

A DISCUSSION ON “THE GOSPELS” MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN, REGARDING WHETHER THEY ARE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS.

This discussion will be on, what should have been the Name given to the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Were they written during the time while the OLD TESTAMENT was in force, or while the NEW TESTAMENT is in force? It sure makes a lot of difference in the meaning of these Books, if we can answer this question.

Something, I believe will really help us to understand that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written to the Israelites, during the time, when the “Old Testament Law” was still in force. This information is found in Jeremiah 3:6-20.

Jeremiah 3:6, *“The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, has thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? She is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.”*

Verse 7, *“And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.”*

Verse 8, *“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.”*

Verse 9, *“And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.”*

Verse 10, *“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord.”*

Verse 11, *“And the Lord said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.”*

Verse 12, *“Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will*

not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever."

Verse 13, *"Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and has scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord."*

Verse 14, *"Turn O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion;"*

Verse 15, *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

Verse 16, *"And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more."*

Verse 17, *"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart."*

Verse 18, *"In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers."*

Verse 19, *"But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? And I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me."*

Verse 20, *"Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord."*

Then we read in Jeremiah 4:4, *"Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my fury come forth like*

fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.”

Question - What are some things that we have learned from this reading that should help us to see that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the prophecies in the Old Testament made by God to Jeremiah?

- Answer -**
- 1. This prophecy was made only, to the Israelites.**
 - 2. During the time of this prophecy God had divorced Israel.**
 - 3. They had committed adultery against God, by worshipping idols, that the other nations around them were worshipping. idols of stones and idols of animals made by men’s hands.**
 - 4. They were being unfaithful to God, and God calls it adultery, and He also calls it backsliding.**
 - 5. God tells the Israelites that He is a merciful God.**
 - 6. God also tells the Israelites, that if they don’t confess their sins and turn back to him, that He is also a God of anger and fury.**
 - 7. God also tells the Israelites, I am married to you, and you have departed from me.**
 - 8. There is a time coming when the house of Judah and the house of Israel will come together in Jerusalem.**
 - 9. And at that time, circumcision will not be of the flesh, it will be, the removal of the foreskin from their heart.**
 - 10. And in those days, saith the Lord, they shall no more say the “Ark of the Covenant”, neither shall it come to mind, neither shall they remember it, neither shall they visit it, neither shall that be done any more.**

There were over 400 years from the time the last Book was written in the Old Testament, till the time of the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Old Testament was in force during that period of time, and it remained in effect until the death of Jesus.

Question - In what city, do all of these four writers begin their writings?

Answer - In Jerusalem, when the house of Israel and the house of Judah gather together there.

The name of the city of Jerusalem is in their writings many, many times. God is fulfilling the prophecy that He made to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 3:6-25. In the beginning of this discussion, I said that the contents of these writings, would tell us what period of time they were written in.

Lets read some of these contents. In Matthew 8:4, we read what Jesus said to a man that He had just healed, that had leprosy.

Matthew 8:4, *“And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”*

Notice: Jesus says that this event happened while the “Law of Moses” was still in force.

Luke 2:21, *“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, His name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”*

Verse 22, *“And when the days of her (Mary’s) purification according to the “Law of Moses” were accomplished, they brought Him (Jesus) to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord.”*

Again we learn from these two Verses, that the words were written while the “Law of Moses” was still in force.

Matthew 16:21, *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”*

Here again we have a Verse saying that Jesus had not died at this time. So we know that Jesus lived and died under the “Law of Moses”.

Galatians 4:4, *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under “The Law.”*

Verse 5, *“To redeem them that were under “The Law”, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*

Matthew 27:51, When Jesus died, *“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks*

rent.”

This Verse also shows us that the worship of the temple was done away with after Jesus' death. I hope we can all see that.

Believing that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is part of the New Testament, is a major problem to a lot of religious people, and we need to be ready to show people that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, should have been listed right after the Book of Malachi.

We have a new word introduced to us in Matthew 4:23.

Matthew 4:23, “*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching “The Gospel” of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*”

Mark 1:1, “*The beginning of “The Gospel” of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*”

Luke 4:18, Jesus said, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach “The Gospel.”*”

John does not use the word “Gospel” in his book.

Question - What does this word “Gospel” mean?

Answer - In Strong's Exhaustive Greek word study, the word “Gospel”, only has one meaning, and that is “GOOD NEWS”.

