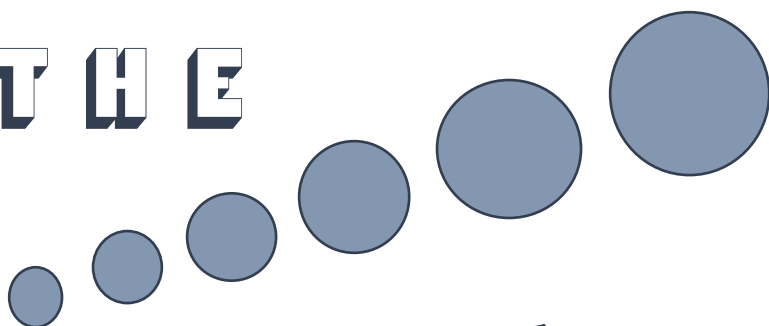


THE



GIFT

OF

SALVATION

*farnsworth*

## Introduction...

### Dedication:

To my God and Savior Jesus Christ, for by Him we have been given the knowledge of salvation to the glory of the Father.

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## Introduction...

**Psalm 50:23 - “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.”**

So, you're in a conversation with someone and they refer to a time when they “got saved”, and it makes you curious. You then go on to ask a few more questions and to clarify what they mean when they say that. If you have been through this experience very often, you have learned to expect that the answers you get at this point in the conversation can vary widely from person to person. Some were baptized back when, some prayed a prayer, some joined a church, some were just driving down the road and “felt God all of a sudden and knew He was real”, some have “always been saved”, some went forward at the age of five and prayed the “sinners prayer”, some took communion in their home with themselves, some gave their heart to Jesus, some asked Jesus to come into their heart, some made Jesus the Lord of their life, and on it goes. While only Our Lord Himself knows those who are truly His children by the adoption of sons through faith, these responses do however underscore an important fact we need to consider. The Truth of salvation.

Most often today in circles of faith the topic of salvation is nearly always discussed in the sense of those who are already “saved” and those who still need to be “saved”. There are others still who believe they can lose their salvation, those who believe they must earn their salvation, those who work to keep their salvation, those who believe they are saved no matter what they do, and those who believe

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they are saved but can't tell you exactly why or what it means.

In the current year of our Lord, 2020, in the good ol' United States of America where I live, there is a seemingly endless multitude of results to be combed through and examined on the topic "What must I do to be saved?". Since the Lord Jesus Christ is not the author of confusion, but of our faith according to the truth of His Word, we need to ask if all these "ways" are of Him? Apparently, for many Christians today, any one of these ways is as good as another, so much so that many now find common ground with anyone with any faith in anything they call God – so long as we are sincere, we may say. After all, our Lord certainly isn't legalistic, so seems to be the popular view.

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches us there is only one way, so we clearly have a problem where things have come off the rails as far as men are concerned. And I also acknowledge that I am but one voice among this multitude who all claim to "use scripture" to show us the way of salvation – which may be the issue. God's word will not be used. It just is. Even so, I feel a duty to be a voice for the gospel in these days in which I live. Days in which deceivers are abounding, deception is abundant, the falling away hastens on, and the confusion of Babylon reigns on the earth. My prayer is that the truth will speak for itself here in these pages and that it may shine so clearly that you cannot but be helped by what you read.

Even those who quote the question from the Philippian jailor to Paul, "What must I do to be saved?", straight out of scripture, seem to miss the point of Paul's response in many cases.

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Many look at the Romans road, as it is called, and lead people down the road to a place where they are to “call upon the Lord” to be saved, which praise God is necessary if they have understood the gospel. This call is often taught as a prayer that we speak at one particular moment in life – that’s right, the “sinner’s prayer”. Is this the way of the Lord? What about asking Jesus into my heart? Is that the aim of the gospel? Will Jesus come into my heart because I asked Him to? How can we make sense of the gospel in a way that gives us scriptural truth of the knowledge of God regarding these things?

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*Will Jesus come into my heart because I asked Him to?*

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In this small booklet, we will attempt to examine some of these modern ideas of salvation in the light of scripture. We will ask some questions intended to provoke ourselves to study the Word of God and to reflect on the subtle differences that creep into our doctrine if we are not diligent. My hope in writing this book is to provide a brief, scripturally sound view of salvation as it is found in the Bible so that you can further study these things for yourself. You would think after this much time has passed, that men would know these things full well by now. After all, we’re getting better, right? Making a lot of progress as far as man can see, right? Actually, as time goes on, we see how easily these things can slip, which is a warning to us in scripture concerning the things of the gospel, our faith, and salvation.

**Hebrews 2:1 - “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”**

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My thinking as I begin to set my hand to this work is that I want to keep the chapters to a minimum, and the words clear and concise. Also, we need a message that comprehends the salvation of men all through scripture – in other words, salvation is not a New Testament doctrine. Salvation is spoken of throughout scripture and we must understand the work of God in saving men from beginning to end. If salvation were by a particular church, how were men saved before that institution existed? If salvation were of a particular religion, how were men to be saved before it came into being? No, the message of salvation must comprehend all ages of men, and as such we should expect to find the truth of these matters in a way that speaks to men of every age since the very beginning.

I pray and hope that there will be helpful thoughts and scriptures shared here that may serve to encourage and help those who seek the Lord in truth and sincerity. I'm not looking for theological arguments, but rather for instructional doctrine for men, and to commit these things to writing for my own daughters and family as well. My desire is that those who believe in Jesus Christ may be better equipped to share the message of the gospel and to declare the truth of salvation more clearly, and that those may learn the truth who do not yet know the things of salvation as they are taught in scripture. This book is not about religion, theology, denomination, dispensation, and is certainly not a dissertation on the academics of soteriology and hermeneutics. It is a message of hope for a world that is in desperate need of the truth of God concerning His work of redemption and salvation of men. As Jesus Himself taught us in His Word:

**Luke 13:2 – 3 – “And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above**

all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

What we want to know here is, how can we know with certainty that we will be partakers of the salvation of which scripture speaks? Is there a knowledge of salvation that is available to us in easy, understandable terms?

**Luke 1:77 - “To give KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION unto his people by the remission of their sins”**

It is important first to lay some important groundwork concerning the gospel. There are many aspects and depths of the gospel that have been written upon extensively by many authors down through time. Our work here is simply to put forth an understanding of the primary components of the gospel as we see it in scripture. It is not a secret to anyone reading this book that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and was raised according to the scriptures. However, what is mysterious to many is how these facts of history apply to us today and why they are meaningful as it pertains to our current topic of salvation. If it were not mysterious, we would not have the diversity of thought upon salvation regarding how men can receive it. The aspects of salvation we will study here are the testimony of Christ to men, the work of Christ in providing the gospel, and lastly how we are made partakers of its’ blessings and promise. These three aspects are of interest to us here as we look to the scriptures to see the truth of God in Christ concerning these things.

As I always say, I would encourage you to finish this book through and gain the full scope of what I am communicating before you yield to the temptation to disagree with something you read. If you get all the way to the end,



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then you can disagree with full assurance if you feel the need to. Some of the thoughts shared here may be new to some and may challenge long-held popular ideas in some circles, but I would encourage you to search the scriptures as Jesus calls us to do. Our eternity depends on these things! If you finish the book and are inclined to dismiss its' aim and author, you are no worse off after all. May the Lord Jesus bless your study in His Word and may all who continue to seek Him in sincerity and truth be satisfied by the wisdom that comes from His hand alone.

## Chapter 1 – The Testimony Christ – 1<sup>st</sup> Principle

There are two verses we need to look at as we begin this chapter to understand how the Lord has chosen to work among men. Let's quickly look at these and then dive in to how we can understand what they teach us.

When we think of the “Word of God”, there are some primary principles we need to understand. If we fail to understand the Word of God, it can quickly be corrupted, mis-used, and improperly applied to our lives. This is not a recent phenomenon but has been around since the beginning when the serpent asked, “yea, hath God said?”. Really, the only hope any of us have is that the Lord Jesus Christ will speak a Word for us by His Spirit to give us understanding.

**Daniel 8:16 – “And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.”**

It is Jesus Christ that can open our eyes to the Truth of His Word in ways that teach and instruct us.

**Psalms 119:18 – “OPEN THOU MINE EYES, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”**

**Luke 24:45 – “Then OPENED HE THEIR UNDERSTANDING, that they might understand the scriptures,”**

And only He has the power to be able to increase our faith by the hearing of His Word.

**Luke 17:5 – “And the apostles said unto the Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH.”**

**Romans 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as GOD HATH DEALT TO EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH.”**

This is that grace that He gives to those that humble themselves in seeking to Him. The fact that He has given us the means to seek Him is a grace all on its own. Grace is evident in every aspect of His workings with man. However, those who stand in pride He has resisted and first requires them to repent and humble themselves to seek Him as a man ought to seek unto His God. He then has promised those who seek Him will find Him - one of the first promises in His Word that must be believed. He is the Just One with the power to do these works in the heart of men who are dead in trespasses and sins. Apart from His work in men, there would be no flesh saved.

**Psalms 103:13 - 14 - “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”**

Yes, even in Paul’s day, there were MANY who corrupted the Word of God and the Truth it holds for men.

**2 Corinthians 2:17 - “For we are not as many, WHICH CORRUPT THE WORD OF GOD: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”**

And so, it is to this day as the author of confusion continues his work as the adversary of God in corrupting God’s Word and confusing the hearts and minds of men. These first two principles we will share are to help cut

## Chapter 1 - The Testimony Christ - 1st Principle

through the noise and confusion. One of them is given to us in the first chapter of John:

**John 1:18 - “No man hath seen God at any time; THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, which is in the bosom of the Father, HE HATH DECLARED HIM.”**

The way God has chosen to communicate to man is by His only begotten Son - Jesus Christ. As John explains in the first chapter of the gospel bearing his name, the Word was eternally existent with God before He came in the person of Jesus Christ being fashioned as a man.

**John 1:1 - 3 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**

Jesus, which means “Jehovah is salvation”, was the name given to the child that was born to Mary of the Holy Ghost. She received this commandment from the angel Gabriel when the announcement of God came to her that He would fulfill His Word to His people through her giving birth to His Son. This principle of scripture helps us to understand that it is Christ that has been speaking to men on the behalf of the Father from the beginning of creation. All the testimony that has been revealed to men, which we now have in our Bibles, came to them by Christ. Let me see if I can pull this together quickly for you without too much lengthy exposition.

In many places in the scriptures we read phrases like “then came the Word of the Lord unto” and we would be given a name of a man that the Word came to. Let’s put just a few of these references from scripture in here for

## Chapter 1 - The Testimony Christ - 1st Principle

clarity and then see what happens when we get to the birth of Christ.

• **Genesis 15:1** - After these things **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came unto Abram...

• **1 Samuel 15:10** - Then came **THE WORD OF THE LORD** unto Samuel...

• **2 Samuel 7:4** - And it came to pass that night, that **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came unto Nathan...

• **2 Samuel 24:11** - For when David was up in the morning, **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came unto the prophet Gad...

• **1 Kings 6:11** - And **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came to Solomon...

• **1 Kings 16:1** - Then **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came to Jehu...

• **1 Kings 19:9** - And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

• **Isaiah 38:4** - Then came **THE WORD OF THE LORD** to Isaiah, saying...

• **Jeremiah 1:11** - Moreover **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou?...

• **Ezekiel 1:3** - **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest...

• **Hosea 1:1** - **THE WORD OF THE LORD** that came unto Hosea...

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*Every other prophet of the Lord would declare to the people "Thus saith the Lord", or "Hear ye the Word of the Lord". However, when Jesus would speak forth the Word of Truth, He would say something very unique to Himself as a prophet – He would say "Verily, verily, I SAY unto you".*

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•Joel 1:1 -  
**THE WORD OF THE LORD** that came to Joel ...

•Jonah 1:1 -  
Now **THE WORD OF THE LORD** came unto Jonah ...

•Micah 1:1 -  
**THE WORD OF THE LORD** that came to Micah ...

•Zephaniah 1:1 - **THE WORD OF THE LORD** which came unto Zephaniah ...

•Haggai 1:1 - In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came **THE WORD OF THE LORD** by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel...

•Zechariah 1:1 - In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came **THE WORD OF THE LORD** unto Zechariah, ...

So, just looking at a few examples here we see that the word of the Lord came to all of these men, and then when we get to the New Testament, we read this....

•John 1:14 - "And **THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH**, and dwelt among us..."

## Chapter 1 - The Testimony Christ - 1st Principle

So, the same Word that had been coming to men all through the scriptures, now came in the flesh in the person of Christ. This can be similarly understood when we realize that every other prophet of the Lord would declare to the people **“Thus saith the Lord”**, or **“Hear ye the Word of the Lord”**. However, when Jesus would speak forth the Word of Truth, He would say something very unique to Himself as a prophet - He would say **“Verily, verily, I SAY unto you”**. Quite a difference, and for good reason. The Son of God, the Word of God, had come to speak to men Himself rather than by men who were chosen to represent Him.

**Hebrews 1:1 - 2 - “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners SPAKE IN TIME PAST unto the fathers BY THE PROPHETS, Hath in these last days SPOKEN UNTO US BY HIS SON, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”**

When we understand the ministry of Christ to include bearing witness of the Father to men, we can see that He has been working from the beginning to give witness to men of the Father. This is clearly declared in the book of Revelation for us by Jesus after His ascension:

**Revelation 1:1 - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, WHICH GOD GAVE UNTO HIM, TO SHEW UNTO HIS SERVANTS things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”**

However, this ministry of Christ has been ongoing from the very beginning and is not unique to only this one book of Revelation. This is how the Father has communicated to man all through time - by His Son, who is the

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Word of God. Peter discusses some of these truths in His epistle as well as He writes by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Peter 1:10 - 11 - “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHICH WAS IN THEM did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”**

So, Peter says it was the Spirit of Christ that was speaking through the prophets in old time i.e. those men by whom the Word of the Lord was spoken, and that He says Jesus Christ is the one by whom that Word came unto them. We see further in Peter’s epistle the same principle at work in chapter 3:

**1 Peter 3:18 - 20 - “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also HE WENT AND PREACHED unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, WHEN once the longsuffering of GOD WAITED in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”**

Many attempt to make this a mystical passage of some kind, but that is not the case as the scriptural consistency is clear to see. It was Christ who gave testimony to men of the coming destruction of the world in Noah’s day. It was Christ who was declaring the Word to Noah, and the one that was preaching to men, by Noah, of things to come while the ark was preparing. We could go on and on for some time here expounding this principle of truth, but what we need to know is that it is the ministry of Christ all



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through time to show the things of the Father unto men. He has been faithfully performing this work all through time from the very foundations of the world, and anytime we have the Word of the Lord spoken, we can know it came to us from the Father by His Son Christ, whom we now know by the name of Jesus.

We know that the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, worked the same way He saw His Father work.

**John 5:19 - “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”**

This shows how the Father first spoke to His Son in secret, and then the Son, the Word, would declare the testimony He had received openly to creation. The Son is the one by whom the worlds were made because He is the one who preached the testimony to creation openly. However, He only spoke those things He had received from the Father. Jesus Himself, in keeping with this pattern from the Father, taught His disciples in secret and then charged them to go preach openly the things they had received in secret.

**Matthew 10:27 - “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.”**

**Mark 4:34 - “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”**

Now knowing it is Jesus Christ the only begotten Son who has been declaring the things of the Father to men

## Chapter 1 - The Testimony Christ - 1st Principle

from the beginning, we should be ready to look at our second principle in our next chapter.

## Chapter 2 – The Testimony of Christ – 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle

The second principle we need to add to this first one will help us to understand how the Lord uses His Word among men. Knowing now from our first principle that the Father sends His testimony to men by way of the Son, Jesus Christ, let's look at this principle that will show us how the Word of testimony is used by the Father to communicate to men. We find this principle given to us most clearly in the book of Revelation:

**Revelation 19:10 - “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.”**

When we think of the word of the Lord, whom we now know by the name Jesus Christ in this age, and the work He has been

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*“THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS  
IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.  
- Revelation 19:10*

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doing from the beginning to declare to men the things of the Father, we need to understand that His testimony has always been prophetic – that is, it speaks of things yet future to man but not yet fulfilled. This second principle is paramount to understanding how it is that God seeks to work among men in their hearts. The fact that the testimony of Jesus is always prophetic to man is not without purpose but is in fact a deliberate act of God. Let's unpack this principle a little as well to help us understand why.

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

We know from the very beginning pages of scripture that God does things by His Word, that is by His Son Jesus Christ. We know also from Revelation that the Word is always prophetic – that is, it precedes everything before it comes to pass. It is the power and force behind the work that God does. When the Word goes forth from His mouth, there is power in it. God does not have to “work” as we do to get things done. He accomplishes them by His Word and in accordance with His will. God doesn’t need materials to work with, energy to carry out the work, or time to get the job done. Those are elements of work committed to His creation. As the creator, he is not bound by these things but has fashioned all of these for use by His creation.

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*God doesn't need materials to work with, energy to carry out the work, or time to get the job done. Those are elements of work committed to His creation.*

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Let's look at a few examples from the creation account to see this in action. I believe it will be helpful to us as a foundation.... which is probably why the Lord included it first in the pages of the scriptures.

**Genesis 1:3 -**  
**“And GOD SAID, Let there be light: AND THERE WAS light.”**

**Genesis 1:6 - 7 - “And GOD SAID, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: AND IT WAS SO.”**

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

**Genesis 1:9 - “And GOD SAID, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: AND IT WAS SO.”**

**Genesis 1:11 - “And GOD SAID, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: AND IT WAS SO.”**

**Genesis 1:14 - 15 - “And GOD SAID, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: AND IT WAS SO.”**

**Genesis 1:24 - “And GOD SAID, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: AND IT WAS SO.”**

So, in this commonly taught and well-known passage, we see according to the testimony of Christ that God made all these things by His Word. Accordingly, we are to learn from this account that when God speaks, stuff gets done. Things happen. By simply speaking, He was able to create the entire known universe that has continued to fascinate and confound man for all his generations on the earth. We still labor today to unfold its mysteries after thousands of years!

**Isaiah 40:21 - 22 - “Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out**

**the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:"**

Over and again in the passage of creation in Genesis we read the phrases "God said" and "it was so". What we are to learn here as men is that when God gives forth a Word, it will be so. Seems simple enough. As we know from Revelation, and can clearly see here, the Word of God, which is Christ and is a testimony given to Christ by the Father, is prophetic in nature. In other words, when the Word was spoken, "Let there be light", it was a prophetic Word. It was a Word that came before the fulfillment that was to follow.

Now, what we lose sight of as men, is that God may not always FULFILL His Testimony IMMEDIATELY, as He clearly did in the creation account - and it turns out to be good for us that He doesn't! We will explore this more thoroughly, but for starters, think about the time Christ cursed the Fig Tree. Christ uses the tree as an important example for us.

**Mark 11:12 - 14 - "And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, NO MAN EAT FRUIT OF THEEE HEREAFTER FOREVER. And his disciples heard it."**

Now, after Christ uttered those words, many might have been looking on and thought to themselves nothing had happened. The tree still looked the same as before! There must not be any power in His word or God must not have answered Him concerning this one thing. Many

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

such thoughts might have crept into their minds. However, in time we see the next day that the fulfillment was clear to men.

**Mark 11:19 - 21 - “And when even was come, he went out of the city. And IN THE MORNING, as they passed by, THEY SAW the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.”**

So, there was a gap between the spoken word to men and the fulfillment that followed on this occasion. This lesson specifically teaches men exactly what God requires of them and is exactly the lesson Christ was teaching here. He speaks it plainly to Peter in the very next verse!

**Mark 11:22 - “And Jesus answering saith unto them, HAVE FAITH in God.”**

The TIME that lapses between the speaking of the Word and the fulfillment of the Word can vary greatly. Sometimes He speaks and it is fulfilled immediately. Some of His testimony has been waiting to be fulfilled for thousands of years! Either way, the time that lapses between these two aspects of His work does not affect the validity of the testimony He has given by Christ. God can wait as long as He wants to fulfill His Word, and it has no bearing on whether it is true or not - unless He has given testimony to a specific time for the fulfillment of His Word, which we also see in scripture. Since He is eternal, He has all the time! However, sometimes He will by His testimony tell us when the time is for fulfillment to come. This is the chief way that the true God in heaven who made all things separates Himself from all other would be gods and the way He separates His Word from all other so-

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

called holy books. In fact, He challenges any other god to compete with Him in this arena of prophecy.

Isaiah 41:21 - 26 - “Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and SHEW US WHAT SHALL HAPPEN: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or DECLARE US THINGS FOR TO COME. SHEW THE THINGS THAT ARE TO COME HEREAFTER, THAT WE MAY KNOW THAT YE ARE GODS: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you. I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay. WHO HATH DECLARED FROM THE BEGINNING, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words.”

Isaiah 42:8 - 9 - “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and NEW THINGS DO I DECLARE: BEFORE THEY SPRING FORTH I TELL YOU OF THEM.”

Isaiah 46:9 - 10 - “Remember the former things of old: for I AM GOD AND THERE IS NONE ELSE; I am God, and there is none like me, DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, and from ancient times



the things that are not yet done, saying, **MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, and I WILL DO all my pleasure:**"

Isaiah 45:21 - 22 - "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: **WHO HATH DECLARED THIS FROM ANCIENT TIME?** who hath told it from that time? have not I **THE LORD?** and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I **AM GOD**, and there is none else."

Clearly, no one has ever nor can ever stand up to the challenge.... It is the Lord alone who can declare His counsel to men of things before they come to pass. It is He alone who has the power to execute His Word with perfection. It is He alone who can do according to all His own

will and counsel without limitation. This prophetic aspect of God's word and testimony is critical to understanding His work among men. It also separates true Christian faith from every other religion on the earth today.

For our purposes, we will not explore all these instances other than what is needed to show the principle at work.

We can see many things in scripture that we view as prophetic because they declare things yet unfulfilled. At one point in time, all of the testimony was prophetic! From

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*This prophetic aspect of God's word and testimony is critical to understanding His work among men. It also separates true Christian faith from every other religion on the earth today.*

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the time the Word spoke, “Let there be light”! Now that prophetic testimony was fulfilled rather quickly! The point being, all the Word of God, the testimony of Christ, is prophetic. The difference is that some of the testimony has already been fulfilled and some has yet to be. Knowing the difference proves to be critically important to us as we seek to know the way of salvation!

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*When God made man, however, He didn't speak him into existence as he did with other things in creation. God formed Man from the dust of the earth with His hands, breathed life into him, and then spoke His Word TO the man. The Word spoken to Him was prophetic testimony and was to be received by faith.*

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From the very beginning, the testimony of Christ was prophetic to man:

**Genesis 2:16 - 17 - “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF, THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.”**

So, what do we see from this aspect of creation? Well, we see that all of God's creation was made by His Word. When God made man, however, He didn't speak him into existence as he did with other things in creation. God formed Man from the dust of the earth with His hands, breathed life into him, and then spoke His Word

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

TO the man. The Word spoken to Him was prophetic testimony and was to be received by faith.

So, in this way, the creature Adam was very different from other aspects of creation. Not only because He was made in the image of God and was given a living soul by God's breathing into Him the breath of life, but the Word came to Him after being formed and was "sown" into His heart. This work of the husbandman of the earth is brought out more clearly in the New Testament parable of the sower that has to do with Christ sowing the word into the earth. It is important to remember that we are made of earth, so the sower sowing seed into the earth is a perfectly clear representation of how God has worked with this creature He made called man.

**Matthew 13:37 - "He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;"**

So, we see Christ expounding these truths more clearly, but the original work of creation represents the same truth. We can clearly see the Word sown into man's heart was a prophetic Word of God. The Father had sent this testimony to men by Christ, and in time the reality of the prophetic Word took hold of them by their disobedience. Satan had lied unto Eve and convinced her that God's Word wasn't exactly true or complete, and she believed the serpent's testimony above the testimony of Christ - and the rest is history as they say.

Once this was done, God did something miraculous and gracious for man. Because He had already known of man's fall before it ever happened, He had also provided a means for their redemption from sin. He is the only wise God! He is not just "all-knowing" as we sometimes think, but He is infinite in His knowing. His

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

understanding is infinite and beyond measure! There are no limits to His knowing or understanding. As Paul declares in his epistle to the Romans:

**Romans 11:33 - “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”**

The means that He provided to redeem this creature was two-fold – which we will dive into shortly. What we learn is that there is another law besides what was given at first to man that provided a mechanism to redeem men from their fallen condition. A just way for a loving God to “save” His creation was available, but there are two aspects to this law that we need to understand. This redemptive act of God’s love, the purpose of God to demonstrate His grace, and the means by which He perfectly satisfied His justice is the basis for this book on the topic of the gift of salvation. As God had already shown man His prophetic testimony (what would happen if they ate of the tree), and man had experienced the validity of the prophetic testimony (what they experienced when they transgressed the commandment), God then did a new thing. Don’t confuse the idea that God never changes with the idea that He doesn’t do new things. New things are for His creation to learn of Him, but because He is infinitely wise, He will always be showing His creation new things for all eternity.

**Isaiah 43:19 - “Behold, I WILL DO A NEW THING; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”**

God never changes because He is infinitely wise and infinitely knowing. He is the end from the beginning.

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

We change because we learn, but God never changes. Accordingly, His Son Jesus Christ also never changes either.

**Hebrews 13:8 - “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”**

That is because Jesus Christ is God in the flesh

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

Jesus is the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**Colossians 2:9 - “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”**

Jesus Christ is the express image of His person

**Hebrews 1:3 - “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”**

and the very image of the God who is invisible.

**Colossians 1:15 - “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:”**

Knowing these things, we also see in scripture that Jesus is the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 28:19 - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”**

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

Clearly that name of the Father, Son, and Spirit is the name of Jesus, as we see the apostles carrying out this Matthew 28 command.

**Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”**

**Acts 8:16 - “(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)”**

**Acts 19:5 - “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”**

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*Just KNOWING that  
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Jesus Christ and His Father are one and the same God, which we could show in a multitude of ways from scripture if we were writing a book on the person of Jesus Christ. This is at the

heart of Christian faith and is a mystery often referred to as the Triune God, or the Trinity. However, back to our initial point here, for man’s sake we are eternally indebted and grateful that the Lord does new things! This was the case with Adam and Eve. Just KNOWING that Christ’s previous testimony had been fulfilled was no longer sufficient for man if He was to be redeemed. They could not only continue to know and declare that Word that had already been fulfilled. God came to them again and gave them another Word. Why was this necessary?

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

This was necessary because the law that God would use to redeem men was not the law of works, which now was man's condemnation rather than life. The law that had been ordained for their life had they continued in faith of His Word that was first given, was now their judge. The law of works could now only condemn man, and there was no work the man could do to remove the sin that was his to own by his works. Now a corrupted creation, man could only sin. God in His infinite wisdom and grace had already provided means for redemption - the law of faith. Let's quickly look at these two divine decrees and then get back to how the testimony of Christ was at work to redeem men.

1. **The law of works** - this divine decree declares that any man or creature that keeps God's commandments shall live and that those who break His commandments shall die - not good for Adam and his seed, who were now guilty of violating God's commands and deserving of death. The law of works states that a man that does everything God says shall live, which is good if you have kept all His commands, but is death and condemnation for a creature like man who had violated God's law. - **Galatians 3:12 - "And the law is not of faith: but, the man that doeth them shall live in them."** So, the man that does everything God's law requires can live. Too tall a task for men. This still is a temptation for those in pride, as they read that a man can live if He keeps the law, which is true, and so they labor to do so in light of that truth - a study for another time perhaps.

2. **The Law of Faith** - There is however another divine law that gives hope to sinful men, declares the glory of God's grace, and provides mercy and pardon for transgressors - the law of faith. This law declares that a creature

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

can be justified, that is declared to be right with God, by faith and not by works. This is our hope as those who are unable to live by the law of works, but to partake of the hope this law gives we must know what faith is. This law works in two parts. Faith on the part of the justified and payment on the part of the justifier.

The reason God came to man with another prophetic Word after the fall is that He desired to justify them - by the law of faith. Simply declaring the testimony of what was fulfilled, was not sufficient to give men opportunity for faith, which is essential to understanding the gospel today. While the completed testimony was TRUE, it could not give FAITH to men. How can we know that? Faith requires knowledge, belief, and confidence in testimony of Christ that is not yet FULFILLED because it requires hope and is predicated upon promises from God. Even acknowledging the truth of what God had said, and how it was fulfilled, provided no means for faith that can have a hope in a promise of any sort. If faith isn't rooted in PROMISES from the Lord, it is not faith. Just knowing what God has done and believing it, is not faith - FAITH is the substance of things HOPED FOR.

**Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."**

So, believing what has already been fulfilled gives knowledge to build our faith, but falls short of opportunity to exercise ourselves in faith in obedience. In order for there to be true faith, there MUST be unfulfilled testimony from Christ involved.

Now a lot of people today will tell you that faith is just believing "in Jesus" or "in God", but we can clearly see from scripture that is not even close to being the case.



## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

Many people in scripture and even the devils themselves believe in God. The very next generation of men proved that - think, Cain. No, faith has a direct and immediate connection to the testimony of Christ - prophecy. This is critical to our understanding today of the preaching of the gospel and our hope of salvation. The reason the testimony of Christ came to Adam and Eve to preach another Word to them was to give them opportunity for faith.

