#83 FORUM POST ON HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

Dear all,

2 Peter 1:20–21 (KJV)

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

On the surface this appears to be only about prophecy. When in fact, the entire Bible is prophetic in that it came by the method described in verse 21. The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible, the Holy Spirit interprets the Bible. Not man. And we are to know this first.

Few know or practice this.

And that's why there are so many (false) interpretations in the world.

Secondly:

1 John 4:1 (KJV)

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Test the spirits because we human beings are gullible and what we think might be the Holy Spirit informing us may not be him at all.

Also 1 Thessalonians 5:21 tells us to prove all things because God gives us evidence and does not want us to be chumps putting blind faith into practice. There are times when we must trust God when the answers are not available at the time. But Christianity is about facts and accepting them as truth.

Test all things especially the spirits / biblical interpretation by the Bible itself:

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

2 Peter 1:20–21 says we are to know this first because the truth is derailed from the start if we do not seek God as the Source of truth and as our approach to his Word.

Man may sound accurate, but the flaws in his interpretation compound exponentially. Think of a ship at sea whose course is generally in the right direction but it is off a degree or two. Eventually this error will destine the ship to the wrong port entirely.

Proverbs 14:12 / 16:25 (KJV)

12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

There is more to scripture than meets the human eye:

Proverbs 25:2 (KJV)

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (KJV)

29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Isaiah 28:9–13 (KJV)

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.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Pray the Holy Spirit opens the Word of God and read / study it with a passion.

J

Dear J____,

Scripture says that the truth of God is concealed from this world. Even for believers who have been given "eyes that can see", understanding the truth of God is a difficult process:

Prov 2:1 My son (a converted believer), if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Isaiah 28:9-13 sheds more light on the concealed nature of God's Word.

Starting with verse 9, Isaiah says:

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.

Do you understand how a believer is "weaned from milk"? The answer is presented in Mark 8:21-25. Do you understand what Christ is teaching by His healing of the blind man in this story?

Also, Isaiah says that truth is given in scripture "here a little, and there a little" (v.10). In other words, truth must be assembled from different portions of scripture in order to understand the whole truth of a matter.

This verse applies:

Psa 119:160 The <u>sum of your word is truth</u>, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Isaiah also says that truth must be built up "precept upon precept". If a believer has an incorrect understanding of the foundational truths of God, they will not be able to understand the deeper, more concealed truths. Truth must be be learned "line upon line" from the foundation on up.

Isaiah then says that Christ (who is the Word of God) speaks to us with "stammering lips". This makes the truth of God even more difficult to understand.

And if that wasn't enough, Christ also speaks to us in "another language" (v.11).

Scripture is recorded mostly in the Hebrew and Greek languages but according to Isaiah, that is NOT the language of scripture.

Here is what Christ said about His "another language":

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, <u>they are spirit</u>, and they are life.

Christ says that His words are "spirit".

Paul explains more about spirit words below:

1Cor 2:7 <u>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery</u>, even the <u>hidden wisdom</u>, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things (words) with spiritual.

Paul says that He speaks in a "mystery" (concealed way). This is true because the words he uses are the same spirit words that Christ uses. Spirit words carry meanings that are different than what man's wisdom teaches. And because they have different meanings, scripture is presented in "another language" which is not Hebrew or Greek - it is Christ's spiritual language.

Paul ends his comments in 1Cor 2:13 by revealing how to understand the meanings of spirit words. Paul says to compare spirit words with how those same spirit words are used elsewhere in scripture. Then, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the correct meanings can be discerned.

Then to make understanding the truth of God even more difficult, Christ teaches us with parables (fictional stories), types (actual events) and analogies.

Isaiah finally ends his comments by telling us the purpose of why Christ teaches in this difficult to understand manner:

Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; <u>that they might go</u>, <u>and fall backward</u>, <u>and be broken</u>, <u>and snared</u>, <u>and taken</u>.

Isaiah says that the truth of scripture is purposely concealed so that those who are not weaned from the milk (believers who only have the Early Rain of the Spirit) will not be able to understand the truth it teaches. This lacking of understanding will cause the believer to <u>fall away</u> and be broken (loss of salvation). This happens because Satan will come to the believer and deceive them with his carnally pleasing lies. In other words, Satan snares and takes the believer into his kingdom.

This scripture applies to being snared by Satan:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and <u>taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself</u>, and they enter in and dwell there: and the <u>last state of that man is worse than the first</u>. Even so shall it be

also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains <u>spiritually blind</u> (Mark 8:21-25) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a <u>new spiritual condition</u>. In this case, the new spiritual condition is <u>worse than the first</u>.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a <u>False Prophet</u>, a <u>Man of Sin</u>, a <u>Minister of Satan</u> and a <u>Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns</u>.

