

#91 FORUM POST ON THE UNITY OF THE TRUTH

THREAD TITLE: The only way we will ever agree

Dear All,

I've come to the conclusion that there is only one way we will all ever agree on the meanings contained in the Scriptures. Can anyone tell me what that way would be?

M

Dear M _____,

Here is the way that a person becomes to a "perfect man" and has a true knowledge of the truth of God:

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, how is it that ye do not understand?

In the verses above, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on the spiritual language of God's Word - His language:

Isa 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. 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 language will he speak to this people. 12 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.

At this point in time (before they were converted at Pentecost), the disciples had received the Early Rain of the Spirit but had not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit). And because of such, they were still spiritually blind and could not understand the spiritual language of Christ.

Christ ends His comments above by asking the disciples this question: "**How is it that ye do not understand?**" No response from the disciples is recorded in scripture. However, Christ answers His own question in the very next four verses.

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Since Christ is the Word of God, He teaches us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things that He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, Christ goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer in type by the healing of a blind man.

In verse 23, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes the carnal aspect of His healing. Christ does not have to tell the blind man to look down, the blind man just does it naturally. The spit (water) symbolizes the blind man receiving the **Early Rain of the Spirit** with its accompanying vision (carnal understanding). This event represents the time when an unbeliever is called out from the world and enters the church.

After Christ asks the man what he could see, the man looks up and says that he could see men "walking as trees". "Walking as trees" is a spiritual symbol for called out believers who walk by sight (the flesh, carnal nature) rather than by faith & the Spirit. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted and could only see Christ carnally. Paul stated that this near-sighted type of understanding will only allow a believer to see "Christ and Him crucified" (**1Cor 2:2**). This means that the new believer can see Christ's physical work that He did under the Old Covenant, but Christ's spiritual work that He is presently doing under the New Covenant will remain blurred.

This first healing of the blind man reflects the true spiritual condition of a new believer when they first enter the church. At this time, the believer is left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted. They can see a little, but that only opens the door to Satan's carnally based deceptions - deceptions which each new believer will readily accept due to their carnal nature still being in control of them (**Mat 12:43-45, Mat 24:24 & Luke 5:39**).

For a carnally minded and spiritually blind believer (Early Rain only), the Old Wine still tastes better than the New Wine:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desires the new: for he says, The old is better.

The Old Wine represents the Old Covenant which is based on the works of man. The New Wine represents the New Covenant which is solely based on the spiritual works of Christ.

Peter says that this near-sighted condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins

Peter makes this statement because the believers to whom he was addressing were mixing their own works with faith. They were still preferring the Old Wine.

In the final verse of the story of the blind man, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again, but as He does, Christ has the man look up instead of down. This second healing represents the **Latter Rain of the Spirit** when true spiritual vision is given to a believer. The man's upward gaze represents the spiritual aspect of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind man was looking down at the earth.

From that moment onward, we now know that the blind man is a type for a called AND chosen believer who has received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit (**James 5:7-8**). The man has been given eyes that can see spiritually ("**drawn from the breasts**" Isa 28:9). From his new ability to understand God's Word, he will then come out from Satan's deceptions and will begin walking by faith. He will be included in the resurrection of the First Fruits and will receive the reward of life during the ages.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during, but the righteous to life age-during.

For those who were not chosen and were not given eyes that can see spiritually, they will go away to judgment with the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**). They will suffer loss, but by the end of that age, they, too "shall be saved, yet so by 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 abides which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I think there is a very simply principle which can guide us in this, if we consider it to be true.

God will not contradict Himself.

Therefore, what is written will not contradict what we think it means, if what we think is correct.

Walter Martin had a good saying, "Words have meanings". It seems overly simple, but this is a momentous truth. God wrote His Book using a great many propositional declarative statements, which are composed of words, and those words have meanings.

I believe God chose the words He did because of the very things those words mean.

So what do we make of "spiritual understanding"? I believe that man cannot comprehend the correct meaning of the words written not because he can only see the meanings of those words, and cannot see the "spiritual" meaning, but because he cannot comprehend the truth brought by those very words. And then when he learns the true meaning, he finds that he now understands the very words written, as they are presented.

God will never contradict His Own words. A "spiritual understanding" will never contradict or overturn what is written.

M_____

Dear M_____,

What you stated above is very confusing - and from what I can tell, it has very little scriptural support.

Scripture says that the truth of God is purposely concealed from this world and from believers (Early Rain only) who have not been converted.

Even for converted believers, 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:

Isa 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. 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 language will he speak to this people. 12 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.

Only believers who have been weaned from the milk (converted) have the ability to understand doctrine.

Do you understand how a believer is converted and weaned from the milk?

I presented the answer in my first post by presenting the healing of the blind man in Mark 8:15-25. Conversion and the healing of a believer's spiritual blindness only happens after the person has received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit.

Paul's conversion experience also teaches the same truth.

Paul received the Early Rain of the Spirit on the Damascus Road. That is when Paul called Jesus "Lord" and had a measure of faith. Paul's physical blindness at that time represented his spiritual blindness. After Paul spent three days in Damascus where he could not eat or drink, Christ came to Paul a second time (typed by Ananias). When He came, Christ gave Paul the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This is when the scales fell off Paul's eyes and when Paul was told to eat "meat" (truth of God).

Unless Christ heals a believer's spiritual blindness, they simply will not be able to understand the spiritual teachings of God's Word - no matter how much time they spend studying it.

The many different churches of this world consist of believers who have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. Because these believers are spiritually blind, there is very little truth taught in the churches (approx. 2,000 different denominations/sects). The churches have become little more than places where the "blind lead the blind".

Because the churches are blind, Satan was able to deceive them and make them apostate. This happened near the end of the 1st century when the spirit of anti-Christ invaded the churches. And just as Paul was told, none of the flock was spared (**Acts 20:29-31**).

Below is where Christ teaches how a believer becomes apostate:

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 taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. 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 8:15-25**) 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 new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first.

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

What I have presented above is why there is no unity of understanding in the churches.

One final point: the apostasy of the church did not happen by accident. God planned and caused it to happen to satisfy His own purposes. If you read Isa 28:9-12 carefully, you will see that truth being taught there.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Let's just simplify it then. God will never contradict Himself, so if you think something that contradicts the written word, you'll need to revisit it.

Some say God's truth is hidden behind spiritual sayings which use different meanings for words than what those words normally mean. I say God's truth is hidden in plain sight, as people's eyes cannot see what is plainly said, until the Spirit opens their eyes.

M

Dear M_____,

I agree that God's Word does not contradict itself. I never said it did.

Also, there are no statements in my posts that are contradicted by scripture. In fact, I went to great lengths to present the scriptures that support my statements. If you believe there are contradictions, please point them out.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I'm sorry, I'm not trying to say you are contradicting Scripture. My main thought for this thread is that God will not contradict His Own Scripture, and that His Scriptures have certain meanings that expressed in His word choices.

It's my thought that without the Holy Spirit's enlightenment, we read the words, but without

comprehension. Not that we read the words, and understand what the words say, but don't understand what God means by them. I think they just bounce off our minds until the Holy Spirit reveals the meaning.

And then we can go back to those very words, and see that this is in fact exactly what they say, only, we didn't see it before. But we can know that our new understanding is correct because it turns out to be exactly what was written.

Also, Early and latter rains are seasonal rains. They are used for examples of when we need patience, but there is no teaching of an early and latter rain as some kind of 2-step spiritual growth.

M

Dear M_____,

You said:

Early and latter rains are seasonal rains. They are used for examples of when we need patience, but there is no teaching of an early and latter rain as some kind of 2-step spiritual growth.

The Early and Latter Rain concept is very concealed in scripture. It is not milk - it is strong meat. You will likely not be able to "see" what I present below because your foundation of truth is presently at a lower level.

The farming analogy which is used throughout scripture teaches the pathway to salvation. The Early and Latter Rains are symbols used in that analogy. The Early Rain occurs when Christ plants His seed of the Holy Spirit within a person (**Mat 13:24**). With this seed, the person becomes a believer and enters the church.

