



Chapter Five

INTRODUCTION

NOTE: Early in our lives we learned that the Bible explains life and death. As children, we assume that all life is the same and all death is the same. However, as we mature in the Scripture, we detect that there is more to these references than mere biological life and death.

In this chapter Paul teaches us the meaning of SPIRITUAL LIFE and SPIRITUAL DEATH.

Once we have a grasp on these, we are on our way to discerning the deeper things of the word of God. These concepts are the true meat of the word for mature minds.

PAUL is writing to his brethren in Rome about God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3 & 15:1-6), and about Abraham's faith in that promise. Paul's comments are obviously directed to Israelites, for the subject is organically connected to Israel culture and history.

This chapter holds treasure missed by most of the Bible-reading world. The point Paul makes is basic to understanding the Gospel, yet few grasp it. And anyone who comes to this knowledge newly will need to reassess much of what he was told in the past.

In Chapter Four, Paul touched upon the subject of the two seed lines – two distinct designations of family. One designation pertains to flesh (genetic birth), and the other pertains to spirit (spiritual birth). One line is determined biologically (through flesh), and the other line is determined spiritually.

5. Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and Spirit, he is unable to enter the kingdom of God.

6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said to you, You must be born from above.

Jn. 3:5-7

Paul is explaining spiritual heredity, but he is not ignoring racial heredity. The biological (flesh) lineage of Israel is an essential truth that every serious Bible student needs to know. Israel's biological family tree is not a race of anti-Christ Jews, but a race of European/Caucasian Christians (albeit, not all kept the faith). It is important that we know this.

However, Paul also wants us to know about the spiritual seed line which is comprised of those who are "born from above." This spiritual "seed" was the actual matrix upon which racial Israel was built. The physical (flesh) Israel was shaped and defined by the spiritual qualifications described in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This seed line, based upon spiritual birth, was not merely a genetic race, but a SPIRITUAL FAMILY. It was the "spiritual seed line" or "the seed line of promise." This spiritual factor explains the difference between Abraham and the rest of his genetic family. Down through the centuries this spiritual dynamic continues to reshape flesh Israelites into true spiritual "children of Abraham" and "sons of God." Those who belong to this spiritual family are called "heirs of the promise." Not all genetic/flesh Israelites are designated "heirs." Only those who attain the spirit are heirs. As we will explain,

flesh can produce flesh offspring, but ONLY spirit can produce “heirs” (sons). That which is born of flesh is flesh, but that which is born of spirit is spirit. True sons become sons by spirit. Only “sons” are heirs.

7. *That, having been justified by his grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Titus 3:7

Paul refers to the flesh seed as those who are “of the law.” Genetics follow the laws of biology (the science of the flesh) which God programmed into the flesh. But Paul says it is not the seed of the flesh which are “of the faith of Abraham,” but the seed born of spirit. Thus, Paul tells these Israelites in Rome that it is not enough that they are flesh Israel. They must also be born of the SPIRIT.

Flesh seed carry the genetic patterns of their flesh parents. By the same token, spiritual seed carry the spiritual patterns and traits of their spiritual parents. My flesh DNA may be the same as my father, but unless I also carry the SPIRIT of my father then I am only his “flesh offspring” and I am not his SON. The spiritual lineage of promise is spiritual. It is not DNA.

8. *So those in the flesh are not able to please God.*

9. *But you are not in flesh but in spirit, if the spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.*

10. *The body (flesh) is dead through sin; but if Christ is in you the spirit is life through righteousness.*

11. *So if the spirit of Him that raised up Jesus out of the dead is dwelling in you, he that raised up Christ out of the dead will also quicken your mortal bodies (make you alive) by the indwelling of his spirit in you.*

12. *Therefore, brethren, we are not in debt to the flesh to live after the flesh.*

13. *For if you live after the flesh, you are always dying: but if you through the spirit are mortifying the deeds of the body, you will live.*

14. **FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.**

15. *For you have not received the spirit of bondage again into fear; but you received the spirit of sonship, through which we exclaim, Abba, Father. (The Hebrew term “Abba” indicates a familiar and personal relationship, as of Father and son.)*

Romans 8:8-15

6. *And because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into your hearts, exclaiming, Abba, Father.*

7. *So, then you are no longer a servant (i.e., no longer just a child), but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Galatians 4:6-7

Don’t get me wrong. Genetics (race) is important. People who are ignorant of race cannot understand the Bible, because it deals with the genetic race of Israel. But, if you look at genetics only ... you will miss the main subject. Spirit not only transcends genetics, it also shapes it. Thus, spirit is preeminent over genetics. In the beginning God’s spirit was upon the face of the waters. That spirit was LIFE, and it gave shape to all creation. By the same token, at the time of the recreation (“rebirth” in Christ) again it is “spirit” that shapes the NEW CREATURE:

42. *So also is the raising of the dead. It is sown in mortality, it is raised in immortality.*

44. *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

45. *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

I Cor. 42,44,45

Perhaps at this point it would be good for us to define “spirit” once again to be sure no one misunderstands the Biblical term. “Spirit” is not an invisible being (a disembodied entity) as the churches teach. Rather, “spirit” is motivation or disposition. Spirit is that which moves us – compels us – to do what we do and think what we think. Thus, when we speak of “the spirit of Christ” we are talking about the spirit that motivated/compelled Christ. And when we receive Christ’s spirit, it motivates/compels us.

That “spirit of life” moves us, inspires us, and enables us to perceive things as Christ perceives them. We walk by faith, not by sight (II Cor. 5:7).

The “heirs of the promise” are created by spirit, not by genetics. In fact, Israel was founded by spirit. This unquestionable truth is commonly missed. Abraham was selected out from men who were genetically equal. He was separated out from his genetic family to be the father of a separate spiritual family. He was chosen, not for genetics, but for spirit (Rom. 4:9-15).

Spirit is the factor that causes man to be more than mere man. Spirit defined the foundation, or template, upon which the Israel family was created. Thus, out of the flesh of the Hebrew people we see Abraham carved out ... defined by spirit, beyond genetics.

This promise began with Abraham. Abraham was designated the spiritual father of a family of promise. The promise was NOT to Abraham’s flesh seed, but only to his spiritual seed. Isaac inherited Abraham’s spirit. Ishmael did not. Jacob inherited Isaac’s spirit. Esau did not. And today God continues to separate his spiritual sons. He calls them out of homogeneous flesh. He chooses the spiritual seed, and

not the flesh seed. If this were not the case the promise would have gone to ALL Abraham's seed ... instead of just to Isaac and Jacob, etc. Most of Abraham's genetic seed did NOT get the promise. Only the spiritual seed got it.

So Abraham is the key to understanding the two seed lines. Spirit carved Abraham out of the Hebrew race and set him apart. Abraham was still a Hebrew, but being a Hebrew was not the quality that made him the Father of the Faithful. Spirit transcends genetics!