I now want to give you an easy example of how to understand scripture using this verse below:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Does Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, then you must likewise be killed with a sword? <u>Literally, that is what He is saying</u>. However, if we understand this verse literally, that statement can easily be proven to be <u>false</u>. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying.

Is Christ mistaken or is His message something else?

In Matt 26:52, Christ is using the spirit word SWORD to teach us a spiritual message. To understand what this spiritual symbol represents, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture. In other words, we must <u>compare spiritual things with spiritual as Paul said to do.</u>

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword...

From the verses presented above, it is easy to understand that the spirit word <u>SWORD</u> represents the Word of God who is Christ.

Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in Matt 26:52 is that the Elect who take up the

Sword (those who receive the Early Rain of the Spirit), must perish (death of the Old Man/carnal nature) by the Sword. This death is a necessary part of the <u>conversion process</u> which happens when the Word of God (Christ, the Sword) comes to a person and gives them the Latter Rain of the Spirit (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) and the Baptism of Fire (judgment):

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: <u>he shall baptize you with the Holy</u> <u>Spirit, and with Fire</u>.

The conversion event which John mentions above is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost.

In the spiritual language of Christ, the Apostles took up the Sword when they received the Early Rain of the Spirit during Christ's earthly ministry. They later died by the Sword when Christ came to them a second time and baptized them with the Latter Rain of the Spirit and with Fire.

Fire is a spirit word which represents Christ's judgment which causes a person to spiritually die. In the verse below, Christ uses the potter analogy to teach this truth. Fire is what causes the destruction (death) of the old vessel:

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

In light of what I presented above, do you understand what the verse below is teaching?

Isa 66:16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

The disciples asked a twofold question in Matthew chapter 24 if you look.

Matthew 24:3

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of t he world?

So Jesus answers both, and Jesus begins His apocalyptic description of the future and outlines the events that will precede His second coming. We see Him conclude at verse 14. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Jesus also answers the first part of the question, the events that will happen during the lifetime of the disciples in verse 15.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

This clearly is the destruction of AD 70 in which the believers in Jerusalem fled and none were lost. From there He moves into the future, through what we call the Middle and Dark Ages, and ends with His return of which He says 'that day and hour knoweth no man'.

Dear J

J

Deal J____,

In your understanding of Matthew chapter 24, you are forgetting that Christ's words are 'spirit". To understand spirit words, we are to compare spiritual words and with spiritual words. After their true meaning is discerned, the message should be applied spiritually (within) a believer. You are treating Christ's words as if they are "carnal" words. The meaning of carnal words comes from this world and there is nothing concealed about their meaning.

Here is what Paul says about the end of the ages:

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, <u>upon whom the ends of the ages are come</u>.

Paul says that the "ends of the ages" are coming upon the Elect now. That is true because the "ends of the ages" is a spirit phrase which represents the time an Elect believer is <u>converted and</u> <u>saved</u>. All of Matthew chapter 24 is teaching about the spiritual events which happen within each Elect believer as they travel the pathway to salvation & conversion. When a person cannot understand Christ's true message in chapter 24, it is because they are spiritually blind. The scales have not yet fallen from their eyes (Acts 9:18) and they are still in Damascus where they cannot eat or drink the truth of Christ.

Did you not learn anything from my post to you?

Joe

J_____ did not respond. Below is a discussion with a Seventh Day Adventist.

Dear FaithWillDo,

Are we to believe that as soon as we accept Jesus in our lives that our salvation is secure? Just as you freely accepted Jesus in your life you can also freely choose to stop serving him. Jesus said with his own mouth; (Matt. 24:13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. That is until the end of your life, or until the Second Coming of the Lord. People are being taught that once you are quote "saved" that you can never fall to the spiritually lost condition. This is not true and totally unbiblical; and the teaching of Roman Christianity.

We still must obey all of God's laws and statues of conduct, from the ten commandments to the least commandment. We cannot choose to obey one without obeying the others. For instance, if it's still good to pay tithes (as many preach), then it is still good to obey God's dietary law (not eating pork, catfish, etc...Leviticus 11:1-47). Similarly, you cannot purposely trip a blind person (Leviticus 19:14) and claim to love your neighbor as yourself. Neither can you break God's Sabbath days (Leviticus 19:30) and claim to love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Many fight to uphold man's traditional holidays (Sunday the 1st day as the Sabbath, Christmas, Easter and Halloween, etc), which is all a part of Roman Christianity, but few are obeying God's Holy Days (Saturday the 7th day Sabbath, the Passover, Pentecost, etc...Leviticus 23:1-44). All of God's laws are still good and must be obeyed if we want eternal life. We might not be able to observe everything perfectly, but can fight a good fight. If we do this our prize awaits us at the end. "...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

В

Dear B____,

I only want to respond to your first paragraph since we have had discussions on what you stated in your last two paragraphs.