**Genesis 3:14 - 15 - “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”**

To give men opportunity for faith, it was necessary for God to speak a Word to them and to leave a gap between the promise and its fulfillment. This is where men live in time, and where the opportunity for scriptural faith lies - between the Word given and the Word fulfilled. If you think about the creation account, God could have left a gap between speaking it and when it happened. If He had and He asked anyone around, “Do you believe that there will be light?”, He would have been questioning their faith. If He had given them a command to go along with the question, they would have had opportunity to exercise their faith - doing what He commands out of faith in His promise that there would be light. Granted, silly speculation here perhaps, but let’s follow through. Once the light came, there was no opportunity for faith because that which had been spoken had been fulfilled already.

## Chapter 2 - The Testimony of Christ - 2nd Principle

When we see how the Father has communicated to men by His Word, we see there is a gap left between the spoken word and its fulfillment for a reason – so that men could receive it as a promise by faith. This is how God justifies men. He spoke of a coming redeemer to Adam and Eve so that they could have faith in His testimony and be justified by the law of faith. Cain clearly rejected the testimony of God even though he knew the same history as his brother, and it was manifest by His works. Abel received the prophetic Word and walked in the light and hope of it, which was manifest by his adherence to the doctrine and commandments he had received. This principle must be known to understand the gift of salvation. God has by His Word of testimony all through time spoken to men of things before they come to pass, which gives men an opportunity to exercise faith towards him.

Noah received a prophetic Word by faith and preached it to his generation. No one outside of his family believed the testimony, and then the Lord shut up the ark door 7 days before He fulfilled His Word. A lot of people “believed” the testimony as they struggled to cling on to their life in the following days and weeks of the flood, but that belief is not FAITH. All through time the testimony of Christ that has already been fulfilled is preserved for men in the pages of scripture to serve as an eternal memorial and witness unto the faithfulness of the Lord concerning His Word and character. We have a great cloud of such witnesses and memorials in the scriptures. The nation of Israel would often erect stone memorials of the Lord’s fulfilled testimony to remind them of His certain faithfulness regarding the yet unfulfilled promises. However, only those who had FAITH in the testimony before its fulfillment became partakers of the blessings of God.

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If you read the scripture, you will find this principle at work throughout its pages. God spoke a promise to Abraham that he would deliver His seed from the bondage in Egypt after 400 years, which we now know that He fulfilled. The people of that era were justified by faith in the promise God gave. When God fulfilled His promise by Moses, He gave another word of promise concerning entrance into Canaan. The nation all **KNEW** of God's fulfilled testimony that was past, His wonders in Egypt and the wilderness, but had no **FAITH** in His **PROMISE**, which is why they could not enter the land.

**Deuteronomy 32:20 - "And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith."**

So, knowledge, acceptance, and belief of what is past is not the **FAITH** that God requires of men to become partakers of His promised blessings. Everyone in the wilderness **KNEW** the same things about what God had done in the past! **FAITH**, scripturally speaking, specifically identifies the portion of the testimony of Christ that is future and **KNOWS** them to be true. This faith is built upon the knowledge of the memorials of the fulfilled testimony that give witness of God's faithfulness but has matured from knowledge of what is fulfilled to wisdom, which lives in light and hope of what is promised.

**Ecclesiastes 7:12 - "the excellency of knowledge is, that WISDOM GIVETH LIFE to them that have it."**

Knowledge cannot justify. Faith is the required means for a man to be justified, which cannot be exercised in only believing things that are already fulfilled and past.

## Chapter 3 – Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

**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.”**

Now that we understand these first two principles of How the testimony of God is given to men by His Son Jesus Christ, and we understand that the purpose of the prophetic testimony is to give men opportunity for faith, we next then need to understand the principle of discerning the difference between the two parts of the testimony – past fulfilled testimony and future promises.

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*there is a difference between knowledge of the past and faith concerning things to come.*

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If you read through the scriptures, you will find a great cloud of witnesses that lived in faith of what God had said even though they hadn't seen it yet. In the book of James, Abraham and Rahab are the two chief examples he uses. Looking at Rahab, we see that everyone in the land had the same KNOWLEDGE of what God HAD DONE. All the inhabitants of the land even feared because of what God HAD DONE in Egypt. However, Rahab alone had FAITH and didn't perish with the rest of the inhabitants of the land. So, there is a difference between knowledge of the past and faith concerning things to come.

**Hebrews 11:31 – “By FAITH the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”**

### Chapter 3 - Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

When we look at Rahab's story in scripture, we see the belief that separated her from the unbelieving was not manifest in what they knew about what God had done already, but by way of how they responded to His prophetic testimony.

**Joshua 2:9 - 11 - "And she said unto the men, I KNOW THAT THE LORD HATH GIVEN YOU THE LAND, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And AS SOON AS WE HAD HEARD THESE THINGS, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage IN ANY MAN, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."**

Clearly, Rahab's response to the knowledge of the testimony concerning the children of Israel being given the Land by Jehovah, which was yet unfulfilled and prophetic at the time, is what separated her from the unbelieving. All of them had the same belief about what was done and past. So, much so in fact that they were scared about what might happen next. Rahab KNEW what would happen next by the light of prophecy, and this light gave her knowledge to act and live in a way that demonstrated faith.

By way of her example, the Lord is preserving a witness of how He works in the hearts of men by His word and faith to deliver them from destruction. Her faith gave her knowledge of things she knew would happen, even though she hadn't sent them yet. This confidence was

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given by examining the memorials of fulfilled testimony of what God had done, in Egypt and in bringing the nation of Israel into Canaan, which gave confidence in the unfulfilled testimony of Israel being given the land. While others were fortifying their cities to withstand the testimony of Christ concerning the land of Canaan, Rahab had Faith and yielded to the truth of what had been revealed by the Word of God concerning her and her city. This knowledge, belief, and confidence to act on a future yet unseen but believed to be true by promise is FAITH.

This is the lesson of the centurion that Christ used as a marvelous example of faith in Matthew.

**Matthew 8:8 - 10 - “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but SPEAK THE WORD ONLY, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I HAVE NOT FOUND SO GREAT FAITH, no, not in Israel.”**

This man knew if Christ simply spoke the Word, the fulfillment would be certain. This is why we pray unto Him isn't it? We beseech Him to speak a Word on our behalf. Lord, speak a Word to open my eyes, give me understanding, and increase my faith to make me useful in your service to keep alive the testimony of the truth to the glory of Christ. Any prayer we pray to Him, relies on this faith that without Him, we can do nothing.

It is out of this heart of faith that kings, and great men of Israel would wait on a Word from the Lord

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concerning the battles they would fight. When the Word came to them declaring they would gain the victory, they knew to go in that faith. Every prophet and saint of every era has lived unto God in this confidence of FAITH. We could spend pages and hours demonstrating this from the prophet Elijah calling fire down from heaven to the healing of the bitter waters and every other exercise of faith in scripture – they all have confidence in promises made by God and they acted out of that confidence.

The understanding of this principle is paramount to our faith today. Paul was teaching Timothy of these principles in 2 Timothy. His admonishment was to study the Word to shew himself approved.

Perhaps we all know the verse from 2 Timothy. But the apostle's caution to the young preacher is to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE** the Word of truth.

**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.”**

To discern between fulfilled testimony and future promises (i.e. between knowledge and wisdom) certainly must have been part of the discernment Paul was teaching Timothy to practice and observe, because we see this exact caution in the text!

**2 Timothy 2:16 – 17 – “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymanaeus and Philetus; Who CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED, saying that the RESURRECTION IS PAST ALREADY; and OVERTHROW THE FAITH of some.”**

## Chapter 3 - Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Teaching things that are future promises as having already happened leads to ungodliness and the overthrowing of faith. I hope you can clearly see the problem here. When we give witness to things God has spoken of as a promise and bring them into the present, we have removed the gap that He intended to leave so that men could exercise faith towards Him. This is destructive to the souls of men and the message itself. If the fulfillment is future to us, we must know that and live in the hope of the promise being fulfilled - in this way, we can have faith. i.e. confidence in things yet unseen. Confidence towards God that even though we haven't seen these promises yet, we know them to be true by His Word - by Christ's testimony. This principle will become clearer as we go on, but for now I hope that we have thoroughly demonstrated the point. The entire testimony of Christ is necessary to us - both past and future:

**Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

Every Word of the testimony is needed and is to be believed. Out of all the testimony that has been given, we are to study to be able to rightly divide between the parts of His testimony that are fulfilled and those which are spoken as future. The fulfilled testimony gives us knowledge and witness to the fact that God is faithful to fulfill His Word - memorials that give knowledge. The future testimony is given so that we might have faith towards God - promises that give hope. Every saint who has ever been justified in the sight of God was made so by this act of faith concerning things to come - not acknowledging only what is past. From just Abel and the men of Nineveh, who believed God and were justified by faith, to the father of us



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all, Abraham himself, who believed God and was justified by faith, we see this aspect of faith at work among men.

These two principles will allow us now to look at the gift of salvation according to the proper scriptural truth. We now understand that it has been Christ that has been declaring the testimony of the Father to men from the beginning. We also understand that the reason the testimony is prophetic is so that men can have the opportunity for faith in the gap between the sending of the Word and the fulfillment of the Word. This is why we have the testimony of Christ in Acts 26 that was spoken to Paul by our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Acts 26:15 – 18 - And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified BY FAITH THAT IS IN ME.”**

All those who have ever believed the prophetic testimony of God by His Word have put their faith “in Christ”. It is Christ that has been the one by whom the testimony was received. He is the Word of God. All who have had faith in these prophetic promises, have put their faith “in Him”, and it is by this law of faith that He has chosen to justify men – specifically those who have FAITH in Him. Not those who only acknowledge the things He has done already as fact, or assent unto the power that He

## Chapter 3 - Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

has as a fact, or even profess the fact that He simply exists.... No, those who have known His testimony to be true by what He has fulfilled and believed by faith His prophetic Word concerning things to come. These are the children of God by FAITH. As we look ahead in coming chapters to the gift of salvation, we need to understand these things.

**1 Corinthians 1:21 - “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE.”**

So, the wisdom of God has made provision to save them that believe. But believe what? Will God save all those who have believe they “are saved”? Will He save all those who have asked Jesus into their heart or made Him the Lord of their life? Will He save those who readily acknowledge the testimony that is already fulfilled? As we move ahead, I trust the truth of this gift of salvation will become clearer. Paul says there is preaching that declares the Word of God. Part of the preaching is to declare the things God has done already that had been previously prophesied by Christ but are now done. This gives men the knowledge of God. The second part of preaching this testimony is to declare the testimony of Christ that is still prophetic. Those who believe will be saved by this preaching, which is the truth Paul is speaking to. God will save those that have faith just as He always has done since the fall of man.

With these two principles under our belt, and with an understanding of the importance of studying to rightly divide the truth, let’s move on to our next chapter as we continue to study this gift of salvation that is spoken of in

## Chapter 3 - Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

His Word of Testimony. To be clear, the two principles stated thus far are:

1. Christ, the Word of God, has been the one communicating to man and declaring the testimony of the Father from the beginning. This is part of His ministry.

2. This testimony has always been prophetic to man. At this point in history, some of the testimony is fulfilled and some is future, and we are required to study to know the difference. Faith must operate in the arena of unfulfilled testimony and not only in the memorials of fulfilled testimony.

### Chapter 4 – The Work of Christ

Now that we have understood these principles of the ministry of Christ to declare the testimony of the Father, let's move on to the work of Christ that meets the needs of those who have understood and received the testimony. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ himself. This is the work that is most familiar to many who know the things of scripture as they relate to the gospel. We will show here a little more context than the typical representation of these things perhaps, but the story of the gospel is well known to many. It involves the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, his burial and resurrection. All things that are familiar to many. What we want to expound here is the purpose of the gospel in the context of scripture as it relates to salvation. In this chapter we hope to lay the needed groundwork to understand what was done by Christ at His first coming, and then we can go into our next chapter to gain a better understanding of how we are made partakers of the blessings that He died to give to men.

The gospel speaks of the entirety of the work of Christ to provide salvation for His people. We are going to look at this first as to how God provided what was necessary to redeem His people, and we will then in our next chapter look at who “His people” are and how we can know we are one of them.

To demonstrate this truth, let's start where the apostle Paul started when teaching these things. The gospel story can best be understood from the relationship that God had with Abraham, who is called the friend of God in scripture and the father of those who are of faith.

**Galatians 3:7 - “Know ye therefore that THEY WHICH ARE OF FAITH, the same are the children of Abraham.”**

God and Abraham had several conversations that show us the way of salvation and declare the truth and purpose of the gospel story to us. Let’s look at one particular account in Genesis that will help us to understand this gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 15:4 - 6 - And, behold, THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, SO SHALL THY SEED BE. And HE BELIEVED in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”**

So, we see both of our first principles at work in this passage. The Word of the Lord came to Abraham. So, who is giving testimony of the Father here? We know it is Christ. Christ, the Word of the Lord, came unto Abraham by the Spirit and declared a prophetic Word to him. This Word had to do with the fact that God intended to give him a son and that through that son, he would have descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. It was this testimony of Christ that spoke of things yet unfulfilled that Abraham believed by FAITH. It was this faith that was accounted to Abraham for righteousness by the law of faith. It really is simple. Abraham believed the promise of God, i.e. an announcement in advance of what God will do, and in the gap between the Word spoken and the Word fulfilled, he exercised faith in the one who spoke this Word. Abraham was persuaded of these yet unfulfilled words of

## Chapter 4 - The Work of Christ

promise by what he knew to be true about the fulfilled testimony that was past. It was this faith in His testimony of promise that was required to be justified by the righteousness which is of faith. That is why God spoke it to him before it came to pass, so that Abraham could have FAITH. Later, after having professed faith in this Word of promise, the Lord tried his faith in asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac to him. Abraham's faith was made perfect, as James tells us, by continuing to demonstrate faith in this promise despite the trial. Good lesson for us in there, as we will see.

The Lord then makes this promise to him:

**Genesis 15:7 “And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land TO INHERIT IT.”**

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*The blessings God promised Abraham by the Word of His Testimony were not dealing with this life, but the life and world to come in the resurrection.*

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Now, here we have to do a little work in scripture to understand what this conversation is all about. The Lord was promising Abraham he would INHERIT the land. As we continue through the conversation they

are having and especially look at the witness of the other scriptures, it becomes abundantly clear that the Lord and Abraham both KNEW that they were discussing an inheritance that lay beyond this natural life. Abraham had faith that he would inherit the land in the resurrection and not during the days of his flesh here. This is BIG and MUST be understood to understand the gospel hope today. The

## Chapter 4 - The Work of Christ

blessings God promised Abraham by the Word of His Testimony were not dealing with this life, but the life and world to come in the resurrection. That's what the inheritance is all about. That is why Abraham wandered as a pilgrim and a stranger during the days of his flesh, because He was living in FAITH of a PROMISE that had to do with the WORLD TO COME.

**Hebrews 11:8 - 10 - "By FAITH Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should AFTER RECEIVE for an INHERITANCE, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the HEIRS with him OF THE SAME PROMISE: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."**

So, Abraham obeyed the commandments of the Lord as witness to his faith and to serve as an example for us of being a pilgrim and a stranger in this present world. He was promised to be heir of the world in the resurrection and was commanded to wander during the days of his flesh. Because he had FAITH in the promise, he obeyed God. We see from Romans 4 that Paul explains this gospel truth:

**Romans 4:13 - "For THE PROMISE, that he should be THE HEIR OF THE WORLD, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH."**

So, God had promised Abraham that he would be the heir of the world - that he would inherit it in the resurrection. God then confirmed the oath by Himself as Abraham lay in a deep sleep according to Genesis 15. The Word clearly was a future promise, and Abraham believed

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God concerning this promise which is what the scripture calls FAITH. Yes, Abraham knew about the creation and believed that Word. Yes, He lived shortly after the flood and certainly knew of Noah's day and the testimony of Christ that had been fulfilled in sending the flood. However, it wasn't until He believed something about the future that the scripture gives witness to the righteousness he was to have imputed to Him by faith. Noah had been made heir of the same righteousness.

**Hebrews 11:7 - "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS BY FAITH."**

We also have this same promise today, and for those who have faith in the testimony of Christ, we live in faith and hope of this same righteousness.

**Galatians 5:5 - "For we through the Spirit WAIT FOR THE HOPE of righteousness by faith."**

Knowing that God had made this promise to Abraham is essential to understanding the work of Christ in the gospel. Abraham now possessed a promise, from God who cannot lie, that he would be the heir of the world. The remaining question then is, how can Abraham, who was born of the seed of Adam as a sinner, receive an eternal inheritance when he is destined to suffer death because of his sin? We know Abraham was a sinner by nature, being born of Adam, but also by his own choices had sinned as well - should sound familiar to those of us who are accustomed to striving against sin in our own flesh. We have in scripture records of him deceiving others because he was afraid. So, how can a sinful man be the heir of the world



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*Working out the “how” is in God’s dominion. Abraham just knew that He had a promise, so He believed it.*

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promised to come? Well, because God had promised him he would be. Working out the “how” is in God’s dominion. Abraham just knew that He had a promise, so He believed it. Now, Abra-

ham was a man of great faith and knew the promise of a redeemer already as it had been preserved from the beginning. This work God would do to fulfill His promise to Abraham involves other promises of God concerning His creation as well, such as the promise to create a new heavens and a new earth.

**2 Peter 3:13 – “Nevertheless we, according to his PROMISE, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”**

This new created heavens and earth speaks of the work God has promised to do in the world to come after the end of this present world – which is evil, having rebelled against God. This new world which is promised to come is the world of which Abraham is to be the heir. That was God’s promise by His Word of testimony. However, Abraham was not fit to inherit in his natural state because he was a sinner – and neither are we.

**1 Corinthians 15:50 – “Now this I say, brethren, that FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”**

So, in order that God might fulfill His Word to Abraham, He had already prepared a work before the

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foundation of the world to make Abraham fit for the promise he was given. That is where we pick up with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 15:8 - “Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES made unto the fathers.”**

The very purpose of Christ's first coming was to confirm the promises that He had made to the fathers: Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. Each of these men were heirs of the same promise made to Abraham by the Word of the Lord. Each of them was equally unfit as the children of Adam but was to be made fit by the working of the law of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. The law of faith says that a man can be justified by having faith towards God in receiving the Word of His testimony. However, justification comes at a price. The justice of God cannot be disannulled but must rather be satisfied. In other words, the word spoken in this law cannot be disannulled, but must find fulfillment. Remember, the law of works is also prophetic testimony of God. The Word is what must be fulfilled concerning us - transgression must be punished with death. What is at issue is the fulfillment of the Word - God cannot lie, and the testimony must be fulfilled. This is the price of redemption that Christ came to pay! He came to be the fulfillment of the divine decree Himself! Jesus Christ came to die and shed His blood so that these men who had believed His promises, could be made fit by His sacrifice to receive the inheritance they were promised.

**1 Peter 1:18 - 21 - “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But WITH THE PRECIOUS**

**BLOOD OF CHRIST**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was **FOREORDAINED** before the foundation of the world, but **WAS MANIFEST** in these last times for you, Who **BY HIM DO BELIEVE IN GOD**, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

As Peter points out here, the blood of Christ was necessary to satisfy the debt of man according to the law of faith. This sacrifice of the Lamb of God was spoken by the Word from the beginning of the world, but was not manifest, or shown to men, until the time came for its revealing. By Him, that is Christ, we believe in God because He has born witness to us and declared the testimony of the Father to us.

The Word of promise God had spoken by Christ to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob required an act on His part to fulfill so that they could be made fit to receive the promises they had believed. This involves a work upon the heart of man by God’s Word and His Spirit. The testimony of Christ being mixed in the heart with faith to believe things yet unseen and future to us, is the way in which God has chosen to justify sinners. The blood of Christ provided the payment necessary to satisfy the requirements of the law of sin and death. Both laws are perfectly fulfilled in the gospel of Christ.

The law of works no longer holds any hope of life for us, but as sinners we still qualify for justification by the blood of Christ if we have faith in His testimony. In Romans chapter 4, Paul is correlating our faith in God’s Word of promise by the testimony of Christ to that of the faith of Abraham. We will look at this in more detail later, but we

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see in chapter 5 that after discussing these things Paul makes this statement:

**Romans 5:1 - “THEREFORE being JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”**

It is important to know that the “therefore” spoken of here goes back to the inheritance of promise in chapter 4. So, the justification available to men is through faith - complete confidence in the testimony of Christ, both fulfilled and future. However, there was a price necessary to be paid so that those who have faith towards God concerning His testimony could be justified and receive the inheritance of the saints according to His promise. When we discuss the work of Christ during the days of his flesh on this earth, we see that it was this mission He was sent to accomplish. The mission he was given of the Father was to come and make Himself a sacrifice for the sins of those who would believe His testimony. That is because He has promised some things to those who believe His promises, and He will fulfill all His good pleasure in giving these promises to them. To do this, they must be made fit. We see this directly correlated in other scriptures as well.

**Hebrews 9:15 - “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that BY MEANS OF DEATH, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, THEY WHICH ARE CALLED MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE.”**

We could certainly go on at some length of these things, but I am attempting to keep this book somewhat brief as opposed to completely comprehensive. The sacrifice of Christ was intended to fulfill the WORK that was

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necessary for God to give the PROMISES to those who believe His Word. They had been unfit, but by receiving His blessing they are made to be fit. The blessing is that of the Spirit, which is given to those who receive the testimony by faith. This is called the blessing of Abraham in scriptures, because it is his example of faith that we follow.

**Galatians 3:14 - “That THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”**

This blessing of the Spirit of Life makes the recipient fit to inherit the promises that have been spoken by the Word of the Lord. The blessing of Abraham made him fit, and when we receive the testimony of Christ as Abraham did, we also are made fit by the same means.

**Colossians 1:12 - “Giving thanks unto the Father, which HATH MADE US MEET to be PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE of the saints in light:”**

The means for us to be PARTAKERS of this provision that was made for our justification is FAITH:

**Romans 5:1 - “Therefore being JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”**

However, the means by which God made PROVISION for our justification is the sacrifice and blood of Christ.

**Romans 5:9 - “Much more then, being now JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”**

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So those who have faith in the promises are partakers of the provision that is made for justification. The blood is the only thing that can justify, but for it to justify you, you must be a partaker of the promises by faith. It is the blood of Christ that was shed to cleanse us from our sins:

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*The blood is the only thing that can justify, but for it to justify you, you must be a partaker of the promises by faith.*

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**1 John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and THE BLOOD of Jesus Christ his Son CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.”**

but for it to be applied to us, we must become partakers by faith.

**Acts 15:8 - 9 -“ And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, PURIFYING THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH.”**

This represents both aspects of the law of faith - the justifier (Christ) and the justified (sinful believers).

This work of Christ in coming to sacrifice Himself, was a fulfillment of promises He had given by His Word and was necessary for those who had received His testimony to receive their inheritance in the world to come that has been spoken by Him. God had announced this coming sacrifice of Himself by Christ Jesus long before it happened - in fact He had ordained it since before the world was. But, in the process of time, the Words of His

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testimony were fulfilled in their season. That is how God works by His Word.

**Luke 1:20 - “And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, WHICH SHALL BE FULFILLED IN THEIR SEASON.”**

Speaking the truth of His testimony before it comes to pass and leaving a gap in between the speaking and the fulfillment to give men opportunity for faith is how God has chosen to justify men.

This has been the way God has always worked among men by His Word of testimony.

**Habakkuk 2:3 - “For the vision is YET FOR AN APPOINTED TIME, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, WAIT FOR IT; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”**

As we know, without faith it is impossible to please Him.

**Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”**

And we know that He desires that all men would know the Truth so that He can have mercy upon them.

**Ezekiel 33:11 - “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED but that the wicked turn from his way**

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and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

**2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance."**

This coming of Christ to sacrifice Himself was pictured in the body of doctrine known as the law of Moses. The law was given to the children of Israel, not for righteousness, but to keep the doctrine and truth of the promised coming redeemer alive in their hearts by faith - to keep them expectant in heart of their coming redeemer. The entire body of doctrine was for this purpose. It taught men of their sin by making it appear to them as sinful and gave knowledge of what Christ was to fulfill when He came to suffer and die to redeem His people.

**Matthew 5:17 - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but TO FULFIL."**

Their observance of these doctrines was to be an act of obedience in faith as they lived in hope of the coming Savior - just as Abraham's wandering was to be an example by obedience of the faith He had in God's promise. This is paramount to a proper understanding of the gospel today. Many try to teach the law as doctrine to this day. To teach the observance of the law as doctrine is to fail to rightly divide the Word.

**1 Timothy 1:5 - 7 - "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some**



**having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; DESIRING TO BE TEACHERS OF THE LAW; UNDERSTANDING NEITHER WHAT THEY SAY, NOR WHEREOF THEY AFFIRM.”**

We could write an entire book on this subject alone, and maybe we should as it is a topic well worth our time and study to be completely grounded in our FAITH towards Christ, however for the purposes of understanding the gift of salvation, we don't have to dwell here too long.

The ability to rightly divide the Word of Truth safeguards against a misapplication of these doctrines from the Old Covenant. The law was to picture what Christ would accomplish at His first coming, and once fulfilled, this testimony became another tremendous memorial of the fulfilled Word that God has given to men by Christ. Another powerful witness to His faithfulness and might to execute His Word.

**Hebrews 10:1 - “For the law having a SHADOW OF GOOD THINGS TO COME, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”**

That is why the law is no longer sufficient as doctrine to give men faith, and that is why it has been done away in Christ for those who are of the household of faith.

**2 Corinthians 3:9 - 11 - “For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if THAT WHICH IS DONE**

**AWAY was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.”**

The law was never referred to as any kind of gospel. It was not a part of the everlasting gospel that has been promised from the beginning and ordained before the world was unto eternal glory, but was an instrument used for a particular purpose and for an appointed time. It was a Word of God spoken to men and has been fulfilled in Christ. For example, the ministration of death or condemnation, as Paul calls it, made a remembrance of sins every year.

**Hebrews 10:3 - “But in those sacrifices there is a REMEMBRANCE AGAIN made of sins EVERY YEAR.”**

Whereas the gospel ministration of life remembers them no more.

**Hebrews 8:12 - “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I REMEMBER NO MORE.”**

So the old covenant, served the purpose of exercising believers in the doctrine of it by faith while it pictured the work of the coming Christ which was future testimony to them, but ceased to be valid for the purpose of exercising faith after He had come and fulfilled all of its types. That is why the Old Covenant, ordained by an earthly mediator with carnal things, was to be done away.

**Hebrews 8:13 - “In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”**

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The law was given in order that sin may be made to abound (i.e. to make it appear unto men, so they would acknowledge the truth of their own sin) and was to picture the coming redeemer and keep alive the doctrines that held pictures of these hopes for men throughout their generations. However, it was not sufficient to teach men how to exercise faith once it was fulfilled – there was no more future fulfillment to which they could look in hope of His promise. The fulfilled testimony now stands as another memorial of God’s faithfulness to bring His Word to pass. At that point in time as the law was to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ at His first appearing, just as God has always done, another Word was given for preaching and doctrine to declare the testimony of Christ concerning things to come – the gospel of the kingdom of God.

**Luke 16:16 - “The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN: since that time THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS PREACHED, and every man presseth into it.”**

We have explored that preaching and testimony more fully in another book, *The Gospel Of The Kingdom*,

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*. The acceptable time to believe is in the gap between the Word spoken and the Word fulfilled – that is where FAITH must act!*

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but for our purposes here we will say that the testimony of Christ to men today is still prophetic and future to the preaching of it as His Word to men has always been! We are preaching and declaring the things God has given witness to by His

Son before they come to pass. In between the preaching of the Word and its fulfillment is the accepted time for men

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- the time when they can exercise faith in Him. The acceptable time to believe is in the gap between the Word spoken and the Word fulfilled - that is where FAITH must act!

**2 Corinthians 6:2 - “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”**

Christ has already paid the price to justify and redeem those who believe the testimony He has declared of the Father. What is required is FAITH - knowledge, belief, and confidence in the testimony of Christ, both fulfilled and future. Specifically, we see that faith operates in the area of future testimony to be scriptural faith. As a prerequisite, the fulfilled testimony must be believed and builds confidence in what is yet unfulfilled. This is where the rubber meets the road for salvation. We are now ready to delve more particularly into the gift of salvation. What it is. What it isn't. How can we know and have confidence in these things? Let's get into the Word and get some knowledge, belief, and confidence!

## Chapter 5 – The Gift of Salvation

**1 Corinthians 1:21 – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE.”**

One of the most common misconceptions in our time is the idea that salvation is something you “get” when you ask for it from God. Accordingly, many times you will hear phrases such as “when I got saved”, “back when I was saved”, “are you saved”, “you need to get saved”, “I am not sure I am saved”, and many other such phrases that seem to communicate that salvation is something that is in your past that happened to you. While this is a popular way of speaking of salvation, is it really the truth of God’s Word? We see that over time, we can be subtly moved away from the truth a little at a time until we no longer stand upon the sure foundation we were given. As it pertains to salvation, we especially need to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Is it something we “get” now, or is it a future promise? Let’s look at a few examples from the pages of scripture so that you can see what I am talking about.

When we examine the topic of salvation in the pages of scripture, we can discern an important distinction that stands in contrast to many of these modern explanations of salvation we hear today. Let’s see if you can pick up on it.

Peter speaking to the church at Jerusalem said this in Acts 15:

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**Acts 15:11 - “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ WE SHALL BE SAVED, even as they.”**

Paul writing to the church which was at Rome told them this:

**Romans 13:11 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for NOW IS OUR SALVATION NEARER than when we believed.”**

Paul again to Thessalonica:

**1 Thessalonians 5:9 - “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but TO OBTAIN SALVATION by our Lord Jesus Christ,”**

And here again in the book of Acts:

**Acts 2:21 - “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED.”**

OK, so before we proceed any further with the gift of salvation, what have we noticed here in these few passages? Clearly, the salvation spoken of here is spoken of in the future tense - as if it is

unfulfilled testimony. Peter had clearly become a believer of the truth when he spoke as if looking forward to being saved and so was Paul. So, what are we to make of these passages? Do we indeed “get saved” as commonly taught? Well, maybe, but let’s look at a few more.