Consider the scripture below which uses the farming analogy to teach its message:

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he (Christ) shall come unto us as the RAIN, as the latter and former (Early) RAIN unto the earth.

Water is the symbol for the Holy Spirit. It can come as rain or snow (or even spit).

Consider what James says below:

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

James makes this comment to believers who are have received the Early Rain and are waiting for

the Lord to return with the Latter Rain. James purpose in making this statement is to tell them to have patience for the Lord's return.

Note: The Second Coming of Christ is NOT a one-time visible appearance to this world at the literal end of the age. Christ's second coming is a reoccurring spiritual event within the Elect. After Christ gives a believer the Latter Rain, Christ will appear to them because their spiritual blindness has been healed.

Consider these verses that teach on the Second Coming of Christ:

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for THE TIME IS AT HAND.

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

The book of Revelation says that the time for Christ's return was "at hand" when John received the vision and that Christ is, was and will be coming quickly. Those who are blessed will "keep" the sayings of the prophecy. They are the Elect.

The prophecy (like all end-time prophecy) is teaching on the pathway to salvation that leads an Elect person to their conversion and salvation. If Christ does not return to a person before they die, they are not one of the Elect.

Below, Paul makes a statement concerning the Early and Latter Rain concept, though he does not use those terms:

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

When Christ gives a person the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will only see Christ carnally (Christ and Him crucified). This is when Christ first appears to them. The second time Christ appears, He will appear spiritually and bring salvation to the believer who has been waiting for Him to return.

The Jewish Elect received the Early Rain during Christ's journey to the cross. That is when they called Jesus "Lord" and received a measure of faith. At that time, they remained spiritually blind and could not understand Christ's teachings (the story of the blind man in Mark 8:15-25 applies). They were not converted. But Christ told them in John 14:18 that He would return and give them the Spirit of Truth. The Spirit of Truth is another name for the Latter Rain because the Latter

Rain will give the believer the ability to understand the spiritual teachings of Christ.

The pathway to salvation begins when Christ comes to an unbeliever and gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit. In the marriage analogy, this is when a person becomes "espoused" to Christ. With the Early Rain, the person will receive a measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts.

Without the gift of the Early Rain of the Spirit, no one would ever call Jesus "Lord" but would only consider the gospel "foolishness".

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God's Word also says that the people who are given the Early Rain in this age are said to be "many". They are called to be saints.

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

From the "many" who enter the church, a "few" of them have been chosen for salvation. It is these "few" who will receive the Latter Rain and become saints.

Now look at Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church and notice how he addresses them:

1Cor 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:

Paul says that the Corinthian believers have been "called to be saints". They are not saints at this time because they have not received the Latter Rain and been converted.

Now look at verses 6-8:

1Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthian believers when they received the Early Rain of the Spirit and they made a confession of faith. That is also when they received their spiritual gifts and began waiting for the Lord to return with the Latter Rain of the Spirit. When Christ comes with the Latter Rain, that is when a believer is converted and they become

blameless when judgment comes (Day of the Lord).

The reason the Latter Rain is necessary for a person's salvation is because the Early Rain of the Spirit is given in "measure" (a small amount) and will not convert them:

Deu 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain (Early Rain) upon the tender herb, and as the showers (Latter Rain) upon the grass:

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

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God; for he giveth you the former rain (Early Rain) in just measure, and he causes to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain, in the first month.

Because the Early Rain leaves a new believer spiritually blind, Satan will come to them and plant his seed (spirit of anti-Christ) within them, too (Parable of the Wheat and the Tares). This is the Abomination of Desolation that causes the new believer to become apostate. They will remain in this condition until they die or until Christ comes to them a second time with the Latter Rain.

These verses apply:

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful RAIN (Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance (as one of the Elect/heirs), WHEN IT WAS WEARY.

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

Note: The spirit of anti-Christ did not come until after Paul wrote his letters to the churches. Because of this, the new believers to whom Paul was writing did not fall away and become apostate as like what happens now.

That is all the time I have for today. If you have any specific questions, please ask.

I will read and respond to the rest of your post tomorrow (as the Lord wills).

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I had to laugh over that one!

It's not so hidden that a great many have grabbed ahold of the idea. Of course, everyone uses it for their own ends, but what is that between friends!

M

Dear M _____,

Since you are not showing any signs that you are going to be able to "see" what I am presenting, there is no purpose in continuing trying to help you. It's just not your time now - but your time will come. God's Word says so:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 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, to be testified in due time.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Sounds good to me. I've discussed this former and latter rain concept with quite a number of people over the years, and it's just not there. The real deal is in putting on and putting off, in walking by faith, by learning of Jesus.

Some need to find a reason why they feel stalled in their walk, and then come to the conclusion that they are waiting for the "rest of the Holy Spirit". But that's not Biblical. I'm perfectly happy to leave it alone, or, if you really do want to discuss it, we can work our way through passage by passage, each in turn, to show how they are taken out of context, how they speak towards other things, and how God has already given us all we need for life and godliness, and we need to believe, and walk in it.

You apparently don't think we've been given all we need, I guess.

Personally, I find that I don't really need long convoluted arguments, that the truth can be fairly simply expressed if you understand it.

One other comment on the early and latter rains:

The early and latter rains are a simile. Most of your examples are similes. We have patience waiting for the Lord as the farmer has patience waiting for the rain. But waiting for the Lord isn't waiting for rain. It's compared to it.

Do you believe these verses are completely and fully true?

2 Peter 1:3-4 KJV

3) According **as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

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.

M

Dear M _____,

Yes, they what Peter said is true but you are misunderstanding him.

Look at how Peter addresses the letter:

2Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Faith is what is given with the Early Rain of the Spirit. With the Early Rain, a person will make a confession of faith but they are not converted. They have been called to glory and virtue and have been given great and precious promises "whereby these ye might be partakers of the divine nature". These believers are not partakers yet.

Read on down a few verses:

2Pet 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

From Peter's comments above, it is VERY CLEAR that these believers are not converted and that it is still possible for them to fall from grace just as it was possible for Peter to fall from grace before he was converted at Pentecost.

A converted believer who has received both the Early and Latter Rains & judgment cannot fall from grace because they have been made like Christ and have become a "perfect man" (**Eph 4:13**). They are already being fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter's main point to these new believers is to encourage them to remain faithful and to strive to mature in the Lord so that when Christ returns as the Bridegroom (marriage analogy applies), He will find them as a "chaste virgin" (**2Cor 11:2**). You must remember that at this time, the spirit of anti-Christ had not come and corrupted the church yet. The new believers were remaining faithful (chaste/not fornicating with Satan) while they waited for the Lord. If they are in a chaste condition when He returns, their calling and election will be "sure".

So how do I know when conversion occurs?

Peter's conversion happened when he received the Latter Rain of the Spirit (baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth) on the Day of Pentecost:

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

When Christ made this statement to Peter, Peter had only received the Early Rain of the Spirit and had a measure of faith. However, since the Early Rain of the Spirit is given only in a small measure, it was still possible for Peter to fall from grace. Because Peter was still spiritually weak, Satan knew it was still possible to cause him to fall away. But after Peter received the Latter Rain on the Day of Pentecost and was converted, Peter became untouchable by Satan.

Consider these verses which relate to what Isa 28:9-12 teaches:

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Heb 5:13 For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

After a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they begin the pathway to salvation as a "babe" who still draws milk from the breast. In this condition, they are "unskillful in the Word of Righteousness". But after they receive the Latter Rain and are converted, they become as a little child who will grow to "full age".

Without the Early Rain, the babe cannot be born. Without the Latter Rain, the babe cannot grow into a little child and onto "full age".

And as Christ said, when a babe becomes a little child, that is the point of conversion. It happens because Christ gives the babe the Latter Rain of the Spirit, followed by judgment. Conversion can happen no other way.

