

Let us bow our heads; If we need to use the Recovery Procedure as found in 1 John 1:9, let us do so at this time that we might be in fellowship. (pause) Father, we thank you for the privilege and opportunity to study your word and for the freedom that you have provided for us here in Corpus Christi, Texas, U.S.A.; furthermore, we express our appreciation to God the Holy Spirit who will enlighten us regarding the message this morning. We as priests pray this through the person of our Lord Christ Jesus, our High Priest, Amen.

It appeared to many Christians that President elect-Trump would usher in the most Pro-Israeli Government in U. S. history. We possibly underestimated Satan as the greatest counter puncher ever. Where shall we begin! Well, did you know that Tucker Carlson is extremely anti-Semitic? Are you aware of Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University. This man is probably the most vocal anti-Semitic professor in the United States and a very clever person in skewing and distorting the issues. Of all people, Tucker Carlson chose this man to interview. This man called Netanyahu, a dark evil monster or something to that effect. Also, he accused the Israelis of committing genocide in the Middle East and many other things as well. What made this anti-Semitic interview even worst occurred when President elect-Trump posted it on his social media platform. To say the least, the Israelis were shocked. Then there is Candace Owens who unbeknown to me is also extremely anti-Semitic. Quoting her, “We are an occupied country” referring to the Jews living in the United States as the captors and the rest of the Americans as their prisoners.

## **2 Corinthians 3**

**3:1: Are we beginning to commend ourselves again** [Do Paul and his team need to commend themselves again through their teaching after all the teaching they have done]? **Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you** [in order to enter your congregation] **or from you?** [sarcasm: The legalists who have taken over the Corinthian Church consider themselves to be much superior to Paul and to the other pastors]

who have ministered to them. In their alleged superiority, it would be logical that Paul should seek a letter of recommendation from them before he should continue his ministry in the church at Corinth.].

Ἀρχόμεθα πάλιν ἑαυτοὺς συνιστάνειν; ἢ μὴ χρήζομεν ὥς τινες συστατικῶν ἐπιστολῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἢ ἐξ ὑμῶν;

Paul led them to the Lord and was their greatest teacher of the spiritual life. When Paul first came to Corinth, he came with a letter of recommendation so that he would be accepted in the city. Now, he is using that as a background. Do we need a new letter of recommendation since you have now accepted the false teaching of legalism from the Judaizers who entered without letters of recommendation.

### **Corinthian arrogant accusations against Paul:**

1. Paul did not maintain his dignity, but lost his dignity when he worked by making tents as per **2 Corinthians 11:7**, “**Or did I commit sin in humbling myself** [by making tents to support himself] **that you might be exalted** [advance spiritually], **because I preached the good news** [evangelization and Bible teaching] **of God to you without charge?** His critics implied that Paul should have allowed the Corinthian Church to provide for his needs. In their inconsistency, they also accused him of embezzling funds from the other churches. In fact, Paul had to work in Corinth since the Corinthians were too arrogant and too self-centered to understand spiritual giving.
2. Paul was boastful as per **2 Corinthians 10:8, 12, 13, 15**, “**For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. (12) We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves** [in the Corinthian

Church]. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. (13) We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field, God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you [The Lord made Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles which field is the entire Gentile world]. (15) Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others [These legalists are attempting to take credit for the spiritual growth brought about by Paul and his team]. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,”

3. Paul was not qualified to teach since he was not one of the original apostles as per **2 Corinthians 3:1**, “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? [They were obviously attacking his apostleship: Paul as the apostle to the Gentiles, came to Corinth with a letter of recommendation from the Jerusalem Council. Others, false teachers, the Judaizers have come in without letters of recommendation.]; **2 Corinthians 11:5**, “For I evaluate myself not to be inferior to the highest apostles in anything.” **2 Corinthians 12:11-12**, “I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you [not attacked], for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though I am nothing. (12) The things that mark an apostle: signs, wonders and miracles were done among you with great perseverance.”
4. Paul’s bodily presence was not impressive nor his speech (not a strong emotional speaker) as per **2 Corinthians 10:10**, “For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." 2

**Corinthians 11:6, “But even if I am unskilled in speech [let’s assume this to be true for the sake of argument], yet not in knowledge; but in every way we have made this perfectly clear to you [through Paul and his team’s knowledge of the spiritual life].”**

5. Paul was a coward and afraid to face them in person, **2 Corinthians 1:23, “Moreover, I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you [Paul would have confronted them and possibly caused an even greater reaction; rather God had Paul write 2 Corinthians that they might be more objective as Titus would teach it to them] that I did not return to Corinth [A large group of legalists in Corinth were calling Paul a coward because he didn’t come, and since he didn’t come, they alleged that he was afraid to face them].”**
6. Paul embezzled funds entrusted to him, **2 Corinthians 8:20-21, “Taking precaution so that no one will find fault with us in handling large sums of money being administered under our authority; (21) For we have regard for what is honorable [providing forethought for valuable things], not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men [Paul was very careful to handle the movement of large sums of money in an honorable and professional manner].”**
7. Paul was vacillating, **2 Corinthians 1:17, “When I planned this, did I do it lightly [when he didn’t arrive]? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner [no I don’t] so that in the same breath I say, "Yes, yes" and "No, no" [instability and great vacillation]?”**
8. Paul was deceitful, **2 Corinthians 12:16, 17, “Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I**

**caught you by trickery! (17) Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you?"**

**9. Paul was carnal, 2 Corinthians 10:2, "I beg you that when I come, I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people [a large group of believers who have become antagonistic toward Paul and his ministry] who think that we live [spiritually] by the standards of this world [They were saying that Paul was out of fellowship and therefore not functioning under the Two Power Options].**

**10. Paul was like a kitten when in their presence, but like a lion when on the other side of the Aegean Sea, 2 Corinthians 10:1, "By the humbleness and graciousness of Christ, I appeal to you: I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away!" 2 Corinthians 10:11, "Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present [Paul was tough fearless Benjamite]."**

**3:2: You yourselves are our letter [so Paul does not need a letter of recommendation to or from the Corinthians], written [in their souls] by our right lobes [Paul and his team-pastors taught the Corinthians the spiritual life from knowledge stored in their souls. Thus, they through their teaching transferred this knowledge to the souls of the Corinthians.], known [through observation] and read by all men [In other words, anyone who would come into contact with the Corinthian Christians could read this letter written in the souls of these Corinthians.].**

ἡ ἐπιστολὴ ἡμῶν ὑμεῖς ἐστε, ἐγγεγραμμένη ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν, γινωσκομένη καὶ ἀναγινωσκομένη ὑπὸ πάντων ἀνθρώπων·

Just as the Corinthians, so we are being observed by others around us and being in their observation they come to know something about us. Thus, our lives can be a good testimony or a bad one.

**3:3: Being revealed that you are a letter of** [related to] **Christ** [This letter has written on it, an explanation about Christ and the Proto-type spiritual life], **the result of our ministry** [they learned the spiritual life from Paul and his team], **written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God** [the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit through Paul and his team], **not on tablets of stone** [the Ten Commandments describe freedom and establishment, but they do not explain the spiritual life for Christians or anyone else] **but on the fleshly** [a reference to the human body which houses the soul] **tablets** [in contrast to the tablets of stone] **of your hearts** [The souls of the Corinthians are the location of the spiritual life as explained by Paul and his team.].

φανερούμενοι ὅτι ἐστὲ ἐπιστολὴ Χριστοῦ διακονηθεῖσα ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ἐγγεγραμμένη οὐ μέλανι ἀλλὰ πνεύματι θεοῦ ζῶντος, οὐκ ἐν πλαξὶν λιθίναις ἀλλ' ἐν πλαξὶν καρδίαις σαρκίνοις.