I agree that when we first accept Jesus in our lives our salvation is <u>not</u> secure. I want to explain more on this truth below. But before I do, I want to comment on the verse you quoted; "the end" is referring to a person's moment of conversion - it is not speaking about the end of a person's physical life.

Also, the "end of the ages" which Christ teaches in Matthew chapter 24 is not a teaching about outward world events which are said to happen at the literal end of this age. Matthew chapter 24 is teaching on the <u>spiritual events</u> that happen within each of Christ's Elect as they travel the pathway to salvation. That pathway ends when the "ends of the the ages" come upon them. It is their moment of conversion.

Paul confirmed this understanding about the ends of the ages below:

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, <u>upon whom the ends of the ages are come</u>.

<u>Once a person is converted, their salvation is secure and can never be lost</u>. So the key question is: When is a believer converted?

I will explain below when a believer's salvation is unsecured and when it is secured.

I will begin with this verse:

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, <u>unto the coming of the Lord</u>. Behold, the farmer waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and <u>hath long patience for it</u>, until he receives the <u>EARLY and LATTER RAIN</u>. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: <u>for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh</u>.

The believers to whom James is writing have only received the <u>Early Rain of the Spirit</u>. They received the Early Rain of the Spirit when Christ called them out from the world and gave them a measure of faith. This is when they enter the church. However, they remain unconverted and must wait on the Lord to return with the Latter Rain (the second coming of Christ).

Paul teaches this truth here:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will <u>appear a</u> <u>second time</u>, not to bear sin, but <u>to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him</u>.

When Christ comes to a person the first time, He will give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. At this time, Christ will only appear to them "in the flesh" as when He went to the cross. This means that the new believer will only have a <u>carnal understanding</u> of God's Word. This happens because the new believer remains spiritually blind and carnally minded after receiving the Early Rain (Mark 8:20-25). At this time, they will be incapable of seeing Christ spiritually. It is this carnal spiritual state keeps the truth of God's Word concealed from a new believer's understanding and what leaves the door open for Satan's deceptions.

This scripture applies:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and <u>taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself</u>, and they enter in and dwell there: and the <u>last state of that man is worse than the first</u>. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (Mark 8:21-25) after receiving the Early Rain of

the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a <u>new spiritual condition</u>. In this case, the new spiritual condition is <u>worse than the first</u>.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a <u>False Prophet</u>, a <u>Man of Sin</u>, a <u>Minister of Satan</u> and a <u>Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns</u>.

John said this about apostate believers:

1John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Apostate believers don't realize that when Christ first came to them, He did so "in the flesh". In other words, an apostate believer denies that they have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit and are not converted. They don't believe that they must wait on the Lord to "come again" with the Latter Rain for their salvation and conversion. Because they don't realize their true spiritual state, they dwell in "peace and safety" in the apostate church, believing that they are following Christ when they are not.

1The 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

This verse above applies to the birthing analogy. When Christ comes to a fallen away Elect believer, He will bring "sudden destruction" upon them with His judgment. When this judgment is complete, the Elect believer will be converted and the new child of God will be born.

There are no churches/denominations that understand this truth taught by the Early and Latter Rains used in the farming analogy because they remain spiritually blind and are consuming Satan's leavened bread. They deny that Christ ever came to them in the flesh (the Early Rain).

The true church consists of only <u>converted</u> Elect believers who have received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

The "many" who are "called" will enter the church after they receive the <u>Early Rain of the Spirit</u>. This is when a person is espoused to Christ. But because they remain spiritually blind, they will be deceived by Satan and will not remain faithful. In other words, they will commit fornication with Satan (believing Satan over Christ) and will fall from grace. This occurs when the spirit of anti-Christ enters the new believer and they are made "worse than the first" (Mat 12:43-45). This

event is the Abomination of Desolation.

All called out believers will remain in this deceived & fallen away state until they die UNLESS they are one of the "few" who have also been "chosen" from the foundation of the world. For them (the Elect), their days as a man of sin will be shortened (Mat 24:22) since they will be harvested early as a First Fruit of Christ's harvest of mankind. Because their days are shortened, Christ will "come again" to them before they die. At that time, He will pour out the <u>Latter Rain of the Spirit</u> upon them and heal their spiritual blindness. Now with "eyes that can see", the Elect believer will see the A of D that had previously occurred within themselves, along with the man of sin being revealed.

