



(Romans 15:4) “whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction.” = What timeless instruction (truths/principles) is established by what is written?

**LEGEND:** 1) Christianity is Judaism 2.0 (a marriage-covenant relationship of **gain and maintain**) NOT Roman Catholicism 2.0 (a merit-based system of **earn or burn**) (Eze 16:59; Gal 5:6 w/21; Phi 2:12; 2Pe 1:5-11), 2) We **gain positional/vertical justification** (i.e., enter into a restful state/right standing/saving covenant with God) *only through observance of God’s clean or sabbatical laws*; those laws whose function is to cleanse/remove the stain/curse of our sin before God): [2.1.] OC = “the works of the law” (atonement sacrifice, a covenant sign [circumcision], atoning holidays [Passover-Pentecost, Yom Kippur], and spiritual separation [unclean foods and people], [2.2.] NC = Faith in Jesus Christ as our once-for-all atoning sacrifice which upholds the other clean/sabbatical laws through its new application/expression of: baptism (covenant sign – Col 2:11-12), the Lord’s Table (atonement holidays – Joh 13:1-8), separation from false Christians, the apostate, and rebellious pagans (spiritual separation – 1Co 5:9-13; 2Co 6:14-7:1; 2Jo 1:9-11). 3) We **maintain** positional/vertical justification/our restful state/righteous standing with God/salvation through faithful/continued observance of the clean laws *plus faithful obedience to the moral commands (practical/horizontal justification – Jam 2:24)*; those laws which accomplish love/being righteous toward God and others – including repentance which means confessing and turning from sin as well as paying the necessary penalties when I sin - Mat 22:36-40; Rom 13:8-10; Gal 5:6 w/13-14; As it re: to repentance – Luk 3:1-18; Luk 19:1-10; Lev 6:1-7 w/Mat 5:23-24; Act 20:21 w/26:20 = We must now maintain [keep] the repentance promised when we gained salvation). 4) Faith in Jesus Christ for positional justification is only accepted by God in baptism which regenerates us and communicates our vow of loyalty to repent and faithfully follow all of God’s laws (Joh 3:1-5; Mar 16:15-16 w/Mar 1:15; Tit 3:5; 1Pe 3:21). 5) Besides the children of those already possessing salvation, the only persons welcomed to gain a saving covenant relationship w/God (i.e., positional justification) are those already practicing His moral commands or those promising to repent/turn from their sins and obey (Gen 6:9 w/18; Neh 9:8; Act 10:34-35; Rom 2:26).

1. The additional blessings granted to those who possess justification by faith in Jesus Christ are: 1) peace with God (1, “peace” = God is our friend rather than foe), 2) favor with God (2, “grace” = Favor, most especially as it relates to entering heaven [“we rejoice in hope of the glory of God”]; See Rom 1:7 and Num 6:24-26).
2. The “hope” of heaven gained through our justification by faith in Christ, is maintained by suffering with the right attitude and output (3-4 = The right attitude/perspective on suffering [“we rejoice”] requires believing [“knowing”] that it is not in vain/useless. Instead, it is essential to producing persevering faithfulness [“endurance...character”] – i.e., unfickle/unfailing under fire.)
3. The only Christians who should possess the “hope” of heaven (assurance of salvation) are those whose lives are characterized by perseverance (“endurance”) in faithfulness when the going gets tough (when “suffering”) (4; You are only as good as you are when you suffer [are tested/made uncomfortable] IOW: assurance of salvation requires our faithfulness to God’s commands survive the trials/tests of life – Mat 13:18-23 = Notice: 1) those who fail to obey during tests/trials end up damned [“falls away...proves unfruitful”], 2) what determines whether God’s commands continue to be obeyed is not our circumstances but our hearts/attitude [“soil” = heart/attitude not the circumstances of life; “understands it” = Chooses to accept/believe/commit/hold fast to God’s Word as truth w/a good and honest attitude - Mar 4:20; Luk 8:15]; BTW: Success = Obedience to the future – Pro 29:18).
4. The sign you are saved – or possess the kind of eternal hope that will “not put [you] to shame (versus the wicked – Pro 14:12) is that loving and finding pleasure in this life is fully dependent on loving and pleasing God (IOW: if there were no hell, you would still live for God) (5 “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” = We still possess the Holy Spirit and His sanctifying/cleansing work for salvation; Eze 36:26-28; “poured into our hearts” = Heart beats to love God).
5. What fuels the faithful Christian’s love for God is the knowledge that God was willing to love us and send His Son to die for us before we were faithful or loved Him (6-8; 1Jo 4:10; The question therefore is never, “Has God loved me?” but, “Am I loving God?”).
6. Paul refutes the excuse used by Evangelicals to get around Ezekiel 18 and continue their belief in penal substitution (7-8; “If an innocent person suffers the punishment for a crime for which he bears no guilt, then it makes no difference whether or not he does so willingly. It is a miscarriage of justice, pure and simple. The Bible roundly condemns such a thing when it comes to human courts, and it would seem strange of Christ did not adhere to the same standards himself. To see why penal substitution is not a travesty of justice of exactly this kind, we need to recall the doctrine of the union with Christ. The believer is not separate from Christ, an unrelated third party. He is in us, and we are in him, indwelt by the Spirit.”; According to Paul, at the time that Christ died “we were still sinners.” -i.e., outside union to Christ – Eph 2:1-3. Only in baptism are we united to Christ and His death – Rom 6:1-4).
7. The fact that Jesus both died and rose again to new “life” should cause Christians (those “justified by His blood”) to “rejoice” since they have not only been “reconciled to God (as friends not “enemies”) but can be “saved” from His coming “wrath” (9-11).
8. Sin is the reason people (eventually) die (i.e., eventual death [Gen 2:17] is part of our punishment as sinners for our sin) and another reason we know penal substitution to be false (If Jesus was already punished for our sins, then justice requires we escape physical death [double jeopardy]) (12, 14b “even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam” = No type of sin is excluded from the penalty of eventual physical death).
9. Before the time of Moses and the Law, people were punished for their sins (e.g., they died), yet their sins were not “counted” the same way as those who came after codification of the Law (IOW: codification begets amplification) (13-14a w/20a; e.g., Gen 4:1-14 = Under the Law, Cain would have been killed).
10. Adam was a negative type (Grk. *tupos* = Example) of Christ in that what he did: 1) affected many people (14c-15), 2) changed our spiritual state and eternal destiny before God (16-17).
11. Jesus’ perfect “obedience” allowed Him to do the “one act of righteousness” or provide the “grace” that would be sufficient to justify (cleanse) us from any *amount* of sin and make us “righteous” so that we can enter into “eternal life” (18-21; Jesus’ *one* act of righteousness/provision of grace = His propitiatory death – vv8-10).