Thus, there are two designations for Israel. There always were two designations: 1. Biological Israel, by genetics, and, 2. Spiritual Israel, by promise. Today, spiritual Israel is called "New Jerusalem."

So here's how it works. Abraham's child, Isaac, received the promise (spirit) of his father, and became a "son"; the first "heir of promise." As such, Isaac was the prototype of all succeeding "heirs" via the promise.

7. Neither, because they are the (flesh) seed of Abraham are they all children: but, In Isaac (i.e., in spirit) shall your seed be the called.

Romans 9:7

Ishmael, a full genetic offspring, did not receive the promise; did not

inherit Abraham's spirit; was not a "son" in the true sense of the term. The same happened in the next generation. Jacob inherited the spirit and was separated from his brother Esau. Thus, Jacob was the second heir of the promise to Abraham. Then Jacob's name was changed to Israel and he became the first Israelite. Thus, the designation "Israel" was based upon the spirit quality that separated Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from the rest of their genetic brethren.

Being born into Abraham's gene pool doesn't make us "sons," ("heirs according to the promise"). An "heir" must also be a spiritual son.

A flesh offspring is not necessarily a "son." Biblically speaking, in order to be considered a "son" you must be BORN AFTER THE SPIRIT ... you must inherit your father's SPIRIT. Isaac was Abraham's spiritual SON. Ishmael, on the other hand, was not. Likewise, Jacob was Isaac's spiritual SON. Esau was NOT.

Spiritual sonship was the template upon which was created and founded the family called "Israel." The name means "led of God" The name implies that whoever bears it must follow the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Neither Ishmael nor Esau received the spirit nor did they follow the ways of Abraham.

When we inherit the spirit of our fathers we become more than their flesh offspring. We become more than their genetic seed. We become their SONS (biblically speaking). If we have the spirit of God, we become seed of the promise to Abraham, and we become SONS ... i.e., HEIRS OF ABRAHAM, and sons of God.

29. And if you are of Christ, then are you of Abraham's seed, and heirs (sons) according to the promise.

Gal. 3:29

1. Now I am saying that as long as the heir is a child he is not different from a servant although he is lord of

7. Wherefore you are no longer a servant (no longer a child), but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Gal. 4:1 &7

The two different Greek words for "child" and "son" make this distinction very clear.

As Paul continues to develop his explanation of spiritual life and spiritual death please keep in mind the facts I have laid out in the introduction. Paul's teaching of this concept, and how it affects Israel, takes us into the mind of a "son of God."

ROMANS 5:1-2 ACCESS BY GRACE, NOT BY RACE

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Through whom indeed we have access to faith into this grace wherein we stand, and have confidence in hope of the glory of God.

HERE, Paul focuses upon two words: "faith" and "grace." Paul, more than any other New Testament writer, wants us to understand these words. Grace works through faith. Grace is offered free, not of merit, not of virtue, not of payment of any sort. No recipient of grace deserves it. Therefore, the only prerequisite for receiving grace is that the Giver desires to give it. The receiver has no say in that decision or initiation. Grace is not guided by racial qualification, for the Bible gives numerous examples where one branch

of a racial family is singled out to receive grace while the others don't. Grace, by definition, transcends both merit and race. God's grace then elicits our response of faith. Faith is not required to receive grace, but it IS required to keep it.

If we understand that Paul was writing to Israelites tainted by the religion of Judea and the politics of Rome it helps us understand Paul's warnings. These were former Judeans, still affected by their Judean past. Paul called them "Judeans" (usually translated "Jews" in the KJV). Some "Judeans" (or Jews) at that time were genetic Israelites, but many were not. The ques-

tion of race, merit, and grace were certainly issues at hand ... these issues having been confused by the Babylonian religion and culture that had migrated to Jerusalem. That confusion followed Judea's exports to Rome and elsewhere. Thus, Paul had his work cut out for him to explain this to his friends in Rome.

Paul was addressing a problem that applied to everyone ... and he was using Judeans as examples for doing things wrong (the term "Judean" was not a racial designation, but a cultural/religious designation). Judeans killed Christ, and were plotting to kill Paul. But the thing that made Judeans bad was not their race ... for Judeans were a racially mixed people. The evil in Judea crossed racial lines. It was their spirit; their culture and politics that poisoned them. Judeans, of mixed racial culture, including Israelites and non-Israelites, were involved in the greatest crime of all time: the murder of God's Son.

The people Paul was writing to in Rome were obviously racial Israelites. But they had been infected with the sickness of Jerusalem. They assumed they had special privileges which gave them a monopoly on God's favor and indulgence. Thus, they were genetic Israelites who needed spiritual guidance.

QUESTION: If God does not favor Israel, then why did He make such a big deal about it? Do all the great advances in civilization by white people, including this great Christian nation (USA) founded by white Israelite people, mean nothing?

ROMANS 5:3-5 GROWTH THROUGH HARDSHIP

And not only that, but we also have confidence in the tribulations: knowing that tribulation produces endurance;

And endurance, virtue; and virtue, hope:

And hope is causing no shame. Because God's love is poured out in our hearts by the holy spirit being given to us.

PAUL wanted the Roman brethren to learn from history and hardship. Judgement was upon them, and Paul knew it. Judgment and punishment is from a loving Father (Heb. 12:7). Paul had experienced personal judgment only a short time earlier, which brought him back to reality.

God judges his own first. God's judgment is also upon our people today in America. Americans, as a whole, are blind and deaf because they have rejected Christ. They have lost their ability to see God's Kingdom or hear his word. Americans do not yet realize their present hardship is the

result of judgment. God's judgment forces eyes to open ...if only for a moment. And once our eyes are opened we can choose to keep them open and learn truth, or to shut our eyes again and return to darkness.

At this particular time in history it seems few people want their eyes open. People in general seem to prefer darkness, choosing to not deal with light and truth. When people choose to be deceived it indicates they are personally dishonest. To choose lies is to reject reality ... evidence of spiritual myopia and deafness.

10. And with every deception of unrighteousness in the ones destroying themselves; who received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11. And for this cause God is sending them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12. That they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thess. 2:10-11

Most Americans are opting for pleasure in unrighteousness. They are choosing man's system rather than God's system. This generation is subscribing to the New World Order. People have rebelled against God as

Adam did. Blindness is pandemic in America. Truth is an orphan today in this country. When we opt for blindness, we receive more judgment from God ... which makes our blindness grow darker. When we refuse to look at truth, we begin to lose communication with God. It is, in part, God's judgment upon a rebellious people.

12. For whosoever has (spiritual sight), to him will be given, and he will abound: but whosoever has not (spiritual sight), even that which he has shall be taken away from him.

