Word of God.

The Only True Church Today

According to I Cor. 3:10, Paul is the "wise master builder" of today's church, the mystery church, which is Christ's Body (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18,24). Jesus Christ is the head and the foundation, of course, and it is made up of

Jews and Gentiles on an equal basis. Paul was the first member (I Tim. 1: 16). Any and all other churches are false. Those who go back to the kingdom church (based on Peter's confession of faith that Jesus Christ was Israel's Messiah - Mt. 16: 18) are false brethren, deceptive, misguided, and willfully ignorant of God's plan of salvation for today. They are simply not believing the written Word. During the "kingdom at hand" time period, Jesus Christ was dealing exclusively with Israel, Gentiles were without God (Eph. 2:11-18), and Israel was still under the law. If these brethren are truly saved, their salvation is secured (based on I Cor. 3:15), but their reward will be zero. They are like the Galatians - who had the truth of God's grace - but then went back under the law (Gal. 3:7-3,4:19). Their time and money are wasted because they preach a leavened gospel (Gal. 1:8, 9, 5:9). Praying the Lord's prayer today (for the kingdom to come), again, is ignorance because our hope and promise is to go [up](#) to the [heavenly kingdom](#) (II Tim. 4: 18), our eternal destination (II Cor. 5:1). Miracles, physical healings, tongues, prophesying, etc. all belong to the kingdom gospel, which has now been replaced by the grace gospel. God is not physically intervening today. In fact, throughout the whole Bible, God only "physically" intervened with certain people of His choice, at certain times, and for specific reasons to accomplish His purpose and goals. Never could just anyone call upon the name of the Lord to grant them a miracle. Yet, this is the mindset of many misguided Christians today. This is wishful thinking and totally out of line with God's Word.

Today we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and God's grace, which God said was sufficient for Paul (II Cor. 12:7-9). As he is our apostle, it is sufficient for us also. Walking by faith alone and not by sign (II Cor. 5:7), is a **HIGHER GROUND** of faith Paul learned after the miracles and signs stopped (at the close of the Acts period). As we rely exclusively on His word and grow in our knowledge of it, we press toward that **PERFECT MAN** Paul talks about: **SPIRITUAL**

MATURITY. Those brethren who want to rely on emotionalism and what they perceive God is physically doing are spiritual babies. This is why Paul could only preach the cross and Christ crucified (I cor. 1:18, 23) to the carnal Corinthian church. They were babies (I cor. 3: 1) and could not handle or understand higher mystery truth found in Ephesians and following.

Slaying in the spirit, holy laughing, and holy vomiting, etc. are deceptive and demonic - satanic devices to keep your focus off of God's Word. Hearing voices, seeing visions, etc. are things you yourself conjure up. They are not from God (Isa. 55:8, 9; Col. 2:18).

People have been deceived and they do not realize it. Please try to understand what I am trying to say. All I am doing is pointing you to God's Word. I am not asking you to believe anything I have said, rather, what you can read for yourself. The answer is to study the word of truth, rightly divided, and come out of the confusion you are in. **REMEMBER**, the issue with God is the words written on a page in a Book (Mt.22:31).

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

IS THE BODY OF CHRIST ALSO HIS BRIDE?

Many Christians believe that the Body of Christ is the Bride. They often use 2 Cor 11:2, "*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*" Paul is not saying that the Body of Christ is His bride. Rather he is encouraging them to be holy as a virgin bride. Let us look at these words: husband, virgin, espoused and present.

Husband: Husband is a "man" - masculine gender. The body of Christ is referred to as a man, in Eph 2: 15 "...for to make in Himself of twain one new MAN, so making peace". The masculine gender is used for both the Body of Christ, and for Christ Himself. The Body of Christ cannot be a Bride as there is no masculine bride in the Bible.

virgin: The word virgin is used for men and women in the bible. The feminine use is found in Matt 1:23 speaking of Mary as a virgin. The masculine use is found in Rev 14:4 - "These are they (the 144,000) which were not defiled with women: for they are VIRGINS..." Here 144,000 men which are called "virgins."

