



(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" (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 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).

*Change to chapter 6 notes: 1. God's reigning/abounding grace/favor of vertical/positional justification (necessary for heaven) will not continue if we "continue in sin." IOW: we must maintain the grace given through our initial (vertical/positional) justification if we expect to continue to receive it in the future (1-2a w/15-23).

**Chapter 7 is written to Jewish Christians in Rome ("Or do you not know, brothers? – for I am speaking to those who know the Law" = Jewish Christians who once lived under the Old Covenant)

1. Denying baptismal regeneration (real spiritual death and resurrection/new life in baptism) means Evangelicals are still bound to the Old Covenant applications/signs associated with God's Law (1-4, "Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law" = "You are not under law" [6:14] = You no longer observe God's Law according to its Old Covenant application; "through the body of Christ [in baptism – 6:1-4] [you died to the Law] so that you may belong to another" = So that you can belong/operate under a new covenant and its new applications/signs without being in violation of the former. Paul's argument fails to convince unless the death we experience in our baptism is real [spiritually] versus simply symbolic. The Evangelical claim that baptism is only symbolic means they are still required to keep the Old Covenant applications/signs since only where there is real death is it annulled. W/O real death, the old marriage covenant and its applications are still intact [contra e.g., giving a man the right to date other women while his wife is still alive b/c he has pretended she is dead]; Heb 9:15-17).

2. Salvation is a marriage covenant (1-4, "I am speaking to those who know the law- that the law is binding on a person as long as he lives. For [since] a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives...Likewise my brothers, you also have died" = At the very least, Paul is claiming that covenants function according to the same principles as a marriage. Adding to this the fact that God's people are referred to as His wife/bride [Eze 16:32; Rev 19:7] and He as their Husband [Jer 31:32] leaves no reason to doubt that the salvific covenants are indeed marriage covenants versus marriage as an analogy or metaphor. Notice Paul's transition from verse 1 into 2, "the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? For [or because] a married woman is bound by law" = Paul cites the law of marriage as his reason for saying what he does about the duration of God's saving covenants [essentially, "God's saving covenants are until death because this is how marriage works"]. That is not analogous or metaphorical language. *Analogies and metaphors can describe actions but never govern them.* For those "who know the law", they know that the laws of marriage govern God's saving covenants making them also marital in nature [contra e.g., Days of malnutrition made Ryan a ravenous wolf. As a result his friends called animal control]).

3. Being released from the Old Covenant application of the Law is not the same as being released from obeying the Old Covenant Law (6a "But now we are released from the Law, having died to that which held us captive" w/3:31 and 13:8-10 = We are no longer bound to the Law's OC application; 6b "so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not the old way of the written code [or letter]" = We serve the Law according to its NC application/signs and empowerment versus its OC application/signs w/no empowerment – See 2Co 3:1-8 = The Law is no longer being applied [e.g., justification] according to its OC application w/no empowerment but by its NC application and Spirit empowerment; Paul's concern is the *not* the Law's observance but its application/signs and lack of empowerment under the OC. THINK ABOUT IT. IF THE LAW [without qualification] NO LONGER MATTERS, THEN WHY A CONCERN FOR EVEN THE REQUIREMENT OF JUSTIFICATION – SINCE THIS TOO COMES FROM GOD'S LAW?).

4. Because the Holy Spirit was not given as Helper under the Old Covenant, the Jews (v1 - "those who know the law" = Jewish people): 1) lived only in the power of their flesh (5aw/14a "I am of the flesh" = Paul speaking as a Jew under the OC), 2) found that the codification of God's Law only aroused (rather than subdued) the desire to sin and apostasize from God (5b "bore fruit for death"; 7-11 v11 "For sin seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me" = Gave me the impression that I was being oppressed and needed to rebel – e.g., Gen 3:4-5 w/13 "deceived me").

5. The Law is *not* the reason people sin; it is the reason people know they are in sin/"sinful beyond measure" (7 w/12-13).

6. The reason we sin is b/c: 1) our flesh is attracted to sin (14 "I am of the flesh, sold under sin" [fig. of speech] = My flesh is strongly attracted to/in love with sin – Jam 1:13-14), 2) we choose to follow the attraction of our flesh even when we know better (15-16), 3) we give complete control of our lives to our sinful flesh (i.e., we stop fighting/saying "no" to sin/sinful thoughts and emotions) (17-18); 4) we get addicted/enslaved to sin (19-23 = Giving up control of our lives to the temptations/desires of our sinful flesh leads to addiction/enslavement; 2Pe 2:19 "overcomes a person [takes over control of that person] to that he [becomes] enslaved" – See also Joh 8:34; Hence the reason – Rom 8:12-13).

7. Only through the salvation/deliverance we find in submitting our lives to "Jesus Christ [as] our Lord" [Master/Boss] (and receiving the New Covenant gift of the Spirit – Rom 8:1-4) can a person gain real empowerment/help over our sinful flesh (nothing – including the Old Covenant, can provide such empowerment/help) (24-25; Mat 12:43-45 = The world offers temporary delivery that leaves us further from the permanent deliverance that only comes through Christ [why further? b/c the delusion that I can conquer w/o Christ grows stronger]).