Joe

Another member commented on the thread:

I see people quoting proof texts that they use for their conclusions. What I don't see are those verses that call their proof texts into doubt. Until we use all of scripture to delve into truth, we will not agree.

When don't we use all of scripture? Well, it takes time and effort. Worse yet, the truth may gore

our sacred ox and leave us more humble that we'd like.

I've asked God to give me truth while delving into scripture and had Him convict me of falsely claiming that I already knew "the truth." Even asking Him to "take it back" didn't work.

Learning that way will cause a disruption in our hearts and a change in relationships with those who used to accept you based on the fact that you were "all of one mind" previously but now aren't.

We don't like being the oddball among our social group. In that, I think we fear learning God's truth. After all, when we have the social support of 99 others, we fear being the one lamb that follows a different trail.

S _____

Dear S _____,

The one lamb that "follows a different trail" is representative of the Elect. The 99 sheep represent the "many" who are called but are not chosen for salvation in this age. They will not be a "first fruit" of Christ's harvest of mankind.

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

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I have to admit that I have never known anyone to take that parable this way.

S _____

Dear S _____,

The story is a parable. It uses "spirit" words (**John 6:63**) to teach its message (like all of Christ's teachings do). Below I will quickly summarize the parable's meaning.

Here is the story:

Mat 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

The parable is retold in Luke:

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

In this age, Christ is only saving the Elect who have been chosen from the foundation of the world. The one "lost" sheep represents the Elect who come out from the "many" sheep who have been called to be saints. The Elect are "few". For that reason, Christ begins His parable by saying that the "**Son of Man is come to save that which is lost**". Christ is referring to the Elect who are the lost sheep and who He came to save.

The ninety nine sheep represent the "many" who have been called into the church. Notice in Luke 15:4 that it says the ninety nine sheep are in the wilderness. The term "wilderness" is a symbol for where Satan dwells over his apostate church. The ninety nine sheep remain under the Law and are not saved. They are following Satan's "another gospel" which mixes works with faith. This is the crooked way. Because of the spiritual blindness of the ninety nine sheep, they do not realize that they need to repent of their works. They are dwelling in peace and safety under the deceptions of Satan. The ninety nine sheep do not realize that they are deceived - that is the nature of deception.

In the parable, the one sheep leaves the wilderness and goes into the mountains. The term "mountains" is a symbol for heaven and is where Christ gathers an Elect believer just before judgment falls on them (**the story of Lot, Mat 24:15-16**). Traveling to the mountains represents that the Elect believer has received the Latter Rain of the Spirit and is being gathered to heaven (**Mat 24:29-31**). It is in the mountains where the Elect believer is found (saved) by Christ. Being "found" is a symbol for salvation. After Christ finds His lost sheep, He places them on His shoulders and carries them. This represents that the Elect believer is no longer mixing their own works with faith but is now trusting Christ to do all the work. In other words, the lost sheep is now walking by the Spirit and by faith.

This verse also applies:

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

To properly understand Christ's "spirit" words, Paul says that they should be compared with how those same spirit words are used elsewhere in scripture. Then, with the discernment that the Holy Spirit gives the believer, the true meaning of the spirit word can be found.

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.

Search scripture for the spirit words that I pointed out in the parable (there are others I did not point out) and see if you can discern their true meaning. Some words are easy to understand but others require a great deal of discernment from the Spirit.

After a believer is converted, their spiritual blindness will be healed and the truth of Christ's teaching will open up to their understanding. For that reason, the unconverted believers in the apostate church do not understand the teachings of Christ - that is why you have never heard the true meaning of the parable of the lost sheep before. The parable's message is retold in other parables, too - like the "lost coin" and the "prodigal son". In fact, most of Christ's parables teach on certain aspects of the pathway to salvation.

Below is an easy example which shows how to discover the meanings of Christ's spirit words so that the true message of what Christ is teaching can be understood:

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? Literally, that is what He is saying. However, if we understand this verse literally, that statement can easily be proven to be false. 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?

The spiritual language of the Word of God utilizes the Hebrew and Greek languages. However, Christ assigns meanings to the Hebrew and Greek words which are different from how they are commonly defined:

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 with spiritual.

In **Matt 26:52**, Christ is using the word SWORD to teach 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 compare spiritual things with spiritual.

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

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edge sword...

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

From the verses presented above, it is easy to understand that the spiritual word SWORD represents the Word of God who is Christ.

Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in **Matt 26:52** is that all who take up the Sword (those who are "called out", received the Early Rain of the Spirit), must perish (death of the child of the Devil) by the Sword. This death is a necessary part of the conversion process which happens when the Word of God (Christ, the Sword) comes to a person and gives them BOTH the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain/Spirit of Truth) and the Baptism of Fire (judgment of the child of the Devil):

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, and with Fire.

This conversion event is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of FIRE, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the spiritual language of Christ, the Apostles took up the Sword and then died by the SWORD. This is conversion.

In light of what I presented above, do you understand what this 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.

I have underlined the key portions of the verse.

Joe

Another member responded to my posts:

Dear FaithWillDo,

I give your post a 'love' as I saw a new intriguing use of the word 'taking up the sword' that has bypass me in the past.....on this point then..

The phrase “the Apostles took up the Sword and then died by the Sword” is a biblical reference to the story of Jesus’ arrest and the subsequent actions of his apostles. According to the New Testament, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and Peter, one of his apostles, drew his sword to defend him. However, Jesus told Peter to put his sword back in its place, saying “all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52).

This phrase **is often interpreted** as a warning against violence and a call to non-violent resistance. Jesus’ words suggest that those who resort to violence will ultimately be destroyed by it, and that a more effective way to overcome evil is through love and non-violent means.

The apostles, including Peter, did not take up the sword in the classical sense, but they did face persecution and martyrdom at the hands of the Romans and other authorities. **In this sense, they “died by the sword” as a result of their faith and commitment to Jesus.**

Your phrase “this is conversion” does indeed reference the idea that the apostles’ experience of Jesus’ teachings and their subsequent actions of 'taking up their sword(s)' were a turning point in their lives, leading them to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ message and a commitment to following him. They were committed at this point and yes, conversion was its end result...great find!

Thanks mate...

A

Dear A _____,

Thanks for your comments.

Conversion only occurs by the very specific spiritual work of Christ that He does within a person. It has nothing to do with a person's actions or their walk. Christ is the Savior and He is the one who does the saving. Mankind can contribute nothing and will have nothing to boast about as to why they are saved.

When Christ is ready to convert an Elect believer, He will come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The first time Christ came to them was when He gave them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is when they took up the Sword.

Peter was given the Early Rain of the Spirit during Christ's ministry. That is when Peter received a measure of faith and called Jesus "Lord".

After an person receives the Early Rain, they will become a "believer" and will enter the church. They then begin their time of waiting for the Lord (Bridegroom) to come a second time to them to confirm their inheritance (Elect status) with the Latter Rain:

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful Rain (Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

Peter experienced the Latter Rain of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost with the other Jewish Elect who were also waiting for His return.

Since that time, Christ has come over and over again to all His Elect during this age.

These verses apply:

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Rev 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

The Latter Rain is also called the "Spirit of Truth". Christ calls it that because, with the Spirit of Truth, the spiritual blindness of the believer is healed. Christ will then come and feed the newly "born again" believer His bread (truth) and New Wine (New Covenant).

This event is the spiritual fulfillment of the Lord's Supper:

Luke 22:15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

After Christ has fed the Elect believer sufficient nourishment, the truth they have consumed will bring judgment to the child of the Devil/man of sin:

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

After the believer's judgment is complete, the believer be converted.

Peter experienced the conversion event on the Day of Pentecost and that was when he was slayed by the Sword of Christ.

Have you ever considered how the symbol "sword" is used in the verses below?