These verses apply:

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no <u>Latter Rain</u>; and <u>thou hadst a whore's forehead</u>, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and RAIN (Latter Rain); <u>that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great</u>, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

When a fallen away Elect believer sees these signs (among others), Christ says this:

Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

When Christ appears to them, He will gather the Elect believer (who is now a child of God) to dwell with Him in heaven (spiritually speaking). <u>This is the moment an Elect believer is saved after having fallen away</u>. However, they are still not yet converted. To convert the Elect believer, Christ's judgment will fall on them (Mat 24:15-16). With this judgment, Christ will remove and destroy the spirit of anti-Christ & the Great Harlot (Mat 24:40-41) which still remains within the believer. With their destruction, only the Holy Spirit will remain within the believer. This spiritual process is called the "First Resurrection" in Rev 20:5. This is when the "ends of the ages" come upon an Elect believer and is when their salvation is secured. These are the believers who have endured to the end (Mat 24:13).

The First Resurrection is also called "conversion". The two parts of the conversion process are mentioned by John the Baptist below:

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain), and with Fire (judgment):

After the Elect believer is converted, they will forever dwell in the Kingdom of Heaven and the gates of hell will not be able to prevail against them.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This is the true church which still exists in the world today. It is "few" in numbers and is unknown by this world. This is in contrast to Satan's church which is made up of "many" and is greatly known by the world.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

In Revelation 22: 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

You can't add to the word of God, you have to follow all the Prophets, apostles, even Jesus. I get it, you've been taught the Roman Christianity way, and as long as you stay on that rode you will do things that's not written in the Bible and use the Bible to justify it.

Now any Christian in their right mind wouldn't dare say that it's okay to steal, kill or commit adultery or break any of the other seven commandments. But when it comes to the fourth commandment, people avoid it like a plague! They are either uninformed about which day is the Sabbath day of the God of the Bible or they are just following the tradition of religion that was passed down through the family or maybe they have let some preacher give them other excuses for ignoring God's true day of worship.

Jesus says in John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. So let's break this down..... What's some of the first things Jesus put on the table to teach, was repent. 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**.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4: 17). How absolute is every word. Now repenting is work within itself, because you have to change from living a sinful life. Paul says in 1 Timothy 1: 1:8 **But we know that the law** is good, if a man use it lawfully; 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if

there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; Yeah ...so Paul is saying a whole lot here people. How can a person be disobedient in God's eyes. How can a person be unholy or a sinner, because sin is transgression of the law. Let's read it in (1John 3:4) **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law**. Now we have just read the biblical definition of sin, the transgression (breaking) of the law (commandments.) It doesn't matter what you or I think sin is, it's what God says sin is that counts. You must give up a lifestyle where sin has dominion, (ruler ship) over you.

Then a person can get baptize in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins. A man asked Jesus this very question, "...What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?", and Jesus replied, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but **if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments**. (Matthew 19:16-19). So you see this a process in life, Jesus did all these things to show us how it's done. The bible says, **we must not only be a hearer of the word, but a doer of the word** also (James 1:21-22). DON'T FOOL YOURSELF! If we really have faith in Jesus our actions will prove it. If Jesus is our Lord then we will obey him. *Even a child will obey a parent, by getting good grades in school, for the reward of a new bicycle. The child cannot earn money for the bicycle, but instead must act upon their faith to receive the free gift. We must do the same to receive eternal life. "FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD" (James 2:20).*

Jesus says in (Matt. 24:13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

B

Dear B____,

You said:

In Revelation 22: 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

You can't add to the word of God, you have to follow all the Prophets, apostles, even Jesus. I get it, you've been taught the Roman Christianity way, and as long as you stay on that rode you will do things that's not written in the Bible and use the Bible to justify it.

My understanding only comes from scripture by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I have no teachers and I associate with no denominations or churches. I was converted in 2005 and left the apostate church system at that time.

In this age, Christ is <u>only</u> harvesting the First Fruits of His harvest of mankind. They are called the Elect/heirs/saints/bride etc. Scripture details the pathway they will travel to salvation. However, salvation will also come to those who were not chosen to be one of the Elect. Their

salvation will come to them when Christ judges them in the Lake of Fire (symbol for judgment, not literal fire). They will not have "life during the ages" but they will still be saved and will enter the Kingdom of Heaven at the end of the final age. This truth is typed by the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles).

Exo 23:16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits (the Elect of this age) of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: <u>and the feast of ingathering</u> (the rest of mankind in the final age), which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

The verse below types the time when Christ will have mercy upon the lost of the final age:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast (the Feast of Ingathering/Tabernacles), Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Below is the same call to the lost in the final age but it adds the Elect to the call:

Rev 22:17 And the <u>Spirit and the bride</u> say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The verse below applies to Christ's judgment of the lost in the final age:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and <u>have omitted the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith</u>: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

<u>Christ will not omit mercy and faith when He judges the lost of the final age</u>. After He gives them the faith they need, the pathway will be made "straight" for Christ to come to them and give them the Early & Latter Rains of the Spirit. After the new child of God is born, the child will be gathered to heaven. The child of the devil will remain in the Lake of Fire and will be destroyed (this satisfies justice and the penalty of sin). This spiritual process is called <u>conversion</u>. The Elect experience conversion in this age and the rest of mankind will experience it in the final age. This is when this scripture below will be testified to be true:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 <u>who will have all</u> <u>men to be saved</u>, and to come unto the <u>knowledge of the truth</u>. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, <u>to be testified in due time</u>.