When Paul arrived, they were a blank piece of paper. Their souls had no understanding of the spiritual life. So, not only are the souls of the Corinthians a letter of recommendation regarding Paul's teaching which taught soteriology, Christology, the spiritual life etc.

**3:4: And such confidence** [in God and in his plan based upon knowledge], **we keep having through Christ** [through the Prototype Spiritual Life and His work on the Cross] **before** [toward, face to face with] **God** [the Father, great confidence in God the Father's plan].

Πεποίθησιν δὲ τοιαύτην ἔχομεν διὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ πρὸς τὸν θεόν.

**Confidence in the love of God and in one's love for God:**

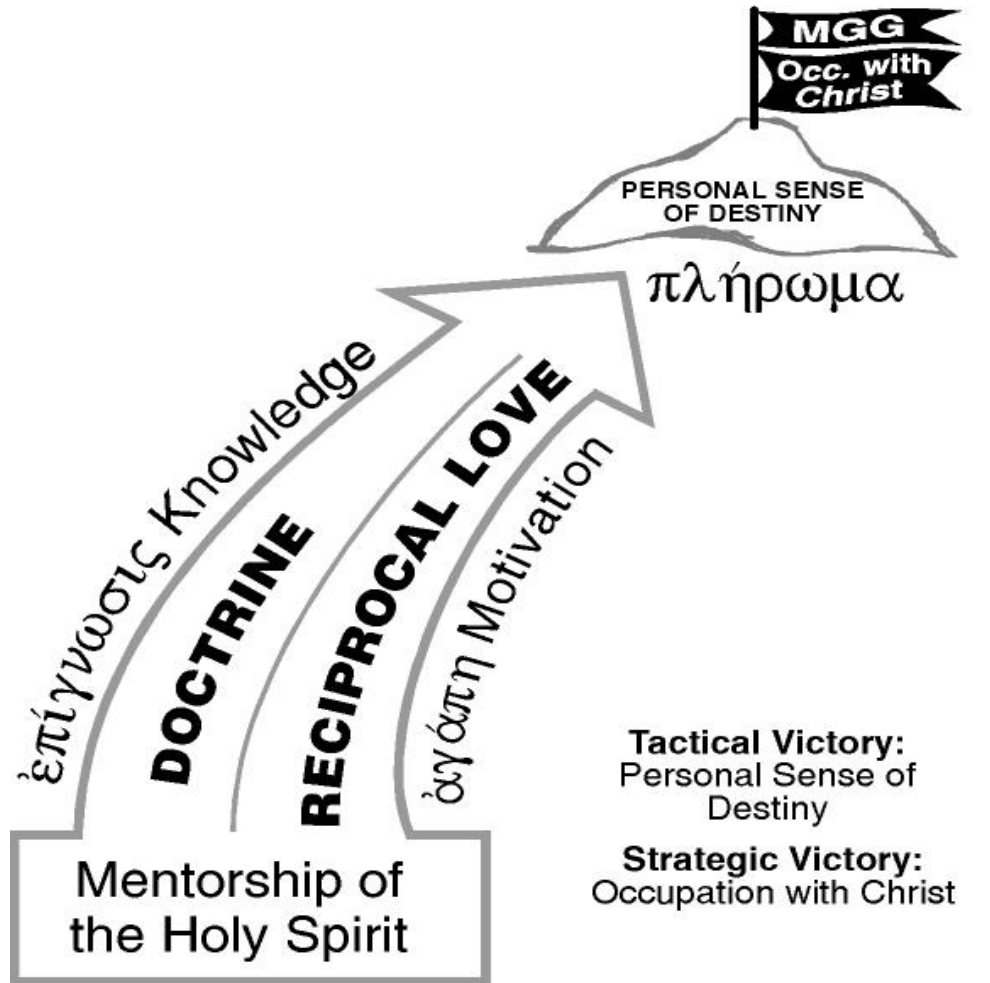
Confidence is always related to knowledge. No one has confidence when he is in a state of ignorance. No one has confidence in a person unless he knows that person very well. First comes knowledge, second comes confidence.

**Romans 5:5. And confidence [in God] does not disappoint, because the love for God [a love for God produces confidence in God] has been poured out [the Greek word *ekcheo*] in our hearts [our streams of consciousness] by the personal agency of the Holy Spirit who was given to us for our benefit [as a result of the teaching of the Holy Spirit, there is confidence].**

In this verse, confidence is based on our understanding of God's eternal love for us. As the believer learns about God's love and responds, he develops a love for God. In this way, he gradually gains a confidence in God and in God's plan.

As the believer advances in the spiritual life, he must advance with two columns. The first column is formed from his understanding of the principles and categories of doctrine found in Scripture. The second column is formed from his love (appreciation, respect, obedience, devotion) for God. There must be the simultaneous advance of two columns namely the doctrinal and love-columns for they support and protect each other. The doctrinal column is the basis for love and the love column is the motivation to learn more doctrine.

# SIMULTANEOUS ADVANCE TO THE HIGH GROUND



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The Christian must advance in his spiritual warfare with a two-column advance. One column is the doctrinal column formed and maintained via the daily perception of God's Word. The other column is formed through our knowledge, appreciation and love for the members of the Trinity and for the humanity of Christ.

In the final phase of one's personal sense of destiny, there remains two strategic objectives namely occupation with Christ and having passed Evidence Testing Maximum Glorification of God. At that point, the Christian will receive the fullness (the Greek word being pleroma) of



blessing from God. So, when one glorifies God to the maximum, he receives the Fullness of Blessing from God.

Some Christians learn many doctrines of Scripture and may even learn of God's love, but they never develop a love for God; they never walk by faith, appreciate God's grace, develop divine standards and values, or try to please God in their motivation, thinking, decisions and actions. These Christians will eventually give-up under the pressures of punishment or testing. Only love for God with emphasis on the primary components namely knowledge, integrity and the appreciation of grace and the functioning under it provides the necessary motivation to carry one through the difficult times of punishment or testing.

Other Christians appreciate their salvation and eternal security, the seeds of love, but they do not learn consistently from a prepared pastor. Thus, eventually their desire to love dissipates and is replaced by emotion or legalism. It takes two columns to advance spiritually. If the Christian attempts to advance with only one column, he will fail.

**3:5: Not that we are sufficient [qualified, competent] from ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our sufficiency [qualification] comes from God.**

οὐχ ὅτι ἀφί ἐαυτῶν ἱκανοί ἐσμεν λογίσασθαι τι ὡς ἐξ ἐαυτῶν, ἀλλί ἡ ἱκανότης ἡμῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ,

## **The Grace Plan of God:**

God's plan is based on grace, not some philosophical system of human works. Grace means freely given and undeserved. God does all the giving; we undeservedly reap all this giving. For example, in grace God provides for all believers the same spiritual I.Q. Human I.Q. plus the Filling of the Spirit equals spiritual I.Q. Any Christian who implies or states that he, the one with a high human I.Q. alone is able to learn the deep matters of God is in a state of arrogance and does not understand God's system of grace.

1 Corinthians 15:10a, “By the grace of God I am what I am.” When we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we became the recipients of the greatest possible endowment of grace, and grace pursues the advancing believer his entire life.

**2 Corinthians 13:14, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [the greatest acts of grace took at the incarnation and on the cross] and the love of God [the Father the author of reciprocal love] and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit [the enabling power of the Spirit].”**

**3:6: He has made us able [competent] ministers of a New Covenant, not of the letter [Mosaic Law] but of the Spirit; for the letter kills [the Law proves that we are spiritual dead and need a Savior], but the Spirit gives life [reveals the glory of God in us].**

ὃς καὶ ἰκάνωσεν ἡμᾶς διακόνους καινῆς διαθήκης, οὐ γράμματος ἀλλὰ πνεύματος· τὸ γὰρ γράμμα ἀποκτείνει, τὸ δὲ πνεῦμα ζωοποιεῖ.

