



(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. God’s closed system of the law is upheld (Rom 3:31 w/Deu 4:1-2) since precedent (3:21) for the “gift” of gaining positional justification (“righteousness” through “faith” “apart from works”) was established with “Abraham” and is congruent with the “blessing” of forgiveness spoken of by “David” (1-8).
2. You don’t need to observe the OC clean laws (“works of the law” - Rom 3:28) (i.e., be “circumcised”) to receive the gift or “blessing” of positional justification (“righteousness” by “faith”) (9-12, “faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness...before he was circumcised” = Abe didn’t need to be circumcised to be justified by faith which means neither do we. Abe’s circumcision was the covenant “sign” or confirmation [“seal”; 1Co 9:2] of the righteousness already gained by faith. The question of Gentiles needing to be circumcised in order to be justified was a big issue in the early church – See Paul’s letter to the Galatians and Act 9-11 and 15).
3. The salvific blessings promised to Abraham and His “offspring” were established through “grace” and “faith” versus “the law” (i.e., “works of the law” – Rom 3:28) so that they could be given to both Jews and Gentiles (11b-17 “For if it is [only] the adherents of the law [the Jews, circumcised] who are to be heirs, faith is null and the promise is void” = What was done or said before Abe’s circumcision doesn’t matter/won’t be honored by God).
4. The purpose of the Law was primarily penal (moral conditioning/punishment) not propitiatory (soul cleansing). IOW: it exists to maintain *NOT* gain the promises (15 “For the [L]aw brings wrath” = The codification of the Law that came *after* Abe was not focused on/concerned w/committed to gaining salvation/justification but rather maintaining salvation/justice thru the punishing moral violations [Rom 1:27; 1Co 5:3; Eph 6:13; 1Pe 4:3]; “But [Hence - Grk., *daē* = Can be used to communicate the consequence of a former act – e.g., Mat 8:1; Mar 1:14; Luk 2:17] where there is no law, there is no [knowledge of] transgression – Rom 7:7; Gal 3:15-24 w/4:1-5 “imprisoned everything under sin...held captive under the law...the law was our guardian...[we were] under guardians and managers [foster parents]... we were children... enslaved to the elementary principles” = The OC Law as a trainer [moral conditioner/enforcer] and temporary placeholder [soul cleanser – e.g., Rom 3:25]; *What to keep in mind: Moses and the Israelites did not need to gain salvation, only maintain it. Their covenant relationship w/God was part of God’s promise to Abe – i.e., theirs by birthright [Gen 17:7; Deu 7:6-8], which means whatever God established after Abe was NOT for the purpose of gaining a relationship w/Him).
5. The only faith God accepts as saving is the kind that is accompanied by faithfulness or loyalty to God no matter how crazy it may seem to others or our own minds (18-22 “No unbelief made him waver” = Abe had times of unbelief, but they did not cause him to deviate from his commitment/allegiance to God; Neh 9:8; Heb 11:1-40).
6. One of the reasons the Bible tells us that Abraham’s faith in God’s miraculous message was “counted to him” as righteousness (positional justification) is so that we can have assurance that God will do the same for all those today who -like Abraham, “believe” (put faith/loyalty/allegiance) in God’s (new) equally miraculous message (i.e., that He raised Jesus from the death that secured our “justification”) (23-25 w/18-21; Gen 15:1-5).