Joel chapter 2 shows the judgment of the lost in the final age. This chapter begins by showing the Elect (the Bride) riding with Christ in judgment over the lost. The Elect believers are Christ's

army. But before the lost have "perished", Christ will have pity (mercy) upon them (v. 18) and give them the Early and Latter Rains for their salvation (v. 23).

Is your judgment like the judgment displayed by the Pharisees or does your judgment also include justice, mercy and faith like Christ's judgment does?

By the end of the final age, Christ will have accomplished the mission His Father gave Him:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that <u>the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of</u> <u>the world</u>.

If Christ were to fail to save even one person, Christ would be "missing the mark" (sin) that His Father gave Him.

Have you ever really considered the scriptures I have presented above or are you only seeing what you want to see?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I agree with all the Bible verses and scriptures, but it all come down to your walk in this word of God. You have to keep this Commandments, statues and Judgements, or else you just talking and quoting. You have actually do these things you read about in the Bible.

You must realize, that it is the keeping of God's holy laws that separates the righteous from the unrighteous and the Saints from the Sinners. (Titus: 3:8) **This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men. You must learn (by the word of God) what God expects of you and maintain his expectations to the end, if you expect to be saved. Jesus says in (Matt. 5:16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. You are supposed to glorify your Father in heaven, and let your light shine before men. And how do you do that? By having good works.

Paul said in (Gal. 3:11) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH**. This didn't start in the New Testament, Paul was only quoting scripture, and the just has always lived by their faith. (Habakkuk 2:4) Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just shall live by his faith**. The just shall live by his belief (faith), and how do you show the Lord that you believe in him? By your obedience to his word.

(1Tim. 6:17-19) (v.17) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

(v.18) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (v.19) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. Riches and gains that is the doctrine of today, they are preaching the gospel of prosperity and not the gospel of the coming of the kingdom of God. But the Lord said to charge them that are rich in this world that they be not high-minded, but that they should be rich in good works that they may lay hold on eternal life.

B

Dear B____,

We are saved <u>by Christ</u> and not by our own works. When Christ is ready to save a person, He will come to them and give them the Holy Spirit. With the Spirit, they will have the faith they need to call Jesus "Lord". This is the only way it can happen because of what this verse says:

Rom 3:10 As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

If Christ didn't give a person the Holy Spirit beforehand, they would never understand Him or seek Him out. No one would ever be saved. But because of His <u>grace</u>, Christ will come to all men someday (at a time of His choosing) and freely give them the Holy Spirit.

Rom 5:15 But shall not the act of favour be as the offence? For if by the offence of one the many have died, much rather has the grace of God, and the free gift (Holy Spirit) in grace, which is by the one man Jesus Christ, <u>abounded unto the many</u>.

Don't read the scriptures which teach about the condemnation of the lost and equate that to mean they cannot ever be saved. The lost will suffer "loss" (life in the ages and reigning with Christ during the ages) but they will still receive grace before they perish in the Lake of Fire:

1Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward (the reward the Elect receive). 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss (they will not receive the rewards of the Elect): <u>but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire</u>.

Here is more concerning what Christ's judgment is like:

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

Jer 4:2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, <u>in judgment</u>, and in righteousness; and <u>the nations shall bless themselves in him</u>, and in him shall they glory.

Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the

LORD.

Prov 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

Don't fall for Satan's lie that Christ cannot save all mankind. Christ established a plan to save us all <u>before</u> this creation began. It was at that time that God chose who were going to be blessed and saved <u>early</u> as a First Fruit and those would be be saved at the end of the final age. Mankind cannot choose the timing of their own salvation because mankind has <u>no ability to contribute</u> <u>anything</u> toward their own salvation. For this reason, the Elect have nothing to boast about over those who remain lost in this age:

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

Have you ever really read and considered what this scripture above teaches? It destroys any notion that we have any works with which we can contribute toward our salvation. We will only keep His commandments when Christ causes us to keep them. To believe as you do, you are mixing in your own works with the works of Christ. When a believer does this mixing, they are trying to serve two masters (Satan & Christ). This is the one and only sin that leads to death (loss of salvation). This is what it means to "fall away".

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Again, that's Roman Christianity teaching and not the what the word of God is saying, or Bible. Paul said in (1 Cor. 15:1-2) (v.1) **MOREOVER**, brethren, I declare unto the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; (v.2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. Paul is telling you right here that you are saved by the gospel that he preached unto you if you keep it in memory. So what happens if you don't keep it in memory? Then you have believed in vain you have believed for nothing that's what vain means.