Espoused: This word means to join, fit together, to give one in marriage (marriage means long lasting relation, etc. There is no future joining together for the Body of Christ as it is already joined to Christ by the Holy spirit. Here Paul gets the credit because he preached the gospel of grace to them, so that in a human way he joined them to the Lord.

Present: Paul used this word many times. For example, Eph 5:27 says, "That He might RESENT it to Himself a glorious church.." There is going to be a presentation ceremony, NOT A MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

In fact, the New Testament does speak of a 'bride' and 'bridegroom'. This truth is found only in that part of the Bible that is related to the Nation of Israel - the Old Testament, the 4 Gospels, and the book of Hebrews through

Revelation. The conclusion is that the 'bride' and the 'bridegroom' are part of Judaism and not the church, the body of Christ. After Israel is purged in the tribulation, the saved remnant will be married back to their land (Rev. 19:7, 8; 21:2, 9, 10, 12) and Israel will once again be the nation God originally purposed and created them to be ((Ex. 19:5, 6; Isa. 43:15, 21; I Pet.2:9-12; Zech. 8:23)

Why Do You Think You Will Come Back to Earth After the Rapture?

Is there any verse in the Bible that says that members of the church, the body of Christ, will return to earth after the "rapture" (I Thes. 4:14-18)? Matt. 25:31 says the Son of man shall come with all the holy angels. Jude 14 says Enoch prophesied that the Lord will come with ten thousands of His saints. These "saints" Enoch mentioned are the holy angels as seen in Rev. 12:7-9 and Matt. 25:31. The context in these books deals with the nation of Israel. To understand this better, scripture shows that there will be two kingdoms: one heavenly and one earthly (Col. 1:16,20). The only time the heavenly kingdom is mentioned in the Bible is through the apostle Paul. This is part of the revelation of the mystery given to Paul from the Lord (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:1-5). Paul says that our vile body will be changed "that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). He says "that we shall judge angels" (I Cor. 6:3). He says that all our blessings are heavenly (Eph. 1:3) and that we have a home "eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1). "Eternal" means just what it says: forever, perpetual. Not only is Satan "prince of this world" (Jn. 12:31), but also "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Two realms of activity (Eph. 6:12). Again, this is the subject of the revelation of the mystery, where God is making "new creatures" capable of living and reigning in that spiritual realm (I Cor. 15:44-54).

Prophecy, on the other hand, which is different from Paul's mystery revelation, shows that those who were saved in time past (before this "but now" dispensation - Rom. 3:21) and those who endure through the tribulation period (the last seven years of Israel's prophesied purging and judgment, Dan. 9: 16-27, future from the rapture) without getting the mark of the beast, will be resurrected into a literal, physical, visible, earthly, Davidic kingdom (Rev. 20:4-6). As I mentioned, this is for the nation Israel, who will once again be the "head of the nations" (Rom. 11:26,27; Heb. 8:8-13; Zech. 8:22,23, 14:12-21), as prophesied and promised by God Almighty. Can Gentiles get saved in this time period? Yes, they can - depending on their treatment of the saved "remnant" of Israel, per the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12: 1- 3; Zech. 8:23, 14:16-19; Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 14:6,7).

This clear distinction between prophecy and the mystery, with its different destinations, different doctrine, different focus, and different gospel, all from a different apostle, can be seen again by comparing I Thes. 4:16 with Mt.24:31. In the mystery program (present time period) the Lord comes personally for us to meet us in the air. This is different from the prophetic program, where the Lord sends His angels to gather His elect. Then He will come back to the earth as prophesied (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; Rev.19:11ff).

WHERE WOULD YOU GO IF YOU DIED THIS MINUTE?