## **The New Covenant to the Church:**

Introducing the New Covenant of the Church.

1. There is a contract from God to believers of the Church Age during the time the Jews are out under the fifth cycle of discipline.
2. God as party of the first part makes a gracious disposition in favor of party of the second part namely the Church, the Royal Family of God composed of Jewish and Gentile believers.
3. The New Covenant to the Church (the new contract) supersedes the Jewish contract namely the Mosaic Law without destroying the continuity of that spiritual heritage.

4. The New Contract [covenant] to the Church authorizes a new universal priesthood.

5. The New Covenant to the Church defines both its spiritual heritage and the client nation policy of the Pivot (a large group of mature believers of a Client-Nation) during the times of the Gentiles.

6. Every Jew and every Gentile who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ during the Church Age is in the royal family of God and subsequently shares the priesthood of the humanity of Christ, and as a priest is commanded to execute the spiritual life of the Church Age.

7. The New Covenant authorizes the election of the royal family of God during the Times of the Gentiles to replace the Mosaic Law given only to the Jews. God's people in the Church Age are all Jews and Gentiles who believe in Christ.

8. Distinction therefore must be made between the New Covenant to the Church which pertains to the dispensation of the Church and the New Covenant to Israel which pertains to the Millennial reign of Christ.

9. The New Covenant to the Church has a universal priesthood of believers while the New Covenant to Israel in the Millennium has a specialized priesthood in client nation Israel during the reign of Christ.

10. This distinction becomes one of the fundamental differences between Israel and the Church, and between the Age of Israel and the Dispensation of the Church. Client nation function of Israel was discontinued as of A.D. 70 but will be revived at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent; only Gentile Client nations will function from A.D. 70 to the Rapture. These Gentile Client Nations are to perpetuate through the advanced believers (the Pivot) the spiritual heritage which once belonged to Israel. (Of course, from the Rapture to the Tribulation, there will be no client nations)

**The Scripture for the new contract begins in the following verse:**

**Matthew 26:28**, “**For this** [cup: Jesus bearing the sins of the world] **represents** [the present tense: the perpetuation of the ritual] **My blood** [connecting the animal sacrifices to the saving work of Christ on the cross via propitiation, reconciliation and redemption] **of the *new* covenant, which is shed** [carrying out the analogy] **on behalf of the many** [those who appropriate the work of the cross by believing in Christ] **because of the forgiveness of sins** [the judgment of all the sins of mankind is the basis for the forgiveness of sins].”

The book of Hebrews was addressed to Jewish believers of the Church Age. It teaches about the future of their ancestors and progeny after the Church Age, but it also teaches that God has something far better for Jews who believe in Christ during the Church Age. This is why two covenants are mentioned in the book of Hebrews.

**Hebrews 7:22**, “**Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant** [the spiritual life as found in the New Testament epistles supersedes the Mosaic Law].” We know that the better covenant refers to the New Covenant to the Church as per **Luke 22:19-20**, “**And when He** [Jesus now instituting the Eucharist for the Church Age believers] **had taken *some* bread and had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, this represents my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. (20) And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten** [the Passover Meal] **saying, this cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant** [to the Church] **by My blood** [by his substitutionary spiritual death].”

**Hebrews 8:6-7**, “**But now He** [Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union] **has obtained a more excellent ministry by so much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted on the basis of better promises** [than in the Mosaic Law]. (7) **For if** [introducing a contrary to fact clause] **the First**

**Covenant [the Mosaic Law] had been faultless, but it wasn't, there would have been no occasion sought for a second."**

**Hebrews 8:13, "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He made the first [the Mosaic Law] obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear. [To be superseded by The New Covenant to the Church which is based on the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross during the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union.]"**

**Hebrews 9:14-16, "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit [the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit sustained Jesus on the cross] offered Himself without blemish [The humanity of Christ remained impeccable] to God [the Father], cleanse your conscience from dead works [false norms and standards of legalism removed as the believer advances spiritually] to serve the living God. (15) And for this reason, He is the mediator of a new covenant [to the Church superseding, setting aside as inferior, the Mosaic Law], in order that since a death [substitutionary spiritual death] has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant [the Mosaic Law], those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (16) For where a covenant is there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it [the substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus followed by his physical death]."**

**1 Corinthians 11:25. In the same manner, [He took] the cup also after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant [a new spiritual life for Church Age believers explained in the epistles] *signed in my blood* [a verbal symbol representing redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation]; keep on doing this as often as you drink in remembrance of me.**

**Hebrews 9:15-20.** And for this reason, he is Mediator of a new covenant [the New Covenant to the Church] in order that since a death [the substitutionary spiritual death] has taken place resulting in redemption from the transgressions which were under the first covenant [the ritual system and priesthood found in the Mosaic Law to Israel] so that those having been called [those who understand via Common Grace and respond to the gospel message] might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (16) For where a covenant exists, of necessity, death must be brought in of the one having made the covenant (spiritual death of Christ). (17) For a covenant is valid upon deaths; because it is not ever valid as long as the one having made the covenant lives. (18) From which fact (ratifying by blood) not even the first covenant has been inaugurated without blood. (19) For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the law, after he had taken the blood of young bulls and goats, and with water, and scarlet wool cloth, and hyssop; he sprinkled both the written scroll and all the people. (20) Saying, this is the blood of the covenant which the God has commanded pertaining to you.”

**Hebrews 10:29.** By how much [instrumental of measure: argument from the lesser (the punishment for rejecting the Mosaic law) to the greater (the punishment for rejecting the reality of the cross)] **severer punishment** [objective punishment based upon all the facts] **do you think he** [the unbeliever] **shall be deserving,** [gnomic future] **the one who has trampled underfoot** [treated with disdain: the constative aorist gathers together all the rejections of the unbeliever] **the Son of God, and has considered unclean** [common, ordinary] **the blood of the covenant** [the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the Cross] **by which he** [the unbeliever] **has been set apart** [all members of the human race have been earmarked or set apart by the doctrine of unlimited atonement], **and has insulted the**

**Spirit of Grace** [culminative aorist tense. They have constantly rejected Common Grace and by so doing have insulted God the Holy Spirit.]

**Hebrews 12:24. And to Jesus, the Mediator of the new contract** [the new covenant to the Church], **and to the blood of sprinkling** [to the Christian who is now in the Holy of Holies where this sprinkling took place] **which** [the efficacious blood of Christ produces the action] **communicates better things than Abel's sacrifice.**

**2 Corinthians 3:6: He has made us able** [competent] **ministers of a New Covenant--not of the letter** [Mosaic Law] **but of the Spirit; for the letter kills** [the Law proves that we are spiritually dead and need a Savior], **but the Spirit gives life.**

### **Definition of the New Covenant to the Church.**

1. In the study of the priesthood as found in the epistle of Hebrews, there are two new covenants: the New Covenant to Israel and the New Covenant to the Church. A covenant is a contract between two parties. Party of the first part is God. Party of the second part are certain categories of mankind.
2. In Biblical covenants (contracts), party of the first part (God) makes a favorable disposition to party of the second part (mankind). In the book of Hebrews, there is a New Covenant to the Jewish believers in the Millennium and a New Covenant to the Royal Family of the Church.
3. The New Covenant to the Church is for all Church Age believers. The New Covenant to Israel is made to all Jewish believers of the Millennium. In order to make a covenant to all believers, there must be a priesthood and a spiritual life related to that priesthood. The Jewish believers in the Millennium will take their priests from the line of Aaron and we have our royal priesthood based on the High Priesthood of Christ.

4. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant to the Church. The Greek word *mesites* has both a general meaning and a technical meaning. The general meaning refers to anyone such as an arbiter or umpire who arbitrates, one who gives advice. The technical meaning refers to Jesus Christ in hypostatic union as a mediator between God and fallen mankind.

**1 Timothy 2:3-6, “This is good and acceptable in the sight of our savior, God who [God the Son] desires all mankind to be saved and come to a metabolized knowledge of the truth [after salvation to master the spiritual life]. For God is one [in essence], and one [person of the Godhead] is a mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a redeemer [paid the ransom to free us from the slave market of sin] a substitute for all mankind, [resulting in] a statement brought out in testimony at the proper time [the unbeliever receives the gospel at the right time in his life].”**

A mediator is an intermediary between two parties to effect reconciliation and to provide special benefits to the ones (believers) being reconciled. Our Lord Jesus accomplished this by having reconciled us to God the Father by removing the barrier between God and man. The special benefits are found in the New Covenant to the Church which covenant includes our priesthood and the unique spiritual life of the Church Age.

The mediator must be equal with both parties in the mediation. To be equal with mankind, our Lord had to be equal with Adam before he sinned and coequal with the other members of the Trinity. Jesus Christ in hypostatic union and living the Prototype-spiritual Life has equivalency with both God and perfect man which equivalency qualified Him as the mediator between God and man. While our Lord was bearing our sins on the Cross, He was providing the work of reconciliation.

Jesus Christ had to be a mediator before He could be a savior. Our Lord became a mediator at the point of His incarnation at which point he was impeccable and remained so for thirty-three years. Though he was a



mediator (qualified to mediate between God and mankind), he did not mediate until the cross at which time he as a qualified mediator provided the work of reconciliation.

Our Lord as mediator and high priest: Our Lord as God the Son had the desire to provide the work of salvation for all mankind and in order to do this, he had to become a mediator and a high priest. So, our Lord made a decision to become true humanity that his deity might unite with it and in doing so become a mediator. Only as a mediator would Jesus Christ be qualified to reconcile mankind to God. To be an efficacious mediator in the reconciliation of man to God, Jesus Christ had to become true humanity and undiminished deity united in one person forever. He also was made a high priest by God the Father in eternity past so that the humanity of Christ might offer Himself as a sacrifice on the cross for all mankind. As a priest our Lord could offer Himself as a sacrifice. As a mediator He provided the work of reconciliation.

## 5. Summary.

a. We have better things than have ever existed in human history as per **Hebrews 8:6**, **“But now He [Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union] has obtained a more excellent ministry by so much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted on the basis of better promises [than in the Mosaic Law].”**

b. The New Covenant is defined as God’s gracious promises and provision for a new spiritual species, the Church Age believer. Remember that a mediator is an intermediator between two parties to effect reconciliation and to provide special benefits to the ones (believers) being reconciled.

c. The Mosaic Law was a covenant of shadows (building, priesthood, sacrifices) because the Mediator had not come in the flesh. Therefore, the function of the Mosaic Law in the Age of Israel was legitimate but not efficacious. The old covenant to Israel was rescinded when

Jesus Christ sat down in heaven as the High Priest of a New Covenant. Thus, Moses, not Jesus was the arbiter of the Mosaic Covenant. Jesus Christ could not function as mediator of this Covenant since He was not yet in hypostatic union. Jesus Christ first became a mediator at his birth but did not function in that capacity until the cross at which time He provided the work of reconciliation. Since the Mosaic Law was given to Israel in 1441 B.C., Moses functioned as the umpire, the arbiter of the Mosaic Covenant between God and the people of Israel.

d. A new covenant must exist based on historic reality, the historical reality of the Cross. The Mosaic Law didn't authorize any efficacious sacrifices, they simply pointed to the efficacious sacrifice. So, the efficacious sacrifice on the cross demands a new covenant. In fact, it demands two new covenants: one to the Church and one to Israel. The Mosaic Law was set aside. So, there must be a new covenant to Israel as well.

e. This new covenant to the Church is a spiritual legacy which authorizes the royal priesthood and its accompanying spiritual life. The new covenant applies only to those who are born again. Hence, the New Covenant is God's grace disposition to the royal family in time and eternity.

f. The New Covenant is the reality in contrast to the shadows of the Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law with its Levitical priesthood, sacrifices, rituals etc.

**The Lord will initiate a New Covenant with Israel starting at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34, "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the**

**hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant [the Mosaic Covenant] which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. (33) "But this is the covenant [contract] which I will make with the house of Israel after those days [after the elapse of the Church Age and the termination of the Tribulation], declares the Lord. 'I will put my law within them [in their souls], and on their stream of consciousness [describing the spiritual life of the New Covenant to Israel], I will write it, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And they shall not teach again each man his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the Lord; furthermore, I will forgive them their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more [The removal of the stigma on the Jew which is related to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Discipline]."**

The Old Covenant namely the Mosaic Law was given to the nation, Israel and was not given to the Gentiles and not given to the Church. When the Church Age came along, the Mosaic Law was rescinded and superseded by the New Covenant to the Church. A New Covenant had to be established because of the limitations of the Old Covenant. The New Covenant to the Church authorizes the royal family of God during the Church Age, sets up the modus operandi of the royal family, and sets up a universal priesthood among believers. The New Covenant to the Church rescinds and supersedes the Old Covenant to Israel. So, the Old Covenant to Israel, the Mosaic Law, has been rescinded and replaced with a better covenant namely The New Covenant to the Church. As a result of this, there also must be a New Covenant to Israel at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.

**Hebrews 7:18-19, "For on the one hand, there is a rescinding of the former covenant because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law brought nothing to completion), but on the other hand there is the bringing in of a better hope**

[the New Covenant to the Church] **through which we draw near to God.”**

The new covenant to Israel is eschatological and is not operational until the Second Advent of Christ. The New Covenant to Israel recognizes the fulfillment of the unconditional covenants to Israel namely the Abrahamic, Palestinian, and Davidic Covenants, and sets up a *modus operandi* for Israel in the Millennium. The New Covenant to Israel is a legacy for restored Israel during the millennial reign of Christ. The New Covenant to Israel emphasized the rulership of Jesus Christ on the one hand, but it also has a revival of the Levitical priesthood on the other hand.

Note: Unconditional covenants do not require an arbiter. On the other hand, conditional covenants require an arbiter (a mediator in the general sense), and since the Mosaic Law was conditional, Moses was made the umpire. Whereas the unconditional covenants such as the Abrahamic, Land and Davidic required neither an arbiter nor a mediator.

**3:7: Now, if the ministry that brought death** [the Ten Commandments which shows that we have an old sin nature and are spiritually dead] **which was engraved in letters on stone came with glory, and it did** [completing the translation of the First-Class Conditional Sentence] **so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory** [the glory of the Mosaic Law], **fading** [transitory] **though it was,**

Εἰ δὲ ἡ διακονία τοῦ θανάτου ἐν γράμμασιν ἐντετυπωμένη λίθοις ἐγενήθη ἐν δόξῃ, ὥστε μὴ δύνασθαι ἀτενίσαι τοὺς υἱοὺς Ἰσραὴλ εἰς τὸ πρόσωπον Μωϋσέως διὰ τὴν δόξαν τοῦ προσώπου αὐτοῦ τὴν καταργουμένην,

The fading glory of the Mosaic Law: Moses came down from the mountain after getting the Mosaic Law. At that time, he had a glory of glamour on his face that was so animated and so great that no Jew in the audience could look at him intently. He could only glimpse at that glory. As Moses would finish teaching the Mosaic Law, he would put a veil on

his face so that the Jews would not see the fading glory. It was a glory that was real, a glory that was there, but a glory that faded.