13. Therefore I am speaking to them in parables: because seeing they see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, saying, Hearing you will hear and not understand; and seeing you will see and not perceive:

Mtt. 13:12-14

This generation is confused, blinded, and difficult to communicate with. In their blindness and ignorance they have become arrogant within the mentality of the Babylonian world system. As a society they are debauched, mindless, and arrogant ... and they resent anyone who doesn't conform to their debauchery.

They (the public) in general look upon us as enemies and fools. They

deride us for our stand, and for not wanting our children in government schools. They can't understand why we don't vote, or why we don't like the medical establishment and its vaccinations! They laugh at us because we avoid churches, synagogues, and secret societies like Masons and Scull & Bones, and we don't participate in pagan holidays! In their eyes, we are simple and paranoid; we have strange doctrines and fears ... e.g., our refusal to worship mammon and usury. They think we deprive ourselves of modern thinking, with Mastercards and Visa Cards, and easy credit and debt. We don't join in the politically-correct groups and clubs designed to draw everyone into the establishment system. To them we are weirdos, if not evil. We are misfits who cannot fit in with advanced society. They would never want to be like us, or have their children turn out like us. We are outcasts.

But, we like the idea of not fitting in with them. Fitting in with them would be very easy ... if we wanted to do that. WE DON'T! We have carefully avoided fitting in with them. It isn't that we aspire to be misfits. It's just that we refuse to take part in the destruction of our people and the war against Christ's Reign.

We are not ashamed that we don't fit in. We are proud of it. We choose to be where we are! We choose to be rejects of the establishment. If we were accepted by today's culture it would mean we had abandoned our God. We are where we are not because society has pushed us out, but because the spirit of God that indwells us has called us out. "Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues."

We choose to leave death's society so we can be in the Kingdom of Life. But to communicate this to them is nearly impossible. How do you explain "light" to someone who has no eyes? How do you explain the melody of a song to a deaf man? Picture a society of men without eyes, and one man with sight among them. In that society the man with eyes would be

considered mentally deranged and delusional. Abnormal!

We who are citizens of New Jerusalem live in a different paradigm from the rest of society. There is a gulf between us and the dead folks on the other side, much like the Biblical walls of New Jerusalem which separate the citizens inside from those who live outside in "outer darkness"

14. Blessed are they who are washing their robes, because they will have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15. For outside are dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone preferring and promoting lies.

Rev. 22:14-15

We are despised by the world system, and mocked by the blind. But Paul says that we should GLORY IN TRIBULATION. We should learn from it. The current tribulation is, in part, judgment from God. Judgment is not a bad thing to God's own, but an exercise to separate the wheat from the chaff. Without judgment from God things would continue on as they are, in a downward spiral.

Paul and his friends were outcasts from society too. They were harvested out from among the tares. But the tares outnumbered them.

Thus, God's judgment is different than man's. So I say to anyone who judges me by my earthly wealth or status ... you do not know me. God judges me by other factors that are more important. These factors are the things that have led me, in this present time, to choose to be where I am.

As long as Babylon is in power anyone who chooses to follow Jesus is choosing to be rejected by society. They are choosing to "come out" of Babylon. These are thinking people who opt out of the herd status of the mainstream of society. They are peeling away from the line of lemmings before they go over the cliff. But sadly, most of today's Israel people are non-thinkers. They are still up to their necks

in the system; nose-in-rear lemmings, in line and headed for the cliffs. They don't hate the system. They don't even think about it.

That leaves us with diminished numbers with whom we can work. Most have not yet accepted new eyes, and are still blind as bats. God's judgment is already falling upon those whom He has called. Not many who heard the call actually responded and came out. Thus, Jesus said:

"For many are called, but few are called out." (i.e., many are called, but few exit the herd)

Mtt. 20:16; 22:14

God's judgment starts in "Israel" ... the first "called." Each Israelite must choose to obey the call and "come out," or to stay in Babylon and ignore the call. Those who opt to ignore the call eventually will lose their ability to hear it.

17. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17

Few people are willing to "come out" of Babylon. Most people who are not "coming out" may not even realize that they are "in" Babylon. Without spiritual eyes they cannot see reality: the Kingdom. Even more insidious ... millions of churchgoers who have heard of "the kingdom" are not looking for the right Kingdom. They have been taught by the churches that the Kingdom doesn't yet exist on Earth. They are anticipating a different sort of "kingdom." They've been programmed with a mental picture of an outer space kingdom of mythical proportions. They can't see the real one even though it is right before their eyes. They are looking for wings, harps, golden streets, no dirt, no pain, no sin, and no enemies.

Well, Christ's Kingdom is not like that. The citizens of Christ's Kingdom are mortal men who get their hands dirty and are not perfect. They are re-

deemed and spiritually alive ...but not faultless. They need law, guidance, judgment, and a King.

God's law applies to his Kingdom, and therefore is not understandable (or usable) for people not in his Kingdom. It is only for the "living," for only those who are "in the spirit" and "alive" can understand the law.

4. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

5. For they that are after the flesh are heeding the things of the flesh; but they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit.

6. For to be heeding the flesh is death; but to be heeding the spirit is life and peace.

7. Because heeding the flesh is enmity against God for it (flesh) is not being subjected to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8. So those in the flesh are not able to please God.

9. But you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if the spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rm. 8:4-9

Christ's Kingdom stands in opposition and contrast to kingdoms of men ... i.e., national and state governments worldwide. The kingdoms (governments) of the man-gods are perpetually at war against Christ and his Kingdom. Politicians usurp God's throne by claiming to be lawmakers ... i.e., gods unto themselves (*"You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"*). Man's government attempts to make men into gods.

The Kingdom of Christ is real and present. It stands in contrast to the kingdoms of man-gods (man-made governments) which are also real and present. You and I decide daily, by our thoughts and actions, which kingdom we prefer, and which kingdom we support. It is critical that we know one from the other.

Most men today are locked in stupid debates over which of the man-made governments is best, and which has the sanction of God. The obvious but unpopular answer, is that NONE of the man-made government systems are sanctioned by God. They are ALL ungodly. They comprise the system called "The Beast."

But you might say, "It is impractical to think that civil society can function without man-made government. To think otherwise is utopian fantasy."

But stop and think: God established a non-man-made kingdom with Israel at Mt. Sinai. God's Law is a constitution for society that was not designed by man, and had NO HUMAN LAWMAKERS. Israel accepted God's Kingship for several years, and then they rejected Him (I Samuel 8). Israel opted out of God's Kingship and preferred a heathen government "like the other nations." So, you see, a God-made government IS not only possible ... it actually happened. Israel prospered under God's Kingdom from Moses to Samuel – about 1000 years. Then MEN took over again, applied "serpent" principles, and began making their own laws again. Israel then went downhill until finally falling to occupation and slavery under Assyria and Babylon.

The trouble is that most people don't believe Christ's Reign is possible. They dismiss these suggestions as wishing for the impossible. "It will never happen until Jesus comes back." How many times have we heard churchgoers parrot that lame excuse? Of course, the people who retreat into that excuse don't believe that Jesus is King, or that He has a Kingdom.