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The Seven Headed Beast who has the wound by the Sword represents a believer who has been struck in the head by Christ's Sword at the time they received the Early Rain of the Spirit. But since the Early Rain of the Spirit is given in "measure" (a small amount), the blow to their head is not immediately fatal. This results in a spiritual war developing within the believer between the Holy Spirit and the believer's carnal nature. The war is a fight for control of the believer's mind (head) which controls their "walk". At present, the believer is still walking by sight (the flesh/carnal nature) and remains carnal and unconverted.

As the war continues, Satan comes to the aid of the believer's carnal nature and strengthens it with the spirit of anti-Christ. This is the second beast mentioned in Revelation chapter 13. With the spirit of anti-Christ indwelling the believer, the Holy Spirit loses the war and the deadly head wound is healed. The believer remains carnal and unconverted. But even worse, with the spirit of anti-Christ now within the believer, they become "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**). This event is the spiritual fulfillment of the Abomination of Desolation (**Mat 24:15**) and it causes the believer to fall away and become apostate.

In this apostate condition, the believer has become the Seven Headed beast of Revelation chapter 13 who is controlled by the second beast (spirit of anti-Christ). The believer has now become a man of sin/anti-Christ. They will remain in this apostate condition in Satan's apostate church until they die or until Christ comes to them a second time and pours out the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

In this age, Christ is only coming a second time to His chosen Elect. Those who are a part of the "many" called but not chosen group will die in their sins and receive their portion with the unbelievers.

When Christ comes the second time to an apostate Elect believer, He will deliver a second blow (the Latter Rain) to the believer's head. This time the Spirit comes with "power" and will heal the believer's spiritual blindness. After Christ feeds the believer his truth at the Lord's Supper, the truth will remove and destroy the worsened carnality of the believer (called Mystery Babylon the Great Harlot) and the spirit of anti-Christ. With their destruction, the believer will take on a new head (Christ) and will be converted.

Can you see how the spiritual symbol "sword" is used in the pathway to salvation which an Elect believer travels before they die?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Well Joe, I cannot get my head around this doctrine when you said "In this apostate condition, the believer has become the Seven Headed beast of Revelation chapter 13 who is controlled by the second beast (spirit of anti-Christ). The believer has now become a man of sin/anti-Christ. They will remain in this apostate condition in Satan's apostate church until they die or until Christ comes to them a second time and pours out the Latter Rain of the Spirit.."

And your application of two visits of Christ or the spirit and of the way you have used the 1st and last Rain, is also puzzling.

A

Dear A _____,

The Early and Latter Rain analogy used in God's Word is purposely very concealed and only taught in Christ's spiritual language. But after a person has eyes that can see it, they can find the concept taught in many, many teachings of Christ.

In the marriage analogy, when an unbeliever receives the Early Rain, they are being "espoused" to Christ. When Christ returns for his bride to take her to heaven for the wedding, the bride is given the Latter Rain beforehand to restore her from her apostate condition. In the parable of the Ten Virgins, that is what the extra flask of oil represents. The Foolish Virgins are not given the extra oil (anointing of the Holy Spirit). They represent the many called but not chosen.

In the story of the woman taken in adultery, Christ writes in the earth (represents carnal mankind) TWO times. The first time He writes, He is writing the Law of the Spirit in the heart of the woman. At this time, the Pharisees do not drop their stones. The stones are representative of the Law which is still condemning the woman. After Christ writes in the earth the second time, the Pharisees finally drop their stones and leave. The Law cannot no longer accuse the woman because she is now saved and under the blood of Christ.

Paul's conversion experience is said to be the pattern whereby all the Elect are saved (**1Tim 1:16**). Paul received the Early Rain on the Damascus Road and called Jesus "Lord". Paul's blindness represented his spiritual blindness. Paul then was lead by the hand (blind leading the blind) into Damascus where he could not eat or drink for three days. This represented that Paul could not consume the true bread from heaven or drink the blood of the New Covenant. The number "three" represents a spiritual process. This process was Paul becoming "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**), a man of sin. Then Paul began to pray and Christ responded (typed by Ananias). Paul's prayer was a prayer of repentance from works because Christ had to travel on

"straight" street to reach Paul - who was staying at a home of a man named "Judas" (represents who Paul had become spiritually). When Christ arrived, Paul received the Latter Rain and the scales fell from his eyes. He was then told to eat meat. He was now born again after having fallen away under Satan's deceptions via the spirit of anti-Christ.

Many of the other parables also include the Early and Latter Rain concept but like the ones above, they do not use the spiritual symbols "Early and Latter Rains". However, the concept of what they teach is still in those teachings. The concept is veiled by the spiritual language of Christ and requires spiritual understanding to see and receive what they teach.

One other point: After Paul's death, the churches that he and the other apostles started all become apostate by the spirit of anti-Christ. Paul teaches this truth in Acts 20:29-31. He verbally warned the churches for three years with tears - it was a very big deal and distressed Paul greatly. Nothing as changed since that time. The gospel the apostate church teaches is based on mixing works with faith. This is Satan's "another gospel". When a believer accepts this false gospel, they are committing fornication with Satan. This is the sin that Adam and Eve committed in the Garden of Eden. This is also the one sin that a believer can commit that "leads to death" (loss of salvation). It is with this sin that Satan afflicts and kills the saints (**Mat 24:9**). Only the second coming of Christ when He brings the Latter Rain will restore a believer to salvation.

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

I hope this helps.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I do not agree with your marriage analogy of the 1st and the last rains as the historical two rain cycles in two seasons of the same year.

When I first became converted it can be analogous to an engagement ceremony to Christ and presided over by the Spirit of God. Then after this life, it is the actual bonds of marriage and wedding in the Kingdom, again presided over by the Spirit of God. Now I do not consider these as an outpourings of the Spirit of the elect, let alone of an unbeliever who cannot receive the Spirit of God, ever. That is why they are called unbelievers. The Spirit does not give an unbeliever the spirit of his Son without meeting God's requirements for conversion and salvation.

The 2-cycles of rain is the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon 'the fields,' or upon the inhabitable world of people selected for conversion and salvation, over two separate time periods.

I think and it's still in question, the first rain was a much smaller downpouring of the Spirit, at

Pentecost, and the 2nd began months later as a huge outpouring, occurring after Pentecost as the gospel was being spread outside of Judea.

And for the other applications of the rains you gave, I do not agree with either; of the writing on the ground twice concerning this woman for example. It does not make any sense to me to treat this action as an actual outpouring of the Spirit on only one person...this is not a personal private downpour of the Spirit only for just one person.

These are rains with a plural, one in season of rain its hits more than one area of a farmer's field several times in that season...I hope you see where I'm going with this..

And this Anti-Christ infusion is even harder for me to fathom as I do not believe in just one Anti-Christ spirit in the first place. There are many as they were in Christ's generation. It is wishful thinking of the part of modern day 'biblical' theorists and futurists.

I'm curious to know where you might have learned all this..

Late addition.

I guess these 2 rain intervals can be consider and given on personal level as well 1. At the initiation as a new convert, and second, with a rain of maturity by the Spirit of God as for spiritual growth...

1 Corinthians 3:6–8 — The New International Version (NIV)

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **God has been making it grow.** 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, **but only God, who makes things grow.** 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

A

Dear A _____,

You said:

I do not agree with your marriage analogy of the 1st and the last rains as the historical two rain cycles in two seasons of the same year.

1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The principle that Paul states above applies to more than just a natural body and a spiritual body.

The Old Covenant is natural and the New Testament is spiritual.

The same is true of the Law. Under the Old Covenant, the Law is written on tablets of stone (the natural). Under the New Covenant, it is written in the heart (the spiritual).

Also, all the OT events were natural events but they teach spiritual truths which are spiritually fulfilled within the Elect under the New Covenant (the spiritual).

Paul said this:

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

The "ends of the ages" (what Christ was teaching in Mat 24) come upon an Elect believer when they are converted. With their conversion, their spiritual blindness is healed and the OT events come alive to them because they can see how they were spiritually fulfilled within themselves.

The Early and Latter Rains of the OT are natural. But like the other events, they are spiritually fulfilled within the Elect under the New Covenant.