Let's go into (James 2: (v.14) **What doth it profit**, my **brethren, though a man say** he hath **faith**, and have **not works**? **Can faith save him**? (v.15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of a daily food, (v.16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? If someone came to you hungry and needed clothes and all you told them was peace be unto you, and God bless you, be ye warmed and filled. All you did was give lip service,

no works, you didn't help the problem.

(v.17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. The bible has been telling you all alone that you must have fruits to prove your faith. (v.18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. True faith goes hand in hand with good works. (v.20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Did you know that? Has anybody ever read this verse to you? How can you, after reading this verse ever say again that we need not work? You can have all the faith you want, but if you have no works to go along with that faith, that faith is in vain, that faith is dead.

(v.21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? We read where Abraham, the father of the faithful showed the Lord his faith by his works. (v.22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (v.23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD AND IT WAS IMPUTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS: and he was called the friend of God. (v.24) Ye see then how that by works a man is Justified, and not by faith only. Do you see that also?

Do you understand that you need works to go along with that faith; if you love and fear God then you should have no problem obeying his commandments. (v.25) Likewise also was not Ra'-hab the harlot justified by works, when she received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? Ra'-hab showed her faith in God and her fear of God by doing good works. (v.26) For as **the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also**. Take it or leave it, but this is the true uncut word of God. Just as the body is dead when you take away the spirit (breath) so faith is dead if you have no works.

Many reject the law, but it is **holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good** (Romans 7:12) even today. All have sinned (broken the law...**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law** (I John 3:4) and the **wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23).

B

Dear B____,

You have built your foundation with "works" mixed with faith. With this faulty foundation, you cannot build upon it. That is the reason you can't accept the verses I am posting which contradict your beliefs. Until your foundation is destroyed and replaced with the foundation of "Truth" (Christ), these scriptures I post will hold little value to you.

Paul said that even mixing in only one work (like circumcision) with faith will cause a believer (who has only the Early Rain of the Spirit) to fall from grace. When this happens, the believer

will remain under the Law and a debtor to keep the whole Law - which cannot be done my man. When a person realizes this truth, it will lead them to Christ and the New Covenant. Under the New Covenant, Christ will do 100% of the work.

Christ will do His work <u>within</u> (spiritually) the person by giving them both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit indwelling the person, the Spirit will cause them to "will and do of His good pleasure". The works the person does are the works of Christ and are not their own. It is by this spiritual process that all mankind will be made into children of God who will keep the Lord's commandments. This is the only way it can be done. For this reason, mankind will have nothing to boast about concerning their salvation.

As for what James said, you are misunderstanding him. When a believer is given the Early Rain of the Spirit, the Spirit is only given in "measure" (a small amount).

Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to <u>the small rain</u> (Early Rain), and to the great rain (Latter Rain) of his strength.

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and <u>taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself (represents the spirit of anti-Christ)</u>, and they enter in and dwell there: and the <u>last state of that man is</u> worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

And likewise, the faith that comes from this small amount of the Spirit is also given in "measure". For this reason, the believer will remain carnally minded and spiritually blind. Because of these weakness, Satan will quickly deceive them and cause them to follow His "another gospel". When this happens, the new believer's faith will die and they will not be able to produce any fruit.

The fruit that Christ requires is the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.). When a believer is converted, they will produce the fruit of the Spirit <u>naturally</u> because Christ has changed their heart and mind to match His heart and mind. In other words, Christ is reigning from within them which causes them to "will and do of His good pleasure". Everything that the converted believer does will be based upon this truth. This is what produces their "works of faith" and what causes them to love God and their neighbors. When they do this, they are keeping the commandments of God.

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

And as I said, it happens naturally because the converted believer is changed from within.

For this reason, John said this:

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and <u>his</u> <u>commandments are not grievous</u>.

And Christ said this:

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

My love for you is why I am willing to spend time with you on this forum, hoping it will benefit you (as the Lord wills) in some way.

Since all believers in the "churches" have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit, they are all unconverted and spiritually blind. Because of their blindness, Satan has no trouble in deceiving them. Christ teaches that the pathway to salvation for the Elect <u>goes THROUGH the apostate</u> <u>church</u>. No one who receives the Early Rain of the Spirit can avoid becoming apostate. It happened to me and it happens to everyone. However, after a fallen away Elect believer receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit (the baptism), they will come out of the apostate church system and be restored to Christ. This happens because their faith is increased and their spiritual blindness is healed when they receive the Latter Rain. Only then are they able to "see" the Abomination of Desolation that had previously occurred within themselves (Mat 24:15). Unless a believer has seen the A of D, they are not converted but are still under the deceptions of Satan. That's the nature of being deceived - a person cannot know that they are deceived while it is happening.