Question - Where was Jesus preaching this Good News at?

Answer - Matthew 4:23, “*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their (Jews) synagogues, and preaching “The Gospel” of the kingdom.*”

Matthew 15:24, Jesus says, “*I am not sent but unto “the lost sheep” of the house of Israel.*”

Question - Why is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John so important to it's readers today?

Answer - These Four Books shows us the depth of God's love for His children. The only family that God had upon this Earth was the Israelites. And during these times, the Israelites were still divorced from God, because of their unfaithfulness. So now God

is going to reveal unto them “The Gospel” of Jesus Christ.

Question - What is the Good News that Jesus brings to them?

Answer - Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

So the Good News is, I am now going to give you the opportunity to obey My Words, and be saved. There could not have ever been any better news than this, to these Israelites.

Question - What “Law” is in force during these times when “The Gospel” is being preached to the Israelites? The Old Testament or the New Testament?

Answer - The Old Testament was in force until the death of Jesus. Hebrews 9:16-17.

Hebrews 9:16, “*For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.*”

Verse 17, “*For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*”

Question - Could this Good News, save these lost Israelites from their past sins Eternally before Jesus died?

Answer - NO, it could not. Hebrews 9:13, “*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh.*”

Verse 13 - is saying, that the blood of bulls and goats and the sprinkling of the ashes from a heifer COULD ONLY PURIFY THE FLESH. That means IT COULD NOT, PURIFY THE SOUL OF MAN.

Verse 14, “*How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*”

Question - What does this Verse tell us about what period of time did Jesus live and die in? Under the Old Law or the New Law?

Answer - This Verse tells us He had to live during the time of the Old Testament, so He could keep it perfectly, and become the ONLY

PERFECT MAN who ever lived, and died under “The Law” and never sinned. In doing this He became the **ONLY PERFECT SACRIFICE**, for the sins of the world.

Question - What period of time did these four men write these four Gospels? During the time of the Old Testament or the New Testament?

Answer - The answer is very clear isn't it? During the time of the Old Testament.

Someone will say, I don't see where it is such a big deal to know which time we label these writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Whether under the Old Testament, or the New Testament.

If we are Truth seekers, it makes a lot of difference. **FOR EXAMPLE:** There are a lot of Believers today who believe that every word in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, applies to every person living in the world today.

Just last week one of my neighbors came over to our house very disturbed about what a T.V. preacher had said. He was listening to a Question and Answer program. One of the questions was, where in the New Testament does it tell the Christian to give 10% of their income to the Lord?

The T.V. preacher turns his Bible to one of these Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and reads a Verse which was teaching on the need to tithe.

Question - What's wrong with that?

Answer - Giving 10% under the Old Testament was called tithing. It was a commandment of God, given **ONLY** to the Israelites. **PLEASE NOTICE**, after the death of Jesus, the New Testament went into effect.

Question - How do we know that is a true statement?

Answer - Hebrews 9:16, *“For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.”*

Verse 17, *“For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”*

Question - Was the answer that the T.V. preacher gave to the question, a true answer?

Answer - ABSOLUTELY NOT. What is the New Testament answer?

2 Corinthians 9:7, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

1 Corinthians 16:2, “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

We must notice, in the New Testament, this guideline for giving is for the Jews, and the Gentiles. I hope we can all easily see that we must know how to RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word of God. We must be a Truth Seeker. If we are a Truth Seeker, we will practice what 2 Timothy 2:15 says.

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed RIGHTLY DIVIDING the Word of Truth.”

See what a big difference it can make if we know what period of time that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written in. We must let the contents of these Books dictate the time period in which they were written in, whether it was during the time of the Old Testament, or the New Testament. It is of the utmost importance for us to do this.

There is another important Verse that we must give our attention to on the subject of, who these Four Gospel were written to. Lets read Matthew 10:5-6.

Matthew 10:5, “These twelve (Apostles) Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, GO NOT into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans ENTER YE NOT.”

Verse 6, “BUT GO rather to the “lost sheep” of the house of Israel.”

We must notice how this fits perfectly with the prophecy of Jeremiah which we have already read.

We need to say again, that it is so important that we understand, that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written after the death of Jesus. We read in John 17:3-4.

John 17:3, “And this is Life Eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent.”

Verse 4, “I have glorified Thee on the Earth: I have finished the work

which Thou gavest me to do.”