Educating people is a hard task. They must first "see" the Kingdom of God before they can believe in it. Thus, Jesus said, *"Unless you are born from above you cannot see the Kingdom of God."* And people today are infected with a blindness inherited from our fathers. Our generation is now so far off course, and so blind, they cannot hear us. We cannot communicate with most sections of society today. They have been paganized by the

churches (synagogues), undermined by multi-culturalism, and mentally and spiritually raped by modern education and technology. People today are flying blind. All they can do is listen to their handlers on television, pay their taxes, and criticize people who think for themselves. Many are churchgoers with no spiritual ears or spiritual eyes ... and they cannot hear us. As in the Lazarus parable, a "great gulf is fixed" between them and us, and we cannot reach them.

Over the centuries man has mixed God's word with pagan religions and customs ... and our people are confused. Sadly, most of us have been pagans most of our lives. That means we have a lot to learn when we are first awakened by Christ. As God keeps showing us new truths we must keep peeling off layers of paganism, and we're not fully out of it yet.

So, the more we emerge out of paganism, the better we can do witnessing to people around us. I know the pain of alienated family and friends because of confusion. Truth separates like a two-edged sword.

Jesus was God's communicator to the people. The establishment in Jerusalem fought against Him, and they trampled everything that was decent ... just as the establishment does in our day. They reject the Bible, and they claim it won't work for our "advanced" times. So, we are hampered, and we suffer tribulation. But, I'm not dispirited nor ashamed ... because I'm in good company. All my heroes from history suffered at the hands of the spiritless (lifeless), sightless herds.

QUESTION: Don't you think we could be more effective with the Gospel of the Kingdom if we teamed up with churches instead of fighting with them? Shouldn't we minimize our disagreements and concentrate on things we have in common? Isn't there strength in numbers?

ROMANS 5:6-10 CHRIST REACHES OUT TO MAN

For our being yet weak, in accord with the time, Christ died for the ungodly.

For hardly will anyone die for a righteous man: yet for a good man perhaps some would also dare to die.

But God proves his love for us, in that, we still being sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, being now righted in his blood, we shall be saved through him from wrath.

For if being enemies we are reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved in his life.

PAUL had experienced a transformation, and he was seeing it happen to others around him. Something was changing them, and those to whom it was happening sought to explain it to others. It was supernatural, and it is still happening today. Men were being changed by the initiation of communication between God and men. Paul referred to it as “the call.” God was calling men! He was initiating communication.

God had communicated with men before, but not on as grand a scale as this.

8. But you shall receive power (perception) when the holy spirit comes upon you: and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.

Acts 1:8

Jesus personified that communication. He was the Logos: God’s communication to mankind. Jesus spoke

to men on behalf of God. Like a shepherd seeking stray sheep, Jesus sought the lost ... to help them, strengthen them, and bring them good news from his Father.

Today, Jesus still seeks the lost. When a lost sheep is found, he is given an invitation to come back into the fold. Lost sheep do not seek the Shepherd. The Shepherd seeks them. It can only be this way ... because until Jesus reaches his hand to us, and touches us, we don’t know how to seek or recognize Him. Until He touches us we have no motive to seek Him. We do not know Him. Thus, the process is initiated by Him, not by man.

Once He has found us, then the option is ours. At that point we can respond to Him. We can respond positively or negatively. That is our choice. However, it was NOT our choice that He first came to us and sought us out. That was His choice.

Christ seeks the lost. He lives to save the ungodly. This is important to get straight. He doesn’t come for the righteous ... because THERE ARE NONE! He gives himself for unrighteous man ... while man is yet ungodly and without strength. Israel was without strength and ungodly when Christ came for her and gave his life for her. He is the Shepherd who finds the lost sheep, issues the “call,” and invites us to become sons of God ... and heirs of the promise given to Abraham.

If we accept his invitation, we “come out” (i.e., we quit admiring the world system), and we become one of “the called-out ones” (i.e., an ecclesian). Our new spirit (INNER SELF) then begins redirecting our flesh (OUTER SELF). The new growth that we go through is a training of SONS. God is calling out sons, and then Jesus is taking those sons and training them for His Father. He’s teaching us how to act like sons; how to work like sons; how to love like sons. He is teaching us to be family, a body strong and resolute ... joined by LOVE and SPIRIT. Development takes time, but we can appreciate the fact that God looks upon us as sons, and that He has provided us with The Best Teacher.

Salvation and grace are for weak and ungodly people, not righteous people. Righteous people would not need salvation and grace. If we were not lost and dead we would not need rescuing. Jesus was not sent to saints but to dead men; not to endorse us, but to raise us and give us life.

And, by the way, when the Bible talks about Jesus being “sent,” it doesn’t mean sent from a great distance. The word “sent,” in this case, is used the same as it is used with the apostles. An “apostle” is defined as “one who is sent.” This means COMMISSIONED or AUTHORIZED. The apostles were “sent” by commission; not “sent” from a distance. Likewise, Jesus was commissioned (sent) as Savior to Israel. In that same sense, Jesus “sent” (commissioned) his disciples to teach the good news.

21. Then Jesus said to them again, Peace be to you: as my Father has sent me, so send I you.

Jn. 20:21

Some folks are confused about how this works. Some won’t accept Jesus’ call because “they don’t think they deserve it.” Maybe you’ve heard of this kind of procrastination from someone ... maybe even yourself. I remember thinking these thoughts myself when I was young. I thought I needed to make myself ready ... maybe do some special thing (perhaps in a church) before I would be worthy. Pride is a hard thing to overcome, and we’d prefer to meet Jesus shoulder to shoulder, rather than bowing at his feet. And children haven’t yet been humbled by life.

Thus, we develop the excuse, “I’m not ready yet to commit to Christ.” or “I don’t know enough about the Bible yet.” So we choose to stand off and refuse the grace of Christ ... refusing to leave the ranks of the dead. We actually hold Jesus away from us, rather than accepting His free gift, because we want to do it on our own terms ... rather than on His terms.

What this way of thinking suggests is that men can prepare themselves

and clean themselves up without Christ. It suggests that we can prepare ourselves and then go find Christ! It's like cleaning your house before company arrives. But without Christ we CANNOT clean our house (our life). It can only be done after we've let Him come in. When Jesus reaches out to us we must be humble and admit we cannot save ourselves, and we must catch hold of his hand and hang on.

Some folks may say, "I'm sorry my house is a mess." And Jesus will say, "I know it is ... that is why I am here. Together we'll get it cleaned up." Without Jesus in your house with you, you can't locate the dirt ... much less clean it out.

Inability to see the dirt in your life is a common blindness among the dead ... like the Pharisee:

11. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself, God, I thank you that I am not as other men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12. I fast twice a week, and I tithe from all that I acquire.

