



(Romans 15:4) "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction." = What timeless instruction 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" (atoning 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 (atoning 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 the grace of continuing to receive positional/vertical justification/propitiation/forgiveness and our restful state/righteous standing/salvation/relationship with God through faithful obedience to His moral commands (practical/horizontal justification** – Jam 2:14-26; Rom 6:1-23; Jud 1:21); 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. Because of God's reigning and abounding grace and the "free gift" of propitiation/justification and resurrection/regeneration (or emancipation) we gain through our baptismal union w/Jesus (Rom 5:17, 6:1-5, 23): 1) we do not have to fear eternal "condemnation" before God as long as we maintain that union through obedience to the Spirit and not our flesh (1 w/Fn; "those who are in Christ Jesus" = Baptismal union w/Christ), 2) the power of sin has been broken in our flesh (it remains but no longer reigns) (2-3 "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh could not do [the law aroused rather than subdued sin in the flesh – 7:8]...he condemned sin in the flesh" = Jesus broke the power of sin in the flesh – Rom 6:6-10), 3) we possess the ability to live in faithful obedience to God's Law (4 "in order that" = An indication of purpose. The reason God gave us propitiation/regeneration was for the purpose of faithful obedience – Eph 1:3-4 w/Phi 2:12-15).
2. God's grace and free gift equips but does not ensure we will fulfill "the righteous requirement of the law" (we must capitalize on our equipping) (4 "might [πληρωθῆ] - subjunctive aorist] be fulfilled in us"; Rom 6:19-23; 2Pe 1:3 w/2 w/4-11 [v4 "may become" – subjunctive aorist]; Hence again v9).
3. Faithful obedience to God's Law is (also) required for salvation (4, "requirement").
4. Living according to the Spirit: 1) requires that your thoughts be preoccupied with the things of God rather than the things of the world (5; "set their minds on the things of..." = Is preoccupied with those things; they are never far from your mind even when you are required to think about other things; they are the filter through which everything you think about is pressed; they are the lens through which everything is viewed), 2) is what makes the difference between the Christian who makes it to heaven and the one who ends up in hell (6 w/12-13; IOW: this is how we capitalize on our equipping – v4), 3) is necessary to maintaining faithful obedience to God's law and pleasing Him (7w/8 = Cannot submit to God's Law = Cannot please God), 4) constitutes the true Christian's new orientation and present empowerment (9 = Orientation ["Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him"], 10-11 = Present empowerment ["although the body is dead...the Spirit is life" w/"the Spirit... will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit" = Now power]; Rom 6:11-14).
5. Obedience to God's Law is central/necessary to: 1) living according to the Spirit (6w/7 "does not submit to God's law" = "mind set on the flesh" which means "mind set on the Spirit" = submits to/obeys God's Law), 2) pleasing God (6-8), 3) salvation (6-8 w/12-13), 3) continuing to be identified as one of God's adopted children (versus a child of wrath – Eph 2:1-3) (14-17 "provided we suffer with him" = Our continuing identity as children of God is conditioned upon the evidence of our suffering b/c of sin [i.e. we say "no"/condemn sin rather than giving into it – Tit 2:11-12] just as Christ suffered for sin and "condemned sin in [His] flesh" [v3] by saying "no" to it and ultimately dying to/for it; In this light consider 1Pe 4:1-2; v17 "be glorified with Him" = Be identified as "fellow heirs");
6. Believing that obedience is "nice but not necessary" is the same as believing that you do not have to walk according to the Spirit, be pleasing to God, be identified as a son/daughter of God --- and can warned of eternal death [for such lack of obedience] yet still be saved/get to heaven (6-17).