Can any one be certain of going to heaven when they die ? Yes, we can know where we are going when we die. It is all based on God's Word, the Bible. If you don't believe this book, you go to hell. If you believe this book and do not choose to go to heaven, you still go to eternal hell. So it all depends on your decision. Salvation is the simple and free gift of God. You don't have to do anything to earn that eternal gift. It is your inner decision to receive this free gift by faith. The first qualification is that you have to be a sinner (which means you are not perfect). All are sinners (Rom 3:23). So you and I are qualified. Because we have come short of the glory of God we cannot stand before God. The first man, Adam, lost his glory because of trespassing against God's law. The result is that he died (spiritually and physically). Because we are all Adam's children, we are imperfect, born with a sin nature. That is why we cannot stand before God.

Sin must be paid for . "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23). Jesus Christ met all the requirements and paid the sin debt on the cross for all human beings. By one man (Adam) death entered into this world and by one man payment was made. 1 Cor. 15:3,4 says "...Christ died for our sins according to the scripture; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scripture." It says Jesus died for our sin. So, first we have to understand that we are not perfect, we are sinners. Second, we have to believe that Christ died for us to pay the penalty for all our sin (Rom. 4:25). Jesus Christ had no sins of His own to pay for (Heb. 4:15), but his death satisfied our sin debt (Rom.3:25). To receive salvation, all you have to do is to believe. If you were not saved, but now believe these words, you have eternal life. your eternal death is passed away. Nothing can take away your eternal life (Tit. 12). Thank Jesus Christ for this. Now that we are saved by the cross-work, we can overcome our sin nature by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6).

salvation has different contents in different dispensations, but it has always been by faith in whatever God was telling man to do at that time. The epistles of Paul are a distinct and separate revelation to the body of Christ for the age of Grace; The Lord taught us that the ministry of the twelve apostles was based on prophecy, the promises of God to Israel. The ministry of the apostle Paul is based on the new revelation which the Lord gave Paul after Israel was blinded (Rom. 11:25). The apostle Peter's message in Acts 2, for example, was based on all that had been revealed to the Covenant people by the prophets since the world began (Acts 3:12-26). On the other hand, the mystery revealed through paul was "kept secret since the world began" (Eph 1:4; 3:1-9; Rom. 16:25).

If YOU do not know Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior - PLEASE CONSIDER:

1. **YOUR PREDICAMENT** = Alienation / Separation (Eph. 2:12)

* You are not only a lost sinner, but you will have to pay and suffer for your sins through eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 21:8). "The wages of sin is DEATH, but the GIFT of GOD is ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD" (Rom. 6:23).

2. **GOD'S ONLY PROVISION** = The Cross of Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-21)

* "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

3. **YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE** = Faith In Christ Alone (Rom.3:21-26)

* "For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be Saved. (Acts 16:31)

4. **OUR PLEADING** - Invitation (2 Cor. 5:20)

* Your Sin will not keep you out of Heaven, for Christ died for your sins.

* Your good works will not get you into Heaven, for "there is none good, no not one" (Rom.3:10-12)

* Your *unbelief wilt keep you out of heaven*, so we plead with you to believe what God has done. Trust the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive the free gift of eternal life....right this very moment!

If you decided to trust Christ or if we can be of further help, please contact us at any time. we are anxious to share more with you from God's Word.

For more information:

The purpose of this book is to "...make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery " (Eph 3:9). If you find this book instructive and a source of blessing, we desire to provide you with sound Bible study materials. It is through grace School of the Bible (three year dispensational Bible course on video). The lessons are taught in accordance with "...the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25).

We have a desire to minister the gospel of grace in all regions of India. If you desire to support, please do so through [Grace India Ministry \(C/o Johny Varghese\)](#). The address is: [9834 Maynard Terrace, Niles, IL 60714](#). Phone number: [847-965-6067](#). Email: johnyvarghese@hotmail.com.