And then we read Jesus dying words in John 19:30. *“IT IS FINISHED: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.”*

Question - What did Jesus mean, when He told His Father that, “IT IS FINISHED”?

Answer - He means the Old Testament is fulfilled, it is abolished, it has been done away with.

So when we read from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John today, we must remember that these Books were written while the Old Testament was still in force, and it was primarily written to the Israelites ONLY.

Question - When we are reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, how can we tell, which Scriptures pertains to us today, and which Scriptures pertains to the Israelites ONLY?

Answer - All Scriptures that pertain to Christians today, will also be recorded in the New Testament. All Scriptures that are written to the Israelites ONLY, will not be recorded in the New Testament for all people to live by.

This requires a lot of study and harmonizing of the Scriptures. But those who are Truth Seekers will have no problem in spending the time studying to acquire this knowledge about Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

It is very simple to see when the Old Testament ended, and the New Testament begins.

1. John the Baptist, preached to the Israelites in Matthew 3:1-5.
2. Jesus preached, to the Israelites in Matthew 4:23-25.
3. The 12 Apostles, preached to the Israelites in Matthew 10:6.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all contain accounts of preaching to the Israelites by these men.

Now lets notice, WHO the 12 Apostles message was to in the 2nd Chapter of the Book of Acts.

Acts 2:39, “For the promise is unto You.”

Question - WHO is the “You”, that the Apostle Peter is preaching to here?

Answer - Acts 2:36, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

So we can know, that “The You” that Peter was preaching to was the house of Israel. But Peter’s message reached out further than just the Israelites. Now lets continue reading in Acts 2:39. “And to your children”, and to “all who are afar off”, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Question - WHO is the Apostle Peter referring to, when he says to “Those who are afar off”?

Answer - The Gentiles. Lets read it in Ephesians 2:11-13.

Ephesians 2:11, “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past “Gentiles in the flesh”, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands.”

Verse 12, “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”

Verse 13, “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

So now we know that those who were afar off, were the Gentiles.

Lets read Acts 13:45, “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.”

Verse 46, “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you (Israelites): but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of Everlasting Life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”

Question - What do we learn from these two Verses that the Apostle Paul has shared with us?

Answer - That it was necessary for the Israelites to have “The Gospel”

FIRST preached unto them, BEFORE, the rest of the world heard it.

So they got that opportunity, during the time of the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And then after Jesus died on the cross, and ascended back to Heaven, the Israelites were the FIRST ones to have “The Gospel” preached unto them.

This was God’s doings. He gave the Israelites the FIRST OPPORTUNITY to be the FIRST ones to be a member of God’s Spiritual family, which is THE CHURCH. Let’s remember tht the Israelites were God’s fleshly family here on this earth during the time of the Old Testament.

We have already read in Jeremiah where God had divorced them because of their unfaithfulness to Him. We also have read when Jesus came to preach “The Gospel” to them. They were still lost. So why wouldn’t God, preach this Saving Message to them FIRST?

We Have Now Entered Into The New Testament Period Of Time.

There is something else Noteworthy in the two Verse that we read in Acts 13:45-46, and that is, God chose that His 12 Apostles should wait about 10 years after the New Testament went into force, BEFORE He let the Apostles start preaching to the Gentiles.

Now back to our discussion. I was studying with a Seven Day Adventist a few weeks ago, and I had shared with him several Scriptures in the New Testament where it says that the “Ten Commandment Law” had been done away with, and abolished, and that he could not find one single time in the New Testament where the words “The Ten Commandments”, were ever mentioned.

He wrote me a letter showing me where he could not find the words “The Ten Commandments” written in the New Testament. But he did write, that he had found all Ten of the Commandments written in the New Testament, and guess where he found them. They were all found in the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

We have already read where all of these writings were written and preached to the Israelites ONLY. These were all written while the Old Testament was still in effect. This may not of ever happened if these writings had been labeled the Old Testament instead of being labeled under the New Testament.

I hope we are beginning to see just how important this subject is. We all need to give heed to RIGHTLY DIVIDING the Word of God, so we can be of

help to others who have not given enough time in studying their Bibles on this subject.

I would like to give another example that will help us to see why this study on this subject is so important. While I was working in the oilfield in northwest Oklahoma, I had the opportunity to talk to a Jew that I was working for. I was very interested in his view on "CIRCUMCISION". By him being a Jew this would be the man who could give me some good information on the subject of circumcision.