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*Peter had clearly become a believer of the truth when he spoke as if looking forward to being saved and so was Paul.*

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## Chapter 5 - The Gift of Salvation

**Hebrews 1:14 - “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who SHALL BE HEIRS OF SALVATION?”**

**1 Peter 1:3 - 5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

If we stop here at this passage in Peter’s first epistle, it will be I think immensely helpful to our understanding of God’s gift of salvation. Peter here correlates the inheritance of the saints with the hope we have by the Word of God, and further states that we are kept by the power of God through faith UNTO SALVATION. This is a good place to start digging a little deeper into the true meaning of salvation. If we are preserved by faith, which is the substance of things hoped for, then that means we are living in hope of some things that we have not yet received. They have been spoken to us by the Word of God through the Testimony of Christ but have yet to be fulfilled in the process of time. As we look at what Peter is teaching, he shows that salvation itself is a promise of God. In other words, we are living by faith in hope and expectation of the salvation He has spoken of by promise. We are in the gap, so to speak, between the promise being sent by the Word and the fulfillment in process of time. I know, it’s a lot to take in all at once when you’ve thought of it differently your whole life.... Feel free to take a little break here and grab a glass of water to relax and consider these passages. Once you’re ready to proceed, let’s look at what the scriptures

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teach and study them out so that we can rightly divide the Word.

Peter says that this faith is to preserve us UNTO salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time. Faith itself is a gift from God that comes by the hearing of the preaching of His Word.

**Romans 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as GOD HATH DEALT TO EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH.”**

How is it that God deals this measure of faith to men? Well, it is given through hearing His Word. Not reading it, knowing it, memorizing it, or using it to prove why you're OK with the level of sin in your life, but by HEARING it. Listening in humility to be taught of His promises. Learning at His feet in meekness. Hearing itself is a gift HE gives to those who humbly seek after Him.

**Romans 10:17 - “So then FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, and HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.”**

All of His work in us today starts with His Word. That is what we have been studying thus far in this book. Christ is the author of our faith as well as the author of our salvation.

**Hebrews 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus the AUTHOR and finisher of our FAITH;”**

**Hebrews 5:9 - “And being made perfect, he became the AUTHOR of eternal SALVATION unto all them that OBEY HIM;”**



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Christ is the one by whom we have received the faith because He is the provider of the Word of Testimony that we believed, and He is the author of salvation since He both provided the means of faith by His Word and the means of redemption by His blood. He is also the finisher of it because it is by Him that all of the promises God has given to men will be fulfilled.

**2 Corinthians 1:20 – “For ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM ARE YEA, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”**

As we know from our earlier principles of Christ’s testimony, if we are in FAITH of something, that means we are in expectation of a promise we haven’t yet seen fulfilled, which is Peter’s point. As we proceed through the next few verses, he makes this very clear.

**1 Peter 1:6 – 9 – “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory AT THE APPEARING OF JESUS CHRIST: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: RECEIVING THE END OF YOUR FAITH, EVEN THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS”**

When we understand that the faith we have is being tried in this life, and that salvation is to be received at the appearing of Jesus Christ, the whole context of the gospel and the many scriptures that declare these truths becomes clear.

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*If they already had their salvation, it wouldn't be by faith.... Faith speaks to promises believed and hoped for in confidence*

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Peter says that these saints need to persevere through these trials by FAITH as obedient children UNTIL they receive the thing that they have now only by FAITH - the salvation of their

souls! If they already had their salvation, it wouldn't be by faith.... Faith speaks to promises believed and hoped for in confidence, not only to things that are already done and fulfilled. That is why He says twice in this passage the same thing we have seen in all our previous examples - that salvation is in the future and we are living in the faith and hope of it by His Word of promise. We have the things going on NOW (in the gap between the promise and its fulfillment, which is FAITH), and the fulfillment that will be brought when Christ appears. When the faith we have in His Word of promise endures to the end, when He appears, then our faith will be found unto praise, honor, and glory and we will receive that very thing which we have known to be true by faith - the salvation of our souls.

Peter then says that the prophets have searched and enquired diligently concerning this grace that is to be brought unto us, and that they testified of these things by the Spirit of Christ, who is sent to men to declare the testimony of the Father. He then says that the grace we look for and in which we hope is to be brought unto us..... At the revelation of Jesus Christ - when He appears. Compare this passage with what we are told in Hebrews concerning these same things.

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**Hebrews 9:28 - “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME without sin UNTO SALVATION.”**

Ditto. Same exact concept and context concerning His appearing and our salvation. It is a promise that is given to men that will be received when Christ appears for those who look for Him - more on that here in a bit as well.

One thing we peculiarly begin to notice in light of these passages is that many of the passages we commonly discuss concerning salvation actually speak of it in a future tense, and we almost don't even notice them because we assume it means that salvation is given at that time rather than in the future at the appearing of Christ. One thing is for certain. Whatever, our position on these things, our understanding must account for all these passages for it to be a scriptural understanding. I am confident if you follow this book through and study for yourself, you will be shown that we can in fact understand all these passages in their true light. As far as some of those common references that speak of salvation as a future promise, let's look at a few:

**John 10:9 - “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he SHALL BE SAVED, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”**

**Acts 2:21 - “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED.”**

**Acts 11:14 - “Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house SHALL BE SAVED.”**

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**Acts 16:31 - “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou SHALT BE SAVED, and thy house.”**

**Romans 5:9 - 10 - “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, WE SHALL BE SAVED from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”**

**Romans 10:9 - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED.”**

So, in these and other places in scripture that are familiar to us, we can clearly see by examining them that the salvation spoken of is actually in a future tense. As we continue to study through the scriptures, I believe you will start to see why. This way of communicating the salvation of which scripture speaks is entirely consistent, and actually makes for a clearer understanding of our faith and doctrine when studied out.

The salvation of which scripture speaks is a promise to be given to a certain group of people - the saints. Without going into a full study of that topic, suffice it to say that the saints are the body of believers that have accepted the testimony of Christ by faith all through time. This promise of salvation is spoken of by way of the testimony of Christ and is yet at this time future to us and an unfulfilled part of His testimony. That is why salvation is through faith - it is part of His testimony that hasn't been fulfilled yet, which is where faith is exercised. Salvation is a term that speaks of the deliverance and rescue that is promised to those of the household of faith. This promise

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is given to men to give them hope, or as this word communicates in Greek, an earnest expectation. Paul explains salvation in this way in his epistle to the Romans.

**Romans 8:24 - 25 - For we are SAVED BY HOPE: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we WITH PATIENCE WAIT for it.”**

Paul correlates this hope we have of salvation to the redemption of our bodies, which is the thrust of the whole plan of God concerning this age and His saints. He has prepared a city, and an entire new creation, which is specifically for His Son and the saints who have believed His testimony. We see in this chapter we are clearly waiting for this redemption of our body that is also a part of the promise and part of our being made fit for the inheritance.

**Romans 8:22 - 23 - “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, WAITING FOR the adoption, to wit, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY.”**

So, redemption is also a promise of God given by Christ that is yet unfulfilled at this time. We have received the Word of redemption in the form of a promise, and now live by faith waiting for the hope we have been given by His promise to be fulfilled. This redemption speaks of the salvation of which we are in hope, which Paul clearly says here. We are saved by hope, but we haven't yet received the promise, or we wouldn't be hoping for it. This hope of salvation is absolutely essential to our faith and life on this earth now as a part of our spiritual armor.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:8 - “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, THE HOPE OF SALVATION.”**

If we are armed with this hope of salvation, it clearly serves to aid us in the trial of our faith now in this present evil world in the days of our flesh. There is a good reason for that! We will show as we proceed exactly why that is the case. For now, let's fully comprehend exactly what the testimony of Christ is concerning this gift of salvation. It is laid up as a gift for those whose faith endures to the end. It is spoken to men as a Word of promise and is to be received by faith in the acceptable time - the gap between the promise and the fulfillment.

**Psalms 69:13 - “But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in THE TRUTH OF THY SALVATION.”**

The time for salvation is before the fulfillment of His Word is brought to pass. Just as in Noah's day - the door was shut seven days before the rain began. Those who had opportunity for faith, had that opportunity while the message of future things was being declared through preaching, but when the time came for fulfillment of the Word of testimony, the door was shut, the preaching ceased, and the acceptable time of salvation had passed with its closing. It was the same in Lot's day as well.

**Genesis 19:10 - “But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and SHUT TO THE DOOR.”**

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Noah pled with his generation to believe the testimony of Christ and repent while there was hope. Our ministry today is the same.

**Luke 13:25 - “When once the master of the house is risen up, and HATH SHUT TO THE DOOR, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:”**

The preaching of the kingdom of God is now sent through all the world not only to declare past testimony that is fulfilled concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, but the gospel message that **MUST** carry the prophetic testimony of the coming appearing of the Lord for His saints, the destruction of the earth, the return of Christ as reigning King over the kingdom of God at the end of the age, the coming resurrection of the just and unjust, the creation of a new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, the promise of the New Jerusalem, the eternal glory and dominion of Christ with His saints, and the eternal destruction and torment of the unbelieving. All of these and other future promises of God in Christ are a part of the testimony of Christ that is yet unfulfilled. This unfulfilled testimony is where faith must operate in order to please God. We will demonstrate this further again as we move along, but it is essential to our understanding of salvation.

Salvation is a promise to the saints who receive the testimony of Christ by faith. That salvation is to be received as a promise to give men hope and to preserve them in faith until the end. The salvation we look for is to be brought unto us at the appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can read the book of Revelation to see

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the future fulfillment of these promises we have now by faith.

**Revelation 12:10 - “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, NOW IS COME SALVATION, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”**

As we are told in Lamentations:

**Lamentations 3:26 - “It is good that a man should both hope and quietly WAIT FOR THE SALVATION of the LORD.”**

Or as we see in Psalms 119 in numerous places.

**Psalms 119:41, 81, 123, 166, & 174 - “VAU. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.....CAPH. My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word..... Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness..... LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments..... I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.”**

These and many other passages really make it clear for us that the psalmist was longing for the fulfillment of the promises he had believed by faith - which is how salvation works among men. Is your soul fainting as you wait in expectation for His promise? Are you continuing in the faith by consoling yourself in the hope of His Word? Many professors of the Christian faith today don't know what the promises mean and are content to live in this present world with its pleasures and riches. Many even fear death because they are holding on to this life as dear and



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precious. Where is the testimony of those who have believed the promises of God? Where is the hope of those who have believed the testimony of Christ and by virtue of faith in His Word have overcome the things this world offers to keep men drowned in its cares?

**Revelation 12:11 - “And they OVERCAME him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH.”**

**Hebrews 2:14 - 15 - “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; AND DELIVER THEM WHO THROUGH FEAR OF DEATH WERE ALL THEIR LIFETIME SUBJECT TO BONDAGE.”**

Those who have received the testimony of Christ by faith and have an eternal inheritance to look forward to in the Kingdom of God, have no reason to live in love of their lives or this world. All our hopes and promises rest in Christ in the world to come and not in this present evil world. This is the hope the gospel of the kingdom is sent to men to give. This is the hope that gives men opportunity for faith in Christ.

**Colossians 1:21 - 23 - “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: IF YE CONTINUE IN THE FAITH grounded and settled, and BE NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature**

which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”

This FAITH in which we are to continue is not a knowledge that God fulfilled His testimony in sending Christ to be crucified and resurrected, it lives in hope of His promises through the ASSURANCE that the fulfilled testimony gives. The gospel of the kingdom is the body of doctrine, faith, and ordinances that pertain to the yet unfulfilled testimony of Christ. It is by FAITH in these things and obedience to that faith during the trial of faith in this life, that men are made partakers of the blood that Christ shed on Calvary’s cross. In *The Gospel of the kingdom*, I wrote:

*So, what is the gospel of the kingdom? It is the gospel of Christ that speaks to us of His PROMISES. It is the gospel Paul preached among the Gentiles everywhere he went as he taught of all these things. It starts with the PROMISE made to Abraham, speaks of the work of Christ to CONFIRM that promise to Abraham, and follows through to the PROMISE NOW BEING PREACHED to those who will be blessed with faithful Abraham and receive the inheritance of the saints. It includes ALL the things concerning Jesus Christ, who was the Seed promised to Abraham when the gospel was preached to him. You will notice that Paul had taught the Gentiles at Galatia about Abraham, which gets into the inheritance of the Saints and we’ll discuss that in more detail later.*

*The gospel of the kingdom of God emphasizes the Work of God in Christ with an eye to the future – prophecy, which is the testimony of Jesus. This will become clearer as we continue, but it looks ahead to His kingdom*

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*and the time when He will sit on His throne and give His reward unto the saints.*

***Matthew 25:31 - “WHEN THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, THEN SHALL HE SIT UPON THE THRONE of his glory.”***

***Colossians 3:24 - “Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”***

***Revelation 22:12 - “And, behold, I come quickly; and my REWARD is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”***

*All of which is predicated upon His work on the cross being completed as foretold, which was absolutely necessary to ever have the resurrection of the just and the kingdom that was promised.*

***Luke 17:24 - 25 - “For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. BUT FIRST HE MUST SUFFER many things, and be rejected of this generation.”***

*It speaks to us of the things beyond this age and looks to the “world to come” as scripture puts it. The suffering that came first was foretold by the law in a shadow; we now show forth in a shadow the communion at his table in the kingdom, and the gap between the events in the text of Luke 17:24 - 25 is the same gap that is in Isaiah 61:2 which Christ quoted partially during His earthly ministry.*

***Isaiah 61:2 - “To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God...”***

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*The gap between the proclamation of the acceptable year of the Lord and day of vengeance continues to this day as we continue to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. One part is fulfilled. One part is future - accepted by faith. Both true in one man, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we see the fulfillment of the suffering Christ, and we look ahead by faith in the gospel to the kingdom now promised and waiting to be revealed in the Father's own time - the appointed time.*

*It is important to remember that the Word of the Lord to man ALWAYS carries announcements from God about what He will do in the future. Since God cannot lie, we know that the word PROMISE in scripture is God making ANNOUNCEMENTS in advance of what He WILL do. Not quite the way we use the word in our own time... This allows for our exercise of faith in Him. Because we believe that things we haven't seen will happen, for no other reason than the Word of the Lord came with an announcement of them to us saying that it would be so.*

*That is how Abraham was justified, is it not? God told him about the future, and Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. This is the substance of our faith in the gospel. God has declared things about His Son that are true, yet future to us. Have you believed His account of His son? He has declared Him to be Lord! Have you worshipped? He has declared Him to be Savior! Have you pled? He has declared Him to be the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world? Have you availed yourself of His blood? He has been declared to be King! Have you bowed the knee and entered His holy service? He is declared to be coming again! Are you watching?*

***Luke 12:35 - 36 - “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto MEN THAT WAIT FOR THEIR LORD, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find WATCHING: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.”***

*The gospel of the kingdom declares all the truth of the gospel that we know so well regarding the marvelous work done at Calvary but doesn't leave the work relegated to the past. The gospel of Christ carries that work forward with a view to the risen Savior, His return and the inauguration of the kingdom he has long promised to His saints. Repeatedly in His teaching and parables Christ would speak of “entrance” into the kingdom. This is central to the faith we preach and is one way that God works in us by faith to preserve His saints that we should not be led away with the error of the wicked or condemned with the world. As we get further into the book, we will look at more of the “entrance” spoken of in Christ's teachings and the “entrance” spoken of by the apostles in their epistles to the saints.*

*Many young people who have grown up in churches today do not have a grasp of this gospel and may have never even heard much of “the world to come” or the “inheritance of the saints”, but that ought not be the case. Our young people need a hope that speaks to things beyond this present world that they see - a hope rooted in the promise of God concerning things to come. We will have more to say on this later, but it is sound doctrine that keeps God's children faithfully and obediently waiting for His glorious appearing*

*1 Peter 1:13 - 14 - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and HOPE TO THE END for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:"*

*Colossians 1:23 - "If ye CONTINUE IN THE FAITH grounded and settled, and BE NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"*

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*Watchfulness for His return is a required part of our obedience to the gospel. Continuing in the faith, being steadfast in hoping to the end rather than viewing the gospel and their own salvation as only things that happened so I can "go to heaven when I die", is an important distinction of true Christian faith.*

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*Watchfulness for His return is a required part of our obedience to the gospel. Continuing in the faith, being steadfast in hoping to the end rather than viewing the gospel and their own salvation as only things that happened so I can "go to heaven when I die", is an important distinction of true Christian faith. Seeing the faith as only a means of "going to heaven when you die" is more of a pagan concept than a Biblical one. Too strong of a statement, you say? You will find many Christians today that have nothing more of faith than that offered in the*

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*“afterlife” religions of the Egyptians and other pagans in days gone by.*

*The gospel of the kingdom is no such thing. It equips us by faith to heed the call “follow Me”! Have you asked yourself the question, “When Jesus said to ‘follow me’, where was He going?” He tells us in His word:*

***John 16:28 - “... again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.”***

*We are sure of our Savior, certain of His Word, undaunted and unoffended by the trials of this life which we have learned to expect as pilgrims here, unattracted by the lures of the riches of this life as they grow dim in light of Him, and are unwavering in our faith of the good promises made to us in Christ by God our Savior.*

We see the reward of blessing is given to those who endure in faith until the appointed time - Like Naaman. Christ used Naaman as an example of faith as well.

**Luke 4:27 - “And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.”**

In Naaman’s example, he was given a promise from the Word of the Lord spoken by the prophet Elijah. We know this was a Word from the Father given by His Son, the Word of God. The promise He had received involved some faith, some obedience, and some endurance until the appointed time - exact parallels to the gospel of the kingdom today. Let’s go over to the record of this scriptural memorial of God’s fulfilled testimony to see if it benefits our knowledge in any way.

**2 Kings 5:10 - 14 - “And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?**

Here we clearly see a commandment with a promise that required a faith that would endure until the appointed time of the Father to receive the blessing. There is a reason God did not heal Naaman the way Naaman wanted - because Naaman's way is not the Lord's way. It also would not have preserved the testimony of faith that Christ intended to reference to the Jews in years to come. We see that Naaman's promise required obedience to the faith. In other words, the promise is where the blessing came from, but only if Naaman yielded to the Word and endured to the end.

The appointed time for Naaman was 7 times - the number of completion in scripture. If Naaman had been offended after 5 or 6 times and quit, He would not have obtained the promise. He had to endure to the appointed time. This is an example for us who are required to endure to the appointed time as well - only our appointed time is the appearing of Christ. The promise is to those who endure to the end in our case.



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**Mark 13:13 - “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved.”**

Which is why the apostles encouraged all who had professed FAITH in the promise to demonstrate obedience until the end and not cast away their confidence - because there is a GREAT REWARD!

**Hebrews 10:35 - “CAST NOT AWAY therefore YOUR CONFIDENCE, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and HE that shall come WILL COME, and will not tarry.”**

Again here, as in many other places, we continue to see the promise given to those who endure to the appointed time - the end. Here we see that the great reward is given to those who endure until the promised appearing of the Son of Man, who is to give us the reward and end of our faith - the salvation of our souls, as Peter says. The very next 2 verses point this out for us.

**Hebrews 10:38 - 39 - “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL.”**

So, like Naaman, we are to endure to the appointed time to receive the blessing of reward. This is not a works salvation, as we will go on to examine, because we certainly know that is a lie as well. This is a faith that works out its own salvation through faith unto the end, which is what we are called to do. Faith comes first by the Word of

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God, and then obedience in love to the law of Christ as we walk in faith concerning things to come. The salvation is of promise and as the testimony of Christ is unfailingly true. The question is not of its certainty, but of our partaking of it.

Naaman persevered because of the hope he had by promise. Was his a “works salvation”? Well, there were works involved, but only because he had received a promise. The hope we have by promise is the very strengthening force of the work of God to preserve us by faith. It is His Word dwelling in our hearts by faith that equips us to persevere. It is His power that strengthens and confirms us to then end by the power of the hope he has communicated to us by His Word. All of Naaman’s own ideas and works could not provide his “salvation”, which is what man’s religion has always attempted. However, having a promise from God taught him how he was to receive the “salvation” he sought. It was absolutely of God’s mercy and grace and made solely available to Naaman by promise. There are, however, requirements for man and that is certain. This is in scripture called obedience to the faith. It is a holy obedience to Christ that is the result of that man’s faith in the promised outcome to the one who heeds the holy call in faith. As James might say,

**James 2:4 - “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”**

The truth of the narrow way I hope is becoming clearer. It is by grace – God’s character and good-will that he demonstrates towards sinful man. It is of faith - Faith is exercised in the unfulfilled testimony of prophetic promise. It involves obedience – there’s no getting out of that

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one. The fact is that if we have believed Him concerning things to come, there will be things we are asked to do to be a witness of the things we expect by faith – a light yoke indeed, but a yoke to be certain. I hope to go into more detail in a coming chapter on obedience to the faith, but you'll not escape the reality of Christ's words by any theology you claim:

**Luke 12:47 - “And that servant, which KNEW HIS LORD’S WILL, and PREPARED NOT HIMSELF, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”**

That verse ought to be enough to keep us walking in humility until His appearing... which is how we are called to obey the faith. When we strike out on the trail of faith, it is the obedience He asks for that truly searches out our hearts to make examination of whether we have really accepted the testimony as true. Some will say then that is salvation by works! No, it is salvation by promise. When we get to the chapter on obedience it will hopefully be clearer. As Christ says, His yoke is not grievous. Obedience sounds scary to sinners though. More on that later.

**1 Chronicles 28:9 - “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for THE LORD SEARCHETH ALL HEARTS, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”**

This may feel a little uncomfortable at this point I am sure in the modern context of things we hear. The truth is that those who have by faith received the testimony will be saved, but the Lord knows our hearts are deceitful and

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has provided a means of obedience to the faith so that men can search their own hearts and by His Word know the truth. There are many professors of faith who have no godly fruit by which to be known. There are many who say they believe only later to turn back to the world out of which they have been called. There are many who have deceived themselves that faith only requires assent to the past fulfilled work of Christ and now live out their days as they please expecting to “go to heaven when they die”. We also see there are many who know the Lord at the judgment that are not granted the inheritance promises in spite of what they knew.

**Matthew 7:21 - “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”**

There is a difference between doing many works that men see as wonderful and doing the will of the Father as revealed in His testimony by Christ. We need to understand the faith that speaks to the revealed testimony of the Father - which is what Christ is teaching.

This scriptural teaching of our service to Him in the earth as a witness to the true and heavenly things we live in hope of, also allows for clear preaching of a Godly warning to those who take the local church all too lightly, which is more and more common in the great falling away from the faith foretold by scripture.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 - “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a FALLING AWAY first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”**

This apostasy isn’t only immorality and the like, although that will accompany it, it is the falling away from the FAITH ( the substance of things hoped for) in favor of many things in this present world such as applying the Word of God and His promised blessings to only this natural life to improve everyone’s life experience, departing from the observance of the doctrines and ordinances as committed to us in scripture, the watchfulness and expectancy of the Lord’s people for His appearing, exchanging faith in His Word for a superstitious belief in His power to “bless” us in ways we choose, the inclination to have an open ear for fables

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*If we are only “looking unto Jesus” as an example of HOW to live as a good person, we have entirely missed His preaching and doctrine.*

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and stories but no appetite for the Word of God, and many other spiritually deceiving hazards of that sort. Kind of like in Jesus day with the Pharisees – just “doing what the Bible says” because it helps us respect the marginalized, care for the poor, tend to the sick, love sacrificially, serve one another, be a good spouse or employee, feel more fulfilled, and many other “wonderful works” such as these. But where is the FAITH? Those are only the works of men. Where is the HOPE? The EXPECTATION of the fulfillment of His Word. Where is the proclamation of the PROMISES? If we are only “looking unto Jesus” as an

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example of HOW to live as a good person, we have entirely missed His preaching and doctrine.

Jesus didn't ask if there would be religion and works in His name when He returned. Actually, He taught there would be great deceptions in His name before He comes! What He requires is an expecting people!!! People of FAITH!!! People who have believed His Word and testimony and are walking in the light of it!!!

We could go on at length with these manifestations of the corrupted minds of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Let us humbly seek Him who can save our souls and submit in obedience to the faith as we live in hope of the promises He has given. This is the truth of the grace of God.

**1 Timothy 6:11 - 14 - "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, UNTIL THE APPEARING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:"**

Of the things we have spoken, here is a brief summary so far. God has spoken His testimony by Christ. Men are required to believe it in the gap before its fulfillment to be partakers of its promises by faith and to be justified in His sight. Salvation is a reward given to those who endure by faith to the end - which is the appearing of Christ who is bringing the grace unto us we have hoped for according to His word. Those who fall on sleep before His

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appearing having this hope in them, are to be resurrected and made partakers of the promise as well. As of right now, they who have died with His testimony in their hearts by faith are in His presence and awaiting the fulfillment of these same promises they expect to inherit.

**Psalms 16:8 - 9 - “I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.”**

**1 Thessalonians 4:14 - “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”**

The reason we need to understand salvation as a promise becomes clear when we understand Paul’s warning to Timothy. When we start preaching things that are intended to be promises of God to give men faith as if they are already here or past, it is destructive to faith and leads to more ungodliness. The “gap” has been removed, and the opportunity for exercising faith and having hope in His promise vanishes with it. Certainly, we can see this is the case with salvation. How many people profess faith in Christ saying they “are saved” and yet lie dormant in His service, are unfaithful to His assembly, are lackadaisical in their study, seldom read the Word, strive over trivial affairs of this life, bask in the pleasures of this world and its entertainments, and many other such things that are contrary to sound doctrine, and yet cling to an idea that they “got saved” because they prayed a prayer or believe “in Jesus”. Let’s be clear, salvation is a reward to the faithful saints who have believed and been obedient to the testimony they have received. There are clear warnings to the vain man who has deceived himself.

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**James 2:19 - 20 - “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”**

**Galatians 6:7 - “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for IN DUE SEASON we shall reap, if we faint not.”**

Salvation is clearly taught as a promise of God in the scriptures, and we have only scratched the surface so far in this book. Men are required to hold fast their FAITH to the end to be made partakers of the promises they have professed to believe. That sounds strange to some of us who have concerns with doctrines that lead men to doubt their salvation or eternal security, of which I am one of those people, but it is actually just the opposite. This truth serves to build faith. It certainly doesn't make it shipwreck as is so common today. For those who have accepted the promise of God by faith and are living in hope and expectation of His promises, the more time that passes the more true and real His promises are to us. Faith increases. Expectation grows. Obedience increases. Love abounds. The light of hope burns more brightly. The idea of casting away our confidence becomes more preposterous. Let me attempt to here explain.

Before I demonstrate by way of “parable”, let's look at some of the scriptures that clearly admonish professing believers to endure in their faith.



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**Mark 13:3 - “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same SHALL BE SAVED.”**

**Colossians 1:22 - 23 - “In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: IF YE CONTINUE IN THE FAITH grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”**

**Hebrews 3:6 - “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, IF WE HOLD FAST the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”**

**Hebrews 3:14 - “For we are made partakers of Christ, IF WE HOLD the beginning of our confidence STEDFAST UNTO THE END;”**

**Hebrews 6:11 - “And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE UNTO THE END:”**

**1 Peter 1:13 - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and HOPE TO THE END for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”**

Just like Naaman's promise, there was obedience until the appointed time that was required. Now, there are many other places in scripture that teach these same principles and truths. I want you to look at these in the light of the previous passages we have seen that teach us that we “shall be saved”, that we are waiting to receive the end of our faith even the salvation of our souls, that we have the hope of salvation, that we have received the word of

## Chapter 5 - The Gift of Salvation

salvation, and that Christ is appearing the second time unto those that look for Him unto salvation. Here we have several admonishments to the churches and saints that they need to endure in their faith to the end as well, which precisely matches Christ's own words and teaching to endure and overcome. This is what the trial of our faith is all about that Peter speaks of and that Paul admonishes the saints to press forward in.

**1 Timothy 6:12 - "Fight the good fight of FAITH, LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE, whereunto thou art also CALLED, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."**

Timothy had professed faith in the promise and is being encouraged by Paul to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life - which is also a promise to be received in the world to come.

**Titus 1:2 - "In HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, which God, that cannot lie, PROMISED before the world began;"**

**Titus 3:7 - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made HEIRS according to the HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE."**

**1 John 2:25 - "And this is the PROMISE that he hath promised us, even ETERNAL LIFE."**

**Mark 10:30 - "But he SHALL RECEIVE an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and IN THE WORLD TO COME ETERNAL LIFE."**

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The reason for Paul's encouragement to Timothy is that even in the early days there were those who "walked no more with Him", "went back from following Him", or "went out from us". Paul had witnessed this in his own ministry as well.

**2 Timothy 4:10 - "For Demas HATH FORSAKEN ME, HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."**

The importance of this cannot be glazed over. Our salvation depends on it.

**Hebrews 10:38 - 39 - "Now the JUST shall LIVE by FAITH: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who DRAW BACK UNTO PERDITION; but of them that BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL."**

What a verse we have here! Clearly, there is a faith that is vain and a faith that endures to the end. Christ is only the author of one of those. He is the author of the One True Faith. The kind He gives by His Word. He is only the finisher of one of those too. I really want to explore this as this is the primary point of understanding the promised gift of salvation. Since many have taught and believed that we have salvation already, there are those who are rather dismissive of their adherence and obedience to the faith - which Christ warns against for a reason. Further, because the gospel is preached to "save people" nowadays rather than teach them the truth of the testimony of Christ so that it can be believed, most professing believers have little understanding of the hope of the inheritance that is promised to those who believe and endure to the end. The Word all works as one and when you fail to rightly divide

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it, it is destructive in all sorts of ways and increases ungodliness.