Or

Grace School of the Bible 630-529-0520
P.O. Box 97, Bloomingdale, IL 60108
www.GraceImpact.org

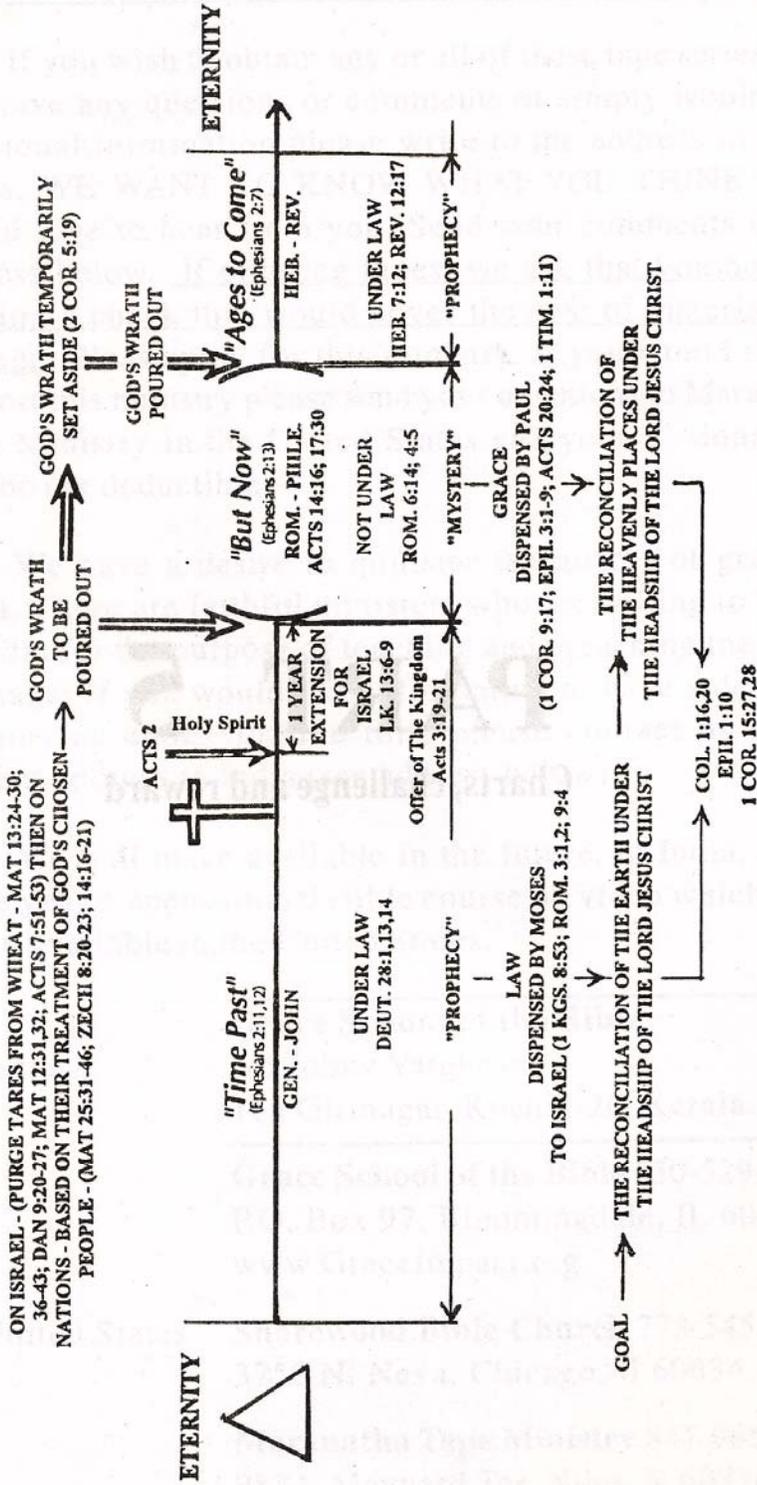
Shorewood Bible Church 77 3-545-437 0
3750 N. Neva, Chicago, Il 60634.