Today, we have the unfading glory of the Operational Type Spiritual Life. It is an unfading glory, a glory that belongs only to this dispensation. It belongs to every believer in Jesus Christ. The life of the believer in this dispensation is designed for unveiled glory. The believer in Christ learning Bible doctrine under the Filling of the Spirit can have an unveiled glory. As long as we live on this earth as a Church Age believer, there should be more glory than the day before, but that 'more glory' depends upon spiritual intake, upon how much Bible doctrine is learned today and tomorrow and the next day and the next. Bible doctrine is the key, the Filling of the Spirit is the key; both of them together are the unveiled glory.

**3:8: How** [going from the lesser to the greater] **will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?** [than the Mosaic Law: the increasing glory in the Church Age that is the more you grow spiritually, the more is your glory]

πῶς οὐχὶ μᾶλλον ἡ διακονία τοῦ πνεύματος ἔσται ἐν δόξῃ;

**3:9: If the ministry** [of the Mosaic Law] **that brought condemnation was glorious, and it was, how much more glorious is the ministry** [of the Holy Spirit teaching the New Testament epistles] **that brings righteousness** [experiential righteousness which fulfills the Law]!

εἰ γὰρ ἡ διακονία τῆς κατακρίσεως δόξα, πολλῷ μᾶλλον περισσεύει ἡ διακονία τῆς δικαιοσύνης δόξῃ.

**Romans 8:2-4. For the law** [principle] **of the spirit of life** [our spirituality] **through the agency of Christ Jesus** [tested and proved the prototype spiritual life as per Isaiah 11:2] **has set you free from the law of sin** [the carnal state of the believer] **and death** [perpetual carnality resulting in the sin unto death 1 John

5:16]. **(3) For the Law** [is not a system of power, but can only be implemented by the determination of one's volition functioning under human dynamics] **was powerless in that it was weak through the flesh** [which is the location for the sin nature], **God having sent His own Son** [deity unites with humanity] **in the likeness** [but not exactly since he did not possess a sin nature] **of the flesh of sin** [the 'flesh of sin' is a reference to the sin nature residing in the body] **and as a substitute for sin** [He who knew no sin became a sin offering for us] **he** [God the Father] **condemned sin** [personal sins] **in the flesh** [of the impeccable Jesus, the only flesh without a sin nature: the work of unlimited atonement]. **(4) In order that the righteousness** [legal requirements] **required by the Law** [about 2/3 of the Law; the other dealt with Christology and soteriology] **might be fulfilled in us** [church age believers using the two powers of the spiritual life], **who do not walk according to the flesh** [The believer who does not walk according to the Mosaic Law as his spiritual life using human power and in this case, under the authority of the sin nature: Galatians 5:18], **but according to the Spirit** [the Filling of the Spirit].

The legal requirements of the Mosaic Law demanding righteousness can only be fulfilled through the Filling of the Spirit and the perception of Bible doctrine. In other words, by taking advantage of the Logistical Grace Provision to advance to the point maxing-out the spiritual life, one fulfills the righteousness demanded by the Mosaic Law.

**3:10: For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.**

καὶ γὰρ οὐ δεδοξασται τὸ δεδοξασμένον ἐν τούτῳ τῷ μέρει εἵνεκεν τῆς ὑπερβαλλούσης δόξης·

The morality standard of God is so high and so great that it demonstrates that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. So, regarding the

Mosaic Law, Codex 1 condemns. Codex 2 presents a savior. Codex 3 presents a way of life for divine institution # 4, nationalism. The Law has glory; the Law came from God. There is nothing wrong with the Law, there is something wrong with those who cannot comply with that Law, the entire human race.

The Law had a great glory but now in the Church Age the Holy Spirit has a greater glory, a super glory, and so the super glory of the Holy Spirit outshines the glory of the Law. The Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and demands a supernatural execution. It is executed by the Holy Spirit. The glory of the Mosaic Law is still there but when a greater light shines; when a greater glory comes along, it supersedes, and everything that the Law could do for the individual, the Holy Spirit can do infinitely more.

**3:11: And if what was fading away** [the Mosaic Law was transitory] **came with glory, and it did, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts** [in the form of Escrow Blessings as the result of functioning under the Two Power Options and the spiritual life as found in the New Testament epistles]!

εἰ γὰρ τὸ καταργούμενον διὰ δόξης, πολλῷ μᾶλλον τὸ μένον ἐν δόξει.

Verses 12-18: the Removal of the Two Veils.

**3:12: Therefore, since we have such a confidence** [in the glory that last], **we are very bold** [with unveiled faces].

Ἔχοντες οὖν τοιαύτην ἐλπίδα πολλῇ παρρησίᾳ χρώμεθα,

**3:13: We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the citizens of Israel from looking intently** [literally to the end] **at it** [his face] **while the radiance was fading away** [The face of Moses was radiant from receiving the Mosaic Law which radiance illustrated the fading glory of the Law].

καὶ οὐ καθάπερ Μωϋσῆς ἐτίθει κάλυμμα ἐπὶ τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ, πρὸς τὸ μὴ ἀτενίσαι τοὺς υἱοὺς Ἰσραὴλ εἰς τὸ τέλος τοῦ καταργουμένου.

**3:14: Moreover, their minds were hardened** [scar tissue in the stream of consciousness of Jewish believers at the time of Moses], **for until this day the same veil** [hardness of heart of Jewish unbelievers] **at the reading of the Old Testament, remains because it is removed *only* in Christ** [the veil is removed at salvation and when that happens, the person is qualified to learn the Word of God].

ἀλλὰ ἐπωρώθη τὰ νοήματα αὐτῶν. ἄχρι γὰρ τῆς σήμερον ἡμέρας τὸ αὐτὸ κάλυμμα ἐπὶ τῇ ἀναγνώσει τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης μένει μὴ ἀνακαλυπτόμενον, ὅτι ἐν Χριστῷ καταργεῖται·

**Ephesians 4:18. Having been darkened** [by a lack of light (truth)] **in their understanding** [way of thinking] **and having been alienated from the life of God** [unbelievers and believers in degeneracy] **because of the ignorance which is in them** [in their souls], **because of the hardness** [callousness, scar tissue] **of their hearts** [of the mentality of their souls].

**1 John 2:11. But the one** [the believer] **who hates his brother is in darkness** [in Satan's Cosmic System] **and walks in darkness** [his lifestyle], **and he does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes** [the believer without truth in his soul cannot understand God's plan].

### **The hardness of Pharaoh's heart as an example:**

1. Until the 6<sup>th</sup> plague, the Bible is consistent in saying Pharaoh hardened his own heart. In other words, as a free agent, he utilized his own volition as the ruler of the Egyptian Empire to say 'no'. He hardened his own heart through negative volition, negative self-determination.



2. No one up to this time in history had ever been able to say ‘no’ as many times as Pharaoh would from this time on (plagues 6-10). At this point God hardened Pharaoh’s heart which means He gave him the opportunity to carry his negative volition to the maximum.

3. We understand now that we are discussing a part of the soul, invisible yet real, the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart or right lobe. This man had developed a maximum amount of scar tissue in the soul. He had been exposed to the truth, he had rejected it time and time again.

4. The hardening of Pharaoh’s right lobe in B.C. 1441 became the means of evangelising the world.

5. After hearing of the Exodus and what followed, Rahab, the former prostitute was saved as per Joshua 2:10-11, “For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. (11) "When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”

6. The justice of God gave Pharaoh numerous opportunities to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Jehovah Elohim. He rejected them all.

7. Pharaoh saw many demonstrations of divine power, designed to evangelise him personally, but he refused them all.

8. When our Lord Jesus Christ was hanging on the cross, Pharaoh’s sins were imputed to Christ and judged, along with everyone else’s.