Here is what he told me. He said, All true Jews circumcised their son's on the eighth day after their birth just like the "Law of Moses" commanded. We read it in Leviticus 12:1-3.

Leviticus 12:1, *"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying."*

Verse 2, *"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a male child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean."*

Verse 3, *"And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised."*

He also told me, that a true Jew would not let their daughters marry any man, but a Jewish man, and if he was not circumcised there would be no marriage. He also said that Jesus was a Jew, and he was circumcised on the eighth day setting the example for all Jews to follow. We can read that in Luke 2:21.

Luke 2:21, *"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, His name was called JESUS."*

We can all see that this Verse was written under the label of the New Testament. We have already learned from the contents of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, that these Four Books were written while the Old Testament was still in force. I hope we are getting the Truth into our hearts on this very important subject.

Now lets read what the Apostle Paul says about "CIRCUMCISION" after the New Testament came into force.

Galatians 5:6, *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availed any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."*

Galatians 6:15, *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availed any thing,*

nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

This harmonizes perfectly with what Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 4:4.

Jeremiah 4:4, *“That when the house of Israel, and the house of Judah come together in Jerusalem, and at that time, circumcision of the flesh will no longer be in force, but circumcision will be removal of the foreskin of the heart.”*

Question - When did that take place? While the “Law of Moses” was in force, OR was it when the New Testament was in force?

Answer - Colossians 2:11, *“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.”*

Do we see what is done when we make Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, a part of the New Testament. We then have a contradiction in the Word of God, and that cannot be, because we read in Hebrews 6:18 where it says.

Hebrews 6:18, *“That it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie.”*

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear in Gal 5:11, (Which we all know is in the New Testament) which says, *“And I brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offense of the cross ceased.”*

Please notice this, if we will label Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as being written while the Old Testament is still in effect, we would have perfect harmony in the Old Testament, and the New Testament on this subject of “CIRCUMCISION”.

I want to bring another example from these Four Books, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, that are labeled the New Testament for our consideration. Please be patient and read all of these Verses that are given here, because they are so important to our study.

Matthew 5:31, *“It has been said, “WHOSOEVER SHALL PUT AWAY HIS WIFE, LET HIM GIVE HER A WRITING OF DIVORCEMENT.”*

Verse 32, *“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, (saving for the cause of fornication), causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced*

committeth adultery.”

Matthew 19:9, “*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”*

Mark 10: 11, “*And He saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.”*

Verse 12, “*And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”*

Luke 16:18, “*Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”*

I have already said this, but it needs to be said again. We have already read enough Scriptures from the contents of these Four Books, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to show beyond any shadow of doubt that these Four Books were written while the Old Testament was still in force, and these Four Books were written primarily to the Israelites ONLY.

We have also read where the Old Testament ended at the death of Jesus, which would make the New Testament actually begin with the Book of Acts. Now lets go to the real New Testament, and see if it harmonizes with what we have already studied. Lets read Romans 10:4.

Romans 10:4, “*For Christ is the end of “The Law” (of Moses) for righteousness to every one that believeth.”*

Colossians 2:14, “*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”*

Question - Now what does the New Testament have to say on this subject, that we have just read from the mouth of Jesus, which He preached to the Israelites ONLY, in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John while the Old Testament was still in force?

Answer - Lets keep in our memory what we have already learned from our study, that at Jesus’ death, the Old Testament came to an end. That would mean that the New Testament had its beginning in the first part of the Book of Acts.

Now that is not hard to understand if we harmonize Scriptures. Now lets turn

our Bibles to 1 Corinthians 7:27-28. We read where Paul is discussing the very same subject that we have just read in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage. Lets all read with an open mind.

1 Corinthians 7:27, *“Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.”*

Verse 28, *“But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned.”*

Question - Is there a problem in harmonizing what Paul says here while the New Testament is in force, and in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John while the Old Testament was in force?

Answer - YES, there is a real problem.

Question - What is the problem?

Answer - We have just read what Jesus says in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:27-28. These Verses are in direct contradiction against one another. We know this cannot be true. There are NO CONTRADICTIONS in the Bible.

Question - How can we harmonize these two completely different doctrines?

Answer - It is very simple. All that we have to do, is to recognize that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written to the Israelites ONLY, while they were under the “Law of Moses” (Old Testament), and that “Law” was abolished at the death of Jesus. The Apostle Paul’s writings were written after the New Testament came into force.