**2 Timothy 2:17 - 18 - “And THEIR WORD WILL EAT AS DOTH A CANKER: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”**

This understanding of the gospel and the Word of God is not a works salvation; it is a salvation promise. Those who believe the promise will be obedient by virtue of the power of the hope they have received - the very words that are received are Spirit and Life.

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*The price was entirely paid by Christ on Calvary's cross where He shed His blood a ransom for many, and the gospel preaching by which it is revealed is of His Word, Spirit, and power. Man has no hope for salvation apart from this Word of promise.*

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**Hebrews 6:18 - 19 - “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge TO LAY HOLD UPON THE HOPE SET BEFORE US: Which hope we have as AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, both sure and stedfast, and which**

**entereth into that within the veil;”**

**1 Peter 1:13 - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and HOPE TO THE END for the GRACE that is TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST;”**

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The price was entirely paid by Christ on Calvary's cross where He shed His blood a ransom for many, and the gospel preaching by which it is revealed is of His Word, Spirit, and power. Man has no hope for salvation apart from this Word of promise. What is in view here is a promise that requires actual FAITH to partake of. A faith that does some things in this life out of the holy expectancy created in their hearts by the Word of Promise from God Himself.

**1 Peter 1:23 - "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever."**

**James 1:21 - "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and RECEIVE with meekness THE ENGRAFTED WORD, which is able to save your souls."**

A faith fully persuaded of things it has never seen is what is needed. A faith that is willing to do what would be irrational to anyone who didn't know or believe these promises.

**1 Peter 4:3 - 4 - "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein THEY THINK IT STRANGE THAT YE RUN NOT WITH THEM to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."**

All of this is entirely consistent with how the word of testimony by Christ works among men and is clearly set forth in the parable of the sower as Christ taught kingdom

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doctrine to His apostles. In another book titled, *The Gospel of The Kingdom*, I shared these thoughts:

*“The parable of the sower brings all this teaching home as it pertains to the gospel of the kingdom.*

***Matthew 13:18 - 19 - “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”***

*This parable continues to be useful in our study in other ways, but here we notice that the word sown is the “word of the kingdom”. We then go on to see all the adversaries that are against the fruitfulness of the Word in people’s lives. The adversary without, Satan, catching away the seed. The adversary within, our own nature and stony ground of the heart. And the adversaries among, the world and its system and values that keep us blinded to the truth of God’s Word and thus in bondage to this present life. None of these first three cases of seed sown overcome or endure, which are qualities unique to His workmanship and His children.*

***1 John 5:4 - “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”***

***Matthew 13:23 - “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word [of the kingdom v.19], and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”***

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*As Christ was teaching those who were demanding to know **WHEN** it would appear, he taught them that it wasn't to come to them by observation because it is an inheritance promised to those who are in hope of receiving it by his promise through faith. He then makes the statement that "the kingdom of God is within you". Now we could wrestle with this in all sorts of imaginative ways, which some do, but there's no need to identify this as anything other than what we have already been taught - the seed of the Word of God! If the kingdom rests within us by having received the word of the Christ concerning the coming kingdom by faith, then we can clearly understand the statement made by Christ as **DOCTRINE** and not **THEOLOGY**. This also makes clearer for us the statement we looked at earlier regarding receiving the kingdom:*

***Mark 10:15 - "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not RECEIVE the kingdom of God as a little child, he SHALL NOT ENTER therein."***

*The Word of God concerning the kingdom, the seed, was already in them because it had been heard, the question is what kind of hearer are we? The parable of the sower gives us four different kinds of hearers. Hearers that have the Word snatched away before they can understand by the **enemy without** - Satan. Hearers in whom the Word doesn't mature because of the **enemy within** - the stones of the heart of our own carnal nature. Hearers in whom the Word is choked to death by the **enemies among** - the present world and its system of cares, riches, and pleasures. The fourth example in the parable is the only one who overcomes the world by receiving the word in faith and hoping unto the end as we have been commanded. Christ admonishes many times about hearing because hearing is how we "receive" the things of God:*

***Luke 8:18 - “Take heed therefore how ye hear...”***

*It is really clarifying to accept what the scripture teaches on this because then Christ immediately goes on to say to those whom He had just taught about the kingdom of God (His Word) being within them:*

***Luke 17:22 - 25 - “And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.”***

*Immediately after telling them these things about the kingdom being within them (by His Word), he then goes on to discuss and teach concerning the promise and hope of the coming of the Son of Man! We see the fulfillment of the Word of the gospel of the kingdom being related to the return of the Son of Man in many other places in scripture as well. This clarifies that the “kingdom of God” (also called “kingdom of Heaven by Matthew, likely for the sake of the Jewish crowd he was writing to) is not only referring to the supreme and sovereign rule of God the Father in the heavens (that fact is not and has not been a mystery of any sort!), but looks to the time in which He will reign by His Son Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ assuming the throne of glory will be the kingdom that is “of God” and not “of men”. For this reason, Christ refers to the coming of the Son of Man as the kingdom of God that is promised to come and hoped for by MEN - well, at least those of faith.”*



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The whole parable of the sower teaches exactly what we know to be true from our previous study in this book on the topic of salvation. Those who are faithful to the end according to the hope of the gospel, will receive the promises of which they have been made partakers by faith. Salvation is

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*Salvation is among those promises given by faith and is a reward to those who are faithful to the end according to His testimony. Salvation is not a certificate you receive that authenticates your membership in heaven's club.*

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among those promises given by faith and is a reward to those who are faithful to the end according to His testimony. Salvation is not a certificate you receive that authenticates your membership in heaven's club. Nor is it a confidence in our works to save us. Cain and Abel both had works. One was in faith of the promise and obedience to that faith and the other was disobedient rebellion of doing things his own way. Every saint of faith in scripture has works of obedience to that faith that pleased God. That is because obedience from the heart is a requirement, which means a man must first have faith towards God before that man can do anything to please Him.

Salvation is a Word God has spoken concerning those who believe the testimony of Christ - which will be fulfilled in due season. In the meantime, we can expect a trial of the faith we profess. That's also a promise. This trial is to teach and chastise our hearts so that we might not be destroyed with the world but delivered from it by the power of God. Each chastening teaches us to hope in His Word of promise rather than this life.

**1 Corinthians 11:32 - “But when we are judged, WE ARE CHASTENED of the Lord, THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED with the world.”**

Before we proceed, this may be a good time to use an example. Paul teaches that we are justified by faith, and then James wants to make sure we know that faith without works is dead. We saw this a little bit at work in Naaman’s story as well. We need to understand the truth of this narrow way.

When Rahab had faith in the promise of God to give the land of Canaan to Israel, she hid their spies and sent them out in peace. When Noah received the Word of promise, he built an ark to the saving of his house. When the Ninevites received the prophetic testimony of Christ, they repented and changed their ways. When Naaman received the testimony, he obeyed in faith to the full measure commanded and came up clean. When the Word of the Lord is given to men, and is received by faith, there is a change in course that corresponds to the truth received - the answer of a good conscience towards God, if you will. We have been given the preaching of the Word of the kingdom of God - what has changed for us? James would ask, what are you doing in this present time that shows the faith in this word concerning things to come?

If the present world is to be destroyed, why lay up treasures here? If Christ is heir of all things and has received the dominion of God, why aren’t you listening to His holy commands? If we are commanded to observe the assembling of ourselves unto Christ as part of the doctrine of our faith so that we can be a testimony to the world of our expected gathering unto Christ in the future, why would we disregard His will? If He has manifested His will

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that we love one another, why would we continue striving out of a love for ourselves? If He has promised to reward us richly in our eternal inheritance in accordance with our faithfulness in service here and now, wouldn't we live more richly unto Him? If we are to reign in His kingdom in the world to come, would we cling to this life as preciously as we do? You see, in every aspect of the kingdom we preach, there are corresponding actions we would find reasonable if we held to its' doctrine in fierce expectancy.

**Colossians 3:23 - 24 - "And whatsoever ye do, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, and not unto men; KNOWING that OF THE LORD ye shall receive THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."**

The doctrines of baptism and the Lord's supper are given in this age to preserve the truth of the heavenly congregation of saints as a part of the doctrine of the faith - because we look forward to those promises that they declare in expectancy, just as the ordinances of the old testament congregation looked forward to Christ's first coming. This teaches us the importance of observing baptism properly as well as observing "closed" communion rather than "open". That is because the doctrine is to picture the heavenly counterpart it represents - unless you are a member of the congregation in the resurrection, you won't be partaking at the Lord's table. I get into more detail of these things in *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, but they are inextricably woven with our stewardship of the faith we profess.

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Let me share by way of example how this might look from our perspective in order to show how faith and works operate according to the law of faith:

Suppose a school teacher says to his children in class, “I am going to be out of the room for a while, so I want you to each complete your math assignments and then begin reading the book of Genesis. Be looking for me when I return because I am going to need some help bringing some things in the room. If each of you complete the assignments and will meet me at the door when you see me coming, then I will reward each of you for your obedience.”

Now, if we examine this situation, would we say that the reward is of works? Is the reward of faith? Clearly there are some principles at work here for us to consider. The reward is spoken of as a promise and is only available by the power and grace of the one who gave the promise, but also involves obedience to the promise in faith by the students. Any student who doesn't believe the teacher won't bother doing the work. Any student who thinks the reward likely isn't worth it will not do the work. Others may believe the promise, start down a good path only to get distracted or discouraged and give up on the promise deciding it isn't worth the trouble. Still others may get so busy working in pride so they can brag about getting more done than the others that they lose sight of the promise and fail to watch. One thing we know from human nature, those not working and living rebelliously will attempt to get the obedient kids to abandon their work as well. If they don't succeed in this attempt, they will deride them and make fun of their efforts... Finally, we may have some who faithfully carry out their work while diligently watching for the teacher's return. When he returns, they are ready

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through faithfulness in watching and obedience to the commandments. They eagerly meet the teacher at the door with high EXPECTATIONS. All of this was set in motion by nothing more than a word of promise from the teacher.

The reward is the teacher's to give by his own grace and power. The teacher chose before the promise was ever spoken to give it to those who believed and fulfilled his will. As far as the students are concerned, each student chose their own responses to the situation and will each be rewarded according to their works. This is a narrow way. This is also a scriptural view of the promise of God to men. Really, it's pretty close to the parable our Lord gives in Mark 13.

**Mark 13:34 - "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."**

Sleeping is the spiritual opposite of watching - a people expectant for their Lord's return is part of the obedience. Without faith in the promise, our work is of no use. An empty faith in the promise that does no work is vain. These are

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*Without faith in the promise, our work is of no use. An empty faith in the promise that does no work is vain. These are both ditches on the sides of this narrow way.*

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both ditches on the sides of this narrow way. Likewise, confidence in our own ways and works is of no use without a promise. A faithful steward is what is wanted. A man who has FAITH in His Lord concerning His Word. A Word of promise. An exercise of faith. A time of fulfillment for the Word at His appearing.

**Psalm 31:23 - “O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for THE LORD PRESERVETH THE FAITHFUL, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.”**

**Matthew 25:21 - “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and FAITHFUL SERVANT: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: ENTER THOU into the joy of thy lord.”**

**1 Corinthians 4:2 - “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found FAITHFUL.”**

Now, our parable may fall short in the area of one thing. Our teacher cannot know the hearts and minds of the students to judge them properly as Christ can. However, let's look at these scriptures below in light of this “parable” that I attempted to share.

**Luke 12:35 - “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves LIKE UNTO MEN THAT WAIT FOR THEIR LORD, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, THEY MAY OPEN UNTO HIM IMMEDIATELY. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.”**

**Luke 12:46 - “But and IF THAT SERVANT SAY IN HIS HEART, My lord delayeth his coming; and**

shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and **WILL APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS.**”

We also see clearly in the Lord’s parables that He will judge His servants. When we look at the promise of the gospel, there are two clear things we need to see. Firstly, there is **prophetic testimony** that teaches us of His will concerning the future – that gives us light concerning this life. We now can see afar off and know the end from the beginning. A light to our path as it were.

Secondly, He gives us His **commandments** to show us His will concerning the present – that gives light to this life in the more immediate sense. A lamp unto our feet you might say. With both his testimony and His commandments, we have everything we need to carry out the work of our Lord as faithful stewards while we wait for His appearing. As he said, the ones whom he finds doing those things faithfully when He appears are to be rewarded, and those who knew the Truth of His will and testimony, but did nothing with them, will be given their portion with the unbelieving.

**Luke 12:47 - “And that servant, which KNEW HIS LORD’S WILL, and PREPARED NOT HIMSELF, neither DID ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, shall be beaten with many stripes.”**

Preparing ourselves comes from a knowledge of what He has promised to do in the future – His testimony. Obedience to His will concerns our activities in the present that are a byproduct of faith – His commandments. There

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is a reason our Lord Jesus taught His disciples of an imminent return.

**Mark 13:35 - “WATCH YE THEREFORE: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:”**

And a reason He also taught the disciples who had believed in the promised kingdom to endure until the end through all the trials of faith.

**Matthew 10:22 - “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but HE THAT ENDURETH TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED.”**

Many would be allured back to the world with its pleasures and riches.

**Luke 21:34 - “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.”**

Many would be offended when the promises weren't fulfilled in a time frame of their own thinking. Many expected the promises to be received in this life and did not understand the mystery of the world to come.

**John 6:61 - 62 - “When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”**

Christ was cautioning His disciples to not be offended concerning the promised kingdom that He had been teaching them of and of which they had believed by His testimony. When the kingdom promises they believed



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didn't come to pass and He went away, would they continue in faith of those things they had heard and believed? The temptation to doubt and abandon the faith is real.

**Luke 8:14 - "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and ARE CHOKED WITH CARES AND RICHES AND PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE, and bring no fruit to perfection."**

Many would be offended through difficulty of circumstance. The temptation to give up on the faith in the promised kingdom is also tragic.

**2 peter 2:20 - 22 - "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."**

Many also held to the certainty of the things they had been persuaded of until the very end - these are the overcomers. The heirs of the promises. The saints of God.

**Acts 14:21 - 22 - "And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and EXHORTING THEM TO CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, and that we must**

**THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”**

Psalm 119:33 - **“HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I SHALL KEEP IT UNTO THE END.”**

Psalm 119: 112 - **“I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, EVEN UNTO THE END.”**

Revelation 2:26 - **“And he that overcometh, and KEEPETH MY WORKS UNTO THE END, to him will I give power over the nations:”**

### Chapter 6 – Preaching the Word

In this chapter, we will get down to brass tacks so to speak. I have done my best to prepare you for this chapter by laying the scriptural groundwork of these principles:

- The testimony of Christ in declaring the things of the Father
- The prophetic nature of Christ's testimony to man
- The deliberate purpose of God to leave a gap between His spoken Word and its fulfillment to give men opportunity for faith.
- The work of Christ on Calvary's cross to shed the blood necessary to pay the price demanded for the sins of those who have believed His testimony.
- The nature of salvation as a promise of God through Christ's testimony to men. This Word is now preached in the acceptable time, the gap between spoken word and fulfillment, and will be received by those who persevere in faith unto the end.
- The two aspects of God's Word in the commandments and the testimony.
  - The testimony of prophecy - reveals to man the truth of the Father's will concerning things to come.
  - The testimony of commandments - reveals to man the truth of the will of the Father concerning men.

With this much under our belts, let's apply this knowledge to our own time and preaching to see if we can come to wisdom concerning the truth of salvation. Clearly,

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there is a misunderstanding of salvation and the gospel in our world today. And this is not new or surprising as we are told by Christ and the Apostles it would be so. We also know in the last days, there is a great deception coming on the world in His name that would deceive even the very elect if it were possible.

**Matthew 24:24 - “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”**

The preaching of the future kingdom after the destruction of this present world safeguards against these deceptions. There are and will continue to be however many who apply the scriptures and the gospel to only the

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*Don't look now, but the deception that applies Jesus blessings only to the things of this present world is already sweeping the globe in large part.*

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blessings we can know in this life. You've heard it all before... If you do this, you'll be blessed. If you do that you'll be blessed. You know the drill. All commonly applied to the temporal things of this life. So much so, that in the future deception it will sweep away most of humanity into thinking the peace and prosperity being achieved by men is a “blessing” from Christ. Don't look now, but the deception that applies Jesus blessings only to the things of this present world is already sweeping the globe in large part.

All of that said, if we apply what we know to many modern salvation approaches, we see some clear differences. You won't find teaching and preaching in the Bible

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by the apostles that focuses on telling people to get saved, or even asking them if they are saved. What you find is preachers sent with the prophetic testimony of Christ, the gospel of the kingdom, and their declaration of the completed testimony that had been fulfilled by Jesus Christ to give witness to men. As they preached these things, they would declare the hope of these promises to men who believed and accepted the testimony concerning the Lord Jesus and His coming kingdom. Those who heard and believed would be told to repent and believe i.e. turn from unbelief to faith. Then the apostles would teach those who had believed the ways of the Lord concerning the doctrine of faith and the commandments of our Lord for obedience to the faith.

**Acts 8:12 - “But when they believed Philip PREACHING the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, they were baptized, both men and women.”**

What that means is very simply this. Believing facts that are true about what God has already fulfilled is not the faith He is looking for. It is necessary, but not complete enough for people to do anything **BY FAITH**. A message that teaches “faith” only in what is complete requires no obedience to the faith. Faith must convey testimony that is future so that the recipient who believes the testimony can have hope in some promises. Faith is the substance of things hoped for – like an inheritance in the eternal kingdom of God reigning with Christ. Additionally, this hope must be in a promise Christ has given if He is the author and finisher of it.

So, follow closely here. Using the principles and understanding we have of how God works to justify men,

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

what kind of faith is needed today to be an heir of salvation? Believing that Christ died? That's a start towards knowledge. Belief that He was raised? Again, fulfilled testimony that gives knowledge. What we are called to do is use the knowledge these things, accepting the monuments & witness of fulfilled testimony, to have FAITH in his PROMISES. That's what is required to be justified by faith.

Well then, a person must have accepted the testimony of Christ - prophecy. This is the pattern of faith. This is the reason the gospel of the coming kingdom of our Lord was sent into the world - to announce its arrival to men before it comes, so that they can exercise faith towards God. Even the thief on the cross demonstrated this faith in the unfulfilled prophetic testimony of Christ while he was dying on the cross.

**Luke 23: 42 - 43 - "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me WHEN THOU COMEST into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."**

Now that is faith! Here this thief was watching the Lord Jesus die on a cross in front of his own eyes and acknowledges the truth of the witness he had heard and believed that this same Jesus was to reign as King! What a testimony of faith that is to us? He wasn't offended by what he saw with his natural eyes because he had faith to see the truth! Faith taught him that the Word concerning the kingdom that Christ had been preaching was still to be given even though he was watching Christ die right next to him. This same faith in the prophetic testimony of Christ was and is at the center of true gospel preaching from the time of John the Baptist until this very day because it has yet to

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be fulfilled. It is a promise. By teaching men of the promises of God before He has fulfilled them in Christ, men have opportunity for faith.

**Matthew 4:23 - “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”**

**Matthew 9:35 - “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”**

**Mark 1:14 - “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,”**

**Luke 4:43 - “And he said unto them, I must PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.”**

**Luke 8:1 - “And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, PREACHING AND SHEWING THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD: and the twelve were with him,”**

**Luke 9:1 - 2 - “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he SENT THEM TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and to heal the sick.”**

**Acts 1:3 - “To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of**

them forty days, and **SPEAKING OF THE THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD:**"

Acts 8:12 - "But when they believed Philip **PREACHING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 19:8 - "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and **PERSUADING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**"

Acts 20:25 - "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone **PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, shall see my face no more."

Acts 28:23 - "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom **HE EXPOUNDED AND TESTIFIED THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening."

Acts 28:30 - "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, **PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."

The preaching of the coming kingdom represents the unfulfilled portion of Christ's testimony today. We see the final announcement of its arrival on earth in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:10 - "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **NOW IS COME salvation, and strength,**



and **THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD**, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

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*The fulfilled testimony of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection stand as an eternal memorial of the fulfilled promise to redeem those who will believe in the testimony of the Father in Christ.*

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You might have just noticed this announcement in Revelation 12:10 is the same announcement of the promise of salvation coming as well. That is because both promises rest in the appearing of Christ, which is the Holy One by whom the Father hath chosen to fulfill

these things. As this message concerning things to come is received by faith in the hearts of men, they too are justified in the sight of God like all the saints who have gone before that believed Christ’s prophetic testimony. The fulfilled testimony of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection stand as an eternal memorial of the fulfilled promise to redeem those who will believe in the testimony of the Father in Christ. It is the centerpiece of all history and has made reconciliation possible between God and man. Its matchless wonder will stand eternally as a witness to the glory, grace, riches, and strength of God our Savior who gave His life a ransom for many. However, this fulfilled testimony is a fulfillment of the law and the promise to redeem his people, and apart from the preaching of the kingdom there is no promise that can give hope and call us to obedience to the faith.

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

If a person believes Jesus died and rose again, are they saved? Only if they understand that by His resurrection, He has been made Lord and Christ. Only if they understand it is Jesus we come to for deliverance. Only if they know it is Jesus who has been given the kingdom of God over which He is to reign. Only if they know He is returning for those who are in faith. Only if they by faith begin to call upon His name and accept the witness of the truth concerning Him - that He is nigh unto every one of us. We notice also with this question that “saved” is implied as already taking place - which we need to know that the word of salvation is sent into the world to be a Word of promise. The question is will they be saved when the salvation spoken of is fulfilled in the process of time? None of us have been saved yet as far as the fulfilled testimony of Christ is concerned in time.

This was the thrust of the discussion in Acts 15 concerning gentile believers. The question was one of the validity of the promise of salvation given to the gentiles and whether or not they would become partakers of the salvation that was promised if they had not been circumcised.

**Acts 15:1 - “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, YE CANNOT BE SAVED.”**

This led to the decision by the church and the Holy Ghost to not burden the gentiles with the yoke of the law of Moses. Now, we gentiles enjoy the grace of Christ apart from that yoke. We possess a promise of salvation by faith that has been preached to us.

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

**Acts 13:26 - “Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is THE WORD OF THIS SALVATION sent.”**

Secondly, the testimony of Christ concerning things to come is where faith must lie in order to exercise obedience to the faith. Even the apostle Paul’s admonition to Timothy to not be ashamed of the testimony of Christ makes little sense in the modern context to most people.

**2 Timothy 1:8 - “Be not thou therefore ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;**

What Paul is saying is that we are living in the full expectation of Christ’s coming kingdom, and that we are to be fully persuaded to live in faith of the fulfillment of that hope - which the world finds laughable. Even a recent President of the United States, that .....ahem.... Christian nation..... made a joke of mockery that the Biblical end of days is real. The preaching of the kingdom of God and of Christ is the message that is sent into the world to sanctify a people that live in expectation of their God - which is what the Bible calls a people ready for the Lord. The gospel is declared to keep men in faith and expectation of the testimony being fulfilled and obedience to the commandments of Christ in hope of his promise. These truths are a safeguard to us as spiritual armor.

You cannot make sense of the scriptures with a gospel that only teaches to believe that Jesus died and rose so you can get saved and go to heaven when you die. If you could, how can you make sense of scriptures that clearly teach there are many who will know the truth of the fulfilled testimony but lacked FAITH in the promises -

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

those who were never delivered in their hearts from a love of this present world. You know, like Lot's wife... That was the problem with the children of Israel who could not enter Canaan because they had NO FAITH even though they knew the history of what God had done. Same with the Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees of Jesus day who all readily acknowledged the truth of what God had done by Moses but had NO FAITH in the promise of a coming redeemer. This pitfall is not new to our modern times. So too today many acknowledge the truth of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection with NO FAITH in the fulfillment of the promised kingdom or obedience to that faith that grants them a lot in that world to come as joint heirs with Christ.

How can we even know what overcoming in the faith means without these promises that give us such strong hope?

**Revelation 3:2 - 5 - "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. HE THAT OVERCOMETH, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."**

Being an overcomer, like we are called to be, is a faith that endures to the end. A faith that is not whimsical.

A faith that is committed to the reality of the promised kingdom and lives in full expectation of its soon arrival. Jesus here told the church at Sardis that only a few of the entire congregation would

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*Jesus here told the church at Sardis that only a few of the entire congregation would walk in white as saints! How can that be?!*

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walk in white as saints! How can that be?! Did they not all believe that Christ died? Did they not all believe that He was buried? Did they not all believe that He was raised? It is inconceivable that they did not all believe the same things about what had been fulfilled to be in the congregation at all. Then how can this be? The question is one of faith. Faith concerning the things to come that are declared by the testimony of Jesus. The kind of faith that believes in an acceptable time - between the promise and the fulfillment. Christ is already crucified. Christ is already raised. Those truths must be believed by faith as well, but we cannot walk **BY FAITH** apart from the future unfilled testimony.

Apart from any future testimony, this belief is only knowledge. We need to move on from knowledge to wisdom! Knowing God has fulfilled His Word in the past gives us confidence to live in faith of what He has promised to come! That is where faith thrives! That is the mark of one who is walking **BY** faith! Where is the expectation and hope of the promised kingdom that serves to keep our hearts from the pleasures and cares of this life? You know, the same cares and pleasures that Christ said would choke out the Word of His testimony? At Sardis, it was only found to be in a few of the whole congregation that held to their faith in this way.

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

Standing fast in the faith doesn't even make sense to the mind in context of a gospel that is devoid of Christ's testimony concerning things to come.

**1 Corinthians 16:13 - "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."**

Watch for what exactly? How do I stand fast? If you believed a gospel that gave you peace of going to heaven when you die, you likely aren't "watching" for anything - let alone standing fast for any reason. You are likely living out your life with an expectation of all the things you want to do, see, and experience here in this present evil world and expecting at some point in the very distant future you will go to heaven when you die. The faith we have from Christ's testimony is in the coming Christ and His kingdom with its promised inheritance for the saints who are to reign with Him in glory. Those who are watching for it are being obedient to the gospel - watching for the return of Christ.

**1 Peter 4:7 - "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."**

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that you read The Gospel of The Kingdom, which compliments this little treatise, to go and explain further the message of the kingdom we have believed in by faith. My hope here was simply to provoke some thought, study, and prayerful seeking concerning the common salvation which is promised to us in Christ. Let us not be deceived in our minds but let us watch and be sober. The time is certainly at hand. Deception abounds on every side it seems, but our God is faithful - which means He will do what He said by His testimony.

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

I will close here with an explanation of the scriptures as it pertains to salvation in its other aspects. While we do see most places that salvation is spoken of as a future promise to those who believe Christ's testimony, there are some places where it is given to be in the present tense. How can we understand this truth from scripture? It works the same as the kingdom, the inheritance, redemption, eternal life, the righteousness which is by faith, and any other promise God has given. I go into more length of this in *The Gospel of The Kingdom*, but I'll briefly explain as best I can. In God's Word, the **spoken testimony** is viewed as being as real as **the fulfillment** of His Word. We can see this truth at work in scripture in some clear places. Let's look particularly at eternal life using a portion of what I wrote in *The Gospel of The Kingdom*.

*Do we have eternal life now, or will we receive it later?  
The Bible teaches both.*

*Mark 10:30 - "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and **IN THE WORLD TO COME ETERNAL LIFE.**"*

*Titus 3:7 - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to **THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.**"*

*1 John 2:25 - "And this is **THE PROMISE** that he hath promised us, even **ETERNAL LIFE.**"*

*1 John 5:13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE,** and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

*So, Christ spoke of us receiving eternal life in the world to come, Paul speaks of the hope, or expectation, we have of it being brought to us, and John says that it is both promised to us and we have it. So, is it promised to us or do we have it now? Scripture clearly teaches both, but why? Faith is the answer.*

***Romans 4:17 - “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”***

*Those who have believed the promise by faith do indeed have eternal life. As God’s children we are made partakers of the divine nature according to the working of His Spirit and the new birth. Accordingly, we also share in His declaration of those things which be not as though they were. In other words, speaking of the promises as if they are already fulfilled because they are so certain! John speaks of it as something we have abiding in us. How did it get there? It is through receiving the Word of God by faith:*

***1 Peter 1:23 - “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”***

*So, it is the Word of the Lord that lives and abides forever, which is Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-3, and with Him abiding in our hearts by faith through receiving His Word, we can be assured of the eternal life that we possess in Christ. However, we only possess this promise now by faith, and are living in the hope, or expectation, of it being fulfilled. Those whose faith endures to the end, will receive the promise itself.*



***John 6:63 - “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK unto you, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE.”***

We haven't yet experienced the life that is promised to us, but we have received an earnest payment of the promise that has been made. Eternal life will be given to those who believe, and it will be experienced after the resurrection in our glorified bodies which we will receive when he returns for us, which is why Christ said we will receive it in the world to come.

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We haven't yet experienced the life that is promised to us, but we have received an earnest payment of the promise that has been made.

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This principle also applies to salvation itself, which is received now as a promise by faith but is to be received in actual fulfillment when Christ appears. That is why we live in the hope of salvation as Paul says.

***1 Thessalonians 5:8 - “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the HOPE OF SALVATION.”***

And we are preserved by the power of God through faith unto salvation as Peter declares.