PART 5

Charts, challenge and reward

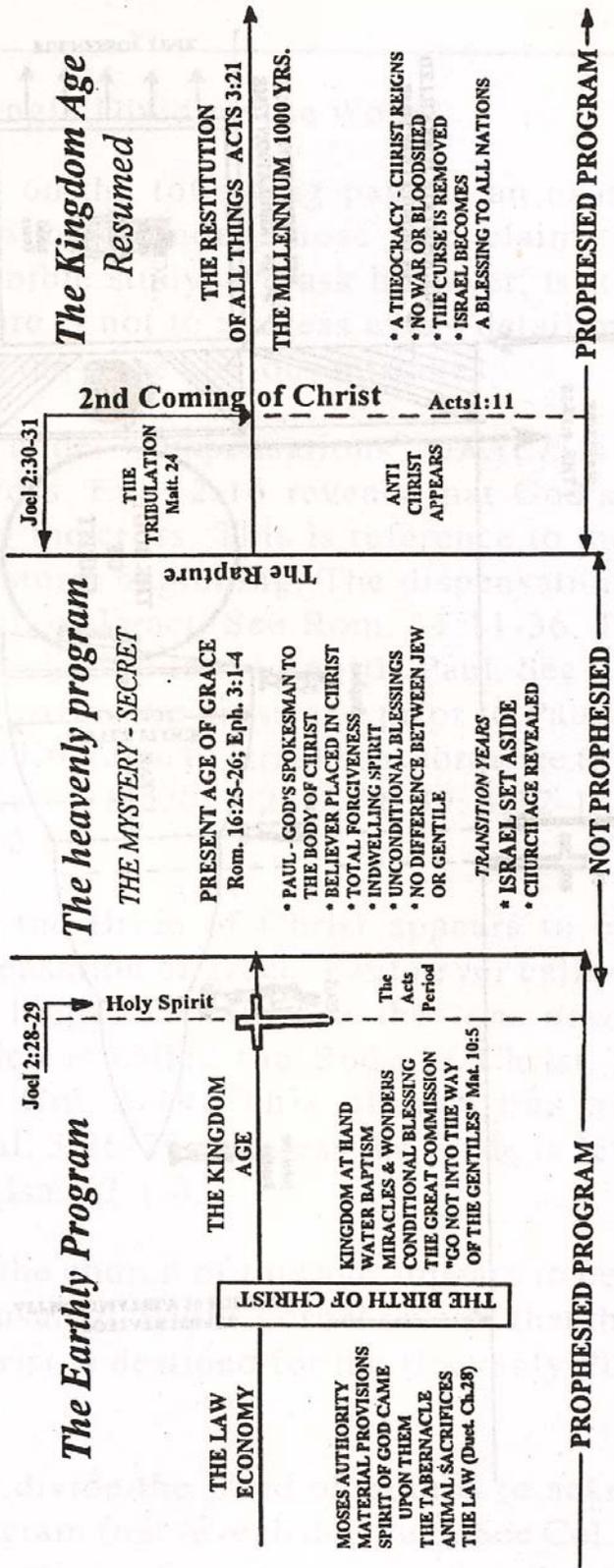
"Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

(II Timothy 2:15)