Isn’t God’s Word easy to understand when we RIGHTLY DIVIDE it and study it in the context in which it was written?

Question - Where did Paul receive his knowledge, to write 1 Corinthians 7:27-28 and all the rest of the Scriptures he wrote?

Answer - Galatians 1:11, *“But I certify you, brethren, that “The Gospel” which was preached of me is not after man.”*

Verse 12, *“For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Verse 17, “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

These Scriptures show plainly that Paul was inspired of God to write what Books he wrote in the New Testament, so that Christians today can know what Truth is and follow it, and not be led astray by uninspired men’s teachings. We need to let Roman’s 3:4 be our guide.

Roman’s 3:4, “LET GOD BE TRUE, But every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.”

I know there are a lot of religious people who read this, that are going to say, that is just your interpretation of the Scriptures.

Question - How can this be just my interpretation of Scriptures when I have not given any of my think so’s on anything that we have discussed? It has all been Book, Chapter and Verse from God’s Word that I have brought forth in this discussion. So, that would mean the people who are saying this, are really saying, that this is just Jesus and the Apostles interpretation, would it not?

In John 8:43 Jesus says, “Why do you not understand My speech? Even because ye cannot hear My Word.”

Jesus is saying here, that these PEOPLE REFUSE TO HEAR HIS WORD. Failing to understand that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written primarily to the Israelites ONLY, and was written while the Old Testament was still in force, will cause many thousands of Souls to be lost. The reason why, “IS” there are many preachers and teachers in the Church who believe that Jesus’ preaching in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, were to the Gentiles as well as the Israelites, which means that they too believe that these Four Books was rightly labeled New Testament.

These preachers and teachers who are teaching their doctrine to the Gentiles and the Israelites, that if they have been married and divorced, and have remarried WITHOUT what they call a Scriptural divorce, is lost, and before they can be saved, they must put away their present wife and repent of this sin.

Question - Is this what Paul preached in 1 Corinthians 7:27-28?

Answer - NO, it is not.

Notice, he did not mention any of the things that these preachers and teachers are teaching today. Lets again hear Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 7:28.

1 Corinthians 7:28, "***BUT AND IF THOU MARRY (Again). Now please listen carefully, THOU HAST NOT SINNED .***"

Paul's teaching is completely OPPOSITE to what we hear from many preachers today.

Question - Which one are we going to believe? GOD or man?

There are thousands of Believers today, who when they hear these preachers condemning them and their spouse to hell, they leave the Church, and NEVER return. How sad. All because we fail to understand that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is labeled "The New Testament."

Here is something that will help us to understand WHY the Old Testament speaks against Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage. This ACT is called ADULTERY. Adultery is sin. Under the "Old Testament Law" there was NO FORGIVENESS OF SIN. Lets read Hebrews 10:4.

Hebrews 10:4, "***For it is NOT POSSIBLE that the BLOOD OF BULLS and of GOATS should TAKE AWAY SINS.***"

Question - What about the New Testament, which was in force during the time of the Apostle Paul's writings in 1 Corinthians 7:27-28? Could people get forgiveness for the sin of adultery?

Answer - There are many Scriptures that are given, that will answer that question. Lets use 1 John 1:7-9.

1 John 1:7, "***But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.***"

Verse 8, "***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.***"

Verse 9, "***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***"

Need we say more on this subject? I think the Scriptures can stand alone

without any help from us.

There is another Truth that needs to be brought up while we are discussing this subject. **FACT** - There was **NO ONE**, who was Eternally saved during the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We read in John 3:3-5.

John 3:3, “Jesus answered and said unto him, (Nicodemus) Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **EXCEPT** a man be **BORN AGAIN**, he cannot **SEE** the Kingdom of God.”

Verse 4, “*Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he ENTER the SECOND TIME into his mother’s womb, and be born?*”

Verse 5, “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, EXCEPT a man be BORN OF WATER, and OF THE SPIRIT, he CANNOT ENTER into the Kingdom of God.*” (Which is the Church).

Now lets read John 7:38-39.

John 7:38, “*He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*”

Verse 39, “*But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the HOLY GHOST WAS NOT YET GIVEN; BECAUSE that JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED.*”

JESUS WAS GLORIFIED IN HIS DEATH.

The New Testament had its beginnings in the Book of Acts. We read for the first time when an obedient baptized Believer receives the Gift of the Holy Spirit. We read in Acts 2:38.

Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and Be Baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

Question - We have just read where there was **NO ONE SAVED** during the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Then **WHY** should it be called the New Testament?

There is another example that I would like to share with you, which I experienced last week.

We were studying with a man who is an Elder in the Apostolic church, and we were discussing baptism. He said he was baptized just like the New

Testament said in Matthew 3:6. This Verse is talking about John the Baptist's baptism.

Matthew 3:6, "*And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.*"
Question - What is wrong with John the Baptist's baptism?

1. John's Baptism COULD NOT SAVE ANYONE in and of itself.
2. John's Baptism REQUIRED THE CONFESSION of one's sins.
3. John's Baptism WAS NOT A BAPTISM of THE WATER, and THE SPIRIT.
4. John's Baptism WAS NOT A BAPTISM that gave the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
5. John's Baptism WAS NOT A BAPTISM that produced a NEW CREATURE
6. John's Baptism WAS NOT A BAPTISM that PUT you in to THE CHURCH that JESUS CHRIST built.

According to the New Testament which begins at the Book of Acts.

Question. Had this man done what Jesus , and the Apostles taught on this subject of Baptism?

Answer : No, he did not.

Question. What did Jesus baptism do, that John the Baptist,baptism did not do?

1. Jesus' blood had not been shed when Matthew 3:6 was written,because we read in Matthew 27:35, that Jesus had no died. The verse says, "*And they crucified Him, and parted His garments, casting lots.*"
2. In the New Testament we are NOT TOLD TO CONFESS OUR SINS, but we are TOLD TO CONFESS THAT WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 8:37, "*And Philip said, (To the Ethiopian eunuch) If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*"

Romans 10:9, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*"

Verse 10, "*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto Salvation.*"

3. John's baptism was with WATER ONLY.

Matthew 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 Ghost and with fire."*

New Testament Baptism was of WATER, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Acts 2:38.

Acts 2:38, *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and Be Baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost."*

4. The Holy Spirit was first given to the obedient Believers in Acts 2:38.

5. The New Testament Baptism produces a NEW CREATURE.

2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: OLD THINGS are passed away; behold ALL THINGS are become new."*

6. Jesus' Baptism puts us into His Body, which is His Church.

1 Corinthians 12:13, *"For by one Spirit are we all Baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."*

Colossians 1:18, *"And He is the Head of the body, THE CHURCH: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence."*

Once again, I would like to ask this question. Is the title New Testament a true statement for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? If Matthew 3:6, will save us then JESUS DIED IN VAIN. Read Galatians 2:21.

Galatians 2:21, Paul says, *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by "The Law", then Christ died in vain."*

Now I would like to ask everyone who reads this lesson. Do you believe that obedience to Matthew 3:6 will save people today?

If your answer is NO, then you believe just like the Bible teaches, and that is, Matthew 3:6, was written while the Old Testament was still in force.

Question - What should our response be to this Elder in the Apostolic church, who said, he has no doubts in his heart about his salvation, because he did exactly what the New Testament said. Should we just go on our way and not muddy up the water as some believers think we should do? OR should we try to show him that Matthew 3:6 was written while the Old Testament was still in force, and was written to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to prepare them for the coming of the Son of God as shown in Matthew 10:5-6?

Matthew 3:6, “And were baptized of him (John the Baptist) in Jordan, confessing their sins.”

Matthew 10:5, “These twelve (Apostles) Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, GO NOT into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans ENTER YE NOT.”

Verse 6, “BUT GO rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Something else to think about. If we were in this man’s place, what would we want done for us? “As Christians, we need to be ready to proclaim the Truth of God’s Word to others, no matter what other people may think about us.

There are two great commissions given by Jesus to the twelve apostles.

The First One was given to the twelve while Jesus was still living. We read it in Matt.12:5-6. In verse 5, Jesus commanded the twelve apostles to go not into the way of the Gentiles and into any city of the Samaritans, enter ye not. Verse 6,7, But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel , and preach the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The Second Commission was to the twelve Apostles, after Jesus’ death and resurrection , we read about it in Acts 1:8. Jesus tells his twelve Apostles, you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria (Gentiles) and unto the utter most part of the earth,Also Gentiles.

Question. What do we learn from these two examples?

1. The First commission was given to the Jews only.
2. The Second commission was preached to the Jews, and the Gentiles. This commission was fulfilled in Acts 2:38. This was the beginning of the New Testament Church.

In Christian Love,
Herb Trout