***1 Peter 1:5 - “Who are kept by the power of God THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION ready to be revealed in the last time.”***

Therefore, all the apostles admonished those who had professed a good profession to hold fast to the faith and endure to the end. Those who hold to the faith in earnest

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

*expectation of the promises being received, will receive the reward of the saints.*

***Mark 13:13 - “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same SHALL BE SAVED.”***

***Acts 15:11 - “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ WE SHALL BE SAVED, even as they.”***

***Hebrews 3:6 - “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, IF WE HOLD FAST THE CONFIDENCE and the rejoicing of the HOPE FIRM UNTO THE END”***

***1 Corinthians 1:7 - 8 - “So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also CONFIRM you UNTO THE END, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

***1 Peter 1:9 - “That the trial of your FAITH, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory AT THE APPEARING OF JESUS CHRIST: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.”***

*Many today think of “when they got saved” as something that already happened to them, but you will see from scripture that salvation is a promise to those who believe the truth, the gospel, the testimony of Christ. God has appointed those who receive the testimony of Christ to obtain salvation and it can only be obtained by our Lord Jesus*

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

*Christ. It is part of the inheritance of the saints actually as we see from Hebrews.*

***Hebrews 1:14 - “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be HEIRS OF SALVATION?”***

*We further see from scripture that salvation is to be looked for at the appearing of Jesus Christ. All who fell on sleep in Christ having this living hope inside of them will also be partakers of this gift of inheritance.*

***Hebrews 9:28 - “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM shall he appear the second time without sin UNTO SALVATION.”***

*Paul says in Romans 8 that we are saved by hope, but we haven’t yet received that which we are hoping for - that’s because it is a promise to those who believe the testimony of Christ.*

***Romans 8:24 - “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”***

*We can see in many instances of scripture words that give testimony to the hope of salvation that we possess as a promise from Christ. This hope we have is a persuasion of faith that the Lord is might to execute His Word, as the prophet Joel declares.*

*The fact that God views His Word and the actual fulfillment of it in time as synonymous, is both a good lesson for us and also helpful to our understanding of the kingdom of God since it is a promise that works the same way.*

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*We will see exactly how it is the same with the kingdom as we continue, but let's quickly look at an example:*

***Mark 10:15 - "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever SHALL NOT RECEIVE the kingdom of God as a little child, he SHALL NOT ENTER therein."***

*I have seen many people wrestle with passages such as these that become much clearer when we see how God views his Word concerning something as synonymous with its fulfillment. After all, it's how he made the worlds. He doesn't speak and things not happen... Here we see concerning the kingdom that we must receive it to enter it. Could be confusing, but it is like eternal life, salvation, and many other promises in His Word. We must first receive the promise of it by faith, the word of the kingdom, and then we will be given entrance when all these things are fulfilled. So, the "kingdom" received is the Word preached, and the "kingdom" entered is the kingdom brought to pass in the fulness of time when the word is to have its fulfillment.*

*In this way, we are both "in the kingdom" by faith and "waiting for it", just as with eternal life which we "have" by faith but have yet to "receive".*

***Revelation 1:9 - "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for THE WORD OF GOD, and for THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST."***

Therefore, when we see verses in scripture that speak of salvation in the present tense, which are the small minority of places, we know by comparing scripture with scripture that in these instances it is spoken in faith. That

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

is because the Word of God is completely certain. It is the same principle as the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the world. The Lamb was slain in the fulness of time as we know but had been ordained by God before the world began. In the context of God's work, it is done when He speaks it, but will be realized at the appointed time of the Father who is the one who determines times and seasons for these things. The Lord explains this truth to His apostles as they asked when the kingdom would come on the day of Christ's ascension.

**Acts 1:7 - "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which THE FATHER HATH PUT IN HIS OWN POWER."**

The Father will determine the appointed time for the fulfillment of the testimony. Our part is obedience and faith to the end whenever that appointed time may be.

**Daniel 2:20 - 21 - "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And HE CHANGETH THE TIMES AND SEASONS: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"**

So, when we see verses like these:

**1 Corinthians 1:18 - "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto US WHICH ARE SAVED it is the power of God."**

We can know that this is spoken out of a confidence in the promise of God that allows us to speak things that are not as though they were. Paul says to the same body of believers two chapters later:

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

**1 Corinthians 3:15 - “If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself SHALL BE SAVED; yet so as by fire.”**

You can look through the rest of the epistle and easily understand Paul had taught them exactly what you are studying through in this book.

**1 Corinthians 5:5 - “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit MAY BE SAVED IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS.”**

Even telling them later in the book that they ARE saved, IF they keep what He had preached unto them.

**1 Corinthians 15:1 - 2 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye ARE SAVED, IF YE KEEP in memory what I preached unto you, UNLESS YE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN.”**

Forgetful hearers are those who are overcome by the world, not those that are born of God. The empty, vain faith of these type of professors is not a product of faith in His Word of Testimony by His Son Jesus Christ by which we are begotten. Speaking in these few places as those who “are saved” is clearly spoken to show faith in His

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*The examination of ourselves is not “are we saved”, which is an unscriptural idea since it hasn’t been fulfilled by Christ yet, but rather “are we in the faith of the promises?” and “are we living in obedience to that faith we profess with our mouth?”, and “do we have His Spirit?”.*

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## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

promise. Just like our Father in heaven who declares the end from the beginning, we as His children speak with the same confidence. Just like all the other promises we wait for, we live in hope of salvation.

The examination of ourselves is not “are we saved”, which is an unscriptural idea since it hasn’t been fulfilled by Christ yet, but rather “are we in the faith of the promises?” and “are we living in obedience to that faith we profess with our mouth?”, and “do we have His Spirit?”. If not, **NOW IS THE TIME** to repent from our unbelief and start living in **FAITH!** The certainty of these promises is not in question, but whether we will be partakers of them is.

**Hebrews 4:1 - “Let us therefore fear, lest, A PROMISE BEING LEFT US of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to COME SHORT OF IT.”**

The calling and election of God are without repentance and are as certain as when He spoke, “Let there be light”, but our personal calling and election needs to be made sure.

**2 Peter 1:10 - “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”**

We know the promises are certain, but they are reserved for those who are in faith. We need to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith as those who are to partake of those promises.

**2 Corinthians 13:5 - “EXAMINE YOUR SELVES, whether ye be IN THE FAITH; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”**

## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

The **ONLY PROMISE** we can expect to receive now in this life is the earnest, or down payment, of our inheritance - the Holy Spirit. The question in our time is not “are you saved?”, but rather “do you have His Spirit?” and “Have you acknowledged the truth in Jesus Christ?” or “Are you living in obedience to the faith of Jesus Christ?”. We should examine ourselves to see if we have this Spirit of Christ by examining our appetites and desires of the heart. If we have His Spirit, He will give us new desires that are in keeping with His will.

**Psalm 37:4 - “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”**

We will still war with our flesh during the days of our time on earth here, but we will not give ourselves over to the flesh and to sin.

**Romans 8:9 - “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”**

Are we hungering and thirsting after righteousness?

**Matthew 5:6 - “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”**

Since He is our righteousness, once we realize the fulness and richness of His promise to us, we will live in an earnest expectation of His appearing for us. We will have a longing in our heart to be with Him where He is - which is another promise He gave.

**John 14:3 - “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, THERE YE MAY BE also.”**



## Chapter 6 - Preaching the Word

These questions are scriptural examinations of our hearts. These provoke us unto love and good works. These admonish us to hold fast to the faith. These keep us in earnest expectation. Compare that to the modern view of a salvation that is received when you pray to ask Christ into your heart and then go back to the pleasures of this life for the rest of your days seeking the Lord's blessing in all you set your hands to while you live out your days... No comparison at all. Truth wins. Our world today is full of people with a false profession, false hope, false gospels, and all of it traces back to what they believed when they were taught of these things. How many young people "got saved" when they were young only to be offended by and by and to wander out into the world, leaving their faith and the church behind. Interestingly, nearly all of these still think they "are saved". What must they have been taught to believe that? Certainly not the truth. How many adults have professed faith to go to heaven when they die, but are absent from their service to Christ while they savor the things of the world? All of these still expect to inherit and will tell you they "are saved". Problem is, the judgement hasn't happened yet, which is when the truth of the promise will be known.

**Malachi 3:18 - "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."**

There is a difference to the one who judges the hearts. Let men seek unto Him and He will shew them the truth. For those who have believed the promise of eternal life by faith, Christ has additional instructions to help us along the way in life as we walk in faith, obedience, love and light until the day of His appearing. Which is what we will look at in our remaining chapters.

## Chapter 7 – Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

**2 Peter 1:19 – “We have also a more sure WORD OF PROPHECY; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto A LIGHT THAT SHINETH IN A DARK PLACE, UNTIL the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”**

The prophetic testimony of Christ gives men light in their lives since we now know what is to be the end of all the things we currently see and experience around us. What

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*“What we are basically saying is that knowing the future is an advantage. That’s all.”*

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we are basically saying is that knowing the future is an advantage. That’s all. And that’s exactly the whole point. God has desired men to know the TRUTH. There are adversaries to the truth on every hand. Our own imagination, the world in which we live, and the adversary of God who is Satan himself all oppose the truth. Peter uses this exact argument regarding the removal of these things to make this point a little later in the same epistle.

**2 Peter 3:11 – 12 – “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”**

It's not about having an emotional experience necessarily, although you may and that is fine. I've been filled with all manner of emotions from time to time as the Lord reveals the Truth to me. What it is about is acknowledging the truth. The truth of things as they have been declared by the testimony of Christ even though we haven't seen them fulfilled yet.

## 2 Thessalonians

2:13 - "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **CHOSEN YOU TO SALVATION** through sanctification of the Spirit and **BELIEF OF THE TRUTH:**"

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*It's not about having an emotional experience necessarily, although you may and that is fine. I've been filled with all manner of emotions from time to time as the Lord reveals the Truth to me.*

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So, we are to believe the truth. The truth has been declared by God, but not yet revealed to men. The reason for this should be clear at this point - God desires to justify men, and they must have opportunity for faith if they are to be justified. Salvation is promised to those who have received Christ's witness and testimony of the truth rather than believing the lie of the Devil and his vision for our future. If you think about it for a minute, our first parents made a choice between two versions of the future they were given. Of course, it was the wrong choice, but nonetheless the testimony of Christ and the lie of the Serpent both offered man different versions of a future. One turned out to be a lie. Real surprise there given the source. And the other turned out to be the perfect truth. Those who have

## Chapter 7 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

believed the truth, receiving the testimony of Christ concerning all things, are chosen to salvation which will be revealed in the last time. The fact that being “in faith” is equivalent to “the acknowledgement of the truth” is made clear by Paul.

**Titus 1:1 - “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, ACCORDING TO THE FAITH of God's elect, and THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH which is after godliness;”**

So, receiving Christ's testimony, which is to acknowledge the truth, means we are “in the faith”. When we start talking about the truth, there is an expectation in scripture that those who hear and receive it by faith will be obedient to what it declares concerning things to come. This is where we need to look at the idea of patience in the promises being fulfilled, the trial of faith, and obedience to the truth of the faith.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3 - “Remembering without ceasing your WORK OF FAITH, and labour of love, and PATIENCE OF HOPE in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”**

So, when we begin to say in this chapter that there is obedience involved for those who by faith wait to inherit the promises, let's briefly unpack some of what the scriptures have to say. My hope here is to lay down principles rather than particulars. Some of these things can be briefly comprehended, as Paul says, in a few words. However, for our sakes they are taught in more detail and fulness so that we can learn in patience how to apply the obedience to the faith in our lives in a practical way.

## Chapter 7 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

For instance, you could show from principle that our faith preaches a hope of receiving a garment of salvation from Christ that will cover the nakedness of our shame. To be arrayed as He is shown in Revelation from the head to the foot, is the promise of Christ to those who would walk with Him in white as the sons of God. That is the faith we profess in things to come. The earthly counterpart to this heavenly doctrine of truth is the teaching of modest apparel, which is also taught to us to observe out of obedience to the faith. Not for righteousness, but as a demonstration of our expectation - the faith. Are we to believe that wearing modest clothes makes us righteous in His sight? No, that leads men into pride, which is sin. We are to see this as obedience to the faith. Using our present earthly life to foreshadow the doctrine of the hope we profess so that men may see our hope and have reason to ask us is the whole point. If someone were to ask “why don’t you get in a bathing suit and go with us to the lake?”, the answer should be because the Lord has taught us that our nakedness is a type of our shame that results from sin. We dress modestly in hope of the righteousness he is to clothe us with when He appears for those who wait for Him. Now, this may seem strange to the unbelieving who have not faith.

**1 Peter 4:4 - “Wherein THEY THINK IT STRANGE THAT YE RUN NOT WITH THEM to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:”**

But that is also one of the purposes of the obedience to the faith. To live an example of the truth that men can see, so that they might ask us of the reason we do these things.

**1 Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER to every man that ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE that is in you with meekness and fear:”**

That is because the reason we do them, is not visible - unless you are able to see by faith.

**Hebrews 11:27 - “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.”**

That is faith and is how we are called to walk. In that little example you can see principle at work and practical examples for daily life and practice. This is application of the doctrine and obedience to the faith at work in our lives. The entire idea of our life in the flesh now is to die to our own will and desires (i.e. I wear a bathing suit because I get too hot fully dressed, I can't do the things I want to do fully dressed, I don't want to look like an idiot, whatever else we come up with for doing what we want, etc....), and to use our bodies and life as living witnesses of the faith - the holy expectation we have in Christ. All the discomfort that may cause is not a reason to disobey the command for modest apparel. It is to remind us we are sinners. It is nothing else than the result of our own disobedience in the first place.

Regardless, if we are running around in only our swimming trunks and bathing suits, we are found to be false witnesses of Christ who has said nakedness is a shame. We are showing forth an example that says Christ is fine with nakedness, which is a false testimony. He has said otherwise, and we are to foreshadow the truth of the faith. That's the purpose of creation - to declare His glory. A created

counterpart that reflects the truth of His will. As we move along, this will hopefully become clear.

Every instruction given to New Testament saints has a direct correlation to the preaching of the hope we profess – our doctrine of the faith. If we can't use our manner of life to explain our doctrine and faith, then we need to seriously consider how this can be remedied.

From women being disallowed the office of bishop and deacon, to

our attendance in the assembly, to how we observe baptism and the Lord's supper, on down to the length of hair we are supposed to have, every one of the commandments we are given to observe in the flesh are given to reflect a heavenly counterpart of truth. This is how we prophesy unto men of what the Lord has promised. This is how we as professors of the faith are called to obey so that the doctrine of Christ can be known through our witness and testimony.

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*Every instruction given to New Testament saints has a direct correlation to the preaching of the hope we profess – our doctrine of the faith. If we can't use our manner of life to explain our doctrine and faith, then we need to seriously consider how this can be remedied.*

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**Titus 2:9 - 10 - "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that THEY MAY ADORN THE DOCTRINE OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR IN ALL THINGS."**

## Chapter 7 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

With that much in place, let's lay down a few primary principles. Clearly, the first and greatest commandment given to men for obedience is to **HEAR**. Kind of like we tell our children, "OK listen up!". Until they are listening, they will never be able to know what we desire from them.

So, to keep things simple in this book, let's try to briefly set in order the first and greatest of all the laws we are given in this age of the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. The first and greatest commandment to men of this age will be very familiar to us from the Old Covenant days. The Lord Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest and had this response.

**Mark 12:29 - "And Jesus answered him, The FIRST OF ALL the commandments is, HEAR, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"**

This is the first step of obedience to God- to hear. Sounds straightforward enough but is by itself an act of obedience. Kind of like when your kids settle down from their own ideas and activities so that they can listen to what you want to say to them. Obedience. This is the first and greatest commandment concerning the kingdom of God as well.

Now, you may be thinking the first commandment is to love God, which is spoken of as well. However, until we **HEAR** Him, which is the actual commandment to men, we cannot **LOVE** Him - which He already knows. When we are able by His grace to heed the commandment to **HEAR HIM**, and we receive the hope of His testimony by faith once we have heard it, then **HE WILL** shed abroad the love of God in our hearts by the power of His Spirit.



**Romans 5:5 - “And hope maketh not ashamed; because THE LOVE OF GOD is shed abroad in our hearts BY THE HOLY GHOST which is given unto us.”**

Remember, God fulfills His own Word. We are called to believe it. Man CANNOT FULFILL the Word of testimony. We can't even come close actually, but He fulfills it IN US by His Spirit.

**Romans 8:4 - “That the righteousness of the law might be FULFILLED IN US, who walk not after the flesh, but AFTER THE SPIRIT.”**

Now, we have much work to do here to understand this, so don't quit on me now. You've made it this far! The love is a gift of His Spirit, and not something we can do out of man's will. When men love, we love those who bring good things into our life. That means we are actually “loving” who? If you answered “Ourselves”, that would be correct. Add ten points to your score. We love those who add good things to our life and enrich our lives because we love ourselves by nature. Clearly, this is not a Godly love, but a carnal love.

**Matthew 5:46 - “For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?”**

When understood, the first and greatest commandment is to HEAR and then He says those who do hear SHALL love. If you heed the command to hear, then you will love also. Let's read the full commandment and look to understand which part is commanded and why.

**Mark 12:29 - 30 - “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, HEAR, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: AND THOU SHALT love**

**the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”**

The love is a result of obedience to the command to hear –the command to hear is twofold, which we will explain. The Spirit is a promise to those who heed the commandment **AND** receive the testimony. Wisdom is a gift from God by His Spirit and comes through hearing and believing the Word of God. It sounds an awful lot like a promise and a commandment wrapped into one – like Naaman had. This much we should know by now in this book, God doesn’t say “Thou Shalt” and things not happen..... There is **ALWAYS** a fulfillment of His Word. He is forever faithful. When He says “Thou shalt love”, it is a promise to those who heed the commandment to hear. The command for men is to **HEAR**. God, who always fulfills His Word, will keep the promise end of the deal.

**James 4:8 - “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....”**

Hey, look at that! Another commandment with a promise! Now, concerning the first and greatest commandment to hear, listen to what is spoken by the Father to men in this age of kingdom preaching.

**Mark 9:7 - “And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: HEAR HIM.”**

The Father here isn’t only giving advice to men. The things He commands and speaks are law! He is reiterating the first and greatest commandment to men of this age who were being given kingdom doctrine of the New Covenant. As Moses went up and received the

commandments and ordinances the first time, now the Father simply says, “**This is my beloved Son: HEAR HIM**”. This is God’s command, and we need to “Listen Up!”

**Hebrews 12:25 - “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:”**

This first and greatest commandment is reiterated to men as a part of the Law of Christ rather than the Law of Moses, but in this age The Lord God has been revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, and we are to **HEAR HIM**. Who are we to hear? The Lord thy God He says. Who are we to love? Also, the Lord thy God. The commandment teaches us that the Lord thy God is one Lord - Father, Son & Spirit. The Father from heaven commands men to Hear the Son, who is God in the flesh.

**Colossians 1:15 - “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:”**

The Son must be acknowledged as God by men if they are to be saved. Period. This is God’s commandment to men. This is the thrust of the gospel of the kingdom - that the Father has given His kingdom, the kingdom of God, to His Son Jesus Christ. Christ, while teaching His disciples of the mystery of the kingdom of God, told His apostles a parable in Luke 19.

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*The Son must be acknowledged as God by men if they are to be saved. Period. This is God’s commandment to men.*

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**Luke 19:12 - “He said therefore, A CERTAIN NOBLEMAN WENT into a far country TO RECEIVE FOR HIMSELF A KINGDOM, and to return.”**

**Luke 19:15 - “And it came to pass, that when HE WAS RETURNED, HAVING RECEIVED THE KINGDOM, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.”**

And He also continually told them concerning the kingdom of God that He was preaching and that was promised to come, that he was to be given the kingdom from His Father.

**Matthew 11:27 - “ALL THINGS ARE DELIVERED UNTO ME OF MY FATHER: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”**

**John 3:35 - “The Father loveth the Son, and HATH GIVEN ALL THINGS INTO HIS HAND.”**

We could go on at length here discussing these exact things but let me just clarify a few points here of the gospel we preach because it is critical to our understanding. The gospel doesn't just declare the Deity of Jesus, it declares that Jesus now reigns as God. Similar, but distinctly different and importantly so. All the power and authority of God is now vested in and exercised by the Son. The truth that this man, Christ Jesus, now reigns over the entire dominion of God with the glory and power of the Father Himself must be known and believed. That is why the Father's testimony from Heaven was to HEAR the Son.

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Good news for His friends, to whom He has revealed the truth of what He is doing.

**John 15:15 - Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you FRIENDS; for all things that I have heard of my Father I HAVE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU.**

Bad news for those who oppose Him, who are alienated in their minds and are His enemies by opposing the truth.

**Luke 19:27 - “But those MINE ENEMIES, which WOULD NOT THAT I SHOULD REIGN OVER THEM, bring hither, and SLAY THEM before me.”**

The preaching of what God has done by His Son Jesus Christ is now sent into the world by ambassadors of Christ who have been given the ministry of reconciliation for this purpose. That men might have faith in obedience to the gospel of this mystery of the kingdom of God before Jesus is revealed from heaven. Once the truth is revealed to men, and the promised kingdom comes to earth in Him, the hope for salvation is passed and His enemies are to be destroyed.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7 - 10 - “And to you who are troubled REST with us, WHEN THE LORD JESUS SHALL BE REVEALED from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that KNOW NOT GOD, and that OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in**

**his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed ) in that day.”**

Those who know not God are those who know not Jesus, who is God in the flesh. There are others still who knew His name but did not obtain entrance because of disobedience to the gospel. I know this still sounds strange perhaps, but let's continue the study here to see the truth. Because of the promise to destroy His enemies when He appears (because this war that has been raging since Satan's rebellion is to have an end - by the testimony of Christ it has been foretold. The kingdom of heaven is willing, for now, to suffer violence to give men time and opportunity to repent and believe. However, the war is to have an end that peace might be restored to heaven and earth. The time and season for this to take place is appointed by the Father. The ending of the war and rebellion of the adversaries of God is an act of goodness also), Christ Jesus has now by His grace sent ambassadors into the earth ahead of His appearing, that men might believe the truth and be reconciled to God by faith.

**2 Corinthians 5:18 - 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; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then WE ARE AMBASSADORS for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**

This ministry is carried out by the preaching of the gospel by the command and will of the Father, by the power and authority of Jesus, through men that He has

placed into local congregations and called and appointed to declare these things. Since the command is to **HEAR**, He has ordained **PREACHING**. A moving worship service cannot impart the knowledge of God unto salvation. No, it is preaching that must be heeded to obey the first and greatest commandment. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but this preaching is a law of obedience to Christ - which is why we have the Law of Christ. If we have no appetite for **PREACHING**, we are still in unbelief. I'll explain exactly why later, but preaching is the appointed means under the law of Christ by which men are called to obey this first and greatest commandment.

**1 Corinthians 1:21 - "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE."**

God ordained this method because it looks foolish to men. In other words, natural man has no desire to sit under preaching, which is both a condemnation of His natural lusts in

the flesh and a righteous token of the judgement of God. Those who will not be saved have no excuse before Him because by their own behavior and testimony they had no appetite for His holy things. This is a safeguard to the faithful to preserve the assembly, a tool of examination for those professing to know God, and grace to the humble who will heed this holy command to **HEAR**.

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**2 Timothy 4:3 - “For the time will come when they will not ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;”**

Many today have an appetite for “church services”, so long as the music is to their own liking, there are plenty of programs for their children, and so long as the preacher is a good storyteller.

**2 Timothy 4:4 - “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and SHALL BE TURNED UNTO FABLES.”**

Sadly, there are many hirelings for pastors who are accommodating the carnal appetites of men. What is needed is sound doctrine. Testimony. Promises. Commands. Ordinances. The law of Christ. To the faithful in Christ, there is a holy appetite for these. For those who heed the preaching and are obedient to the faith, they too are reconciled to God by Christ and are no longer enemies.

**Colossians 1:21 - “And you, that were sometime ALIENATED AND ENEMIES in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: IF YE CONTINUE in the FAITH grounded and settled, and BE NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”**

As this passage also teaches, the reconciliation is already paid for by Christ. We are made partakers of that salvation if we continue to the appointed time of the father in obedience to the faith. That’s not a typo or a theological



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supposition. That's the gospel of Christ. The appointed time for us is called - the end. Christ's appearing. The time is short. There are still many adversaries, and their only hope is to yield to the will of the Father and acknowledge the truth.

**1 Corinthians 16:9 - "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and THERE ARE MANY ADVERSARIES."**

Paul teaches of these enemies of Christ knowing by faith of their end.

**Philippians 3:18 - 19 - "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even WEEPING, that THEY ARE THE ENEMIES of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"**

Paul was not sorrowing only because these guys were giving him a hard time. Paul was weeping because He had seen the end of those who remain alienated from Christ as His enemies. The sorrow he had in his heart is because He had the mind and Spirit of Christ and not of the world. Likely, the weeping was a joyful sorrow of knowing he too was delivered from an awful fate by God's grace towards him. He had once been just as injurious to the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples but had come to the truth. This Godly joy, that no man can take from us, is mixed with Godly sorrow for those who still don't know the truth.

**Matthew 5:44 - "But I say unto you, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"**

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Christ didn't command this apart from the doctrine of the faith – in other words, it cannot be observed in the flesh by the will of man. Our faith gives us the ability to see the end from the beginning, and we would weep as well if we could believe the truth concerning their end. The goodness and mercy of God is proven in the end to all of creation by the good gifts He has given to all.

**Matthew 5:45** – “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Even the unbelieving who hate and mock Him and His Son, will have the gift of good memories from the life they lived – this will be the only source of comfort in their torment. Men may say what they will of God now, but in the end, everyone will confess that He has been good. Rebellious angels and men are the creatures that have been evil.

**Luke 16:25** – “But Abraham said, Son, REMEMBER that thou IN THY LIFETIME RECEIVEDST THY GOOD THINGS, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

The only reason they have any good things to remember is by God's gift and grace to them. Paul teaches that God's witness of His goodness has been clearly manifest to men.

**Acts 14:17** – “Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that HE DID GOOD, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

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David left the same witness in the Psalms by the Holy Spirit when He gave testimony to these things.

**Psalm 17:14 - “From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from MEN OF THE WORLD, which HAVE THEIR PORTION IN THIS LIFE, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure:...”**

This is the reward of this life to those whose portion is here. Memories. Even those who serve their own belly, fill it with the good things God has made available to them. This is their portion. A distant memory is all that will be left when He has brought this age to an end - which is why Paul says destruction is the end of those who are enemies of the preaching of the cross of Christ who are carnally minded. For those who are in Christ, we are told we will never remember these days, because they will be forgotten in the glories of His fellowship in the world to come. The best days an enemy of Christ ever has to cling to in remembrance, are the worst days of a believer's life. Those whose inheritance is in this life will be clinging in desperation to memories. Those whose inheritance is in the world to come will not be able to recall these grievous days. So are the days of this life.

**Proverbs 20:21 - “An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.”**

Paul presses on in preaching the truth in hope that these enemies of Christ will repent and believe while there is still hope in this acceptable time.

**2 Timothy 2:24 - 25 - “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose**

themselves; **IF GOD PERADVENTURE will give them REPENTANCE to THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH;**"

Jesus Christ, now glorified, reigns as LORD OF ALL. The Father has relieved Himself of the authority and power of His kingdom and given it to Jesus Christ His Son. This was spoken BY PROMISE while Christ was on the earth and

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was FULFILLED in time when He ascended back to the Father as the risen Savior. Jesus Christ has already received the kingdom from the Father, and has the authority, power, and dominion of the Father given to Him.

**1 Peter 3:22 - "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM."**

All those who are at peace with God, have acknowledged the will of the Father that the Son should reign! This is one of the primary requirements of faith in Christ Jesus and belief of the gospel. By acknowledging the Son, we have begun to do the will of the Father. We now know Jesus is the Lord God, and the commandment of the Father is to HEAR Him. If we fulfill the will of the Father in this first commandment, there are some promises we can live in hope of. The Father has made His will known to men - that is what commandments do: they show us the will of the master.

**John 5:22 - 23 - “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: THAT ALL MEN SHOULD HONOUR THE SON, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”**

The will of the Father then is that all men should **HEAR** the Son and **HONOR** the Son.

**Matthew 7:21 - “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven.”**

**Matthew 12:50 - “For WHOSOEVER SHALL DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”**

This is a promise wrapped up in a commandment, which is a principle that should be becoming familiar to us. The Father has revealed His will. We are to fulfill His will by acknowledging the Son. This truth needs to be thoroughly understood to understand the gospel that is in Jesus Christ. The blessed hope we have and the Great God we are looking for is the Son of God, who has been given His Father's glory!

**Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST;”**

**Mark 8:38 - “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of ME AND OF MY WORDS in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER with the holy angels.”**

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The glory is God the Father's, but now rests upon the Son as the one whom the Father has appointed heir of **ALL THINGS**. He reigns. He is God. He is Judge. He is Savior. He is King. He is Lord. The Father has declared His will to men concerning His Son and sent the message of this decree into the world through preaching. We, by faith, are required to **HEAR** the decree concerning the will of the Father and honor the Son.

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

As we know from our study here, the purpose of God in sending the preaching of things into the world before the manifestation of the fulfilled Word is that men might believe and have faith in these things before they are revealed. Preaching occurs in the gap where faith must be exercised to be in the acceptable time. This man Jesus, who is the Son of God, has all things put under His feet.

**Matthew 11:27 - "...ALL THINGS are delivered unto me of my Father:"**

**Ephesians 1:20 - 22 - "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And HATH PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,"**

So, Jesus Christ has been given the kingdom of God, seeing that He is God, and according to His own testimony and the Word of those who were His witnesses has

all power and authority from the Father. The thing is, we have not SEEN it yet..... which is good for us - it requires faith to believe it. The acknowledgement of this truth is what is in view when we are told to “call upon the NAME of the Lord.”