Luke 18:11-12

If this error is affecting you ... if you are waiting until you can present yourself to Jesus without being humble and admitting that you need help, then you are operating under a prideful delusion. If you turn away help when He offers it, then you are condemning yourself to a dead existence without life. As one man put it, "Some men, at the end of their days, die ... never having lived."

Before you can admit your need for life you must first admit that you are dead. That is it in a nutshell. Jesus offers you life. But when He offers it to you, you must be humble enough to accept, and let Him help you.

Verse ten says we are saved by Jesus' life. We were brought to God by Jesus' death, but His LIFE saves us. That's an interesting point. People commonly focus on his death, but tend to ignore his LIFE. We see bumper stickers that say "Jesus died for me." And it is true ... He did. But now He

LIVES for us, and it is his LIFE that saves us.

It is frustrating when people are willing to accept a dead Jesus, but unwilling to accept a LIVING REIGNING Jesus. They don't mind thinking about Jesus as long as He is away somewhere in a distant outer-space "Heaven." But they are not comfortable with the thought of Him reigning right here with us, interfering with men's attempts to build their own kingdoms on Earth. They can tolerate the idea of a baby Jesus in a manger, or a dead Jesus on a cross, but they don't like Him as Reigning King, with laws, judgments, and present Kingdom.

Jesus' kingship is definitely downplayed today! Nonetheless, He is HERE ... offering us life. He was dead once, but now He is alive. His death lasted only a few hours. But his life is unending. Why do men prefer to emphasize Jesus' death which lasted only a few hours, and then downplay the last two millennia of his LIFE? Jesus has been LIVING and saving man for over 2000 years! JESUS RECONCILED US BY HIS DEATH, AND SAVES US BY HIS LIFE.

QUESTION: If people don't have to be good, or do something on their own to clean up their lives and follow God's Law, then why does the Bible talk so much about people being judged for their deeds? What good is if grace covers everything? Are you saying EVERYBODY is saved no matter how rotten they live their lives?

ROMANS 5:11,12 TO RECEIVE LIFE WE MUST FIRST ADMIT WE ARE DEAD

And not only so, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we now receive reconciliation.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passes onto all men, for all sin:

TO

ACCEPT "life" and be "raised" is to admit that we were "dead." Paul's teaching here requires that you understand the relationship between death and sin.

Sin and death are both natural to God's mortal creation. Man naturally sins, and naturally dies. However, when God communicated law to Adam a new kind of sin and death came into the world. Adam's awareness of law made him capable of rebellion against God: more than just nominal sin. The newly enlightened Adam became capable of "sin unto death."

There are two kinds of sin, and two kinds of "death." One kind of sin is unintentional; not rebellion. The other kind is intentional. It is rebellion.

By the same token, there are two kinds of death: 1. biological death, and 2. spiritual death. Adam's sin in Eden did not cause biological death. He lived some 900 years after his Eden sin. However, that sin DID cause spiritual death ... at the time it occurred.

If you don't understand these points you'll not comprehend what Paul is teaching.

First, NEW LIFE was given to Adam. God breathed it into him. That was NOT biological life, for Adam already had biological life. The life God breathed into Adam was SPIRITUAL LIFE (Gen. 2:7). So Adam was already alive biologically before spiritual life was added to him in Genesis 2:7.

Next, law entered. God commanded Adam with his law (Gen. 2:16). With enlightenment from God, Adam became accountable for the law he had received.

Next, a new kind of SIN entered when Adam knowingly disobeyed. With moral accountability, a greater sin was possible, and thus a greater judgment was possible. This brought spiritual DEATH upon Adam, for the wages of sin is death (Rm. 6:23). Accountability entered the world, and death by rebellion.

Adam was not the first created man, nor was he the first to sin. However, he seems to have been the first man to receive communication and enlightenment from God ... and a covenant. Thus, he was the first to he held accountable. There were, no doubt, other people in Eden. The Bible also indicates there were other people living outside Eden. In Genesis 4: 14-17, Cain was deported out of Eden to the Land of Nod where he joined other people, married, and had a family. Mankind did not begin with Adam. What began with Adam was dialogue with God.

Adam was given inspiration from God. It was a communication, an infusing of the spirit of life. That life (spiritual life) made Adam capable of overseeing the Kingdom of Eden. And that spiritual life was the thing he lost when he rebelled against God's law by adopting the serpent's government

system. Thus, in the day that Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil he died spiritually, not biologically.

There are two kinds of "sin," and two kinds of "death."

16. Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves slaves to obey, you are slaves to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:16

16. If any man see his brother sinning a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1 John 5:16

There is sin not unto death, and there is sin unto death.

Sin that is unintentional or done in ignorance is "not unto death." But sin that is intentional and done in rebellion IS "unto death" ... because rebellion demonstrates the absence of God's spirit.

14. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

James 1:14-15

As I said, there are two types of death: 1. biological death, and 2. spiritual death. Spiritual death is caused by rebellion. Biological death, on the

other hand, is not caused by rebellion, but by merely being mortal; it is automatic. Spiritual death is the result of imputed sin.

Before the Edenic sin, Adam was already mortal and biologically pre-programmed to die. Sin did not cause Adam's biological mortality. The cause of Adam's mortality was God's design, because He created Adam to be mortal. Biological death was built into Adam's flesh.

But God told Adam that he would "die" if he opted to ignore the command. Adam did ignore God's command, and he died that very day ... but not biologically. Adam did not die biologically in the day he rebelled ... and neither did others who rebelled. However, Adam DID die spiritually when he rebelled ... and so do other men. When Adam lost the "life" that God had breathed into him, it left him empty, fearful, insecure, and vulnerable ... just as it does any man who experiences spiritual death (separation from God).

The religious con man (serpent) had told Adam, "You shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). Serpent theology teaches that men have immortal souls/spirits and therefore cannot die. Most churches teach this serpent doctrine. Adam opted for the lie, and it cost him his spiritual life. He fell from grace and lost his spiritual relationship with God ... because he chose to believe that he had an immortal soul, was a god in his own right, and could make his own laws (deciding good and evil on his own, without God's help). This was idolatry of the worst kind.

ROMANS 5:13,14 IMPUTED SIN = SPIRITUAL DEATH

(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, also over them not sinning after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of the one who now is.



SAY “death reigned” is to say that man was lacking the spirit of God.

Spiritual life began with Adam. When God inspired (breathed life into) Adam death had to give way. Life dethroned death, so to speak. But then Adam opted to revert back to death by rejecting God as Lawmaker. That death gripped mankind from Adam to Moses.

The only remedy for sin is grace. Aside from God’s grace man has no hope against sin and death ... because man sins and dies when on his own. Grace, therefore, is man’s only hope. And while grace was exemplified in Jesus, it wasn’t new with Him. God has always been gracious to man, willing to forgive and be a Father to us. It was grace that brought enlightenment and inspiration to Adam.