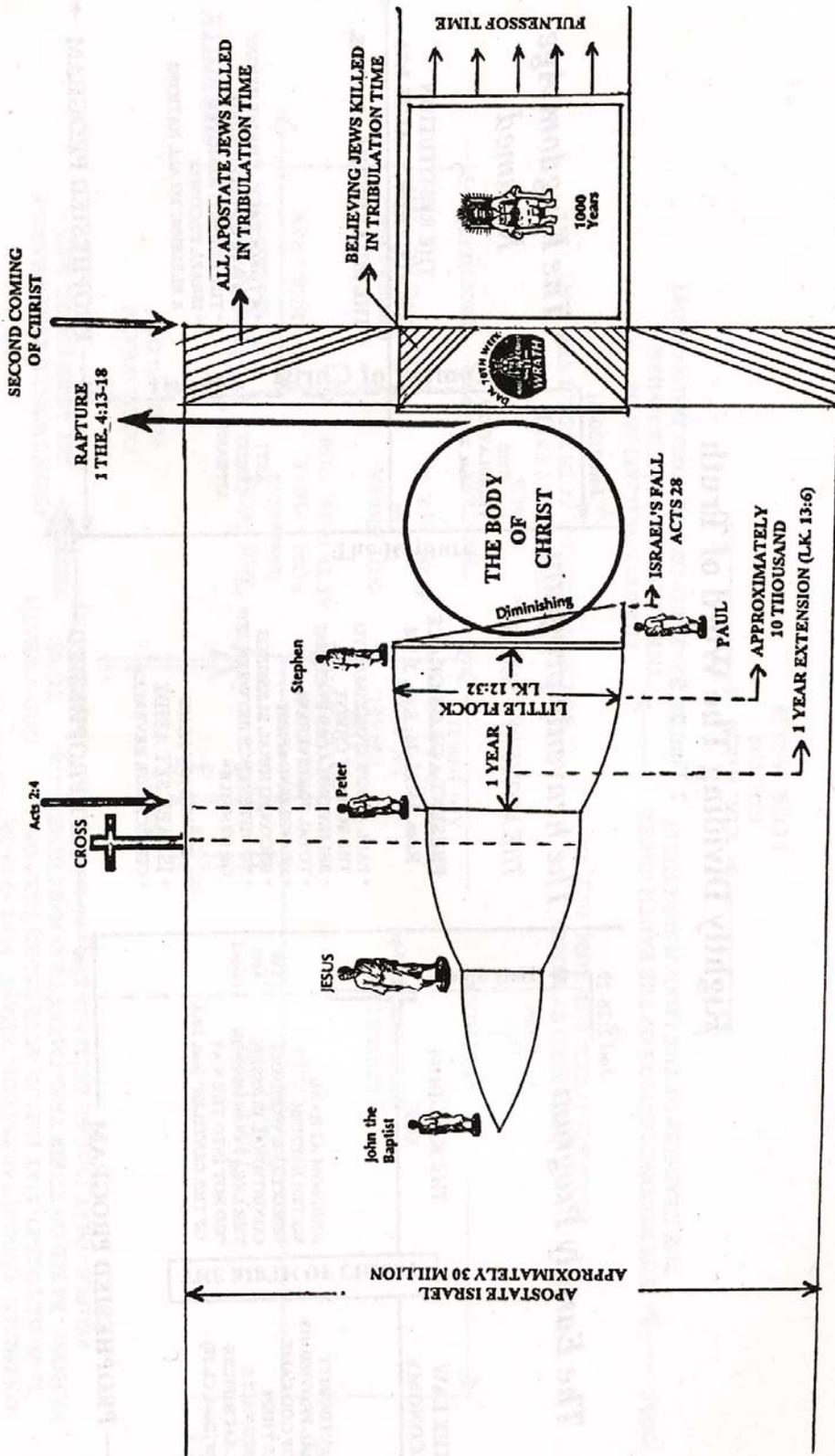
Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth

2 Tim. 2:15



"Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

(II Timothy 2:15)



Rightly or Wrongly Dividing the Word?

The chart on the following page is an example of a traditional view held among those who claim to hold to dispensational bible study. We ask however, is it correct ? Our purpose here is not to address every detail but only to present three of the more obvious mistakes.

1. Note that under "Dispensations" GRACE is shown to begin 4! the cross. Eph. 2:16 reveals that God's program today occurs by the cross. This is reference to the basis of grace not its historic beginning. The dispensation of grace begins at the fall of Israel. See Rom. 11:11-36. This grace program is first revealed to the apostle Paul. See Eph 3:1-10 & Col. 1:25-29. After the cross and prior to Paul, God was still offering the Kingdom to Israel in accordance to prophetic scripture. See Acts 2 : 16 -20 ; 2 :22; 2:36, 39 ; 3:1 2-15 ; 3:25, 26; 4:8; 5:30-35;7:2-53.