**Romans 10:13 - “For whosoever shall CALL UPON THE NAME of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This is not a prayer that we say to “get saved”. This is an acknowledgement of the truth in faith towards God concerning His testimony. We call upon the name of the Lord - Jesus.

**Acts 9:5 - “And he said, WHO ART THOU, LORD? And the Lord said, I AM JESUS whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”**

Jesus is the Lord upon whom we now call having known the will of the Father and having believed his testimony by Faith. Jesus is the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we stated in Chapter 2 of this book:

*Knowing these things, we also see in scripture that “Jesus” is the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Matthew 28:19**  
**- “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”**

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*Clearly that name of the Father, Son, and Spirit is the name of Jesus, as we see the apostles carrying out this Matthew 28 command.*

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## Chapter 7 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

*Clearly that name of the Father, Son, and Spirit is the name of Jesus, as we see the apostles carrying out this Matthew 28 command.*

***Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”***

***Acts 8:16 - “(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)”***

***Acts 19:5 - “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”***

*Jesus Christ and His Father are one and the same God, which we could show in a multitude of ways from scripture if we were writing a book on the person of Jesus Christ. This is at the heart of Christian faith and is a mystery often referred to as the Triune God, or the Trinity.*

Those who received the truth of the will of the Father concerning the Son, now call upon Jesus Christ as their God and are the children of faith spoken of in the scriptures.

**Romans 10:13 - “For whosoever shall CALL UPON THE NAME of the Lord shall be saved.”**

We know from the testimony of scriptures that this is a condition of a heart that has faith towards God concerning His Son rather than a prayer that can be said to “get saved”.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 - “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ**



**Jesus, called to be saints, WITH ALL THAT IN EVERY PLACE CALL UPON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, both theirs and ours:"**

This was understood by the Jews of the day who were persecuting Christians because of the blasphemy they perceived this to be! This was the source of Saul's (Also Paul) anger and zeal to persecute those who were "of this way".

**Acts 9:1 - 2 - "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any OF THIS WAY, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."**

So, which "way" was it that people were worshipping God that had Saul so riled up in anger? It was by THE WAY - Jesus. And those who were "in this way" were known because they worshipped and served the Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord - by calling upon Him by name. Jesus. It was of course on this trip to Damascus that Paul met the Lord Himself, who spoke from heaven.

On the other side of things in that same story, we have a man named Ananias, who was "of that way" and guess whose name He was calling upon? In His conversation with the "Lord", he makes this statement concerning the knowledge he had of the commission Saul had received to visit Damascus.

**Acts 9:13 - 14 - "Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority**

**from the chief priests to bind ALL THAT CALL ON THY NAME.”**

As you can see, those identified as being “of this way” were those “calling upon His name”. This calling was not an event that saved them, it was a testimony that they had received the truth by faith. They now knew Jesus to be the Son of God who had received the very dominion of God from the Father, and that if they were to be saved when He appears in His kingdom, they must accept this witness and worship the Son. The calling is an acknowledgement of those truths of the gospel concerning the kingdom of God. The calling is from the heart which has accepted the witness of things as fact that they have not yet seen. This lines up with the obedience to the faith that is the first part of obedience to the gospel for those who are living in hope of salvation.

**1 Peter 1:7 - 8 - “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, THOUGH NOW YE SEE HIM NOT, YET BELIEVING, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”**

This is the **FIRST** step of obedience to the faith. It is the obedience that teaches us the truth of what Christ taught concerning Himself.

**John 10:19 - “I AM THE DOOR: by me if any man enter in, HE SHALL BE SAVED, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”**

## Chapter 7 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Father

This faith concerning Jesus as Lord is necessary to see the door. Now, once we see it and acknowledge the truth of the Father's command, which is first and greatest, then we must **HEAR** the Son to be given entrance through that door. Entrance is by obedience to the Father who tells us to hear His Son. So, the Son has some things to say to those who would desire entrance into the promised kingdom. He has the authority on this matter from the Father. Step one of obedience to the faith - **HEAR**. The Father has spoken from heaven and directed us to His Son. Now, step two....

## Chapter 8 – Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Son

**Luke 9:35 - “And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: HEAR HIM.”**

**Luke 8:18 - “TAKE HEED therefore how ye HEAR...”**

**Matthew 11:15 - “He that hath ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR.”**

We know there are promises to be had for the one who hears, so we have not yet been obedient to the command and will of the Father, but He has directed us to the Son - Jesus. Well, now that we are listening to Jesus knowing that we are listening to the Anointed One who has the authority and power of God over us, what is it that the Son wants us to know? Actually, there are two things. They are both necessary but must come in order. That's how God does things - orderly.

**1 Corinthians 14:33 - “For God is NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”**

In this chapter we will focus on the first of these two so that we can receive what He has to say in its' due order. “Hearing” the first of these two is of utmost importance as it speaks to the gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us, seals us unto the day of redemption, and preserves us by the power of God through FAITH in His promises. The second thing we hear from Christ is given to make proof of whether we have heard the first or not, so we need to begin here.

## Chapter 8 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Son

Firstly, Jesus has spoken to all men the testimony of the Father concerning things to come. This is the light to our path - prophetic knowledge of the future. This is what we must hear from the Son. If we do not know the certainty of what He has said in the past and how it already was fulfilled by Him, we cannot have faith concerning things to come. If we know and believe the truth of what He has said and fulfilled, then we must go on to knowing the future that He has declared to be true.

**John 3:33 -**  
“He that hath **RECEIVED HIS TESTIMONY** hath set to his seal that God is true.”

The spiritual act of receiving is represented by the fleshly act of eating in scripture. We make examination of that which is to be received into the body, and then if we choose, we will partake of it and “receive” it unto ourselves. The act of eating is given by the creator as a type of the act of the heart being a partaker of the testimony of Jesus. We examine it. Learn to know it. Then we must “receive” it to be a partaker. If we “receive” the testimony, then God will “receive” us.

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**2 Corinthians 6:17 -** “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and **I WILL RECEIVE YOU,**”

## Chapter 8 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Son

Without faith it is impossible to please Him, so we need to have confidence in some things we haven't yet seen fulfilled for it to be faith. The fact that the man Christ Jesus is now reigning over the dominion of God with the power of the Father is not yet seen to us, so this may be just the mustard seed we need to be brought to faith. The next part of this holy command to hear will test for us whether or not we actually do believe that Jesus reigns with the power of God. IF we BELIEVE that the Son now reigns, then the prophetic testimony concerning Himself that He has declared by the will of the Father WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED. IF we receive the testimony of the Son concerning these future things, and by faith KNOW them to be true before they happen, then we have been brought to FAITH.

As we know by now in this study from the witness of scripture, FAITH operates in the area of future unfilled testimony. This is the witness of the Son and is what must be received to be obedient to the will of the Father - Hearing the Son.

In our journey of obedience to faith, we must start by heeding the command of the Father in hearing the Son - the testimony of Christ. This is to be found in preaching. This is why preaching, although not highly esteemed by men, is of prominent value and use in God's eyes. If we value our eternal soul and desire to obtain the life that is in Christ, we should value the declaration of His testimony - preaching. Jesus didn't start His congregation with 12 worship leaders - they were preachers! Jesus Himself was the example and his disciples did what disciples do - they followed His teaching and example.

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**Luke 4:18 - 19 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”**

They were preachers because they were disciples of the Lord - He was a preacher.

**Luke 4:43 - “And he said unto them, I must PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.”**

**Luke 9:2 - “And he SENT THEM TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and to heal the sick.”**

As we know, preaching occurs in the accepted time for faith - before the fulfillment is revealed to men. We start this preaching by first declaring what God HAS done in the past that is already fulfilled, because this is necessary to build knowledge and confidence in the Word of God. i.e. “Let there be light” is past prophetic testimony that found its fulfillment “and it was so”. This knowledge of God is necessary to give someone confidence in the future testimony that is yet unseen. Paul demonstrates this approach in Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 15:3 - 7 - “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: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but**

some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.”

Paul reminds them that he taught them “first of all” how the scriptures had been fulfilled with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He taught them that these things had happened according to the scriptures – i.e. as the testimony of Christ had already foretold of them by the prophets. He then gives the names of some who were witnesses to these things. All of these are witnesses to the memorial of God keeping His Word – just as Israel would set up “stones” of memorial to remind them of God’s faithfulness and to provoke future generations to believe the Lord’s promises.

Joshua 4:20 - 24 - “And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, **WHAT MEAN THESE STONES?** Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the **LORD** your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the **LORD** your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: **THAT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH MIGHT KNOW** the hand of the **LORD**, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the **LORD** your God for ever.”

These memorials of God’s faithfulness to fulfill His Word are preserved for men that they might have hope in the things spoken to them that have not yet happened. Which is the apostle Paul’s point here. That’s why He tells them it was according to the scriptures – because the scriptures have some other things to say that haven’t



been fulfilled yet. After teaching these fulfilled things, Paul then goes on to give us the most complete discussions of the resurrection in the New Testament through the rest of chapter 15, which is a promise we have that is to give us hope. The witness to the fulfillment of these former promises is intended to build the confidence of those who are to believe in the promises that are now being preached in the body of doctrine known as the gospel of the kingdom of God. The fulfillment of all Christ accomplished at His first coming was foretold by the law and was now fulfilled. That testimony is now memorialized as a witness to God's faithfulness. Any hope of promises for us are built upon the fulfillment of that body of doctrine as far as exercising faith towards God - enter the preaching of the kingdom.

You will also find in this chapter, testimony of the exact things we were speaking of concerning the reign of Jesus. Paul's doctrine in this chapter also includes one of the clearest passages of the pre-tribulation resurrection of believers that is to be found in scripture - although there are many.

1 Corinthians 15:22 - "For as in Adam all die, even so **'IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE.** But every man in his own **'ORDER: <sup>3</sup>Christ the FIRSTFRUITS;** afterward **'they that are Christ's AT HIS COMING.** Then cometh **'THE END,** when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have **PUT DOWN ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY AND POWER.** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. <sup>6</sup>The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then

**shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."**

1. In Christ shall all be made alive - Christ redeemed ALL of creation by His blood. All men will be raised by His power to be judged by Him - the just and the unjust.
2. There is an orderliness to God's work in the resurrection that is to be understood by those who are in faith.
3. Christ is the first to be raised - others had their bodies restored to life, but Christ is glorified in a new resurrection body that He is the first man to receive.
4. They that are Christ's at His coming - this is His promised APPEARING spoken of as the "rapture" by many today. The appearing for those that look for him unto salvation before the great tribulation. We know this because in the order of this passage, this resurrection precedes "the end", which is the end spoken of all through the new testament - the end of the age. For those in Christ "the end" is salvation. For those who are not "the end" is destruction.
5. The end - this is when, as Paul says here, all power and authority is to be put down. i.e. all of the enemies put under Him in defeat. The end of the war. At this time is the final resurrection of the just which includes those who died in faith during the tribulation - **Revelation 20:4 - "...the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands..."**

6. The last enemy - this enemy will be defeated last at the end of the millennium. All the power and authority of the enemy will be defeated in the end of the age when Christ returns, but death still has a part to play in God's plan for creation. It will be done away in its' due order at the judgement of the great white throne when the dead, small and great, are called out of their prison in hell to stand before Jesus for judgement. - **Revelation 20:12** - **"And I saw the dead, small and great, STAND BEFORE GOD [which we know is Christ]; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."** And **Revelation 20:14** - **"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."**

So, Jesus is to reign until all His enemies are put down. The reason His enemies still have a kingdom and power today is that God is long-suffering for man's sake and is allowing a period of time to elapse before He puts down all His enemies - so that men can have faith during this gap of an acceptable time. Jesus will take His power unto Himself and reign to put down all authority and power that lies in rebellion against Him at the

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appointed time of the Father, the end - which we also see announced in Revelation.

**Revelation 11:15 - 17 - “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because THOU HAST TAKEN TO THEE THY GREAT POWER, and HAST REIGNED.”**

**Revelation 12:10 - “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, NOW IS COME SALVATION, and strength, AND THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, and THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”**

Christ has the power already now to subdue all things unto Himself.

**Philippians 3:20 - 21 - “For our conversation is in heaven; FROM WHENCE WE ALSO LOOK FOR THE SAVIOUR, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING WHEREBY HE IS ABLE EVEN TO SUBDUE ALL THINGS UNTO HIMSELF.”**

We simply haven't seen Him take this power, which only God has, unto Himself in the sense of putting down His enemies because it is not yet time. Faith calls us

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to believe, yield, and be reconciled before we see it fulfilled.

This promised reconciliation of creation unto God by Christ in putting down these dominions and powers is in our near future and is promised to take place after those who are living in the faith and expectation of His appearing have been rescued from the earth in advance. Which is why Paul says in Romans that the time is drawing nearer all the time.

**Romans 13:11 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for NOW IS OUR SALVATION NEARER THAN WHEN WE BELIEVED.”**

The only hope for those who remain is to also believe the truth and wait for His appearing by faith.

**Luke 12:38 - “And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.”**

Christ will find His servants in that expectant state of watchfulness and faith in either event - the rapture or final resurrection of the just after the end of this age; second watch or third, the requirements for entrance are the same. Those who are obedient in faith to receive this testimony are the saints of God - by faith. Those are the men who have believed His promise and testimony of things to come by the preaching of the Word and are looking for Him to fulfill that which is spoken.

By verse 50 in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is assuring them of the certainty of the resurrection promise they had been taught and received by faith. The old understanding of the kingdom had passed as the truth was brought to light

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by Christ appearing to put away sins by the sacrifice of himself, and now the kingdom was preached in light of the fact that we cannot inherit the kingdom that God has been promised until we are changed. Some will be changed in the resurrection from the dead. Some will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. We will all be changed who have believed in these promises by faith in the testimony of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:51 - “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED”**

The only reason we can even know of these promises is because of His testimony. He is the author of them, and He will finish them in the Father’s appointed time.

Seeking the truth in the preaching and study of the Word of God concerning these things is our part. He has spoken forth the Word of Truth, and we are called to exercise faith “in Him” by believing the truth of the history that has already happened, that He foretold in advance and recorded in scripture so that we can KNOW what we haven’t seen fulfilled yet – prophecy. This work of God in our hearts to open our ears to hear Him is the second step of obedience and is a grace that He gives as He works upon the hearts of men by the power of His Word and Spirit.

**John 6:29 - “Jesus answered and said unto them, THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD, THAT YE BELIEVE ON HIM whom he hath sent.”**

This step of obedience to the faith teaches us to embrace from the heart the truth of what the testimony of Christ declares to be yet future to us. The confidence to believe it comes from the past fulfilled testimony given to

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men and preserved in scripture. All of this work is God's work - He is the Author of the testimony. One significant reason God may have kept from demonstrating any supernatural miracles to the men of this age today is that we have more reasons to believe in the prophetic testimony than any other generation that has ever lived. We can know more about all that God spoke by prophecy that was later fulfilled than any other generation. He has proven Himself faithful - now the ball is in our court. Will we believe Him concerning things to come?

I will simply interject here that there is a modern lie going around that as long as you "believe in Jesus" you "are saved" so other aspects of His testimony are not a "salvation issue" such as believing the scriptural account of creation, etc..... The fact is we need every word of His testimony. This argument fails as a clever deception under a correct understanding of true scriptural faith in the testimony of Christ.

**Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

Fulfilled testimony must be believed and builds confidence concerning things yet to come. Future testimony requires faith which is built upon the fulfilled testimony. For those who say things such as "believing the Biblical account of creation is not a salvation issue", I respectfully and wholeheartedly disagree on behalf of Christ who gave us the Word of testimony. How can we have FAITH towards God concerning things he has said He WILL DO by Christ in times to come, such as create a new heaven and earth, while at the same time denying that He did it the first time? Our knowledge and belief in what He did the

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first time, builds our confidence and gives faith concerning what He has promised to come. The fulfilled testimony and promises always work that way. Promise of resurrection? Well, Christ is already risen as the first fruits. Promise to destroy this present world? He's done it before. Promise of redemption of our body? He made it the first time. New Heavens and Earth? No biggie for the creator who spoke them into existence. So, on it goes with our faith - that which hath been is that which shall be.

**Ecclesiastes 1:9 - "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."**

The list of promises to saints today is not a short one, and they don't have to all be understood or believed as a package at once as a body of study. The Lord works by His spirit to give faith to believe in His Son and in these promises.

**Isaiah 28:9 - "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."**

The Lord uses preachers, feeble ones apparently from that passage in Isaiah, to confound the pride of men. Preaching gives the knowledge of God by the testimony of Jesus. We start by hearing the Son. We learn of all He has done. We are led to see the future He has declared. This future is an announcement of what God will do in advance of it being fulfilled - a promise. Once a person becomes fully persuaded of them, Christ will grant them



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repentance to turn and acknowledge the truth and give them His Spirit to seal them unto the appointed time. See, that's is the promise of this first and greatest commandment.

**Mark 12:29 - 30 - “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, HEAR, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”**

It is prophetic testimony of Jesus sent by the Father. It is a promise wrapped up in a commandment. We have a part. God has a part. He is forever faithful to keep His Word. The promise of this command is that we shall love the Lord our

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*We will love the one we HEAR. We will serve the one we love. That is a commandment – divine law. It is scripture and cannot be broken. Who are you listening to?*

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God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength. If we HEAR Jesus, we will love Him. If we listen to someone else, a deceiver perhaps, who also knows how the creation works, we could get into trouble and love the wrong master..... We will love the one we HEAR. We will serve the one we love. That is a commandment – divine law. It is scripture and cannot be broken. Who are you listening to? That is our part. Mankind functions by this basic law, and it cannot be broken.

**2 Peter 2:19 - "...of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."**

Whichever testimony we receive, The Truth of the Lord God or the lie of His enemy Satan, we are bound to by love and become the servants of that master. Satan understood that when He spoke to man of a future he had in mind. Made it sound really good too. However, men were...and are...deceived. The only purpose He had in telling the lie was to cause men to believe him instead of the truth, and we became the servants of sin - the servants of Satan. That is how man was made to function. That is how a man works by the law. That is the danger of a lie.

**Nehemiah 5:5 - "Io, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards."**

It is this fundamental truth of man's design by the creator in the inward man that is at issue. Do we "love" what Satan offers and has promised, or do we "love" what God has promised to us by the word of Truth in Christ? Listen closely..... Take heed how you hear.....

**1 John 2:15 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

We are servants. That is the purpose of this creature called man. However, we can only serve one master - as we know from Jesus Christ. Satan has turned man against God and unto Himself as his own children and servants by overthrowing their hearts with his own word of testimony - He knew what was possible if He supplanted the

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Word of God. Man then became servants of sin and were brought into captivity in the kingdom of Satan. Christ came to loose those captives and set them free.

**Romans 6:19 - “I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”**

Freedom was bought with a price and is made available to men by preaching - the truth.

**John 8:32 - “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

The commandment is clear, you will hear and then you will love your Lord and God. Satan used this law to his advantage by preaching to men - a lie. Who is now the lord and god?

**2 Corinthians 4:4 - “the god OF THIS WORLD hath blinded THE MINDS of them which BELIEVE NOT, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

There is a war in heaven. Words spoken through waves of the air being carried about in the winds to the ears and hearts of men.

**2 Corinthians 10:4 - “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”**

Who rules the air on this earth?

**Ephesians 2:2 - “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the**

**PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"**

There is a reckoning to this war coming. The final vial of judgment will be poured out.

**Revelation 16:7 - "And the seventh angel Poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done."**

It will be done. Have faith.

The hope for man lies in the fact that God's law cannot be broken. It states that those who hear the Lord Thy God, will love Him. This is the crux of repentance in the heart of man. Turning our ears away from the lie that has been spoken into our hearts and towards the Lord God to hear Him.

The one we listen to in our heart is our Lord. If we repent and turn to Him to listen to His voice and hear His Word, then this law, works for us and not against us. His law cannot be broken, which is our hope - He will keep His Word. His Word, which is rooted in Him and His faithfulness, still stands, and He will always ensure that it is kept - HE fulfills His Word because he is faithful. The very law that was used by our adversary to defeat us and bring us into bondage, still rests

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on the power of the One who made the decree. In His wisdom and infinite understanding, He had prepared the remedy before the deception entered the world. Satan's best laid scheme to use God's law for himself, cannot circumvent the wisdom of God.

We see the children of the Devil act out this same character of their father when they used God's law to have Jesus put to death.

**John 8:44 - "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."**

I would love to show all the parallels here, but we clearly see the children show the traits of the father. They are the servants of the one to whom they are listening in their hearts.

**John 8:43 - "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word."**

**John 8:45 - 46 - "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."**

This is at the heart of all of man's troubles - refusal to HEAR, which is the first and greatest commandment. If you read the law, all of the rest of the law is prophetic beyond hearing. The command is to hear, and the rest is prophetic testimony of Christ. A promise wrapped up in one little command - amazing. The rest of the law is the work God does in us as a Father might work to train his

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children riding a bike or learning anything else. We may stumble and fall, but He is there to pick us up and help us go at it again. The sin working in our flesh has been dealt with on the cross by the blood of Christ, but the refusal to heed the voice of God is unpardonable. There is no remedy for the iniquity of rebellion.

**Mark 3:29 - “But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:”**

The command to hear is where the truth of faith lies for the hope of salvation. We must be in fellowship with Christ, who is the truth, to have the blood applied to our hearts.

**1 John 1:6 - 10 - If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, as he is in the light, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP one with another, AND the BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”**

The price has been paid for redemption. For those who are obedient to His will and command, which sounds scary to us because of the lie, we will find true freedom and liberty in Him as the Sons of God. He cannot break His law. If we hear Him, He will be our Lord and God and will fulfill His Word in us by giving us His Spirit and His love so that we can love Him and others as the law says - it is the spirit of prophecy. If we choose to listen to

## Chapter 8 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Son

another voice, then that one becomes the lord and god to us, and we will love and serve him.

**Matthew 6:24 - “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”**

Faith starts very small but grows as knowledge of God increases by studying His Word. The Lord is patient with us to help us grow by degrees. We cannot expect or even handle the change if we were to be changed all at once. Line is upon line. Precept upon precept. We are being changed.

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

Just as the Lord patiently brought out His children from Egypt, destroyed that generation in the wilderness and brought in their seed into the land to give it to them little by little, we too have been called out of Egypt, met with the Lord at Mount Zion, received the testimony and law of Christ, been joined in the service of the tabernacle of witness, then being dead to the flesh by the power of the Spirit, that new creature is brought into Canaan to increase in their inheritance little by little. Faith in the promise to enter is required. Hear Him.

**Romans 10:17 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing BY THE WORD OF GOD.”**

**John 1:14 - “And THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the**

glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

The truth must be received by faith, and for those who do receive it, they become partakers of the promises and blessings of life in Christ. Unimaginable goodness from our God, who is GOOD to His creation.

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

No, certainly men’s eyes haven’t seen it, and men’s ears haven’t heard it, but we who are of faith have seen and heard all of this - by His Spirit through faith.

**1 Corinthians 2:10 - “But GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”**

Those who believe the Word have the Spirit also, which is by the Word through faith.

**John 6:63 - “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the WORDS that I speak unto you, they ARE SPIRIT, and they are life.”**

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*Everyone on this earth that I talk to is “going to heaven”, so is their “testimony”. That outlook of the gospel is a problem in itself. Faith says, Christ is coming for those who look for Him, not only that we are going to heaven when we die.*

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## Chapter 8 - Obedience to the Faith: Hear the Son

Take heed how ye hear..... Ye may know not what spirit ye are of if you have been deceived. There is a reason Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gives more than testimony to men by His Word. We are easily deceived in heart. Everyone on this earth that I talk to is “going to heaven”, so is their “testimony”. That outlook of the gospel is a problem in itself. Faith says, Christ is coming for those who look for Him, not only that we are going to heaven when we die. No, Christ, who is good to men and desires that they be saved by faith, has given us another gift of His grace so that we might be partakers of the promise and benefit of His sacrifice.

That is the important work we will attempt to share and set our hand to do by the grace of God and His Spirit helping us in our next chapter...

## Chapter 9 – Obedience to the Faith: The Law of Christ

People are often deceived and confused on this next point, but it is imperative that we know the purpose of Christ in the work He is doing among men on the earth. In the New Testament, there is a body of doctrine that is solely for those who are “in the faith”. This body of doctrine is called the Law of Christ, and is given as law (revelation of God’s Will) to those who have acknowledged His position as the Son of God being Lord of All, and who have, as such, received the Word of Testimony that He has declared concerning things to come.

**Revelation 12:17 - “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS of God, AND HAVE the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST.”**

As we saw in our previous chapter, keeping the commandments begins with hearing, by which through faith the enabling power of the divine nature is given to us, which is a gift by the Spirit for those who believe.

**2 Peter 1:4 - “Whereby are GIVEN UNTO US exceeding great and PRECIOUS PROMISES: that BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”**

As we grow in faith by the preaching and study of the testimony, the new creature created within us grows in strength and maturity. The struggle between flesh and spirit will remain until our Lord’s appearing, but we can see

## Chapter 9 - Obedience to the Faith: The Law of Christ

the wisdom of Christ at work as we study these commandments He gave to those who had professed faith in Him.

The next step of obedience for saints, those who have professed faith in Christ as we have studied, is given to them that they might grow and be sanctified by the Word and Spirit in them.

**1 Peter 2:2 - “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”**

Also, these enable the saints to make examination of themselves, which is a hard thing to do. We cannot know our own hearts very well, but Christ sees them perfectly. He has given another step of obedience to serve as tools for men to perform this examination of themselves with the help of – you guessed it, His Word.

When we believe that Jesus now reigns as Lord of All, and that He has been the one declaring events to men before they happen all through time, and when we come to faith by acknowledging the certainty of the prophetic testimony from the heart so that we are in living in hope and expectation of them coming to pass above every other hope in life, then we are now “in the faith”. That is, coming to a full persuasion of the expectancy of the Lord fulfilling His Word. It is for these professors of the faith that the last set of tools are given for the obedience to the faith they now hold.

These tools come in the form of the law of Christ – His commandments and His ordinances. Just as in the Old Covenant picture, you had tables of stone with commandments and ordinances committed to the service of the tabernacle of witness, the new testament also holds commandments and ordinances as well. Both represent

God's will to men, which is how a commandment from God should be viewed. The Father's will is that we hear the Son and believe His testimony - to the glory of the Son. The Son's will is that we keep His commandments - to the

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*The Father's will is that we hear the Son and believe His testimony - to the glory of the Son The Son's will is that we keep His commandments - to the glory of the Father.*

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glory of the Father. By this means, the work of God is completed in His children through the sanctification of the Spirit. Christ has spoken concerning His work in men.

**John 6:44 - "No man can come to me, EXCEPT THE FATHER which hath sent me DRAW HIM: and I will raise him up at the last day."**

This is not a statement that relieves men of their responsibility. It is an acknowledgement of the fact that the prophetic testimony sent to men was from the Father. It is this prophetic Word from the Father that draws men and gives them faith and hope concerning things to come. The law of Christ is the way in which those who have been drawn by the truth of the Father's testimony will be proved - which is why we have the law of Christ.

Jesus Christ will test the faith of those who profess to have it by giving them His commandments, for He is God, and those who will not endure them will manifest that they did not come to Him by the drawing of the Father. This at least teaches us that the order of God's work in the hearts of men is full of perfection and purpose. The knowledge to be gained through the application of these

commandments and ordinances is not to prove anything to Christ, but that a man can by them assure his own heart before Christ and be persuaded of the faith he has professed in the hope of God's promises in Christ.

**1 John 3:18 - 19 - "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but IN DEED and in truth. And HEREBY WE KNOW that we are of the truth, and shall ASSURE OUR HEARTS before him."**

The love, which is a gift of the Spirit to those who are in faith towards God, is exercised to examine its truth and presence. In this way the perfect work of Christ is manifest in us. His law serves several purposes in our hearts.

- It appeals to the new creature in Christ, and by exercising them He is strengthened in might by the inner man. Accordingly, with time and exercise of this law, the inner man grows and increases in strength, striving against sin.
- It also works to prove the hearts of men whether they have acknowledged the truth of Christ's authority over them. If they have, and have heard him concerning His prophetic testimony, the Spirit given them by Christ for obedience to the faith will manifest a desire for hearing from Him more. If these commandments are burdensome and drive away the professor of faith, then he can know He is still in unbelief.
- These laws also give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in convincing men of sin. The Holy Spirit speaks to men in their hearts to persuade them of the truth. Once you realize what is happening in this way, the question from God to

Adam is no longer rhetorical. **Genesis 3:11 - “And he said, WHO TOLD THEE that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”**

The Spirit had taught Him of the truth by speaking to His heart. We see this at work in other places of scripture as well such as Zacchaeus proclamation that he would give half of his goods to the poor and repay everyone he had taken wrongfully by four times. The will of God is manifest through us when we are hearing His voice, because that is the way we were created to operate.

A man must Know who the Lord is, Jesus, and then must hear Him, because it is His testimony that must be received to be given faith in God’s promise, which is necessary to receive the Spirit. Those who have the Spirit, are enabled by that Spirit to endure the observance of the commandments unto the end. Those who cannot endure the call to keep them, prove their faith to be of themselves and not in God. A sinless “keeping” after the flesh is not what is in view. The desire to keep them is what examines the heart. We are called to be built up in the power of His might. This is the enabling of the Spirit that has given the desire to us to observe His law, and by being exercised in it, we grow in grace, knowledge, and faith.