When I was converted in 2005, I immediately saw who and what I had become in Satan's apostate church. It really does not matter what denomination of church a person attends because they all <u>mix works with faith</u> (the crooked way and the sin that leads to death). This is the common denominator they all have. But since they are spiritually blind, they are also blown around by every wind of doctrine and unable to find the truth. The loaf of bread they are consuming is fully leavened:

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the <u>whole</u> was leavened.

One final point I want to make; when Christ is ready to "come again" (the second coming) to a fallen away Elect believer, He will cause them to pray. This prayer can be for understanding or maybe for more faith - but the answer to that prayer is always the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain). That is what Christ is teaching here:

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a

serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: <u>how much more shall your heavenly</u> <u>Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him</u>?

This scripture is addressed Elect believers who have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. It is associated with the parable that Christ teaches in verses 5 - 8 about the person who comes to a "friend" (represents Christ) at "midnight" (deepest part of their spiritual blindness) to ask for 3 loaves of bread. The number three represents a spiritual process and bread represents the truth of God. To receive these 3 loafs of bread, Christ says to pray for the Holy Spirit (knock and ask).

If you are hearing the words of Christ above, it is my hope that you will pray this prayer.

This is the same prayer that Paul prayed in Damascus which caused Ananias (represents Christ) to come to him and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.

In this story, notice that Paul was staying with a man named <u>Judas</u> (a type for the man of sin who Paul had become). Also, to reach Paul, Ananias had to travel on a street named "Straight". When Ananias arrived, the scales fell off Paul's eyes (spiritual blindness healed) and Paul "arose" (salvation).

This event that Paul experienced was the second coming of Christ when Christ comes to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will <u>appear a</u> <u>second time</u>, not to bear sin, but <u>to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him</u>.

Dear FaithWillDo,

When Jesus (the true Lamb of God) was sacrificed, he removed our past sins, not future sin. If we accept Jesus as our sin offering, we are required to repent and get baptized IN THE NAME OF JESUS ("there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved..."(Acts 4: 12). This is our last chance Brothers and Sister.

To repent means to turn from our sinful ways and start obeying God's law. The water baptism signifies the washing away of our past sins. After repenting and being baptized in the name of Jesus it would be foolish for us to turn around and willingly break God's commandments. If we make an honest mistake Jesus can help us, but **if we sin willingly, look out! "...there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation..."** (Hebrews 10:26-27). Paul says in (Rom. 4:15) **Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.** If there is no law there is no sin.

Jesus said with his own mouth; (Matt. 24:13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. That is until the end of your life, or until the Second Coming of the Lord.

В,

Dear B____,

I just wanted to make some comments about this statement of yours:

To repent means to turn from our sinful ways and start obeying God's law. The water baptism signifies the washing away of our past sins. After repenting and being baptized in the name of Jesus it would be foolish for us to turn around and willingly break God's commandments. If we make an honest mistake Jesus can help us, but if we sin willingly, look out! "...there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation..." (Hebrews 10:26-27). Paul says in (Rom. 4:15) Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. If there is no law there is no sin.

To repent means to <u>repent from our "works</u>". You are misunderstanding what Paul was teaching in Hebrews. You need to read the whole 10th chapter of Hebrews again. Paul is explaining the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. To "sin willingly" is referring to adding our own works (Old Covenant) to the work of Christ (New Covenant). When a believer mixes in their own works with faith, there is "no more sacrifice for sins".

When John the Baptist came with the call to repent, he was likewise calling for the Nation of Israel to repent of their works that they were doing under the Old Covenant of Law.

Paul also said this earlier in Hebrews:

Joe

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again <u>the foundation of repentance from dead works</u>, and of faith toward God...

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Repentance from dead works is the FOUNDATION of our faith toward Christ. After a believer has received the Early Rain of the Spirit and has repented of their works, it is impossible to renew them if they should "fall away" from their original repentance from works. When a believer mixes in their own works with faith, they have committed the one and only sin that leads to death. Once the believer has spiritually died, they cannot be renewed to Christ simply by repenting of works again. The solution: Christ must "come again" and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Because mixing in works with faith is the only sin that leads to death, it is the sin that Satan uses to kill the saints. That sin is what Satan's "another gospel" is founded upon and is why all apostate churches teach and follow it. Any other sin that a believer may commit is covered by the blood of Christ under the New Covenant - but if a believer commits the sin that leads to death, they will no longer be covered under the New Covenant. They have fallen back to the Old Covenant of man's works.

Your misunderstanding of repentance is causing you to greatly misunderstand the New Covenant.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I am not misunderstanding Hebrews 10th chapter. But you are misunderstanding it, and that is why you are not teaching what I'm teaching. You are teaching Roman Christianity doctrine, I said that from the beginning. Pay attention to what's being said here. Now, you learn what I'm teaching, or you can continue believing in that doctrine that came newly up after the death of the apostles.