2. Note that the Bride of Christ appears to be formed during the dispensation of grace. Paul never calls the saints of this age the Bride, but rather as the "one new Man" in Eph. 2:15, which is called the Body of Christ. See Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4; Col 2:19. This church has no ethnic distinctions, Gal. 3:26-29, whereas the Bride is Jewish. See Rev 21:9-12 & Isa. 62:1-4.

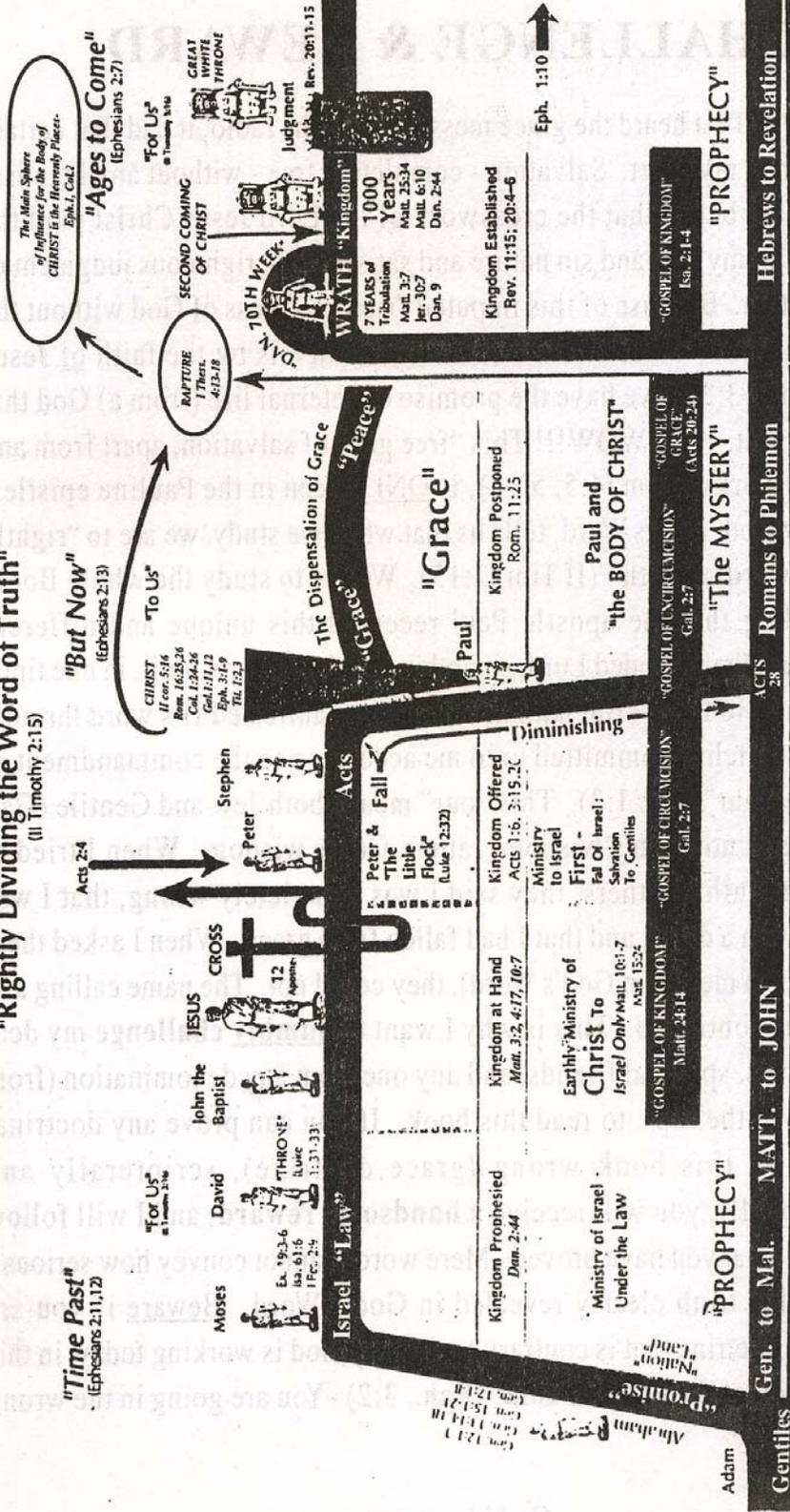
3. Note that the church of this age appears to be destined for the New Jerusalem. Paul's gospel reveals that the Church the Body of Christ is destined for the Heavenly places. See Eph 1:3:2:6