Also, Christ's coming to an unbeliever with the Early Rain is a natural visitation. The new believer is given a measure of faith at that time but they will remain spiritually blind. Because of their blindness, they can only see Christ in the flesh (carnally/Christ and Him crucified). When Christ comes the second time to the same person with the Latter Rain, Christ will heal their blindness and appear to them spiritually.

Do you understand this scripture:

1John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 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.

John is not talking about believers who deny that Christ literally came in the flesh and went to the cross. They would not have ever been believers if they denied Christ's literal physical coming which led Him to the cross. John is talking about believers who deny that Christ ever came to them in the flesh when He first called them out from the world (Early Rain). Nothing as changed in the apostate church even up to today. Apostate believers deny that Christ came to them in the flesh when He first gave them the Holy Spirit (Early Rain). Apostate believers say that when Christ first came to them to call them out, He did so like He did to the Jewish Elect on the Day of Pentecost. They deny the natural coming of Christ to them. This false belief the apostate believers hold comes from the deceptions of the spirit of anti-Christ .

Consider this scripture:

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

When did the Apostles first call Jesus "Lord" and recognize Him as the Christ? Was it after they received the Latter Rain on the Day of Pentecost? Certainly not.

So how were they able to make a confession of faith before that time in light of what 1Cor 12:3 teaches?

The Apostles were able to make a confession of faith before the Day of Pentecost because they had received the Early Rain previously during Christ's ministry. After they received the Early Rain, the Apostles began a time of waiting for Christ to "come again" with the Latter Rain. And as Christ says in Revelation, He came "quickly" to them.

Christ's second coming is not a physically visible coming at the end of this age as is commonly taught.

Christ first comes to a person "in the flesh" after He gives them the Early Rain because they can only see Him carnally at that time. This is the natural. His second coming to the person with the Latter Rain is His spiritual coming. The only event that occurs at the literal end of this age is the bodily resurrection from the grave.

You asked:

I'm curious to know where you might have learned all this..

I was converted at age 44 on Oct 8th, 2005. It was a day like no other. My world was turned upside down. Spiritually speaking, there was thunder, lightning, earthquakes and trumpets. The sun was darkened and the moon turned to blood. My life has never been the same since that day and I had been in the "church" my entire life (mostly in the Church of Christ/Baptist/non-denomination).

My conversion testimony is presented on my website which is shown under my member name.

After my conversion, the Word of God opened up to my understanding. I learned a few basic truths from a teacher named Ray Smith but it was very limited. I quickly moved onto my own studies and over next few years I learned most of what I have been presenting to you here.

This scripture applies to how I learned from Christ:

Prov 2:1 My son, 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.

Since I was converted, I have not associated with any church or denomination because they are all apostate. Light does not fellowship with darkness. I was blessed to have my wife converted at the same time that I was. We both understand God's truth in the same way. I have met a few converted believers online during the years who also understand the truth as I do, but I have no teachers and no one to fellowship with locally.

The work that the Lord gave me to do is the work of Elijah. I make the call of repentance to people in the apostate church (who dwell in the wilderness) so as to make the pathway "straight" for the Lord to come to them a second time with the Latter Rain.

This scripture applies:

James 5:17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. 19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one turns him back; 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Elijah's 3 1/2 years of natural drought is now occurring spiritually within a person between the time they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit and the time they receive Latter Rain of the Spirit. It is not literal time. This 3 1/2 year period is also the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy. The OT is natural, so the first 69 1/2 years were fulfilled by literal time. But when Christ was "cut off" at the cross, the spiritual New Covenant began. With this change, the last 3 1/2 years of the prophecy are now being fulfilled spiritually within the Elect. After the last Elect person is converted in this age, Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy will be fulfilled.

Note: Anytime you see "time, times and half a time, 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days" in scripture, it is referring to the time a believer spends in between receiving the Early and Latter Rains (the time of drought). After a believer becomes apostate, they are experiencing their Day of Evil. This is the time of "great tribulation" that all believers will experience after receiving the Early Rain. The great tribulation is spiritual and does not happen out in the world at the end of this literal age as is commonly taught.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, let me understand what you just posted with my own running commentary of what you might be saying, and what I also think what you should be saying. And then let the chips fall where they may.

So, you begin with your first thought, of the spiritual things in creation and mankind, following the natural creation and order of things.

(1Co 15:45) So also it is written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

(1Co 15:46) But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and only then the spiritual.

(1Co 15:47) The first man is of the earth, earthy. The second man is heavenly.

(1Co 15:48) As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy, and as is the heavenly, such are they that are heavenly.

(1Co 15:49) And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

From these verses it says that creation, including the earth, and humankind, in their natural state will be transformed eventually into an invisible permanent spiritual state. And this transformation from the natural state of today will begin in this earthly life, and be completed in the next life.

And then you just focus your attention to the conversion, from the beginning of mankind in the natural state into to this spiritual state.

And you designate the Covenants as the first being natural and the last of the 'season of God with mankind' as spiritual in nature.

And then you focus on the Covenants as the OT of the written law, outside of the heart, and the NT of the law written inside the heart.

And then you state that the OT events were all natural events teaching future spiritual truths, and fulfilled by believers under the NT.

If natural events are to mean only human actions only, without God's intervention, then I do not totally agree at this point. And then I believe you neglected God's critical direct involvement in the affairs of men that did cause mostly predicable carnal natural reactions to his involvement.

The Old Covenant events, as recorded in scripture, were not solely natural events, but rather a combination of natural and supernatural (spiritual) occurrences that conveyed spiritual truths. The Old Testament is replete with examples of God's direct involvement in the lives of His people, guiding them and revealing His character and will.

Yes, many Old Covenant events were designed to teach future spiritual truths, often through

typology and foreshadowing.

For instance:

The story of creation and the Garden of Eden teaches about the nature of sin, the need for redemption, and the promise of a future savior (Genesis 3).

The story of the Exodus and the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai teaches about God's covenant relationship with His people, His holiness, and the need for obedience (Exodus 20).

The institution of the Sabbath teaches about God's rest and the importance of rest and worship (Genesis 2:2-3).

The story of the tabernacle and the priesthood teaches about the importance of worship, sacrifice, and the need for a mediator between God and humanity (Exodus 25-31).

The story of the prophets, such as Abraham, Moses, and David, teaches about God's character, His faithfulness, and His desire for a relationship with His people (Genesis 12-50, Exodus 3-4, 1 Samuel 16-31).

These events, among many others, were not simply natural occurrences, but were designed by God to convey spiritual truths and prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is a rich tapestry of spiritual truth, woven together by God's hand to guide His people and point to the future redemption that would come through Jesus Christ.

Then in my words once again, you infer that this means the OT Covenant reflects the natural state of man, and the New Testament reflected the beginning and end of the transformation for natural to the spiritual permanent state.

And to round this first extend thought off, you cite 1 Co 10:11...

(1Co 10:11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written about for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Paul is clearly telling the Corinthians that what happened, especially to the Israelites during the time of Moses, and those left in the desert to die there by design, and were also led by the cloud/angel of God (verse 1), did receive spiritual graces of God along the way, and they failed to capitalize on them, or believe in them. Their failures to obey then are real lessons and dire warnings for us today.

One of their major disobedient acts was spiritual idolatry.

So, Paul continues...about idolatry of the same (spiritually driven by their carnal natural state) idolatrous Israelites who were forced in the wilderness to 'die'

(1Co 10:12) Therefore let him that thinks he stands be careful lest he fall.

(1Co 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

(1Co 10:14) (Don't Participate in Idol Worship) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

(1Co 10:15) I speak as to wise people. Think upon what I say.

(1Co 10:16) The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ?

(1Co 10:17) Seeing that we, who are many, are one loaf, one body; for we are all partaking of the one loaf.

(1Co 10:18) Behold Israel after the flesh. Are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

(1Co 10:19) What say I then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

(1Co 10:20) But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I would not have you sharing communion with demons.