In verse 13, the phrase, “until the law” does not mean “before law existed.” Rather, it means “before man knew the law.

Don’t misunderstand what Paul is saying. Before law was communicated to Adam, sin did exist ... but sin was not imputed until after man was made aware of the law. God does not hold man morally accountable unless he is aware of the law. Man is morally accountable only for sins committed knowingly or in defiance ... as Adam did.

The laws of God predated both Adam and Moses. God’s laws are the timeless principles of His creation. His laws govern the universe. Even ignorance cannot exempt man from God’s physical laws. However, the MORAL LAWS require awareness in order to be imputed.

Paul was not speaking of the point at which law began, but rather the point at which law began to be COMMUNICATED TO MAN ... and man became morally accountable. It started with Adam. Law has always existed. But man has not always been aware of it. Indeed, man today is still discovering laws which have always existed.

Sin is imputed when committed knowingly and presumptuously. If a man knows something to be wrong, but does it anyway, then the sin will be imputed. In James chapter four this principle is stated:

17. To him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is (imputed) sin.

James 4:17

Conversely then, if a man does not know to do good, his failure to do good is not imputed sin.

When God communicated to Adam (“God commanded Adam”) in Gen. 2:16, Adam became accountable to that law. Indeed, that accountability led to Adam’s “fall” which removed him from his position as Patriarch in Eden.

By the same token, today, if we are under God’s grace, our ignorance and our unintentional errors are not morally imputed to us. Our errors (sins) may bring natural and physical consequences (illness, injury, or confusion), but they do not bring moral condemnation and spiritual death. Unintentional errors do not cut us off from God.

However, when we become aware of those errors we must repent ... or else we defy God and we fall from grace. God’s grace covers our sins of ignorance as well as our past sins ... if we repent. But grace does not give us license to continue wilfully sinning with impunity.

The law was communicated (“given”) to Adam. Adam’s rebellion was the first imputed sin. Adam had become aware of law, and thus accountable. He “died” the day that he knowingly rejected God as his Lawmaker.

15. And Yahweh God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16. And Yahweh God commanded the man (gave law), saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof (i.e., sin wilfully) you shall surely die.

Genesis 2:15-17

God’s spirit is that breath of life that changes man into a higher life form with desire to seek heavenly things.

1. If you then were raised up with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

2. Heed the things above, not the things on the earth.

3. For you died, and your life is hid together with Christ in God.

Col. 3:1-3

Man can lose that higher “life” through rebellion.

3. And Yahweh said, My spirit shall not plead perpetually with man: in his erring he is flesh:

Genesis 6:3

When Adam was shown his sin, he did not confess and repent. Instead, he manufactured a lame excuse ...blaming his crime on Eve. Trying to lie to God is evidence of spiritual death. If he had not been spiritually dead he would have acknowledged and repented of his sin when it was revealed to him.

Death (darkness) reigned from Adam to Moses. The law God gave to Adam basically commanded men to have no other gods in the place of Yahweh. Men were not to seek other lawmakers (i.e., “gods”). It was a prohibition against other gods. Adam’s sin, when he opted for the serpent’s doctrine, was to attempt to circumvent God’s law. The serpent convinced Adam he could be a god by deciding good and evil on his own, being a lawmaker himself. Thus Adam claimed to be “like God, knowing good and evil.”

That darkness (death) reigned until Moses. A remedy for sin was needed. Thus, through Moses, God provided for forgiveness and atonement (i.e., grace) for sin. That provision began with the Old Covenant. It served its pur-

pose, but was soon abandoned when Israel sought a man-made government system in I Sam. 8.

God had been gracious to Israel more than once. The epitome of God's grace was yet to be seen in Christ, but the grace of God had been active since the beginning. The God of Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a gracious God. He always has been.

Rebellion is the unforgivable sin. Grace does not cover someone who continues to rebel and won't repent. We'll talk more about that later.

4. Now to him that works is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5. But to him that works not, but believes on him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6. Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, to whom God imputes righteousness without works,

7. Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Romans 4:4-8

Paul did not say, "blessed is the man who doesn't sin." There isn't a man on Earth who doesn't sin. Rather, he said "blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Get it square in your mind.

15. Because the law works wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Romans 4:15

Where law is not known there is no moral guilt. But, as more is revealed to us, we become more accountable.

47. And that servant which knew his lord's will, and having prepared not, neither having done according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48. But he that knew not, and has

done things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten sparingly. For to everyone to whom much was given, of him shall much be required:

Lk. 12:47-48

With more knowledge more accountability and judgment came upon man. Through Moses and the Old Covenant God began to prepare man for his ultimate expression of Grace: the redemption through Jesus.

17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17

This "new creature" (the new man in Christ) has been "raised" and given new life. This new life puts the "old man" (the flesh) in subjection. Old things are passed away; all things are new. Your life becomes a new paradigm, and you lose interest in the old ways. You see things from a new perspective, and you happily walk away from the old ways of death. It may not happen completely overnight, but, it happens. The new man in Christ is a NEW LIFE. He prefers the new things of heaven and light rather than the old things of death and darkness.

18. And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:18-19

The "good news" (the gospel) was the word of reconciliation. The way man is reconciled (forgiven) is that God does not impute his trespasses (sins).

God doesn't ignore the sin. Rather, He brings it to our attention and expects us to repent. That is grace and reconciliation. Now, look at the same principle in the Old Testament:

1. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psalms 32:1-2

Having "no guile" in your spirit equates to honesty and sincerity. It doesn't mean being perfect ... it just means being sincere, and willing to repent: being spiritually alive.

The church world has mixed pagan doctrine with Bible doctrine. As a result most people only know about biological life and biological death. Most people are unaware of spiritual life and spiritual death. Paul is talking about the spiritual death that men experience "in the day they eat thereof." When men lose their will to obey God – as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden – they die.

The gospel (the good news) is an explanation of how God, through Jesus, shined light and life upon Israel, and how spiritual death was reversed by grace. (see Ez. 37 - the parable of "the dry bones" ... a prophecy foretelling the spiritual raising [rebirth] of spiritually-dead Israel).

QUESTION: If the law exists perpetually, then why does Peter in Acts 10 teach that unclean animals are pronounced clean, contrary to the food laws?

QUESTION: Why would Jesus, on the one hand, cover us with his grace and at the same time still expect us to follow His law? It seems very contradictory. The grace of Jesus without any law (because He nailed it to the cross) seems a lot nicer and more loving in today's world than the harsh and hateful laws of the Old Testament.

ROMANS 5:15-17 REIGNING WITH CHRIST

But the trespass is not as the gift. For if through one trespass many died, much rather through one man, Jesus Christ, the grace of God and the gracious gift has abounded to the many.

And the grace is not as through one sinning; for the judgment was to condemnation by one (trespass), but the grace is to justification from many trespasses.