I would like for you to break down Hebrew 10th from your doctrine (Roman Christianity), I will do the same. I teach the uncut word of God according to the Prophets (Old Testament) and the Apostles (New Testament). We observe the Lord's Sabbath Day, the Lord's Feast Days (as outlined in Leviticus 23rd chapter), and the Lord's Dietary Law (as outlined in Leviticus 11th chapter). I teach and observe the Royal Law, which is the Ten Commandments.

I also believe in the resurrection and that Jesus is the King of Israel who will rule over the House of Jacob forever. We believe Jesus is the God of all people and his house "shall be a house of prayer for all people". (Isaiah 56:7)

В,

Dear B____,

I have thoroughly read all of Hebrews chapter 10 and it is teaching on the difference between the Old Covenant of Law vs. the New Covenant of Grace through faith. The Old Covenant is founded upon man's works and the New Covenant is founded upon the works of Christ.

The teaching of <u>repentance from dead works</u> is not a new teaching that came about after the deaths of the Apostles. Paul teaches this truth frequently in His letters because it is the foundation of faith in Christ, who will do <u>all the works necessary</u> for our salvation.

Look at what Paul said four chapters earlier in Hebrews:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; <u>not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works</u>, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of age enduring judgment.

This verse above is the subject of the chapter. Paul is not teaching about repenting from our many sins, he is teaching about repenting from trying to be acceptable to God by our own works. Trying to be acceptable to God by "works" is the foundation of all the religions in the world - it is the <u>crooked way</u> For that reason, Satan is called the "crooked serpent". Satan's false gospel is founded upon man's works (religion).

When Moses lifted up the serpent on the pole, it provided atonement to those who looked upon it. <u>But it was only temporary</u>. The reason a serpent was used on the pole was because the "works of the Law" is the crooked way of Satan. It is not the way of righteousness.

You have been saying that if we willfully sin after we are saved that we will lose our salvation. "Willfully sinning" is referring to the sin of mixing our own works in with the works of Christ that is the sin that leads to death.

Peter teaches about falling away from the "way of righteousness" below:

2Pet 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, <u>they are again entangled therein</u>, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known <u>THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS</u>, than, after they have known *it*, to turn

from the holy commandment (repentance from dead works) delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, <u>The dog *is* turned to his own vomit</u> <u>again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire</u>.

The "way of righteousness" is the straightway of faith in Christ. When Peter mentions being entangled again in the pollutions of the world, Peter is referring to <u>religion</u> which is based on the works of man. Peter even calls religion "vomit" and "mire".

Paul teaches this same truth in the fifth chapter of Galatians:

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

The "yoke of bondage" is trying to follow the Law so as to make yourself acceptable to God.

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Paul says that when a person tries to follow the Law even on just one point, it will make that person a debtor to follow the <u>whole Law</u>. The end result is that they will be "fallen from grace". This is the "willful sin" and the only sin that leads to death.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of <u>righteousness by faith</u>. 6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; <u>but faith which</u> <u>worketh by love</u>.

Under the New Covenant, faith is all that is necessary to make the pathway straight for Christ to come to a person and do His spiritual work of conversion within them. And Christ gives the person the faith they need, too. Our salvation is <u>completely</u> in the hands of Christ. We contribute nothing towards it.

Also, no one will remain lost forever as you believe because Christ is solely responsible for doing all the necessary work of saving mankind AND HE CANNOT FAIL.

You said:

I teach the uncut word of God according to the Prophets (Old Testament) and the Apostles (New Testament). We observe the Lord's Sabbath Day, the Lord's Feast Days (as outlined in Leviticus 23rd chapter), and the Lord's Dietary Law (as outlined in Leviticus 11th chapter). I teach and observe the Royal Law, which is the Ten Commandments.

Nowhere in the writings of the NT does it ever instruct believers to observe the Sabbath Day,

Feast Days or dietary laws. Those <u>physical laws</u> were given to foreshadow their <u>spiritual</u> <u>fulfillment</u> which occurs when a believer is converted. <u>The physical observance of those laws is</u> <u>null and void under the New Covenant</u>. You are not understanding this truth because you are not understanding the differences between the Old and New Covenants.

You said:

I also believe in the resurrection and that Jesus is the King of Israel who will rule over the House of Jacob forever. We believe Jesus is the God of all people and his house "shall be a house of prayer for all people". (Isaiah 56:7)

Jesus will <u>not</u> rule over the house of Jacob forever (should be translated as "for the ages"). After the last enemy of death is defeated (last person is saved), Christ's reign will come to an end and He will then deliver up the Kingdom of Heaven to His Father. At that time, God will be "all in all" because all mankind (all who died in Adam) will be saved and in the Kingdom of Heaven.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 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. 28 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, <u>that God may be all in all</u>.

Joe

B_____ did not respond.