9. Furthermore, God was not willing that Pharaoh should perish as per 2 Peter 3:9.

10. Pharaoh had many opportunities for positive volition, as per Exodus 7:22; 8:15, 32; 9:34, 35. In other words, the free will of Pharaoh was negative. Each 'No' added scar tissue to his soul.

11. After five plagues, Pharaoh Amenhotep II had so much scar tissue that he no longer could say 'yes' to the gospel. His faith had been completely damaged by this scar tissue.

12. Therefore, beginning in Exodus 9:12 of the 6<sup>th</sup> plague, we have it for the first time, "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart."

13. To keep Pharaoh alive to say 'no' especially through plagues 6-10, God impressed upon the entire world the greatness of His power both to condemn Pharaoh and to deliver His own people.

14. Therefore, the hardening of Pharaoh's heart or the extension of his negative volition was the means of evangelising the world of that day.

### **A few historical points:**

1. Like Ishmael and Esau, Pharaoh Amenhotep II was an unbeliever who had the opportunity to be saved many times, but rejected Christ as frequently as he rejected God's demand to release Israel.

2. The integrity of God was not arbitrary in blessing Moses and cursing Pharaoh. The integrity of God gave Pharaoh extra time but Pharaoh used the extra time to reject God's plan.

3. Blessing was imputed to Moses at maturity adjustment to the integrity of God through maximum doctrine resident in his soul, but Pharaoh was an unbeliever who used his great power and lack of integrity to perpetuate tyranny and slavery to the Jews.

4. The plan of God is never hindered by negative volition. In this historical case, God used the wrath of Pharaoh to praise Him.

5. Pharaoh's negative volition and his deceptive hypocrisy did not frustrate the plan or the purposes of God.
6. Pharaoh's resistance only fulfilled the plan of God by leading to world-wide evangelism.
7. We must remember that Amenhotep II was a great man from the standpoint of power and authority, an absolute monarch at the peak of his career.
8. However, God's power [omnipotence] is infinitely greater than the power of any tyrant or dictator, infinitely more powerful than the concentrated evil of any of our modern powers.
9. There is no evil that Satan can inspire, no power, no authority, no tyranny that man can devise, which can compete with the power of God.

**1 John 4:4, "You and only you [believers living the spiritual life] are from God, dear children, and you have overcome them [false teachers and others living in the Cosmic System] because greater is He who is in you [indwelling of God the Son] than he [Satan] who is in the world [the inventor of the Cosmic System]."**

### **The demonstration of divine power:**

1. The demonstration of divine power became the means of releasing the Jews from slavery. This was the birth of the first priest/client nation in history. The evangelization of Egypt and the evangelization of the entire world was another result.
2. Any Jew, any Egyptian, Ethiopian or Canaanite who wanted salvation had a clear picture of God, the source of salvation from the manifest power revealed by means of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. If God had not

permitted him to live, he could not have said ‘no’ in those final five confrontations and the world would not have been evangelized as it was.

3. It was not until the 6<sup>th</sup> plague, however, that we read the phrase “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart.” The mechanics, again, of the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart was allowing Pharaoh to remain alive during those last 6 plagues.

4. Pharaoh’s free will moved him, without any restraint from God, on a collision course with historical disaster.

5. Just as God turned the heathen over to their vile lusts, affections, and reprobate minds as per Romans 1:24-28, so God turned Pharaoh over to his negative volition, his arrogance, his jealousy, and his pettiness.

6. The impact of all of this is obvious. Paul is comparing the Jews of his day, the contemporary Jews, with Pharaoh. This was the greatest possible insult one could give to the Jews.

7. As Pharaoh hardened his heart through maximum negative volition at the time of the Exodus, so the legalistic Jews of Paul’s day had hardened their hearts through maximum negative volition toward the gospel and doctrine.

### **The application to contemporary history:**

1. To be compared to Pharaoh Amenhotep II was as insulting to the Jews as their negative volition was insulting to God (an anthropopathism).

2. The Jews of Paul’s day had violated their magnificent spiritual heritage namely the unique origin of the Jewish race via Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and how these great men had become great through their spiritual advance.

3. Israel becoming the first Client Nation to God in history should have alerted the Jews in Paul's time to the importance of positive volition toward Christ namely believing in Him for salvation.
4. The hereditary people of God had become heretical, heretical in the pattern of Ishmael, Esau and Pharaoh, three Gentiles they detested.
5. Note that the function of God does not rob man of his free will for God decreed that the free will of man with self-determination would coexist with his sovereignty.
6. Man is not robbed of his self-determination by the omnipotence of God but actually provided with greater historical opportunity to express non-meritorious freewill to enter the plan of God.

### **God's plan goes on with or without you:**

1. Pharaoh in his opposition to God becomes a monument to the power of God.
2. The more he resisted God by saying 'no' from his free will, the greater became the manifestation of divine power.
3. In the garden, God permitted the freewill function of the fall of Adam since that was a requirement of the Angelic Appeal Trial which fall led to the redemptive solution. So, also in the time of Moses, God permitted the freewill of Pharaoh to operate to the maximum in a negative way so that the people of Egypt and the entire world in that generation as well as the following generation might have the opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as their savior.
4. God permits the worst so that the best can come from it. This means that the plan of God continues whether it is an evil period of history or a glorious period of history.

5. The highest expression of man's freedom is the utilization of the grace of God to completely triumph over evil.

6. While sin, human good and evil are permitted, they are constantly being overruled by the sovereign omnipotence and divine integrity of God. Therefore, Jesus Christ controls both history and the devil's world.

### **A few points for clarification:**

1. Individual and collective failure does not hinder the plan of God, nor the validity of the Word of God.

2. The plan of God and the Word of God moves on with or without us. God does not need us; we need Him.

3. Collective or individual failure of the Jew does not abrogate the promises of God for Israel specifically for the regenerate of Israel.

4. Human failure simply cannot hinder the advance of the plan of God.

5. The failure of the unbeliever or believer does not imply the failure of the Word of God which reveals the plan of God.

6. Rejection of Jesus Christ, the God of Israel in the age of Israel puts the Jews outside of the plan of God and the unconditional covenants to Israel. Rejection of Jesus Christ in the Church Age on the part of the Jewish people, means failure to enter into the Royal Family of God.

7. Human rejection of Christ does not imply that the Word of God has failed but simply the Jew has failed to use his free will and his self-determination to believe in Christ.

8. The alternative of divine judgment is just as clearly presented in the Word of God as the blessings of grace. The fact that many Jews are under divine judgment in every generation does not hinder the promises of God

to the Jews. It just means that some through the function of their own free will missed-out.

9. The Word of God promises judgment in time as well as in eternity to the Jew who rejects the God of Israel.

10. The Word of God has not failed the Jew; the unbelieving Jew has failed the Word of God.

11. Scripture defines true and false Israel on the basis of attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ. That has always been true since Jehovah, the Adonai of the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament.

12. True Israel believes in the God of Israel, Jesus Christ, just as Abraham their father in Genesis 15:6.

**3:15: Even to this day when Moses [the Old Testament] is read, a veil [tremendous scar tissue of the soul] covers their hearts [souls].**

ἀλλ' ἕως σήμερον ἡνίκα ἂν ἀναγινώσκηται Μωϋσῆς κάλυμμα ἐπὶ τὴν καρδίαν αὐτῶν κεῖται·

### **Hardness begins at God Consciousness:**

God consciousness is defined as the point at which a person becomes aware of the existence of God through at least five theistic arguments for the existence of God. It may also be classified as the point of accountability. If any member of the human race, regardless of geographical or linguistic barrier, desires relationship with God after reaching God consciousness, then God will provide the necessary information (the gospel message) through which that person can believe in Christ for eternal salvation. On the other hand, if any person at the point of God consciousness does not desire to know God, then God is not responsible to bring gospel-information to that person.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** says, “And even if your gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving [at both God awareness and at gospel hearing].”