For if through the one's trespass death reigned through one; much more shall they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.)

ADAM'S loses were passed to his descendants. His descendants inherited "the sins of the fathers" (Jer 32:18). Thus, Adam was the model for death.

Many years later, Jesus became a model of restored LIFE. The first Adam rebelled and died – the second Adam (Christ) obeyed and lived. The mechanics of this scripture can be stated in several different ways – but they all say the same thing about spiritual life and spiritual death: 1. The first Adam's rebellion led many into rebellion, but the second Adam's obedience led many into obedience. 2. The first Adam showed us spiritual death, and the second Adam showed us spiritual life. 3. Through Adam's sin many died (spiritually), but through Christ's example, many have been made alive (spiritually). 4. In Adam flesh reigns to death – in Christ spirit reigns to life.

One of the common questions that people ask me is, "How can we be reigning now?" Or, they claim, "Jesus cannot be reigning right now ... because we haven't yet seen the end of the world, and sin still exists." Of course, these sentiments are based on the premise that Christ's Kingdom is

a future utopian kingdom and a spotless paradise where no sin or difficulties can exist. And although this utopian belief in "heaven" is the dominant belief in the church world, the fact is the Bible says NOTHING about such a place. It is a church myth. Furthermore, people who hold to this utopian myth will completely miss the lesson Paul is trying to teach about spiritual life, and about Christ's Kingdom today.

Most religionists are locked in the grip of the "paradise paradigm." Thus, it is difficult for them to grasp what "reigning with Christ" really means.

"Reign" does not mean "rule." Christ reigns, but he does not rule. His Father is still sovereign. Most churchgoers expect to RULE the Earth with Jesus ... with a "rod of iron."

Because they have been programmed with the pagan concept of "ruling" they have a wrong idea of the Kingdom ... and they have a wrong concept of government.

Scriptures that refer to Christ's Reign are numerous, and everyone ought to make an effort to understand the concept.

ROMANS 5:18-21 "REIGNING" AND "EONIAN LIFE"

Therefore as through one trespass judgment came upon all men; thus also through one righteous act justification of life came to all men.

For as through disobedience of one man many were constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of one will many be constituted righteous.

But law entered so the trespass would be magnified. But where the trespass was magnified, grace abounded

That as sin reigned in the death, even so might grace reign through righteousness into eonian (of the age) life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

AGAIN, Paul contrasts the first Adam with the Second. The first Adam led many to sin. The second "Adam," Christ, led many to righteousness. Adam was given life, and then lost it. Christ, in contrast, was born into death, and then gained life.

Sin was imputed to Adam because he knowingly chose to abandon God. Righteousness is imputed to all who accept the spirit of Christ and trust God.

It's been said that "Ignorance is bliss." Perhaps it's partly true. Ignorant man doesn't know he is doing wrong, and his heart (conscience) is not defiled. But with knowledge comes accountability. So when you pray for knowledge, understand that it will change your life. Your conscience and accountability level raises. So, be prepared for a change when you pray for knowledge.

Now, we've come to a point of clarification. In I Corinthians 15 everything comes into focus, and church myths are expelled, by understanding the Reign of Christ.

25. For he (Jesus) must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet.

I Corinthians 15:25

This does NOT say that Jesus will reign after his enemies have been put down. It says that his enemies are being put down during his reign. This is an obvious clue that Jesus' Reign does not wait until all sin has been eliminated.

The world focuses on physical life and physical death. By the same token, people assume that "eternal life" (as rendered in the King James Bible) is an unending physical experience of pleasure and indulgence. But the actual Greek word is "eonian," not "eternal." Eonian means "of the age" ... and ages have beginnings and endings.

Eonian life (life of the eon or age; in this case, the New Covenant age) comes upon us when we are born again in Christ, or when we receive "new life in Christ." Fleshly man cannot fathom this, so he attempts to refute it.

QUESTION: By reading the verses I once thought referred to physical death as referring to spiritual death, you are also taking away the verses I was counting on for eternal physical life. Are there any verses which tell us we will be raised to immortal life after biological death?

CONCLUSION

There is more to discuss about grace, and about those who are of the promise (i.e., those who are under the grace of Christ and have the promise of Abraham) ... as opposed to those who are of the flesh. Paul emphasizes both grace and law together, but, most people still miss what he said.

Eonian life is spiritual life. Most English Bibles mistranslate "eonian," calling it "eternal." But "eonian" clearly means "of the age."

"Spiritual life" refers to that which motivates man. The man who has been "raised" in Christ to new life (born again) can still err; he can still sin ... but he does NOT knowingly choose to do so. His spirit is not rebellious. Psalm 32:2 speaks of the man "in whose spirit there is no guile." That is the essence of what determines "the new man" as opposed to "the old man." Christ's spirit (life) that comes into us has no guile.

So, we've learned from chapter five that Adam represents spiritual death, and Christ represents spiritual life. This life and death scenario is the central theme of the Bible.

Also, in consideration of eonian life, we see this "life" is the foundation of essential and basic Christian doctrine. This clear teaching about "life" has been passed over, partially stated, or wrongly stated in the churches. It has seldom been explained or understood with the clarity that Paul desired. Many have repeated it, but few have understood it.

By the time we get through with this section of Romans, I think you will understand it and will be able to make it understandable to others who have ears to hear.

END OF ROMANS CHAPTER FIVE

FOR ANSWERS AND NOTES, SEE "ANSWER SECTION."

ROMANS CHAPTER FIVE

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. In the previous chapter Paul was teaching about Abraham and what it means to be a "child of Abraham." In this chapter, Paul digresses to explain some basics about "life" and "death." To do this, he contrasts Adam with Jesus ... showing that Adam represents spiritual death, and Jesus represents spiritual life.
2. In this context, Paul refers to Adam as "the first Adam," and to Jesus as "the second Adam." The first one lost life, and the second one gained life.
3. The "life" Adam lost, and Jesus gained, is called "eonian life." It is the life that inspires man to hear (discern) the word of God, and to prefer God's ways rather than man's ways.
4. The holy spirit is a spirit of separation. It inspires us to separate ourselves from the world system. "Holy" means: to set apart for a special purpose. Under the motivation of the holy spirit we lose our attraction to worldly society, and we are driven to separate ourselves. We are CALLED OUT of worldly society (out of Babylon), and we stop emulating it. We reject the systems of men ... not because we lack skills to succeed in society, but because we prefer to NOT waste our skills in a culture of death.
5. God's Kingdom, and his laws, are beyond the discernment of a spiritually-dead society. Only those who are born of the spirit are capable of understanding and loving God's Kingdom and his laws. His Kingdom and his laws are ONLY for the living: the heirs of the promise.
6. A "son" is more than a child or an offspring. An offspring doesn't become a "son" until/unless he shows that he has "the spirit" of his father. It is called "sonship," and it acknowledges a child coming of age.
7. The Bible describes two seed lines: one of flesh, and one of spirit. The

flesh line is natural birth, the spirit line is spiritual birth ("born from above"). The flesh seed represent death. The spiritual seed represent life, and are the children of Abraham: "heirs of the promise."