(1Co 10:21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons.

(1Co 10:22) Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

And then you say that the First and Last rains of the OT are natural, and like other events the are fulfilled by believer's in the NT. What do you mean by these words? Maybe you elaborate and explain it in your next paragraph.

And then I strongly disagree with your not so-clear next paragraph. It is unbiblical on a few levels.

First, I categorically deny that Christ pays anyone a visit for their salvation or their preparation, of a first or last rain if that is also to be believed, and I do not, whether to an unbeliever or believer. Christ does not do this work!

Second, the Spirit of God provides Christ' spirit to a new believer, and the saving faith to new believer as a gift, for the confession and repentance of sin and belief in the gospel of a spiritual form of belief, not natural. It is ALL spiritual. How could ever think and believe that someone is saved resulting in the same spiritual blindness? Not happening and not scriptural at all.

And I think I will stop here as I already see by scanning more paragraphs you do not understand the process of conversion or rebirth, especially according to scripture.

And further, your post is at least 3x too large to do any justice to it. You should have sent it in 3

intervals over time.

Good luck with your very unbiblical theory Joe

A_____

Dear A_____,

You said:

The story of creation and the Garden of Eden teaches about the nature of sin, the need for redemption, and the promise of a future savior (Genesis 3).

The story of the Exodus and the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai teaches about God's covenant relationship with His people, His holiness, and the need for obedience (Exodus 20).

The institution of the Sabbath teaches about God's rest and the importance of rest and worship (Genesis 2:2-3).

The story of the tabernacle and the priesthood teaches about the importance of worship, sacrifice, and the need for a mediator between God and humanity (Exodus 25-31).

The story of the prophets, such as Abraham, Moses, and David, teaches about God's character, His faithfulness, and His desire for a relationship with His people (Genesis 12-50, Exodus 3-4, 1 Samuel 16-31).

These events, among many others, were not simply natural occurrences, but were designed by God to convey spiritual truths and prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The meanings you assigned above are not the spiritual understandings that the Elect see. Your understanding is carnal.

You said:

And then you say that the First and Last rains of the OT are natural, and like other events the are fulfilled by believer's in the NT. What do you mean by these words? Maybe you elaborate and explain it in your next paragraph.

The events of the OT are "types" which teach spiritual truths.

Here is a very summarized spiritual understanding of Noah and the ark:

When Noah was commissioned to build the ark, it represented him receiving the Early Rain. Noah then "worked" up until the time he entered the ark. When Noah and the seven others entered the ark, it represented one believer receiving the Latter Rain and being "born again". The ark represents Christ. When the believer entered the ark, they entered into Christ. The reason

there were "eight" people who entered the ark is because the number eight represents a new spiritual state of being for a person. After the believer entered the ark, judgment came. Its destruction represented the destruction of the carnality (the world) of the believer. They did not suffer wrath from the judgment because they were "in Christ" and protected by Him. Also, judgment comes by the Holy Spirit from within a believer. For that reason, judgment came as a flood (a flood represents judgment by the Holy Spirit). The rain fell for forty days. Forty is the number for a time of tribulation. After the flood was finished, the believer was converted.

The spiritual meaning above is why Christ mentions Noah when He is teaching about the conversion event in His end-time teachings.

The story of Lot and his wife also teach the same spiritual process of conversion and that is why Christ also mentions Lot and his wife in the same teachings.

You said:

First, I categorically deny that Christ pays anyone a visit for their salvation or their preparation, of a first or last rain if that is also to be believed, and I do not, whether to an unbeliever or believer. Christ does not do this work!

The only way a person can be saved is for Christ to come to them (without their asking or permission) and freely give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This happens without their repentance and without them having any faith.

These verses apply:

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

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.

When Christ came to Paul on the Damascus Road, Paul was on his way to persecute Christians and had NO intention of becoming a Christian. But all that changed when Christ "suddenly" came to His temple (Paul) and gave Paul the Early Rain. With the Spirit, Paul fell to his knees and called Jesus "Lord". Paul then submitted to the Lord's authority and asked "what do you want me to do?".

This is the only way a person receives the Spirit, even the Early Rain. To believe that mankind must do anything (like making a free will decision to accept Christ) is a "work" and is filthy rags. Christ is the Savior and He does 100% of the works necessary to save a person. Nothing is left up to chance or to mankind to decide.

You said:

Second, the Spirit of God provides Christ' spirit to a new believer, and the saving faith to new

believer as a gift, for the confession and repentance of sin and belief in the gospel of a spiritual form of belief, not natural. It is ALL spiritual. How could ever think and believe that someone is saved resulting in the same spiritual blindness? Not happening and not scriptural at all.

A person becomes a new believer because Christ has come to them and given them the Spirit. The Spirit gives the person a measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts. They did not ask for the Spirit or the gifts but after Christ gave it to them, they could only call Jesus "Lord". No one with the Spirit will reject Christ.

When Christ comes to a person and gives them the Early Rain, they will be given a measure of faith but they will remain spiritually blind. Because they can only see carnally, they can only "see" Christ in the flesh through scripture. That is why an unconverted believer can't understand the spiritual teachings that the OT events teach or understand the spiritual teachings of Christ that He teaches through parables and analogies.

As for spiritual blindness, can you not accept what the story of the healing of the blind man teaches (**Mark 8:15-25**)? If a believer can't understand what Christ is teaching in that story, they are not going to be able to understand most of His other spiritual teachings either. They are just too spiritually blind.

Here is an example of Christ's spiritual teaching from a short parable:

Mat 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

The "man" is Christ. The "field" is a unbeliever. The "seed" is the Holy Spirit (Early Rain). The tree is the new believer that the seed produces (the new creation). The "birds" are unclean spirits (represents the spirit of anti-Christ) that come from Satan. When the birds lodge in the branches of the tree, they are indwelling the believer and deceiving them by their false teachings.

The truth that this parable teaches happens to ALL new believers. No one has a supposed "free will" ability to avoid it happening to them.

Here is a similar parable:

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 whole was leavened.

"Leaven" represents the false teachings of Satan. The "woman" represents the carnal spiritual nature of a believer who has only received the Early Rain. "Meal" represents the truth of God. The number "three" represents a spiritual process. After the woman takes the leaven from Satan,

she hides it into the three measures of meal until the whole loaf of truth is leavened. This leavened bread is what a new believer consumes, all the while not realizing that the leaven is in the bread. That is why the parable says the leaven is "hidden" in the meal.

Again, no new believer can avoid this happening to them.

Until Christ comes to a believer a second time, it is not possible for them to accept what I have presented. It requires spiritual vision. When a person's spiritual blindness is healed, it is an amazing thing to witness because a whole new way of seeing Christ comes to them. I'm sure you will experience it someday because God's Word says you will.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, I wager you've been working on this strange brew of yours for a while. You have not the foggiest idea of what you have created here with your warped view and blatant misuse of scripture. And to think that the cycles of seasonal rains for planting seeds and growing them to maturity is embedded or hidden in many places of the OT for conversion and salvation is ridiculous, and dangerous.

"The meanings you assigned above are not the spiritual understandings that the Elect see. Your understanding is carnal. " Are you kidding me! You tell me you do not know what carnality, spirituality and who are the elected believers.

How does one become the elect Joe, with the rains of Christ...so laughable,

And I thought I may be the only one from another planet.

A

Dear A _____,

Until a believer has been given the Latter Rain and has their spiritual blindness healed, it is not possible for them to understand the teachings of Christ. If it were possible, then man's "works" would have some value in a person's salvation - but they don't.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Enough of your utter nonsense. You are an imposter who I suspect is not a genuine believer. Someone who has snuck in amongst the sheep as another vicious wolf, a false teacher. Your work here serves evil not good. There is nothing holy about it. YOU will be dealt with accordingly by God in due time. You will not last here for too long, I also suspect.

Spiritual blindness is a state of being where YOU are unable to see Christ and God, and who

does not believe his word. You reject God, Jesus Christ, and His Word, as you trample and distort his precious word.