**Ephesians 6:10 - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the POWER OF HIS MIGHT.”**

During this humble walk with him during the days of our flesh, while we are still encompassed with the infirmity of the flesh through sin, we are to continue walking in the light with Him. When we stumble, we have confidence that as we continue in fellowship, the blood of Christ is sufficient to cover our sins and that He is faithful to forgive us

when we confess. That is, to continue in the fellowship of faith whereby He cleanses us by His Spirit.

1 John 3:24 -  
“And he that **KEEP-  
ETH HIS COM-  
MANDMENTS**  
dwelleth in him, and he  
in him. And **HEREBY**  
**WE KNOW** that he  
abideth in us, by the  
Spirit which he hath  
given us.”

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*The keeping here does not imply that we will not fall, but it means we will not cast away His commandments. That is because we are exercising faith in Him - we know that He has given them to us for good to prove our faith, and to grow us in grace and knowledge.*

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The keeping here does not imply that we will not fall, but it means we will not cast away His commandments. That is because we are exercising faith in Him - we know that He has given them to us for good to prove our faith, and to grow us in grace and knowledge. Those who endure unto the end in this relationship of faith, will be given the promise of eternal life and the gift of salvation. We are saved by faith - a faith that endures to the end in the keeping of His commandments is a true Godly faith. Not sinless keeping, but faithful observance in faith.

Psalm 37:22 - 24 - “For such as be blessed of him **SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The **STEPS** of a good man **ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD**: and he delighteth in his way. **THOUGH HE FALL**, he shall not be utterly cast

**down: for the LORD UPHOLDETH HIM with his hand.”**

Amen! That Psalmist knew some things about walking with His God in faith and hope of the promises. Being exercised by His law until the time appointed. Now, we are not under the law of Moses, but we do have the law of Christ to be exercised in. Remember, the law reflects His will, and through the times when it is kept by those who are in faith to their own delight, we know the Spirit is working in us. When we transgress, His Spirit whispers to us so that we can HEAR HIM by His Spirit - Jesus.

**John 16:14 - “He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”**

That which is born of God overcomes the world - every time. Yes, it endures to the end. Brings forth fruit. Remains steadfast. This life is a trial of faith for those who profess to know Him. The faith that comes by way of the Father through the testimony of Christ doesn't “walk no more with Him”, or “go out from among us” or “go away”.

**1 John 2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, THEY WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE CONTINUED with us: but they went out, that they might be MADE MANIFEST that they were not all of us.”**

No, sir. The children of God are manifest by this testing of endurance by the law of Christ - and they delight in it!

**Psalm 40:8 - “I DELIGHT TO DO THY WILL, O my God: yea, THY LAW IS WITHIN MY HEART.”**



**Psalm 119:77 - “Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for THY LAW IS MY DELIGHT.”**

**Romans 7:22 - “For I DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD after the inward man:”**

For those who have the Spirit, the Law of Christ is a light and easy yoke, but for those who come in their own strength it is just a bridge too far for men.

Now, before you feel a sense of panic about legalism and law-keeping, or works salvation, let me explain what the law of Christ is - the “law” was reformed after the fulfillment of the types of the law of Moses.

**Hebrews 7:12 - “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity A CHANGE also OF THE LAW.”**

They are the commandments HE has given to men for their own good - to make examination of their faith.

**2 Corinthians 13:5 - “EXAMINE yourselves, WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”**

So, Christ, the good God and loving Lord and Great Shepherd, has equipped us to make this examination because men are good at deceiving themselves. The

law of Christ does not JUSTIFY us any more than the law of Moses could. We are justified by FAITH, and the law is given to examine our faith and keep us in faith until the end. The heart is desperately wicked and only the Lord can know it.

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**Jeremiah 17:9 - “The HEART IS DECEITFUL above all things, and desperately wicked: WHO CAN KNOW IT?”**

The answer is - the Lord Jesus Christ knows it. That is why He gave us His Word, His Testimony, His Commandments, and His Ordinances.

**Luke 16:15 - “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 abomination in the sight of God.”**

They are perfectly tailored for men to use them in making examination to circle back to the Father that we might be granted repentance and faith in coming to Him by His Son Jesus Christ if we have been deceived by our own hearts..... Just in case, because that COULD happen to men. Especially if they think they are already “saved”, so they don’t give any thought about obedience to the faith. No, the Lord will do everything He can out of His goodness to bring men to faith and to receive the Spirit of Truth by the preaching of the Word. As for men, we tend to not understand the value of His law, see it as legalistic, content

ourselves with our own version of “faith”, and live as we please..... Who are we listening to in all this? Certainly not to Him that calleth us.

**2 Timothy 3:13 - “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”**

So, let’s look at these tools and see if we can use them to know if we have come to Christ by the Father or by our own strength. Once we believe on Christ as Lord and receive His perfect testimony concerning future things to come, as every other saint who was ever justified by faith was required to do, we are then committed some other things that we are to be stewards of in obedience to “the faith” that we profess to have. Yes, just like all the other saints who are our great cloud of witnesses. I know. Obedience sounds scary to the natural man. What we don’t realize is that we are being obedient already to the will of god, just not the true and Living God, when we disregard His revealed will. Faith puts us back on the road to freedom from the lie and a relationship with Jesus Christ as the master who we are listening to – the way we were created to walk and live.

**Romans 16:26 - “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH:”**

So, let’s see how stringent this law is, keeping in mind it replaced the law of Moses and we are told it is a light burden. The law of Christ, as the Law of Moses showed in a pattern, incorporates commandments and ordinances. Let’s look at what each teaches and see what kind of obedience Christ calls for in this new gospel kingdom age in our next chapter.

## Chapter 10 – Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

The law of Christ contains commandments and ordinances for obedience to the faith. The commandments we know:

- Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
- Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

The commandments of Christ are a perfect display of God's wisdom and knowledge. It is as simple as profound. It is given to the household of faith for exercising their faith and not for righteousness. There is error on both sides of this narrow way. Some say we must keep the law to be saved, which is a fatal error, and some say there is no law and only faith which is also dangerous. I do at least prefer the error on the side of grace and faith, but no error at all would be even better for those who seek to know Him. I want the truth. The misconception is often that there is no law under Christ, which is an error we must avoid if we are to be found in him as faithful stewards when He appears.

**Matthew 25:14 & 19 - "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."....." After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them."**

**2 Peter 3:4 – “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, BE DILIGENT that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and BLAMELESS.”**

As faithful stewards while He is away, we are to be diligent in keeping His things as faithful stewards. His testimony. His commandments. His ordinances.

**John 3:33 – “He that hath RECEIVED HIS TESTIMONY hath set to his seal that God is true.”**

**John 14:15 – “IF YE LOVE me, KEEP my commandments.”**

**John 14:21 – “He that HATH my commandments, and KEEPETH THEM, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”**

**1 Corinthians 11:2 – “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and KEEP THE ORDINANCES, as I delivered them to you.”**

So, the commandments we have are from the Son, whom the Father tells men they are to hear. IF we have been obedient to the Father and heard the testimony of the Son, then these commandments will serve as proof that we are willing to hear the Son and as proof that we have been obedient to the will of the Father. That is why these are essential to us as those who are “in the faith”, as a testimony in the earth of the witness of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a reason Christ asks this question about finding any faith when He returns.

**Luke 18:8 – “I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, SHALL HE FIND FAITH on the earth?”**

This question of finding faith on the earth is not a question of will He find people who believe they are saved. It is a question of obedience to the faith as He commanded. You see, the law of Christ is given so that we can know if we love Him or not. It is a test. It tries our spirit.

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**1 John 5:2 - “BY THIS WE KNOW that we love the children of God, when we LOVE GOD, and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.”**

Not “keep” in the sense of the old carnal law which was weak through the flesh. “Keep” in observance as the things that test the true faith of a man in his heart - where the new creature now dwells. And the things He has commanded are a delight to those who have come to Him by the drawing of the Father, having believed the prophetic hope declared by Him through the Son.

**1 John 5:3 - “For this is the love of God, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

Stick with me. This is a help to discern Truth from error and there are many adversaries and deceivers in the world today. The law of Christ delights the new creature dwelling within each one who has received His prophetic testimony and delights in the hope of God, but is grievous to the old man which is carnal in nature and hopes in this

present world. The test is perfect. Christ gave it perfectly. It works every time. It is by this test we can know who is of God and who is not - by their fruit.

**Matthew 7:16 - “Ye shall KNOW them BY THEIR FRUITS. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”**

The creature who delights to do the will of Christ in hearing Him through preaching, assembling with His body, giving freely to support His purpose, being generous to others while we live without in hope of His promise. The difference is that today the law is not on tables of stone as it used to be. Today, the law is written on the hearts of those who receive the testimony of Christ by the Spirit. The law was not committed in the same written way of former times in the old covenant, it was sealed in the hearts of those who are in Christ by faith.

**Isaiah 8:16 - 17 - “Bind up the testimony, SEAL THE LAW AMONG MY DISCIPLES. And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I WILL LOOK FOR HIM.”**

OK, so you should really go read this whole chapter. Whew! Good stuff! It basically foretells of the age in which we now live - prophetic testimony. I could write more here than this book is intended to speak to, but the idea is that the testimony and the law is bound in our hearts while the Lord has hidden Himself from Jacob for their disobedience to the command to hear Him. Is it the law of Moses? No, that was a pattern of heavenly things, but we have the law of Christ. Let's look at this simple concept and see if there is some application.

## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

If you ask most people what the first step of obedience for a new Christian is, they will say, “Baptism!”, which would of course be a correct answer. So, keeping the first and greatest commandment to hear the Son of God brings us to faith and then we are to continue walking in the way of faith from there as a new creature in Christ. Now, baptism is for those who are in FAITH, having understood the truth and made profession of their acknowledgement of faith in Christ Jesus concerning His authority and His testimony of things to come. So, when we look at baptism, we are immediately encountered with a problem that the law of Christ answers. Who is supposed to baptize me now that I believe the truth and am living in hope of salvation? Can my dad baptize me? Can I baptize myself? Can my friend who led me to Christ baptize me? What is baptism for anyway? Ah, there’s the rub. The local church, the New Testament tabernacle of witness, which the old covenant foreshadowed in a type, has been ordained by the will of Christ to be just the organization to fulfill His will.

Many people today believe that God worked corporately in the Old Testament and that He works individually in the New Testament. I can see why they think that way, but it is wholly incorrect. The Lord has always dealt with the individual and the corporate community when it comes to faith. In Old Testament times, the tabernacle of witness was given corporately, but the exercise of worship in it was commanded individually. It is the same for us in the New Testament.

Many people today may not have realized that the New Testament church is the tabernacle of witness for our time and was established by Christ as a part of the New Testament law of Christ - in other words, it is commanded.



## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

Also, there is a pattern to be followed - actually, it was the pattern for the first. We need to spend a little time knowing these things if we are to be obedient to the faith.

When the children of Israel finished setting up the tabernacle, the Holy Spirit bore witness to the work by filling the tabernacle with His presence.

**Exodus 40:33 - 35 - “And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”**

Same with the temple.

**1 Kings 8:10 - 11 - “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.”**

So, when we get to the New Testament tabernacle of witness, we have a unique event happen that was foreshadowed by these

events in the old testament that bears witness to the things that the old testament was patterned after. Just as the tabernacle of witness was assembled each time the latches, skins, boards, and furniture were brought together and assembled, so too in our time each time the congregation assembles with all of the various members in their particular place of service, the presence of Christ is there meeting with the congregation. The “tent” is then taken down and the members go about their separate ways of wandering as pilgrims in the land until the next appointed time for assembly.

In the New Testament, however, there is more than one tabernacle of witness. We know this from the book of Acts. There are three separate times when

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## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

congregations were assembled and the Spirit bore witness to the inauguration of the house after this pattern.

**Acts 2:1 - 3 - “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

These separate instances teach us that we now live in a time when there are many local congregations in the earth that serve as tabernacles of witness for their respective nations, tongues, and peoples. This is the institution that has been given the corporate aspects of the New Testament covenant for obedience to the faith, and through which the congregation is to carry out the work of the Lord Jesus.

Just as circumcision was required as a seal of faith in order to be counted among the old testament congregation, so too in the new testament baptism is required to be counted among the congregation. This is for doctrinal reasons, as the law of Christ will show - meaning it teaches us a heavenly counterpart which is Truth. I discuss these in more detail in *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and will not labor here to reflect all those things. What's important here is to understand the local assembly exists because it is a law of Christ for obedience to the faith. We see this as almost a side note in many of the scriptures where it is inferred.

**Philippians 1:27 - 29 - “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs,**

that ye **STAND FAST** in one spirit, with one mind **STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL**; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you **IT IS GIVEN** in the behalf of Christ, **NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE** on him, but **ALSO TO SUFFER** for his sake;”

It is easy to read across these many passages like this and not realize what is being said. There are more things committed to us than just believing, as he here points out. Paul was writing to the church, the local assembly, at Philippi when he commanded them to “**STAND FAST in one spirit, with one mind STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL**”.

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

Now, this law of assembly may not convince some that this is in fact a commanded law in these types of instances from scripture, but we have others yet where this law of Christ is made plain. As the gospel was sent out into the world, those who came to faith in the testimony, were committed the law with its commandment and ordinances. That is clear. They were placed into assemblies as those churches were organized and bishops and deacons were ordained. This was the fulfillment of the law. The law of Christ - remember, we are commanded to Hear the Son. This law is a test of the spirit to yield to the one who reigns as the Lord - Jesus Christ.

Just as the tabernacle of witness was the instrument that enabled the observance of the law in obedience to the faith of a coming redeemer, we in our time have the same

pattern of example. The tabernacle of witness under the law was an earthly tabernacle because it foreshadowed the truth that Christ was to come in the flesh as the Lamb to be among His people. That was a shadow. It was an example. The tabernacle was replaced with an earthly temple (also a type), but both were referenced as the House of God.

**Exodus 23:19 - “The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into THE HOUSE OF THE LORD thy God.”**

**1 Kings 8:20 - “And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have BUILT AN HOUSE FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD God of Israel.”**

This “house of God” on earth was to represent the coming Christ who would be among the people as the Lamb of God - and His body, the church. Now some of you already beat me to the point here, but we also have a House of God as the central institution of the obedience to the faith in our time as well. The reason it is not an earthly temple made with hands is clear. The example it is to set in the earth is not in accordance with the law of Moses and the coming Lamb, but in accordance of the gospel of the kingdom and our gathering unto Him in the heavens as King. The house of God we represent in the local assembly today is a heavenly temple that shows the truth of the hope we profess - we are going to be with Him where He is. It is still a representative type, but of a different nature.

This House of God is the central institution in this age by which we are to obey the faith. It is central to the keeping of the commandments and the observance of the ordinances. It is set forth in the earth as a witness (like the

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*Like the tabernacle of witness, each congregation is a representation of the temple that is to follow in the fulness of times – when we are done wandering in tents as pilgrims and finally are established in the place the Lord our God has chosen – New Jerusalem.*

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tabernacle of witness) of both the presence of Christ on the earth today and of what Christ will do when He fulfills the Word of Promise that has been committed to us to keep in faith. Like the tabernacle of witness, each congregation is a representation of the temple that is to follow in the fulness of times – when we are done wandering in tents as pilgrims and

finally are established in the place the Lord our God has chosen – New Jerusalem. For now, this tabernacle gathers “wherever there are two or three” that are gathered in His name.

The law of Christ teaches us this is not a universal body, but enough members to exercise obedience to the faith – which requires at least two to have an “overseer” or bishop. There are thousands of these tabernacles of witness all over the earth at this time, which in the fulness of time are to be built together into one place when the Lord gathers them to build His temple in the fulness of times. Universal church ideas attempt to take this future promised assembly and install it now in the earth – which we know when you take the Word of promise and preach it as fulfilled before its’ time, it leads to ungodliness and destroys “the faith”.

## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

This institution of our times with the tabernacle of witness in the local congregation is not some universal institution that every believer is a part of – that is a failure to rightly divide the Word of Truth because that future assembly is a promise not yet fulfilled. You know, the kind of thing that overthrows faith, leads to ungodliness, and all the rest. Hope we’ve covered that well in this book. No, there is a body of which all the saints **WILL BE** a part in the fulness of time, but today we are members of that body **BY FAITH** (which means it is not here yet) but placed into local congregations to represent the truth of that promise by **FAITH** – in the local church. The local church is the House of God in our age, and is central to all of the commandments and ordinances of this age – the age in which the body of doctrine is not the law of Moses, but the gospel of the kingdom of God.

It is interesting that there are so many scriptures in the New Testament about the local congregation being the temple of God, and yet few people of faith seem very familiar with the concept. Most people are familiar with the idea of the New Testament believer being the temple. Let’s see what the scriptures say.

Peter says we are each lively stones and are built up together as a house.

**1 Peter 2:15 – “Ye also, as lively stones, are BUILT UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”**

He later refers to this group of lively stones as The House of God.

**1 Peter 4:17 - “For the time is come that judgment must begin at THE HOUSE OF GOD; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”**

Makes sense so far. Spiritual stones that each have the Holy Spirit that are built into one building as a local body of believers of which each member is a part. Got it. Paul says this House of God has a high priest.

**Hebrews 10:21 - “And having an high priest OVER THE HOUSE OF GOD; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH without wavering, (for he is faithful that promised;)”**

Now this is an interesting passage for us to view considering all we have learned in this book so far. Here we are told that if we have professed faith, then we are to hold it fast without wavering. In other words, we’ve professed a belief in the promises of God that are yet unseen, but we must endure to the end having full assurance. This is obedience to the faith. Living in full assurance and hope of the fulfillment of the Word we have believed by faith – notice the next few verses considering what we are seeing about the House of God in New Testament doctrine...

**Hebrews 10:24 - 25 - “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”**



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So, we are told under the law of Christ that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in the body, because we are to be considerate of one another! You aren't supposed to assemble for you. You are assembling for Christ and His body. The law of Christ is at work here on several levels it seems... The apostle then addresses those who fall away from this call to obedience in the faith.

**Hebrews 10:26 - 31 - "For if we SIN WILLFULLY after that we have RECEIVED the KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised MOSES' LAW died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of HOW MUCH SORER PUNISHMENT, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people."**

This is crystal clear for anyone with ears to hear. Assembling with the local body is the law for those who are in the faith - the law of Christ. If this delights you, that's a good sign of your spirit. If it is a grievous burden, then the law did what it is intended to do - show you the sin of your heart and call you to repentance. Paul was admonishing these believers to endure in the faith until the end in obedience because Christ will judge all men. Paul didn't seem to be too casual about this point. Like we've seen, the Lord will JUDGE His people. He is looking for FAITH in His people. Paul clearly here correlates the abandonment of

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the assembly as a transgression of the commandment under the New Covenant! This must be understood by people today who are destroying the faith with their errors.

There is no universal church in the earth today. It is a future promise. We are come unto it by faith. Like the tabernacle of witness in old time that had no certain home

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*There is no universal church in the earth today. It is a future promise. We are come unto it by faith.*

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until the Lord God chose a place and built a permanent home for it in Zion by the Son of David. Any hope of being a member of the House of God that we foreshadow in a type will be found by those who are faithful in the things of this life by holding fast the faith!

**Hebrews 3:6 - "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, IF WE HOLD FAST the confidence and the rejoicing of the HOPE firm unto THE END."**

Christ is a son over His own house, and we will be partakers of the promises spoken of in the Word of God that teach us of the great congregation of saints in the world to come IF, mind you, IF He judges us worthy as those who KEPT THE FAITH!!!! If we are steadfast unto the end. If we are not moved away from the hope of the gospel by the trials and allure of the world. If we are not offended for the name of Christ. These are the overcomers of the world by the victory that is ours through faith in Christ.

Does that cause you to doubt His promise? Is your eternal security threatened by that fact? Are you squirming in your seat? Have you decided this book is

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heresy and should be tossed in the trash? Then your own spirit is begging you to get real with your faith.

Our future could not be more certain if we are in Christ by faith and have His Spirit. The question is, are we? Our theology won't save us. Only Christ can do that. If we don't have the Spirit, we aren't of His body. Point blank. However, if we do, we will by faith delight in being a part of His body. That is what the law of Christ teaches us.

Eternal security is a huge favorite of mine, and I used to teach it as "once saved always saved", until I began to see the topic of salvation more clearly! Now it is clear to me, true faith will be separated from false professors and pretenders of the faith. The difference is those who have His Spirit - which is the only promise we can get NOW. These laws of Christ given for obedience to the faith examine the spirit of a man so that WE CAN KNOW if we have His Spirit or not. We are better to acknowledge the truth now and get on with the examination from God's Word than to comfort our hearts with vain words and theories about theology. If you are not interested in faithfulness to the institution of the local church at a bare minimum, Paul clearly says you ought to be concerned when you stand before the judge as one who has willingly violated His commandment that was sent to teach you His will.

Carrying this idea of the New Testament temple forward, we continue to see how the apostles taught of these things. They taught that the Lord is building Himself a house, something men cannot do.

**Acts 7:48 - "Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,"**

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And that we are joined to local assemblies in FAITH as we live in obedience to the faith waiting for the promise. This doctrine of the New Testament temple as the center of obedience and service to Christ was clear to these men who taught all those who believed the testimony of Christ concerning the coming kingdom of God.

**1 Timothy 3:15 - “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in THE HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH IS THE CHURCH of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”**

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul is addressing the church at Corinth - a specific assembly of believers that had elders ruling over the members to teach them in obedience to the faith. He has this to say.

**1 Corinthians 3:9 & 16 - 17 - “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, YE ARE GOD’S BUILDING..... Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”**

So, here we see also that the building is the House of God, and that the individual believers are members of that structure. We are to partake of the obedience to the faith by taking the place that Christ has called us to as a member in that local body. A body that has the authority to carry out His work. A body that is properly instituted on authority from His Word, being the child of another church - not the whimsical idea of a man or woman who has haphazardly decided to start their own assembly with no authority to do so from a church that can give it to them. A body made up of members who are the lively stones that

make up the structure of that building which is God's. A body that has overseers (pastor(s), deacons) and a body whose head is Christ Himself, not another agency, board, convention, or committee. Each local congregation is to rest under the authority of Christ Himself, which He will govern by His Word and His Spirit.

This is the building process that Christ has prescribed for the obedience to the faith. That is because it is intended to serve as witness to this world of what He has promised to do in the time to come - just exactly like the congregation of old under the law of Moses. We portray an image of the heavenly things we profess by faith by observing the ordinances and commandments given to the local church.

**Ephesians 2:19**

- 22 - "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together

groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord In whom YE **ALSO ARE BUILDED TOGETHER FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD** through the Spirit."

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*So there's the spiritual house being grown over time in the heavens and spoken of by promise, and there is ALSO, Yes, ALSO the habitation of God now in this time, which the tabernacle of witness of old times were patterned after.*

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## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

So there's the spiritual house being grown over time in the heavens and spoken of by promise, and there is **ALSO**, Yes, **ALSO** the habitation of God now in this time, which the tabernacle of witness of old times were patterned after. I feel like I could go on at some length here, but I will try to digress....

It may have occurred to you by now that the anti-christ is a man who comes in the place of Christ to also confirm a covenant as well, but he will attempt to confirm the covenant that Christ disannulled by His fulfillment of the law. If you look at the covenant of works and the covenant of promise, we know one was done away in Christ by fulfillment as He confirmed the covenant of promise which is everlasting. The antichrist will also confirm a covenant, but not the covenant of promise. He may indeed attempt to confirm the covenant of the law of Moses with many and will restore the needed earthly temple to inaugurate its services (either that or he will confirm the "covenant" that was made by the deceiver to make men gods by believing him? OK, that's speculation, but still you wonder...). If you are approached by anyone interested in soliciting the help of churches to rebuild the temple, buyer beware. There is a reason those who have believed in Jesus Christ by faith in the promised kingdom to come are warned against being yoked with the unbelieving - which the Jews are as they continue to resist the witness of the Holy Ghost concerning the fulfillment of God's Word in Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 6:14 - "BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"**

OK, that was free. Back to our program then.

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We see the believers at Pentecost added by the Lord to this spiritual building at Jerusalem as the first congregation of New Covenant believers were being assembled by the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 2:41 - “Then they that gladly RECEIVED HIS WORD were BAPTIZED: and the same day there WERE ADDED UNTO THEM about three thousand souls.”**

This is a “real time” example of what we have been teaching here in this book. So, those who believed the testimony of the kingdom (declaring that it is Jesus who was made Lord over all things and that we are to be delivered from this generation by faith in Him) were added to the congregation of believers by baptism in obedience to the faith they now had. The reason for this faith is rooted in the same kingdom doctrine that had been being preached since the time of John and was now commissioned with power by the risen Christ who had received the promise of the Holy Ghost from the Father.

**Acts 2:32 - 33 - “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”**

The sending of the Spirit according to His promise affirmed the truth of the gospel of the kingdom to the apostles and served as witness that Christ had in fact ascended to the heavens and was now seated at the right hand of God given power and authority - waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool. This was a down-payment on the rest of the prophetic testimony they had received by faith.

**Ephesians 1:13 - 14 - “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE UNTIL the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”**

The heirs are given this down payment on their faith to preserve them and seal them unto the day when the inheritance is to be received. We are heirs of eternal life, the kingdom of God, salvation, the grace of life, all by the grace of God by the working of Faith in us by His Word and the Holy Spirit - and for those who suffer the things of this life with patience by faith unto the time appointed, these promises will be received in due time.

**Romans 8:17 - “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”**

The baptism of these believers in adding them to the congregation is an earthly pattern of a heavenly truth - which is why it was committed to them as doctrine. In the congregation of saints in heaven in the fulness of time, only those who have been raised in the resurrection of the just will be members. The ordinance of baptism is given to represent the death of Christ, our death in Him for those who are in Him by faith, and the hope of the resurrection that is promised - unfulfilled testimony of promise. In order to be in the resurrection of the just promised in the time to come, one must first be in faith towards God. That is the requirement of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ.

**Romans 8:1 - 2 - “There is therefore now no condemnation TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST**



**JESUS, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”**

Thus, the earthly pattern was committed to men by the ordinance of baptism to be observed in the way that represents the pattern of truth. An individual must have a testimony of knowledge in fulfilled testimony, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, faith in the promises to come, and then may be baptized by immersion - a type of death, burial, and resurrection. That individual is then considered a member of the local congregation on earth, just as in the heavenly pattern it represents. It is by obedience to this law of baptism that we are “added unto” the local congregation of believers. We become members of that body to live in FAITH of the true hope in our hearts of being in the body of saints to be gathered in the fulness of time. We have come to that heavenly congregation, that’s right, by faith - which means it’s not here yet. It’s a promise.

**Hebrews 12:22 - “But YE ARE COME unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”**

How have we come to all these things that are in view in this passage and to Jesus Christ Himself? By faith. Haven’t seen them yet, but only heard about them by the preaching of the Word and have been persuaded of the truth of them. In the meantime, the law of Christ tells us

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to be obedient to the faith and to live in hope of them by observing his doctrine.

Once an individual is a member of a local assembly through baptism, they are then allowed to partake of the Lord's supper, which is a type of the coming kingdom and our presence at the Lord's table. All these ordinances must be observed with an eye to the patterns they are given to represent if they are to teach men doctrine - which is the whole point. They also cannot be obeyed by believers without submitting to the authority of a local congregation.

The ordinances are committed to the local church and not to any individual believer. Being baptized without ordained authority violates the truth of the doctrine of the faith - it violates the pattern of the true heavenly things it was sent to preserve and teach. Taking communion apart from an authoritative local assembly does the same. Just as the service of God was inextricably woven into the temple for the old testament congregation, the same is true for New Testament saints. The service to Christ and obedience to the faith carries commandments that are impossible for men to observe outside of the institution God ordained for these things.

Christ also taught these same things in saying that His servants will be where He is and that if any man serve Him, the Father will honor that man. We know that he in fact referenced "servants" here to specifically make the point that this is a reference to this present world and our life in the flesh. That is where the local assembly comes into view. That is where Christ promises to be on earth in this age. The local assembly is His temple ordained to be so by the law of Christ and He gathers together with them in Spirit when they gather unto His name in faith.

**John 12:26 - “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and WHERE I AM, THERE SHALL ALSO MY SERVANT BE: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.”**

The service comes now in this life by faith as we live in hope of the promised honor and glory with Him in the world to come as one of the sons of God - which we are.....by faith. The fulfillment of that promise waits as well. A day

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*The service comes now in this life by faith as we live in hope of the promised honor and glory with Him in the world to come as one of the sons of God – which we are.....by faith.*

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when the sons of God will be manifest, or brought forth, awaits His appearing. For now, let us serve Him by faith where He is - in the temple of the local assembly.

**1 Timothy 3:15 - “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in THE HOUSE OF GOD, which IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, the pillar and ground of the truth.”**

While the old testament congregation used to gather into the temple to meet with God in worship and service, the New Testament congregation gathers unto Him by faith in Spirit. This obedience to the local congregation is obedience to the faith. The gathering of the saints unto Christ on a regular basis is intended to show forth the faith, our hope and expectation, of our gathering unto Christ when He appears. These congregations have been planted all around the world for witnesses to the nations and the world. The ordinances and doctrine committed to

them is to preserve the truth of the faith in pictures - like the prophets of old.

**Exodus 18:20 - “And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.”**

The old law foreshadowed the heavenly things of Christ but were weak through the flesh. The Spirit is willing when in faith by Christ, but we know the flesh is weak. These heavenly laws of Christ speak to those in faith and were the pattern of the true things that the law spoke of in the flesh. The truth of the ordinances and laws speaks to us in spirit today rather than in fleshly service of a carnal nature. The old law and testimony is fulfilled. It was intended to show the truth of Christ who has quickened us in Spirit. The righteousness comes to those who are of the household of faith by grace through Christ Jesus. The laws are to try our Spirit and teach us the ways of the Lord. Understanding this principle of Christ shows us how to understand and apply the other commandment we have in this age.