7. The suffering we (Christians) endure by putting to death the deeds of the flesh (v13) (which includes saying “no” to being preoccupied with our flesh and its desires – feelings, impulses, emotions etc.): 1) is more than worth it given the glorious world of the reboot (18 “sufferings...not worth comparing” [Grk. sufferings are not worthy]= What we must give to get what we will receive is not deserved/not equitable/does not fit – e.g., Heb 11:26; Paul’s words carry the weight of some personal experience – 2Co 12:1-7; Consider Jesus’ teaching on this- Mat 16:24-27: 1.1] This life is our tour of duty for Jesus: the time we give up to serve and suffer for Him thru saying no to sin and loyalty to the world [24-25], 1.2] pursuit of sin and the world will mean forfeiting our souls’ new body in the reboot [26a], 1.3] gaining our heart’s desire in this world doesn’t hold a candle to what our souls will receive in the reboot [26b = Our souls are the ticket we forfeit to get to the next], 1.4] the glorious reboot will begin at Jesus’ return [27 w/Rev 20:11-21:1ff], 1.5] our deeds will determine whether we finished our tour of duty or failed [27b]), 2) is also being experienced by the rest of creation in the form of “futility” and “corruption” which means the best and most beautiful things in this world do not compare to what will exist in the Reboot (19-22 “The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God...the creation itself will be set free...and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” = In the rebooted world to come, God will not only provide us with upgraded bodies but the creation itself will also experience a massive upgrade [think Ironman meets Star Trek in the beautiful universe of the Guardians of the Galaxy]; Mat 22:30 w/Dan 12:2-3 “shine like the brightness of the sky above...like stars forever and ever = Language used elsewhere to communicate the majestic form and mighty power of angels – e.g., 2Sa 24:15-16; Dan 9:21, 10:5-6; Psa 103:20, 104:4; Job 38:4-7; Eze 1:13; Mat 13:41-42 [Men cannot overpower them – even armies of men - Exo 33:2; 2Ki 19:35]; Rev 12:4) 3) causes us (at times) to “groan” w/impatience because we so badly want to leave this world behind and suit up into our new ironman bodies in the beautiful rebooted world (23), 4) requires we currently live motivated by God’s vision of the future (i.e., the Reboot) rather than only what we can see in the present (24-25), 5) ensures that we will receive Spiritual help to guide us in our desires and decisions so that we reach our heavenly goal/the Reboot (26-28 “what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes” = The HS guides our desires and decisions in the direction of what is right so that we get to heaven. Again however, this is all dependent on us “suffering” against sin).
8. God knows those who truly love Him and will see to it that they receive everything they need to reach His purpose: conformity to the image of His Son through calling, justification, and glorification (upgraded status to that of child of God and heir of heaven – Rom 8:17; Joh 17:22; Eph 2:6; Regarding God knows those who love Him, see 2Ti 2:19 = God knows those who are welcome to Him - Rom 2:26; Act 10:34-35; e.g., Neh 9:8; Going back to vv4-17,26-28 this purpose is accomplished thru obedience/living according to the Spirit).
9. Believing that “God is for us” (i.e., true Christians): 1) should cause us to never care what people in the world (including family) think about us (31; Caring about what other people think of you means: 1.1] you care little about what God thinks/thinks of you, 1.2] refuse to believe in God/God’s Word [Joh 5:44]; Cowardliness is a sure sign that you still care far too much about what others think), 2) means that we view God’s act of giving Jesus to save us was the proof He will make good on everything promised in the Reboot (32), 3) requires that we are justified (by God thru Jesus) and possess Jesus as our High Priest and intercessor (33-34; Heb 7:25; BTW: justification and high priest intercession are both acts associated with the house of God on behalf of the covenant community it serves [Exo 24-Lev 17 = Covenant confirmed/community established followed by construction of God’s house, the anointing of the priesthood, sacrifices and intercession]. Not associated w/a house of God/covenant community = No justification/intercession from its High Priest).
10. Only what the Christian does can separate them from Christ’s love and salvation (35-39 w/9:1-6, 30-33).

Romans 1-8

Unlike the OC, the NC established by Christ’s death and resurrection grants to us the grace and free gift of God that not only fulfills His salvific requirement of justification, but emancipates and empowers (or equips) us to fulfill His other salvific requirement of faithful obedience to His Law.