The lack of “latter rain,” linked to a state of nonspiritual or carnal blindness is YOU.

I have constant 'rain,' within my heart, a manifestation of God's presence and power in my life. Your heart on the other hand is an arid, parched, a dry desert hardened heart. You need a changed heart.

Again, Scripture can be understood through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within every believer (John 14:26, 16:13). You are not a believer, as you reject the word. The Holy Spirit helps believers to understand the scriptures and apply them to their lives (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).

In fact, many believers have understood and applied scripture without experiencing this constant rain as I or other believers receive, and NOT just a period of 'latter rain.' Again, you reject this truth and you are far from God.

Go preach your trash and your 'secret rains-levels of truth foundation' doctrine BS on another site. You are not welcome here.

There is already a 'levels of walk' false doctrine preached here on this site. As you I suspect are of the same cloth and might know this individual?

Now get lost! I mean it bud!

A _____

Dear A _____,

With your comments, you are fulfilling Christ's words:

Mat 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

If you were truly following Christ, you would not have said the things you did to me.

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

And like the Jews did with Paul when they were pricked by the truth of Christ, you want to cast me out of the synagogue (forum).

I forgive you for your comments because I have been in that place before and because I know

you have said them in ignorance.

This will be my last post to you.

Joe

Another member applied to some of my posts on this same thread:

Dear FaithWillDo,

Love what you shared. Something that has stood out to me is “and the slain of the Lord shall be many.”

is it appropriate to say that it’s holy and good “the slain of the Lord will be many”?

Romans 7:10-12 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. [11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. [12] Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Romans 7:13

Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

V_____

Dear V_____,

It's good to hear from you again.

You asked:

Is it appropriate to say that it’s holy and good “the slain of the Lord will be many”?

Yes, it is holy and good.

The scripture you quoted from Romans does not apply to the verse I quoted:

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.

In Romans, Paul is talking about the death that comes to all mankind because of our sin (violation of God's Law). The verse in Isaiah is talking about the death that comes to the child of the Devil (all mankind) during the conversion process.

Conversion begins for an Elect believer when they receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit (what the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost). With the Latter Rain, the person is "born again" and is spiritually gathered to heaven (not literally). Now the person is ready for judgment. During that judgment, the person's carnality will be destroyed. It is destroyed (slain) by "fire" and by the "Sword". The believer's carnality is symbolized by Mystery Babylon the Great Harlot. Her destruction is shown in Revelation chapter 18.

The Great Harlot is the woman who bears the penalty of sin and is who Eve "typed":

1Tim 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Adam is a type for the carnal mind (head). Since the man (mind) wants to please the woman (carnal nature), the man does what pleases the woman.

Now back to the verse in Isaiah; it says that the Lord will plead with "all flesh". This is all mankind. In other words, all mankind will be slain by the Lord with fire (judgment) and with His Sword (God's Word). This death will complete a person's conversion into a child of God. The child of the Devil will be slain.

And since all mankind will be judged by Christ, all mankind will be saved.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 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, to be testified in due time.

This is good and holy.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

In Romans, Paul is talking about the death that comes to all mankind because of our sin (violation of God's Law).

I'll go with it doesn't relate. But then that only confuses me. Paul to me is speaking personally of his own conversation (I thought) when death came to "the child of the devil" ...his carnality ...during the (his) conversation process. Or that is what I read.

FaithWillDo said:

Now the person is ready for judgment. During that judgment, the person's carnality will be destroyed. It is destroyed (slain) by "fire" and by the "Sword".

Where then Paul speaks of the Law came and was good for had the Law not come, then he would not have known sin. (In him) But the Law was made manifest so “sin became exceedingly sinful” ...I read it as a personal testimony. So now I’m confused that Paul isn’t talking about his own seeing who is the destroyer of the body of Christ, saying “you know how I was a waster” are you saying Paul wasn’t ‘*ready for judgment. During that judgment, the person's carnality will be destroyed. It is destroyed (slain) by "fire" and by the "Sword"*’ Because again I get confused at when Paul says he lost all things ...all things destroyed...personally I think Paul fits “a man’s work burned (tested)by fire who suffered loss (of all things): YET saved By fire.

1Cor 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss (I suffered the loss of all things for Christs sake): but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

V _____

Dear V _____,

You said,

Paul to me is speaking personally of his own conversation (conversion) (I thought) when death came to “the child of the devil” ...his carnality ...during the (his) conversation process. Or that is what I read.

Here is the scripture again:

Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. 12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. 13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Paul is not talking about his conversion. Paul is talking about his spiritual death that came about from violating the Law of God (when it slew him).

When the Law first comes to a person, it will slay them because it comes to them while they are carnal (**spiritually marred, Jer 18:4**) and subject to vanity (**Rom 8:20**). In this spiritual condition, they can only try to keep the Law outwardly (which cannot be done).

Paul then says that the commandment is holy and just and good. So what is the solution to this problem? The solution is for the Law to be written in our hearts so that we are changed from within. Only in that way can a person not violate the Law. This is the purpose for conversion.

Also, Paul is not speaking about his own present spiritual condition. Paul is already converted and the Law has already been written in his heart. Paul has already been born again and the Law

can no longer slay him.

Also, from your comments above, it is sin that makes us into a child of the devil. The child of the devil is the one who is spiritually dead. That spiritual death is what Paul is referring to when he said the law slew him. All mankind has been spiritually slayed because all mankind has violated the Law.

That is why Christ said:

John 3:18 “He (the child of God/a converted believer) who believes in Him is not condemned; but he (all mankind who has sinned) who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Since all mankind has been "condemned already" by the Law, mankind is spiritually dead (slayed as Paul said). After a person's body dies, they will be forever "perished". Because this fate is what awaits all mankind, the Father sent Christ into the world to be our Savior:

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

To accomplish the mission of saving mankind, Christ began His work in the flesh under the Old Covenant of Law. When He went to the cross, He earned the keys to death & hell by His death. With those keys, Christ now has the power to resurrect all mankind from the grave after their body dies. In this way, Christ accomplished giving all mankind "life" as stated in the verse below:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Since Christ's physical work at the cross gave all mankind life, Christ is now doing His spiritual work under a new covenant in order to give mankind the more abundant life that He also came to do. Under the New Covenant, Christ will come to every person who has ever lived and change them from within. This is His spiritual work of conversion. From Christ's spiritual work, a new child of God will be born and a child of the Devil will be destroyed. In this way, the Law is satisfied by the death of the child of the Devil who was "condemned already" by the Law. And by the birth of the new child of God, Christ's goal of giving mankind "life" and a "more abundant life" is also satisfied.

You said:

Because again I get confused at when Paul says he lost all things ...all things destroyed...personally I think Paul fits “a man’s work burned (tested) by fire who suffered loss (of all things): YET saved By fire.

1Cor 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss (I suffered the loss of all things for Christs sake): but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Here is the scripture:

Phi 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

Read the verses just prior to this verse 8 and you will see the "things" that Paul says he lost.

Paul lost his standing in the Jewish Nation as a Pharisee, he lost is "confidence in the flesh" and he lost his belief that the Law (trying to follow it by the flesh) could make him "blameless". In other words, Paul gave up the person he used to be in order to "gain Christ". Paul gave up all these things because he was converted and became a new creation in Christ. He really didn't have a choice in the matter and that is why Paul says that he is a "bondservant of Jesus Christ:

Rom 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

All the Elect will become bondservants of Jesus Christ after they are converted. Why? Because Christ will cause them to "will and do of His good pleasure":

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

As for 1Cor 3:15, here is the full teaching:

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. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Upon the bodily resurrection from the grave, all mankind will be separated as sheep (the converted Elect) from goats (everyone else).

The sheep, since they have been converted, their work (**works that Christ did through them**) will abide because those works were built upon the foundation of Christ. Their reward is

having life as a child of God during the final age and the honor of reigning with Christ during that age. Their purpose in reigning with Christ is to help bring in the full harvest of mankind into the Kingdom of Heaven.