**Theistic arguments for the existence of God:** There are five ways in which any normal human being can attain an awareness of God.

1. The Religious Argument. The religious argument contends that God exists because mankind universally believes in His existence. Among all people and tribes on earth there is a concept of the divine which manifests itself in some form of worship. Man’s religious instincts indicate the reality of a Supreme Being. Creatures do not crave what does not exist, and since God does exist, men seek after Him. The concept of man seeking God is found in Jeremiah 9:13, John 17:17, and Acts 17:27.

2. The Moral or Anthropological Argument. This argument says that to a greater or lesser degree man’s soul possesses both volition and conscience with an urge to choose right over wrong. The structure of human society is based on the recognition of virtue and truth. This recognition has no explanation apart from the existence and influence of a Supreme Being with perfect and eternal integrity. A material, ungoverned universe can know nothing of moral values apart from the absolute righteousness of a Supreme Being. Thus, acknowledging the existence of virtue and truth eventuates in becoming aware of the source of virtue and truth. Jesus said to him [Thomas], in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth and the life; no man comes unto the Father except through Me.”

3. The Ontological Argument. Ontological reasoning says that since the human mind possesses the idea of a perfect and absolute being, such a being must exist. Apart from the religious and moral tendencies, the existence of God is a necessary idea to the human intellect, and beyond the relative which mankind measures there is the absolute which gives value and character to the relative. (Obviously, God put that idea in the soul when he created it.)



4. The Teleological Argument. This argument is that the universe, by its telescopic and microscopic wonders, always form arrangement, purpose, and adaptation, which connotes a designer. Structure in the universe demands a designer. The more we discover about the perfect structure of the universe in science, the more we recognize the need for a designer. The order of the universe can no more be accidental than the shuffling of twenty-six letters of the alphabet into a beautiful poem. The chemical contents of the human body are never accidentally combined to form man. Both microscopic and telescopic phenomena, from the structure of an atom to the configuration of galaxies, display order, design, arrangement, purpose, and adaptation that demand both a Creator and a Preserver. The probability that an orderly universe emerged from primordial chaos, even over a period of billions of years, is about the same as a Shakespearean sonnet appearing in a can of alphabet soup!

5. The Cosmological Argument. This reasoning states that the intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God as the initial cause. Every new thing or change must have a cause. In no sense can the universe be its own cause.

The above Theistic arguments are not exhaustive, and it may take a combination of approaches for the human mind to come to the point of God-consciousness. The objective is to develop the principle that all normal members of the human race simply through thought can come to the knowledge that God exists. When anyone reaches the conclusion that “God exists,” he believes by faith that God is a reality—not a figment of his imagination. Scriptural documentation:

**John 1:3, speaking of Jesus Christ as eternal God, says, “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”**

**Colossians 1:16-17 teaches that Jesus Christ is not only the creator of the universe, but that He also holds it together for the perpetuation of human history until the end of the**

**Millennium, “For by Him were all things created both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or empires or rulers or authorities. All things have been created through Him and for Him. He has existed prior to all things and by Him all things hold together.”**

**Hebrews 1:10, “In the beginning, O Lord [Jesus Christ], You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the workmanship of Your hands.”**

**Hebrews 1:3, “He upholds all things by the word of His power.”**

Rejection of the truth produces a vacuum in the soul resulting in the infiltration of the satanic lie and the blackout of the soul as per Ephesians 4:17, 18. Thus, heathenism is the result of negative volition either at God consciousness or Gospel hearing or sometimes both. People do not believe the lie until they have rejected the truth. Just as every believer has equal opportunity to fulfill the Protocol Plan for the Church, so every unbeliever in history has equal opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life. To protect mankind from self-destruction and all the evil Satan seeks to perpetuate on humanity, God has provided both language separation and national boundaries.

Heathen are heathen not because the truth has never been presented in their geographical area, but because they were negative at God consciousness and sometimes again at Gospel hearing. The unbeliever who is negative at either God consciousness or Gospel hearing or both enters the Cosmic System and eventually will become antagonistic toward the gospel and other forms of truth as well.

The paragraph below is taken from the booklet, *Heathenism* page 7 by R. B. Thieme Jr.

PEOPLE OF PRIMITIVE CULTURES have lived for centuries in the remote mountains, jungles, and deserts of the world. Wherever they are, these communities are far removed from the mainstream of commerce and civilization despite the advances in communication technology. They may be the Papuans of New Guinea, the Hottentots of South Africa, or an Indian tribe in the Amazon. Inevitably the skeptic of Christianity will ask, “What about the ‘heathen’ who have never heard the Gospel? How can these people decide for or against Jesus Christ?” If the skeptic truly wants an answer he should ask, “What about those who apparently have never heard the Gospel?” Although he may be ignorant of the facts of worldwide evangelism, the underlying implication of his question is clear, “God is unfair! How can a loving God condemn anyone under these circumstances?” This accusation against God is a demonstration of their total ignorance of history and the Word of God.

**This is described in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, “But if our Gospel is hidden [veiled], it is hidden to those who are lost [unbelievers], in whose case the god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers [negative volition at God consciousness and Gospel hearing], that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.”**

Negative volition at God consciousness is described in some detail in Romans 1.

**Romans 1:18-20. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all negative godliness [negative volition at God consciousness; several generations of rejecting God will eventuate in heathenism] and unrighteousness of men who suppress truth through all unrighteousness [after they have rejected the truth, some become immoral and anti-establishment and others become self-righteous]. Because that which may be known about God is evident within themselves [at God consciousness], for God made it evident to them. For since the**

**creation of the world, His invisible attributes [eternal power, divine nature] have been clearly seen, being understood through that which has been made [by observation], so that they [unbelievers] are without excuse.”**

The unbeliever suppresses truth through his own negative volition, which causes heathenism.

**Then, Paul states in Acts 17:26-27 that men of all nations should seek the Lord. “And He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God [at God-consciousness], if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him [at gospel hearing], though He is not far from each one of us.”**

Sometimes God directs Gospel information toward a person with negative volition so that those in his periphery with positive volition will have the opportunity to hear and believe. Such was the case with the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Moses told Pharaoh not only how to receive personal salvation, but also how to deliver Egypt from divine discipline. However, since the Pharaoh was not interested in God at the point of God-consciousness, (God awareness) he also rejected the truth at gospel-hearing and consequently hardened his heart. Not only did the divine judgments against Egypt namely the ten plagues demonstrate God’s power, but the news of Moses’ words to Pharaoh was also widely circulated (Exodus. 11:9). Before Pharaoh relented and released the Jews from slavery, there was a great revival throughout the empire so that when the Jews finally departed Egypt, they were accompanied by a large number of saved Gentiles namely the mixed multitude.

Involvement in the Cosmic System and its consequences:

**2 Peter 2:20-22. For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the Cosmic System by knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again involved in them and are overcome [by the cosmic system], the latter state [rejecting the Gospel resulting in blackout of the soul] has become worse for them than the first [before they had rejected the gospel]. (21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness [the gospel message] then, having known it, to turn away from the holy mandate delivered to them [to believe on His Son, Jesus Christ]. (22) It has happened to them according to the true proverb [Proverbs 26:11], `A dog returns to his own vomit, and a sow after washing returns to wallowing in the mire.**

In effect, the one who was negative at God consciousness comes out of the cosmic system long enough to hear the Gospel. But once he rejects it, he goes right back into the cosmic system; namely the vomit or the mire. So, this refers to the blackout of the soul or the blindness of the mind caused by negative volition at God consciousness returning to the mire when he has negative volition at Gospel hearing.