8. Those who are spiritually-alive are citizens of New Jerusalem: the city of the living! The spiritually-dead live outside the walls, in darkness.
9. The dead do not seek out Jesus. Rather, Jesus finds the dead, and rescues them. Before Jesus finds us, we neither know Him nor think that we need Him. The dead cannot help themselves.
10. God inspired (put life in) Adam, and communicated law to him. Adam then was held accountable for his new life and knowledge. When he knowingly rebelled and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, his sin was IMPUTED to him. It was a "sin unto death." Thus, Adam died (spiritually) in the day that he ate of it.

ANSWERS:

pg.4

God gave his spirit, his law and his covenants to Israel so that truth and grace, through Israel, might reach to ALL NATIONS ... for his own glory, NOT for Israel's glory.

7. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, not of us.

II Cor. 4:7

God commissioned Jacob's descendants to be "a light on a hill," to display God's light to all men. The light was not Israel's light, but God's light reflected through Israel. God uses flesh vessels to carry his spirit. Thus, since the flesh follows racial lines, the spirit tends to naturally follow racial (family) lines as well.

8. And the scripture, foreseeing that God is justifying the nations

through faith, declared the good news beforehand to Abraham, that in you shall all nations be blessed.

Gal. 3:8

As the moon reflects the light from the Sun, Israel was chosen not to be the exclusive beneficiary of God's light, but to reflect God's light to the world. Israel was to be God's message to mankind; to show God's glory, not to establish her own glory. Israel is special, NOT for her merit, but for her God. Our God is what makes us different.

The advances attributed to modern Israel (western society) were products of the spirit of God, not "superior" genetics. God's word, his law, and his presence among us made advancement possible. Genetics and genius alone cannot make a people good or "advanced." Without the spirit of God man reverts to savagery.

The legacy of Israel through Europe and America has been the story of two spirits. On one hand it was the spirit of flesh which built the Beast System that now grips America and the world. And on the other hand it was the holy spirit in people who separated themselves from the Beast system.

Israel is capable of great evil, and great good ... depending upon which spirit "inspires" her. Central governments are manifestations of the spirit of man without God. This is the basis of the Beast System (government). America, and especially America's government, is not "great" in God's eyes, nor is it Christian by any stretch of the imagination.

Israel's white legacy is both good and bad. Good where they have followed God ... but indescribably bad where they have followed man.

pg. 6

2. You shall not follow a multitude to do evil;

Exodus 23:2

The strength in numbers is not enough by itself. A majority won't help unless it is grounded upon Jesus.

The creation is NOT about man. It is about God! Man's fatal error is always the same: he thinks he is the center of all things. But he is not! Thinking that

he is the center leads to his ruin.

This is not about us, or churches ... as the historians and preachers have tried to say. Rather, it is about God!

Looking to churches for numbers is futile, like Israel looking to Egypt for help ... against God's warning (*Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come to us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves."* Is. 28:15)

Don't look to race, to government, or to churches for security. Look to Jesus. He alone has been authorized by the God of Israel to give us eonian life and keep us sane and safe.

pg.8

9. He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace given to us in Christ Jesus preceding this age.

10. And now is manifest by the open showing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolishes death and illuminates life and immortality through the gospel.

II Tim. 1:9-10

Judgment starts AFTER we are saved by grace ... after we accept God's call and receive life.

As we enter through the gates of New Jerusalem, we are reborn in Christ. We become alive and accountable. We are judged by how we respond to salvation and life ... AFTER it is given to us.

Judgement is not an entrance exam, but rather a standard requirement once we are inside the gates.

The Father calls us on his terms, not on ours. It is his call ... not ours. We do not dictate the terms of the call. We only opt to accept or decline the call. If we decline the call, there is no guarantee that it will be issued again to us. It may, or it may not.

If we accept the call, we agree to start a new life. We enter as a child, dependent upon Jesus. As we grow, we are expected to develop in the spirit of God and his law, and in honor for our

King. If we accept the call (and the life), we become citizens of the Kingdom. If we then go back on the agreement, we will be chastised. If chastisement doesn't correct us, we will be let go; cut off; "cast out," to return to our dead existence and outer darkness ... outside the walls of New Jerusalem.

The Kingdom is only for the living. If we reject life we have no place in the Kingdom.

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a. Acts 10 does not indicate that God's food laws are abolished. Rather, it verifies God's law.

Peter saw a large sheet with all manner of animals, both clean and unclean, on it. Peter was told, "Kill and eat." There is no indication that Peter was expected to kill and eat an unclean animal. There were clean animals to kill and eat.

Peter's response was that he didn't eat things that were "common." A "common" animal was a clean animal that had been defiled by unclean animals. Peter thought the clean animals had been defiled or made "common" by being close to the unclean animals on the sheet.

Peter was then told that the animals represented men, and that he (Peter) should not call any man "common" if God has cleansed him. Thus, Peter understood that God wanted him to stop considering men "common" just because they lived in the nations ... among the "unclean." If God called and cleansed men in the nations, they were not to be shunned.

Thus, the illustration with animals representing men would have made no sense if the law of clean and unclean foods had been abolished. Plus, Peter admits that he still kept that law.

b. The churches have perverted the term "grace," changing it to mean "indulgence" or "impunity." They claim "grace" did away with God's law. But, without law there would be no need of grace. To do away with God's law would be mankind's worst nightmare ... because it would mean doing away with

God Himself.

God reveals his law to those He loves. He also judges those He loves – as a good parent who both teaches and judges his children.

Man has tried various methods to circumvent God's laws. But it simply cannot be done.

Instead of trying to figure out how to do away with God's laws, man should be figuring out how to learn them and use them for his good.

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The only model we have for understanding "the raising" to immortality is the model of Jesus Himself. Jesus is the ONLY One to have been raised to immortality. That establishes "the raising" as a fact, and sets the stage for others who will be raised in the future.

Further proof is in Paul's words where he says that "this life" is not the end our hope ... which is to say that our hope goes beyond this life ... into the next (I Cor. 15: 12-29).

Most Bible verses that use the terms "raising" and "eonian life" refer to being raised from spiritual death in this present age. Most scriptures about eonian life have been misconstrued by the churches to refer to the future raising to immortality. This error has confused millions of churchgoers.

Our future raising to immortality is taught in the Bible, but not by most of the scriptures cited by the churches.

Here are a few more of the scriptures which do show a future physical raising to life immortal: Lk. 14:14; Jn. 6:39-40, 44, 54; I Jn. 3:1-3.

The promise of a future raising to immortal life is a wonderful promise. However, the Bible deals mostly with our "life" today ... in Jesus.