To rightly divide the word of truth is to acknowledge the Mystery program first revealed to Paul. See Col. 2:2. This present dispensation of grace supersedes the prophetic program until the rapture of the Church the Body of Christ.



"Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

(II Timothy 2:15)



Gen. to Mal. MAIT. to JOHN

(Romans 15:8)

Matt. KING
Mark - SERVANT
Luke - MAN
John - GOD

ACTS 28

(Romans 11:13)

Cross Church Coming Congregation
ROMANS EPHESIANS TIMOTHY
COR PHILIPPIANS TITUS
GALATIANS COLOSSIANS PHILEMON
(FAITH) (LOVE) (HOPE) (FELLOWSHIP)

Hebrews to Revelation

(Romans 11:25-29)

CHALLENGE & REWARD

When I first heard the grace message over the radio, it had that certain ring of truth in my heart. Salvation - completely free - without any legalism - based on my belief that the cross-work of the Lord Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all my sins and sin nature and satisfied the righteous judgment of God the Father. Because of this imputed "righteousness of God without the law" (Rom. 3:21, 2 Cor. 5:19, Col. 2:13) "which is by the faith of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 3:22), we have the promise of "eternal life (from a) God that cannot lie" (Tit. 1:2). WOW!!! This "free gift" of salvation, apart from any of our own works (Rom. 4:5, 5:15), is ONLY seen in the Pauline epistles. This is why God, in His Word, tells us that when we study, we are to "rightly divide the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). We are to study the whole Book, understanding that the apostle Paul received this unique and different message from the ascended Lord, something He kept secret until, in due time, He revealed it to Paul. "But hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour" (Tit. 1:3). This "our" means both Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:28). This is not man's wisdom, rather, God's wisdom. When I tried to present this truth to others, they said I was completely wrong, that I was possessed with a devil, and that I had fallen from grace. When I asked them to prove this to me (from God's Word), they could not. The name calling and labeling has continued. This is why I want to humbly challenge my dear ones, relatives, spiritual friends, and any one from any denomination (from the bottom to the top), to read this book. If you can prove any doctrinal statement in this book wrong (grace doctrine), scripturally and dispensationally, you will receive **a handsome reward**, and I will follow and trust in what you have proved. Mere words cannot convey how serious I am about this truth clearly revealed in God's Word. Beware if you are following a doctrine that is contrary to the way God is working today, in this "dispensation of the grace of God" (Eph., 3:2) - You are going in the wrong direction.

God bless you.

CAUTION!

Please read this book carefully, if possible, many times because the materials provided will be **HIGHLY** controversial to your traditional beliefs. Check with your Bible (KJV) to see whether these things are according to the scriptures, as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11. People resist the doctrine of grace because it goes against what they have always been taught. Denominational leaders will warn believers not to read this material. Are you going to believe what you have been taught or what you can read for yourself. The word "workman" in 2 Tim. 2:15 means the common laborer / man. You don't need degrees to understand God's word - yet - there are "false apostles," also called "ministers of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:13-15) that will teach you differently. I exhort you and challenge you to read and study the material in this book with regard to your current understanding of God's word - **THE HOLY BIBLE**.