### **The Delusion of Heathenism**

The delusion of heathenism [unbeliever reversionism] occurs when the unbeliever has negative volition at God-consciousness and if he should hear the gospel message, negative volition at that point as well. As a result, he goes through the Eight Stages of Reversionism becoming an absolute fool. The delusion of reversionism occurs in every generation. Several generations of negative volition and the nation goes out. Sodom and Gomorrah, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, the Hellenistic monarchies, Rome, Hitler's Germany, etc. can give testimony to this.

1. These "fools" of delusion accept darkness into their souls and then apply it to life, people and circumstances and call it wisdom—a delusion.

2. This affirmation of non-existent wisdom is the status of heathenism in the last three stages of reversionism—blackout of the soul, scar-tissue of the soul, and reverse process reversionism.

3. The apostate (the reversionist) sets up false norms for wisdom, then uses these false norms to allege and conclude the possession of wisdom.

4. This explains the blindness of the sincere liberal, the do-gooder, the person in politics legislating his delusory ideas on the peoples of his nation.

5. Negative volition at gospel hearing triggered this unbeliever reversionism. The unbeliever may have been pro-establishment before his rejection of the truth at God-consciousness and gospel hearing. This rejection of truth produces a vacuum in the soul by which he will believe every Satanic lie or any other falsehood.

A few more points:

1. To be the kind of fool described in the following verse, there must be the arrogance and pride of reversionism. Romans 1:22, “Although professing themselves [delusory unbelievers] to be wise, they became fools [from blackout of the soul],”

2. Self-righteous arrogance in reversionism is creative in the sphere of evil even to the point of creating its own gods.

3. Arrogance sets itself above the essence of God and distorts the perfect attributes of God into ridiculous images of human and animal power.

4. The arrogant man declares that the images which he has constructed are gods by which he may contact demons. The fact that man can manufacture a god is the epitome of arrogance, the quintessence of human folly, and total blasphemy.

Man is corruptible because of his old sin nature; man is mortal because of death; man is perishable because of the human body. All the same, images of men who exercise great power and authority in life are set up and worshipped. Many countries had some form of bird-worship since birds have the power and ability to soar like the hawk and the eagle etc. The bull was worshiped for his power in ancient Egypt and Crete. Today, the cow is worshipped in India. Snakes and crocodiles were also worshipped in many ancient countries. Today, the monkey and even the rats are worshipped in certain parts of India.

There is no excuse for the heathen, the reversionistic unbeliever for he has rejected that which he has had total cognizance—the understanding of God at God-consciousness and in some cases, the salvation message at gospel hearing. Instant adjustment to the plan of God at salvation is as simple as Ephesians 2:8,9; Acts 16:31. Rejection of Christ as savior, is instant maladjustment to the plan of God.

#### Summary:

1. One of the blessings of instant adjustment to the grace of God at salvation is to have a permanent relationship with God.
2. On the other hand, to abandon the grace provision of God at salvation is the most awful thing which can happen to any individual.
3. The unbeliever in heathenism lives a horrible life and dies miserably only to be followed by eternal condemnation in the eternal Lake of Fire.
4. Therefore, there is a sign at the entrance into heathenism for unbeliever reversionism: Abandon all hope, he who enters therein.
5. Here, then, is negative volition at the point of gospel hearing with the self-seeking promotion of the self-righteous unbeliever.

6. Disobedience to the gospel, negative volition at salvation, means obedience to evil and the perpetuation of that maladjustment.

7. Such perpetuation of unbeliever reversionism causes the integrity of God to adjust to the status quo of the maladjusted, and that means God's punishment of the unbeliever's rejection of the gospel in time, and the wrath of God's judgment of the unbeliever for all eternity.

**The extremely self-righteous unbeliever is very difficult to deal with since he in his mind doesn't need to hear about a grace solution, a solution for what? I don't have a problem!**

1. As long as any person in the world thinks that there is any system of human righteousness, talent, ability, planning or system of works which can satisfy the integrity of God and clings to his system of self-righteousness, whatever it maybe, he has no chance of ever having a relationship with God.

2. No human factor, including Jewish self-righteousness, can therefore provide or add anything to salvation adjustment to the integrity of God. The first issue we face in the human race is salvation and there is nothing that we can add to what the grace of God has already provided.

3. No Jewish rationalism of being better than the Gentiles will provide salvation or spirituality, or maturity.

Jews and Gentiles are under the same condemnation of sin. At birth, each member of mankind is born with a sin nature which was passed down to him in copulation. At the instance of birth, God imputes Adam's Original Sin to that person and condemns him to the Lake of Fire.

**Romans 5:12, "For this reason just as through one man [Adam] the sin [the Sin Nature] entered into the world, and so spiritual death through the sin [Adam's Original Sin was imputed to the Sin Nature], and so spiritual death spread to all**



**mankind, because all sinned when Adam sinned** [Since we were seminally in Adam when he sinned, we receive the sin nature through his seed and consequently receive the imputation of Adam's Original Sin].”

**Psalm 51:5, “Behold, I [David] was born in iniquity** [Adam's original sin imputed] **and in sin I was conceived** [sin nature passed down in conception].”

**Romans 5:19, “For as through one man's disobedience** [Adam] **the many** [the human race] **were made sinners** [the imputation of Adam's Original Sin at birth], **even so through the obedience of one** [the humanity of Christ], **many** [those who believe] **will be made righteous** [imputed righteousness at salvation].”

**3:16: But whenever anyone** [a reference to Jewish unbelievers but includes Gentiles as well in principle] **turns to the Lord** [3<sup>rd</sup> Class Conditional sentence meaning maybe he will believe in Christ and maybe he will not], **the veil is taken away.**

ήνίκα δὲ ἐὰν ἐπιστρέψῃ πρὸς κύριον, περιαιρεῖται τὸ κάλυμμα.

This is an illustration of faith in Christ. You were going in the wrong direction, then you make a turn and go in the right direction. Just as ‘receiving Christ’ is an illustration of faith in Christ as per John 1:12, “But as many as received Him [not the mechanics of salvation], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His person [the mechanics of how to be saved],”

**3:17. Now the Lord is the Spirit** [the deity of God the Holy Spirit] **and where the Spirit of the Lord is** [located], ***there is spiritual freedom*** [After salvation, we are free to accept or reject the spiritual life; Paul is very excited.].

ὁ δὲ κύριος τὸ πνεῦμά ἐστιν· οὗ δὲ τὸ πνεῦμα κυρίου, ἐλευθερία.

**3:18. But we all with an unveiled face** [Church Age believers learning doctrine under the Filling of the Spirit] **looking into a mirror** [into the Word of God: Bible Doctrine] **to produce a reflection, namely the glory of the Lord;** [Problem-Solving Device 10] **we are being transformed into that same image** [the image of our Lord Jesus Christ as he walked on the earth, the humanity of Jesus Christ specifically, not his deity of course] **from glory** [the glory of the humanity of Jesus Christ under the Filling of the Spirit and the Prototype Spiritual Life] **to glory** [The Spirit-filled life of the believer who executes the Protocol Plan of God under the Operational Type Spiritual Life] **just as from the Lord, the Spirit** [a reference to God, the Holy Spirit].

ἡμεῖς δὲ πάντες ἀνακεκαλυμμένῳ προσώπῳ τὴν δόξαν κυρίου κατοπτριζόμενοι τὴν αὐτὴν εἰκόνα μεταμορφούμεθα ἀπὸ δόξης εἰς δόξαν, καθάπερ ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος.

Spiritual freedom is the Filling of the Spirit. Spiritual freedom is in your soul; it is not an overt system of freedom as in the Laws of Divine Establishment. It is a system which produces a glory which does not fade. So, we don't need a veil. The glory in the spiritual life only increases, but never fades as long the Christian keeps advancing. Thus, the advancing believer looks into the mirror of the Word of God, not to produce his own reflection, but to produce the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: [rbthieme.org](http://rbthieme.org)