It is not that we are without law, but have received the testimony, law, and ordinances of Christ for the spirit. He died to remove the law that worked in the members of our flesh. The flesh will still stumble and fall. The spirit within us is called to obedience to the law of Christ while the death of Christ has sufficed for every sin in the flesh.

**Romans 7:25 - “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”**

There is law that governs the flesh and law that governs the soul.

**Romans 7:22 - 23 - “For I delight in THE LAW OF GOD AFTER THE INWARD MAN: But I see AN-OTHER LAW in my members, WARRING AGAINST the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”**

Christ has removed the curse of the law in the flesh, because we received it by birth from Adam who loved his wife and she was deceived. What a mess we are in!

**Romans 7:24 - “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”**

Christ died to redeem the transgressions that were under the old law, which was for sin in the flesh, and the new law speaks to the soul of a man. It has law, nonetheless. We are not without law; it is that Christ removed the handwriting of ordinances that was against us in the flesh.

A disobedient spirit has no hope in Christ, which is what the law of Christ is given to reveal to men - disobedience in spirit to the law of Christ. A disobedience to hear the Son. A disobedience to believe the testimony in faith concerning Jesus Christ. A disobedience to submit to baptism. A disobedience to faithfully assemble with the body. A disobedience to submit to the authority of the pastors, elders, and overseers in the local assembly. A disobedience to love our brethren in the church and esteem them above ourselves. A disobedience to make things right with our brethren in love and patience. A disobedience to forsake the love of the things of this world in favor of the world to come and the kingdom of God. A disobedience to pay our tithes unto the Lord. A disobedience to study to shew ourselves approved. Disobedience to obey the faith we have professed before men by giving the glory to Jesus

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Christ for His goodness towards us. Yes, disobedience can take many shapes and forms under the law of Christ, which is why we are yet to lean on Him the more closely and to walk in fellowship of the truth in Him concerning our sin.

**1 John 1:8 - 9 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

So, being given the law of Christ gives us a law we can delight in and obey in Spirit, which is counted for obedience and will be rewarded according to the measure of obedience by every saint. Salvation is a promise to those who receive the testimony of Christ, and the service rendered to the Lord in obedience and faithfulness will be rewarded as well. He is full of GRACE towards His creation. He will reward the act of faith in His testimony to all men equally, knowing the testimony came from Him by grace. And He will reward everyone who is in faith according to their obedience which is only possible by the work of His Spirit.

So, we see that the ordinances are kept and taught by the local church to perpetuate the truth while we wait for His appearing in an orderly way - that is how God works. Individually, we are to obey the Father by hearing the Son and receiving the testimony concerning things to come, and then be subject to the authority of the local church while we exercise our Spirit in obedience to Him. All the while, as we obey His voice in faith, He is accounting the obedience to His law, given by the desire we have to love Him by His Spirit in us, to our account.

As we exercise obedience to these holy ordinances of faith in Christ, we live out in a picture the faith we have

in His Word by promise – just like the saints of old under the law of Moses who did the same. They picture for us the coming Lamb. We picture the returning King. This is the pillar and ground that is to hold up the truth as a representative type and witness of what God has promised to do by His Son Jesus Christ in the time to come.

1 Timothy  
3:15 – “...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

The church is the candlestick onto which the Lord has placed His light. If you are in the faith and have the light His prophetic testimony gives to men, Christ will place you in a local assembly, His candlestick, where people can see the light. The local church is set forth in the world to show in a pattern the truth of the testimony of Christ concerning His doctrine in the ordinances and commandments we have been given.

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*The church is the candlestick onto which the Lord has placed His light. If you are in the faith and have the light His prophetic testimony gives to men, Christ will place you in a local assembly, His candlestick, where people can see the light.*

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Luke 8:16 – “No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but SETTETH IT ON A CANDLESTICK, that they which enter in may see the light.”

Revelation 1:20 – “...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and THE SEVEN CANDLESTICKS which thou sawest ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES.”

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Each assembly is a candlestick, and we are placed into it when we receive the testimony by faith and receive baptism through the authority of a local assembly. He has preserved these hopes of His promise concerning things to come in the body of doctrine we practice and preach. Let us be faithful stewards of His things and rejoice with Him at His appearing as those who have confidence toward Him that we have been obedient children. Obedient to His will. Obedient to His promise. Obedient to the faith.

**Jude 1:3 - “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should EARNESTLY CONTEND for THE FAITH which was once delivered unto the saints.”**

For those who look for salvation, it will be appearing in the sky in the person of Jesus Christ. He is our salvation. Let us continue in the faith, grounded and settled, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him.

**1 John 2:28 - “And now, little children, ABIDE IN HIM; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him AT HIS COMING.”**

He is in the assembly of His saints. Are we abiding in Him? Are we being stewards of His things while He is away? Can we have confidence towards Him when He appears?

**Matthew 25:14 - “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.”**



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He will be returning to call His servants into account. Those who are faithful are to be rewarded with the promises.

**Psalm 14:7 - “Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.”**

You may have wondered when I would mention the second commandment. Well, it is clear that the first step of obedience is to be placed into a local assembly by baptism, and then we are in a position to obey this second commandment we are given in the law of Christ. Remember, there are commandments and ordinances. Ordinances are for the flesh. Commandments are for the inward man.

The second law is well known today, only it is often not according to the due order - which is important to Christ. We cannot seek Him in our own order. He has been clear with us. There is an order - this salvation in which we hope is a legal affair, not lawlessness.

**1 Chronicles 15:13 - “For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God MADE A BREACH UPON US, for that we SOUGHT HIM NOT AFTER THE DUE ORDER.”**

This little nugget really reflects the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the garden as well when they violated the first and greatest commandment. Eve never sought out her husband until she had already listened to another voice, and Adam did the same likewise. Here we learn God is a God of order, and He has commanded us to seek Him.

**Acts 17:24 - 27 - “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and HATH DETERMINED THE TIMES BEFORE APPOINTED, and THE BOUNDS OF THEIR HABITATION; That they should SEEK THE LORD, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”**

And has promised those who do seek Him will find Him. Yes, another promise wrapped in a commandment that requires us to trust Him in faith.

**Jeremiah 29:13 - “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”**

Jesus reiterated this promise during His earthly life.

**Matthew 7:7 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”**

He also warned that there would be some who sought Him and would not find Him.

**John 7:34 - “YE SHALL SEEK me, and SHALL NOT FIND me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.”**

How can this be? Here He was speaking to those who had refused His testimony. He is a lawful God. His law is perfect and accounts for every aspect of governing creation and His own interactions with His creation. It CANNOT be broken. It is the Word of God.

**Psalm 19:7 - 11 - “The LAW OF THE LORD is PERFECT, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”**

Perfect in a complete sense. Perfect in a flawless sense. Nothing will ever be added to it and nothing can be taken away. It is perfect. It is this aspect of His work that is our hope. The law requires us to seek Him with all our heart, as we just read in Jeremiah. Further, we are required to humble ourselves in spirit - He resists the proud by hiding Himself from them. Pride was the sin of Satan, and it has been searched out by the perfect law of God and will be punished. Pride is a trademark of Satan’s work in the heart of man.

**Hosea 5:5 - 6 - “And THE PRIDE OF ISRAEL DOTH TESTIFY TO HIS FACE: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. THEY SHALL GO with their flocks and with their herds TO SEEK THE LORD; but THEY SHALL NOT FIND HIM; HE HATH WITHDRAWN HIMSELF from them.”**

And we also must seek Him after the due order - the order He has declared by His law. Many today are seeking Him by the second commandment

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*Many today are seeking Him by the second commandment alone, trusting Christ will be pleased with their works of love and generosity. However, these works must be done by those who are in faith to be pleasing to Christ Jesus. We must first come to obey the first and greatest law there is.*

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alone, trusting Christ will be pleased with their works of love and generosity. However, these works must be done by those who are in faith to be pleasing to Christ Jesus. We must first come to obey the first and greatest law there is. Failure to understand or acknowledge this leaves us guilty of committing the great transgression, which is violating the great commandment. David speaks of this in Psalms.

**Psalm 19:13 - “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION.”**

The great transgression is to violate the great commandment - refusing to hear the Lord God. David's prayer for his own life was that this would not be his case. He desired to be obedient every time the Lord spoke to Him and prayed that the Lord would show him mercy in this way. The second commandment is for those who have been obedient to the first. The Spirit given by God to those who receive the testimony in faith is the empowering influence to keep the second law - not "keep" for righteousness, but in obedience to the faith by His Spirit to "hear" Him when He speaks to our hearts. The law becomes a delight to those with His Spirit within them.

Having then faith towards God in obedience to the Father, faith in the testimony, and obedience to the Son, we are given the second law, which is like the first.

**Mark 12:31 - “And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”**

You will notice there is only promise in this commandment because it is built upon the first and greatest

## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

commandment - all of life and creation hangs on the first one. IF we keep the commandment to HEAR, then we SHALL love God and shall love our neighbor. It's law. Law governs how the creation works, as we all know very well. With experience we learn how the law is a benefit, such as the laws of gravity or the laws of physics that govern electricity. These laws can hurt us or help us. Experience teaches along the way. The laws cannot, however, be broken. Only used. Think about it.....

The second commandment is continually taught throughout the New Testament and is the primary commandment upon which all of our relationships are built other than our relationship with God, which is governed by the first commandment. Yes, like Sunday school, it really is that simple and profound at the same time. God first. Others second. Hear Him, and love others - even your enemies. This is the law we are exercised by in the household of faith towards one another in the assembly and towards those that are "without", or not members of the assembly.

**James 2:8 - "If ye fulfil THE ROYAL LAW according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"**

In this way, we are the children of our Father, and have done His will - in due order. The "royal" law, to love our neighbor as ourselves, demonstrates through us which Father we have and of whose household we are a member. It shows us which master we serve, and which kingdom has dominion over us. How so? By serving as a demonstration of our obedience to the first commandment. We are the servants of the one we are listening to. The heavenly

## Chapter 10 - Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

Father who created all things makes the sun to rise on the just and the unjust as we have seen.

**Matthew 5:44 - 45 - “But I say unto you, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; THAT YE MAY BE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”**

The obedience to the command doesn't make us His children. We are children by faith. This second commandment for His household is what His children will be judged by. It demonstrates that we have His Spirit and thus proves we are His children by delighting in the things that are pleasing to Him. As we learn and grow during the days of our flesh, as little children, we are learning how to HEAR Him and OBEY. Those who endure the chastening by enduring until the end, are to be made SONS that, with Christ, reign over all things.

**Galatians 4:1 - “Now I say, That THE HEIR, as long as he is CHILD, differeth nothing from a servant, THOUGH HE BE LORD OF ALL;”**

This was Christ's example to us.

**Matthew 18:5 - “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”**

He, made to be Lord over all by the will of the Father, lived His life being made as a little child and took on the form of a servant, and was subject to all manner of authority, powers, and dominions - even though He was to be Lord of All. After the time of His sufferings and death

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under these tutors and governors of power and authority, He was raised and seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. He learned obedience as it were under these tutors and governors, which were appointed by the Father, and having learned obedience in the flesh to the powers that rule in the flesh, and having demonstrated obedience to God in perfect faith of the promises He was given, He now has been given **ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH**. There was a promise. There was an order. There was an appointed time - and there is a fulfillment to be gained.

For more on the obedience to the faith as it pertains to our service to Christ, the local assembly is the place to be. The law of Christ teaches us to be in obedience to those who have the rule over us in the Lord. It also teaches those who have the oversight to serve as Christ, for the benefit of the people and not themselves.

In obedience to the faith, as all the early saints were taught, you ought to find a sound, Christ honoring, Biblically established, authoritative, Bible preaching, New Covenant knowing, prophecy teaching, ordinance observing, regenerate membership requiring, scripture preaching, Holy Spirit ministering, local, physical, and tangible body of assembled believers who are living in the same faith and expectancy of Christ's soon coming kingdom where you can learn obedience to the faith that you now know and profess. That will save me a lot of pages of writing, provide the edification you need, minister grace to the hearts of those who love Jesus Christ

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## Chapter 10 – Obedience to the Faith: Ordinances

and seek His glory, and set your feet on the way that Christ requires to be truly blessed – not as the world gives, but in the world to come. The world He has promised to His saints. The world over which He will reign with His saints forever. I hope to see you there to the praise of His glory.

## Some Closing Thoughts....

### Some Closing Thoughts....

As I once heard it said, so much truth and so little time..... Let's try to wrap up this topic for now. I pray that some of the thoughts shared here have been helpfully to you in your faith. Confidence in the prophetic testimony of Christ is the faith which the scriptures show is needed to justify men through faith in Christ, which is to signify that we have obeyed the first and greatest commandment - to Hear. The Lord Jesus, then having imparted His Spirit by faith to us in making a new creature, continues to teach us in which ways we should walk by His Word. This is not a one and done deal. We do not remain unchanged or go back to our old ways after the things of this present evil world after coming to faith in Christ. We are learning as sons how to listen and obey the will of the Father. The next steps of obedience then are given to keep us in the way. To guide us into the way everlasting. To promote growth in grace, knowledge, and faith.

So, the first commandment is to hear, and thou shalt love. The second one is like it Christ says. This one is most familiar to many in our time. That doesn't mean it is well understood in our time, as the world has completely destroyed the true concept of love, but it is more commonly heard at least.

**Mark 12:31 - "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."**

You'll notice these are referenced here as a single commandment. That is because the command is to hear, and the rest is prophetic testimony that will hold true by law. The question is "who are we listening to?" The

## Some Closing Thoughts....

commandments of Christ are given to men to show us His will. They are also given in order for a reason. The second commandment can't be kept without the power of His Spirit that has taught us the love of God. That power to love like He does, given by His Spirit, is a gift to the believers of His testimony – those who have kept the first commandment. His will for men is to show His love, that He has shed abroad in our hearts by His Spirit, to one another as a reflection of what He has done for us. Again, the life we now live in the flesh is to give glory to God, which is given by reflecting the truth of Him in the creation. That is the whole purpose and highest calling of man, as they say.

This must be done by honoring Him in obedience through the Spirit unto Christ and by yielding to the dominion of the kingdom that rules over the flesh – which is of the adversary, I know and so does the Father. He has given the dominion of the flesh into the enemy's hand for a season of time. One kingdom rules this present world and one rules over all things. The faith and patience of the saints is to understand this is appointed for a time by the will of the Father – ask Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.... They got it. Ask the apostles who were beaten and imprisoned. They got it. Look at Christ's own example. He KNEW it. Obedience to all authority is required. Obedience to the kingdom of this world that governs our flesh without disobeying the Father who speaks by His Spirit. Christ never violated these laws during His life, and the powers that were ordained of God crucified Him on a cross – to the glory of the Father's own wisdom and perfect wisdom.

## Some Closing Thoughts....

**Isaiah 42:21 - “The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; HE WILL MAGNIFY THE LAW, and make it honourable.”**

In the end, the perfect law of God will show itself glorious to the praise of His name. Satan has deceived Himself and many others along the way with His lie, but it is to have

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*In the end, the perfect law of God will show itself glorious to the praise of His name.*

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an end. In the meantime, the Father is pleased to work through his own power and wisdom to show the foolishness of this lie, the one who fathered it, those who perpetuated it, and those who believe it to the end. We know it pleases Him because He has the power to put it down whenever he chooses, and we know it pleases Him because of His own testimony.

**Isaiah 53:10 - “Yet IT PLEASSED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”**

The instrument to accomplish this bruising is of His own choosing and they will not be guiltless because the law of the Lord searched out the hearts, which was pride. There is good reason that the Lord is to be feared for the greatness of His power.

**2 Corinthians 5:9 - 11 - “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his**

## Some Closing Thoughts....

body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. **KNOWING THEREFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD**, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

For us today, these two commandments are **THE** commandments by which the New Covenant is obeyed in the age in which the gospel of the kingdom is preached. There are also the ordinances that are a part of **His** law for this age as well. However, Christ didn’t leave us with two commandments that could be interpreted any ol’ way. He is a better Master than to be so vague! These commandments do “briefly comprehend” the law of Christ according to the new covenant but are sufficiently expounded and taught in the doctrine of the kingdom and are part of the law of Christ which includes the ordinances of the New Testament congregation. By exercise of the faith in these, we are sanctified by the Spirit through **His** teaching of the Word in our hearts, and made like unto Christ as we are changed from glory to glory.

**Romans 12:2** - “And be not conformed to this world: but **BE YE TRANSFORMED** by the renewing of your mind, that **YE MAY PROVE** what is that **GOOD**, and **ACCEPTABLE**, and **PERFECT**, **WILL OF GOD**.”

**Matthew 7:21** - “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **HE THAT DOETH THE WILL** of my Father which is in heaven.”

It is the will of the Father that we be made like unto **His** Son, and He has chosen to perfect us by the washing of water by the Word through faith. We find this taught in Ephesians as Paul is admonishing the church there how to

## Some Closing Thoughts....

carry out the law of Christ in their assembly and community.

**Ephesians 5:24 - 27 - “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”**

Men are to love their wives and wives are to obey their husbands. Is this just good counsel for marriage sake? No, there is doctrine at work here. All marriages on earth were given by God to show the truth of His doctrine concerning His Son, and when we defile marriage by getting it out of order, we have corrupted the creation that was made to declare the truth and glory of Christ and the church.

We will not fully attain to the full stature of Christ in this present world but are called to strive and follow after Christ in this exercise of faith - it is profitable to us, as the Lord God who made all things knows what is best for His children. Whom will you listen to? Whom will you serve? The call to choose is a legitimate offer.

**Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY whom ye will SERVE; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”**

Man was created to serve and there is a law that governs man's way. Just as the natural world functions by

## Some Closing Thoughts....

the laws God ordained, so too the spiritual world. Whom-ever we listen to **IS** our lord and God, and we will love and serve them. That's the law and it cannot be broken. The **WILL** of the Father is revealed in His commandment - Hear my Son, Jesus. If we profess to have chosen Christ, then let us be fully persuaded to the obedience to the faith and listen to Him.

**1 Kings 18:21 - "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."**

The law cannot be broken. It governs all things. The law provides, however, for blessings and curses.... Choose wisely.

**Deuteronomy 30:19 - "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may live:"**

Obey the Father and hear His command - Hear the Son, the Word of God. Believe the testimony - receive the Spirit. Walk in obedience to the Faith while we live in hope of the promises made to us. Strive to be blameless in the observance of the **commandments** of Christ, the **ordinances** of Christ, and fervently hope in the **testimony** of Christ. He has magnified His Word above all.

**Psalms 138:2 - "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified THY WORD ABOVE ALL thy name."**

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Jesus, the Word made Flesh, is now Lord of All, and He is the Lord God of all by the will of His Lord and God, the Father. By His Word, we are healed from the wounds of the enemy.

**Psalm 107:20 - “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”**

The com-  
mandments of the Fa-  
ther, the obedience of  
the Son, and the wit-  
ness of the Spirit. The  
fulness of these three  
rest in one man - Jesus  
Christ. Amen.

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*The purpose of obedience  
to the faith is for a testi-  
mony to men among  
whom we live and for  
those who will come be-  
hind us*

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The purpose  
of obedience to the  
faith is for a testimony to men among whom we live and  
for those who will come behind us. Abraham’s obedience  
was specifically chosen by God for him to be an example.  
Rahab’s obedience was specifically chosen to be an exam-  
ple. Naaman’s obedience was specifically chosen to be an  
example. Moses’ obedience to the faith was chosen to be  
an example. The Ninevites, Joseph, Jacob, David, and  
every saint had this testimony of the hearing of faith and an  
example of obedience to that faith. In every case, the sov-  
ereign Father had ordained these individuals, the testimony  
they heard, and the path of obedience they were to follow  
in hope. If we look at the testimony of the parents of John  
the Baptist, they also provide a great example of obedience  
to the faith.

**Luke 1:5 - 6 - “There was in the days of Herod,  
the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the**



**course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the COMMANDMENTS and ORDINANCES OF THE LORD blameless.”**

So, Zacharias and Elisabeth had faith in Christ’s testimony, their righteousness before God, and had kept the commandments and ordinances out of obedience to the doctrine they professed. This is what God requires. Faith to believe the promise. A willing heart that is motivated by faith to adhere to the doctrine HE prescribes as a testimony and witness of their holy expectation. Now, the commandments and ordinances of the Lord have been changed since the fulfillment of Zacharias and Elisabeth’s doctrine came. The doctrine was to be changed when the prophetic testimony their old doctrine foreshadowed was fulfilled. This is the reformation of worship and service Paul discusses in Hebrews.

**Hebrews 9:9 - 10 - “Which was a figure for THE TIME THEN PRESENT, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, IMPOSED ON THEM UNTIL THE TIME OF REFORMATION.”**

This reformation was necessary because the testimony of the law was fulfilled in Christ by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross for sins. Now, the commandments and ordinances, the body of doctrine that accompanies the prophetic testimony in God’s Word, was reformed to accompany the preaching of the kingdom and the expectation of what Christ is to do when He appears to fulfill those promises that yet remain.

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**Hebrews 7:12 - “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity A CHANGE ALSO OF THE LAW.”**

We now, like Zacharias and Elizabeth, live in hope of promises concerning the coming King rather than the Lamb of God that was foreshadowed by the law. We still have the prophetic testimony and also have commandments and ordinances that comprise the body of doctrine that are given by Christ for obedience to the faith and the gospel, and we have briefly looked at these at a high level. Beyond the high-level things that we have covered here, every believer is to be subject to the authority of their own local assembly for the teaching and practice of the rest of the things required in Christ’s service.

**1 Timothy 5:17 - “Let the ELDERS THAT RULE WELL be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”**

**Hebrews 3:7 - “Remember THEM WHICH HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”**

**Hebrews 13:17 - “OBEY THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”**

**Hebrews 13:24 - “Salute all THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.”**

For me to venture into many of those details would be going beyond myself and the authority of God’s Word,

## Some Closing Thoughts....

so we'll not get into those things here. By the time you acknowledge the truth of these foundational and primary things in this book concerning obedience, you should know you ought to be under the authority of a local assembly to which you can be joined in obedience to the faith. That is if you are in **THE FAITH**.

If we look at the two commandments we have in Christ, we can see a clear correlation to the 10 commandments and the rest of the law of Moses. That is that the first portion of the commandments He gave show us His will dealing with our relationship with Him, Our God. The second deals with our relationships with men. As we have seen already, our relationship with men cannot be right or pleasing to Him unless we are in faith, having obeyed the first commandment to hear Him. Our relationship with God is the context for everything else.

Now, we also know that the name of God that was used in the commandment has been revealed to us to be Jesus Christ. He is the Lord God we are to hear. So, the commandment is to hear the Son. It is not enough to talk about "God". We are clearly talking about Jesus Christ, which is the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It is He that we are required to come to in faith for salvation.

**Acts 4:12 - "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

The only name under heaven by which God is known in this time is Jesus Christ. Ask Paul when He asked, "Who art thou Lord?" who responded from heaven. "I am Jesus" resounded the thundering answer of the voice of God. This is a part of what had been a mystery in old times but is now revealed in the person of Jesus

## Some Closing Thoughts....

Christ. Again, a whole book could be written here too probably, but the gospel of the Kingdom clearly declares it is Jesus Christ who has the very dominion of God given to Him.

**1 Peter 3:22 - “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM.”**

He has been appointed as the heir of all things.

**Hebrews 1:2 - “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed HEIR OF ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds;”**

He has been given everything. Authority, power, dominion, and everything that is made. All to the glory of the Father. To heed this first commandment in our time, we **MUST** have faith that this is true. It is the testimony of Christ concerning things to come. We haven’t yet seen it, but the testimony of Christ teaches us it is true. That is faith. We have **FAITH** that whosoever believeth in Him, that is Jesus Christ our God, will not be ashamed.

**Romans 10:11 - “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”**

In other words, we are persuaded of the testimony of Christ concerning the dominion of Jesus Christ our Lord as God even though we can’t see it yet. So, to “hear God” in our time, we must listen to Jesus Christ - the Word of God. He is our God. The Word reigns.

**Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST;”**

## Some Closing Thoughts....

So, if we hear him, He will give us a love in our hearts by the power of His Spirit.

**Luke 9:35 - “And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: HEAR HIM.”**

So here we have the Father reiterating the first commandment! We are to hear Him, Jesus Christ, the Lord our God. This is the first and greatest commandment. If we hear this truth and receive the testimony of the coming kingdom of God, the testimony that declares Christ has received the kingdom from His Father and is coming to earth having received the kingdom, then we can exercise FAITH in a scriptural way - out of obedience to the revealed testimony before it comes to pass. This can begin in small ways. Knowing who it is that we are to come to in prayer and in supplication and in need of hope and salvation. Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, is God with us and we will stand before Him like the testimony of Christ declares. Even the unbelieving are all to stand before Christ, who is identified as God in revelation - just for clarity.

**Revelation 20:12 - “And I saw the dead, small and great, STAND BEFORE GOD; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”**

Jesus Christ, the Lord our God, will be the judge of the quick and dead. We will all appear before Him.

**Romans 14:10 - “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for WE SHALL ALL STAND before the judgment seat of CHRIST.”**

## Some Closing Thoughts....

Once we know this, then the commandments of the Son of God are clearly seen as commandments He gave under this reformation of law. These are the divine decrees for our time, and it begins with faith to believe the testimony of the kingdom of God in Christ.

**John 14:1 - “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”**

The divine commands spoken by Christ are still too many for this book, but the essentials need to be covered as it relates to the body of doctrine we have been given.

**Hebrews 13:20 - 21 - “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

In some ways, I feel I’ve said too little and left out important aspects of the doctrine of Christ and in other ways I feel I may have not been as brief as I had initially hoped to be in this book. So much truth, and so little time as it has been said... If you made it to the end, then I would like to thank you for your

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*In some ways, I feel I’ve said too little and left out important aspects of the doctrine of Christ and in other ways I feel I may have not been as brief as I had initially hoped to be in this book. So much truth, and so little time as it has been said...*

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## Some Closing Thoughts....

patience and endurance! I hope and pray for the glory of the gospel and our Lord Jesus Christ's sake that you have been helped in some way by investing your time here.

I would like to finish with an important charge from our Lord concerning the faith. Receiving His prophetic testimony is the mustard seed of truth and faith we need to receive His Spirit and be reconciled to Him in hope of the promise of eternal life. The Law of Christ perfects that work by trying the spirit of a man and growing the new creature HE formed in us by His Word and Spirit. As we obey in faith, let us not waver concerning the promise. We must be **WATCHFUL**! The hope of His appearing is everything to us, and the faith in His promise is above all our obedience to Him. The Law of Christ **DEMANDS WATCHFULNESS** for His appearing.

Mark 13:37 - "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

This is the Law of Christ that speaks to the greatest commandment and our faith in His Word of promise by the testimony HE gave. Watch.

**Revelation 3:3 - "REMEMBER therefore how thou hast RECEIVED and HEARD, and HOLD FAST, and REPENT. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."**

Repentance is needed for those who have been disobedient to the faith in this most important way. Repentance is being taught every step of faith as we obey the law of Christ as sons learn to be obedient to their father. Great blessings are promised to those who keep the faith to the end.

## Some Closing Thoughts....

**Revelation 3:4 - “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE: for they are worthy.”**

May we walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being strengthened by the power of His might according to the inner man, living in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ until we are brought to the full stature of Christ - doing always those things that please the Father.

In the final conclusion, we rest in hope as those who wait upon the Lord to fulfill His Word of promise to bless those who believe His testimony by Christ through faith. Even though at times we fall on sleep and the ordinances and commandments are allowed to slip, He has promised grace to those who have faith towards Him and rest in His promise. He has also called us to repent when He awakens us to the truth - similarly to David, who was after God’s own heart and desired to hear from Him. Even though we have not fully kept the pattern of these ordinances and commandments, may the Lord have mercy upon all who call upon His name in faith of the testimony of promise.

**2 Chronicles 30:15 - 20 - “Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites. For THERE WERE MANY IN THE CONGREGATION THAT WERE NOT SANCTIFIED: therefore the Levites had the charge of the**



## Some Closing Thoughts....

**killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD. For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written.”**

We are a kingdom of priests. A lot to say there, but we will be made so in the fulness of time by the power of Christ when He subdues this body of sin unto Himself by the working of His mighty power. For every creature that is made, including Satan who was the highest created being we know of, there is always more written in the testimony of God than we have been given to know...

We glory not in knowledge, faith, charity, or any other glory seen or unseen, but the glory due to Jesus Christ, our Savior and our God. He has shown Himself mighty on the behalf of the weak and interceded for the prisoners who were cast in the pit of destruction.

**Psalms 103:1 - 4 - “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.”**

I am thankful we have a mighty God, who has interceded on our behalf to the glory of His grace.

**But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not**

## Some Closing Thoughts....

**cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.”**

Our hope is that Jesus Christ is interceding on our behalf to the Father, and that He has paid for the indebtedness we owe for our part in this rebellion and great war that has been raging. Thankfully, the Father always hears and answers the Son. May the Lord grant us wisdom in all things as we seek Him in truth, humility, sincerity and may we by His grace and goodness overcome until the end when we are to receive the hope that He has authored within us by His Word.

**Revelation 3:5 - “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”**

And as our Lord lovingly spoke to and warned the churches in Asia almost 2,000 years ago, so He says to all now. Our final word of admonition.

**Revelation 3:6 - “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”**