As for the goats whose work (**their own works which are not built upon the foundation of Christ**) "shall be burned", they will be cast into the Lake of Fire for judgment by the Law. The penalty of the Law for their sin which remains is death.

This verse below applies to their time of judgment in the Lake of Fire:

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

When Christ judges the goats by the Law in the Lake of Fire, He will NOT omit "justice, mercy, and faith". Before the goats perish, Christ will have mercy upon them and give them the Early Rain of the Spirit which will give them faith. With this faith, the pathway for Christ to "come again" will be made straight. When He comes, Christ will pour out the Latter Rain and convert them. The new child of God will be gathered up to heaven but the goat (the child of the Devil) will remain in the Lake of Fire for destruction (this satisfies justice). In the end, the goats will be saved, "yet so as by fire".

Joel chapter 2:1-27 teaches this same truth of how the goats in the Lake of Fire are saved.

I hope this helps,

Joe

Dear FaithWilldo,

FaithWillDo said:

Paul is not talking about his conversion. Paul is talking about his spiritual death that came about from violating the Law of God (when it slew him).

See...makes no sense to me. Here Paul is talking about his spiritual death that came from violating the Law of God. If I shared with someone, talking to them about my spiritual death that came...then at the same time I wasn't speaking of my "present spiritual condition"...then, to me there has been a change or transformation or "conversion" that took place. Where one moves from speaking of death to "yet that is not the present condition.

because you said it yourself "Paul is already converted and the Law has already been written in his heart." When someone speaks of when they were once dead (slain) and then no longer dead (reconciled unto God) ...to me they are sharing their conversion. I would ask them "you speak of

when your death and that is not your present condition... tell me what changed? How do you live?"

FaithWillDo said:

Also, Paul is not speaking about his own present spiritual condition. Paul is already converted and the Law has already been written in his heart. Paul has already been born again and the Law can no longer slay him.

"The law can no longer slay him"

My understanding is it says that "sin" slayed him, but it was by the Law which came that made manifest "sin" had deceived him ...maybe sin no longer can deceive him? Considering John 11:9-10 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? **If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble**, because he sees the light of this world. [10] But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

I think this is what marks is talking about. It's not something to continue to disagree over. I do agree with some of what you share and it makes sense to me. It's helpful. But if I ask you about it further it's going to tie me in knots. I'd rather not and just keep reading without having ten thousand voices in my head.

V _____,

Dear V _____,

The only thing I can add is for you to read the last few verses of Romans chapter 7 and the first several verses of chapter 8. In those verses is where Paul talks about the solution to mankind's sin and death problem that he explained in most of chapter 7. The solution is Jesus Christ and conversion.

Here are the key portions:

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 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.

Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (this is conversion). 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (this is where Paul is spiritually since he is converted).

And yes, I misspoke when I said the Law slayed Paul. As you said, it is sin that slayed Paul.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I'm not disagreeing Paul was converted and no longer walked after the things of the flesh but walked after the things of the Spirit. I'm not disagreeing this is where Paul is 'to be spiritually minded is life and peace.' I only became confused over where he spoke of the Law coming and sin was made manifest, and he died because of sin. To me, he said this was not evil but good because sin was revealed, or that man of sin was revealed (Imo) when the Law came, to reveal he who works iniquity. Paul admits to being a waster and a destroyer. To me sin has to be revealed (or seen) before it is destroyed, otherwise one remains in denial. That part really confused me. Especially with what you posted back. I'm going to let it go for now because the more I think on it, the more confused I become. Maybe you are right and I'm just getting it all twisted or taking what you commented the wrong way. I'll revisit it later.

V _____

Dear FaithWillDo,

Also, while it's fresh on my mind, this is what **I think** you are saying is the difference between Romans and Isaiah:

In Romans, Paul talks about death to all mankind because of sin.

Isaiah talks about the death of the child of the devil when mankind is converted?

Do you mean there is a huge difference between the death of mankind because of sin (going into bondage), and the death of the child of the devil when man is reconciled (coming out of bondage)?

V _____

Dear V _____,

You said:

To me sin has to be revealed (or seen) before it is destroyed, otherwise one remains in denial. That part really confused me.

I completely agree.

Christ does reveal our sin to us before He converts us. That is what happens when a believer is given the Latter Rain and has their spiritual blindness healed. At that time, the man of sin will be revealed (**2Thes 2:8**) and the believer will see the Abomination of Desolation (**Mat 24:15**) that had previously happened to them. After the believer sees that both of these revelations apply to themselves, judgment will come to destroy who they became under the influence of Satan. This occurs when Christ is taking the believer through the conversion process.

What Paul was teaching early in Romans 7 was different though.

Maybe this is what is confusing you: When a person receives the Early Rain, the Law comes to them and they see their sinfulness and need for Christ. This sinfulness is what Paul was describing in Romans chapter 7 and he ends his comments by showing that the solution to our sinfulness is Christ and conversion. That is why Paul made this statement to the Galatians:

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Paul's message above is the same basic message that he was teaching to the Romans.

Now for what may be the cause of your confusion. After a believer receives the Early Rain and sees their sinfulness as defined by the Law, Christ takes the new believer to a new & deeper level of sinfulness. Because the new believer remains spiritually blind after receiving the Early Rain, "something worse" will happen to them:

John 5:13 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

This scripture above comes from the healing of the infirmed man who was laying beside the Pool of Bethesda. That story is a "type" that teaches the pathway to salvation that the Elect will travel. When Christ heals the blind man at the pool, it represents the man receiving salvation when he receives the Early Rain of the Spirit. The infirmed man is made whole (saved). Later, Christ finds the same man in the temple and tells him to "sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee". Well, the worse thing does come to the man very quickly. Like Judas, the spirit of anti-Christ enters the man (not shown in the story) and he leaves the temple and reports Jesus to the Jews. The man reports that it was Jesus who healed him on the Sabbath Day. And like with Judas, the Jews then sought to kill Jesus.

John 5:15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

The man who Jesus made whole (saved) betrayed Christ and became a man of sin, a son of perdition. This is when the healed man fell from grace and lost his salvation. In other words, the healed man became "worse than the first". What the healed man experienced is explained by Christ below:

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 taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be

also unto this wicked generation.

No one can avoid becoming "worse than the first" because it is God's "will" for it to happen. After the spirit of anti-Christ enters the believer, they will experience Satan's "Day of Evil" when he rules them from within. The Day of Evil is in contrast to the "Day of the Lord" when Christ will rule the believer from within by the Holy Spirit.

Christ wants mankind to fully experience evil and then expose that evil to us before He converts us into a child of God.

Christ teaches this truth here:

Mat 24:14 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. 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:

The scripture above has its message concealed by Christ's spiritual language. The phrase "this gospel of the kingdom" is referring to Satan's "another gospel" which mixes man's works with faith. When Christ says that this false gospel has been "preached in all the world", He is meaning that it has been fully taught to the believer. They are the world. The "nations" are the strongholds of the believers thoughts and beliefs who have accepted this false gospel.

So what Christ is actually teaching in Mat 24:14 is that the "end" (conversion) will not come to the believer until after the believer has been completely made "worse than the first" and has thoroughly experienced their Day of Evil. When an Elect believer gets to this high spiritual state of wickedness, they are then ready for Christ to come and convert them.

When Christ comes, He will give them the Latter Rain which will heal their spiritual blindness. After their blindness is healed, they will see their worsened state of wickedness (v. 15, the Abomination of Desolation). They will then be ready to be judged (v. 16, flee to the mountains like Lot) and be converted.

Does this help remove your confusion?

Joe

I sent this response above before I saw her second post to me where she was starting to understand. I responded to her second post with this:

Dear V _____,

You are getting very close to what I have been trying to show you.

I just made another post (which should be above this one) that explains in more detail what you just stated in this post. I think you are just about there on your understanding!

Joe

V _____ never responded.