## Discover Your Calling Part 2: Paul's Warnings; Marcion, Constantine, Catholicism (1/30/2015)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at https://cornerfringe.com/media/73wwptq/discover-your-calling-into-israel-part-2

\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is <u>not verbatim</u>. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

....your sacred calling into a holy nation, and we discovered a couple things. Number one, the Gentiles who are called into the faith in no way have replaced Israel. This is what is known as replacement theology. The Christian church is not the new Israel.

Go back to Paul's metaphor, and we discovered he metaphorically describes the process of what happens to the Gentiles who are actually coming into the faith. He states they are a wild olive tree cut out, and their wild olive branches are grafted into the tree of Israel. That is how the process works thereby partaking of the same root of David.

We also discovered the Gentiles who are coming into the faith are not in any way called to a different body, what we commonly called dual covenant theology or separatist theology. Separatist theology is defined when the Gentiles in the Christian church have one way of worshiping God and one covenant with God, however the Jewish people have a separate covenant and a different way of life.

Because of this theology, a great division has been created, which is why Paul spent so much time in his epistle to the Ephesians explaining the process dealing with this issue. He explained to them exactly what Yeshua came to do. Yeshua came to break down the wall of separation where formally Gentiles, who were separated from Israel, were not called the sons of God. They were called strangers, foreigners, and aliens. They were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel; they were strangers of the covenant of promise. Now because of what Yeshua did, both the Jew and the Gentile, through faith in the Messiah Yeshua, have become one new man in Him.

Now unfortunately, what the Gentiles have been called to, this beautiful, sacred, and holy calling, has been stripped from them. The adversary has gone out and sown seeds of division, seeds of separation. The beautiful thing Yeshua did when He broke down that wall, Satan has gone out to rebuild. Regrettably, if you look at mainstream Christianity, you quickly realize by and large Christianity has succumbed to the lies of Satan. She has forsaken her Hebraic roots, and she has separated herself from Israel. Mainstream Christianity, as we see it today, does not resemble the church in the Book of Acts. I know that might be hard for you to accept, but it is true.

It begs the question; what happened to the church? Why does the church of today look so different than the one I read about in the New Testament? You might ask, how is it different? Well, for starters,

why is mainstream Christianity meeting and making a holy convocation on the first day of the week when the God of Israel commanded the holy convocation is to be on the seventh day of the week? Why is Christianity celebrating feasts with pagan roots and pagan origins, rather than the feasts I read about in the word of God? These Christian feasts have been ordained by God and commanded by His voice. Why does the church not distinguish clean from unclean referring to the dietary laws?

What has happened to the church? How could the church have gotten so far away from her Hebraic roots that they find it strange when you tell them you are going to church on Sabbath. They find it peculiar you would take a day off in the middle of the week to celebrate, to sanctify, a holy festival such as Passover or Yom Kippur (Feast of Trumpets).

The apostles kept all these things and the people going out to build the first century church kept these things. According to the word of God, we're going to be keeping all these things in the Kingdom to come.

So today we're going to look at some of the church history, and by the end of the day I think you're going to have a little better understanding of what has happened in regard to why the church is practicing these things which cannot be supported in the Bible. You will understand why she holds to theologies that are literally in direct conflict to the word of God.

I want to begin today by taking you to the Book of Acts and I want to do this because you need to see from the very beginning the first century church had come under attack. The Apostle Paul knew this was going to happen, and he gives the following warning in Acts 20:29, For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Listen to that! The warning is, "from among you." This is from within the church. Think about his warning. This was happening during the first-century church. From within the church, possibly the person sitting next to you will present deceptive heresies. That is what Paul is saying.

Continuing in Acts 20:30-31, Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Does Paul seem to be concerned about false doctrines here? I would say yes, considering it says to the Ephesians that for three years (constantly, relentlessly) I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. Paul was telling them false doctrines are coming, beware! This was at the top of his concern list.

Further proof of this is found in Paul's second letter to the Timothy. Paul advises them in 2 Timothy 2:16-18, But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup> And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, <sup>18</sup> who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

So already in Paul's day we find men were coming in with false doctrines disrupting the church. And according to Paul, the heretical doctrines spread like cancer. And what is the effect of it? They overthrow the faith of some. This is the effect of false theology and false doctrine. It will cast them aside; they will become deceived.

Now Paul, in the very same epistle, has this to say, But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:13).

Well, isn't that great? Instead of things getting better and better, the warning states the imposters are going to get worse and worse; they're going out to deceive, and they themselves will be deceived. And because of the nature of this issue, this epidemic, Paul finds it necessary to reveal to Timothy a character profile of these men.

This is great wisdom on Paul's part. He is describing those who are in the church, who will be sitting next to you, and are going to succumb to these imposters. In other words, he's coming out to tell you, this is what these people are going to look like.

Here is the profile Paul presents in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.

Make no mistake; you would never identify these people because they're scratching their ears. This is a metaphor for those they want to hear what they want to hear. Paul sends out a warning and details exactly what is going to happen. He states there are some of those who are in the church who are going to fall to deception, and they will not endure sound doctrine.

That presents a question. What is sound doctrine? Well, if we just read this passage, Paul tells us at the beginning of verse 3, they're not going to endure sound doctrine. He says the same thing again at the beginning of verse 4. He says, they will turn their ears away from the truth. So truth is sound doctrine.

What is truth? We can find that answer in Psalm 119:142, ...Your law (Torah) is truth. In Psalms 119:151, it says, ...all your commandments are truth. There are only two ways the Bible defines truth, and they are both the exact same thing. When we look at the Psalms, we find that truth is Torah; it is the law.

When we go to the New Testament, we find Yeshua saying in John 14:6, ... "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." How does this work? It makes perfect sense because He was the Torah made flesh. He was the living Torah. So here we find law is truth.

But what's so fascinating about this passage is Paul is revealing the character of these individuals who are going to be deceived within the church. He is grabbing from a passage in Isaiah. Listen to what the Prophet Isaiah says and see if it sounds exactly like what Paul just told us. Isaiah 30:9, That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD.

That is fascinating when you consider Paul just told us the ones who are going to be deceived are going to turn their ear away from Torah, from the truth. And here we find Isaiah says the exact same thing. It is interesting how a rebellious child is defined; Children who will not hear the law of the LORD.

It continues in Isaiah 30:10, Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. They are saying, "We like that. We only want to hear what we want to hear." That is what Paul said in 2 Timothy, itching ears, therefore they heap up for themselves teachers.

What did Israel do? They hung on the words of the false prophets. This was their downfall. They rejected the words of the true prophets who always went out and commanded repentance. To return to the righteousness of God.

Paul is warning Timothy, he's warning you, and he's warning me to listen up because, "Heresy and deception are coming to the church. You better beware; this is what they're going to look like."

Now unfortunately, as we come into the early second century, we find what the Apostle Paul had



warned us about would truly come to pass on a grand scale like never before. Judeo-Christianity would be fractured, and suffer a mighty blow, from a man named Marcion. Although Marcion was eventually deemed a heretic in 144ad, that didn't stop his message. His message was a radical message that went forth,

and as Paul said, it infected like cancer.

Tertullian, an early Christian apologist, comments on Marcion and his doctrine. Listen to the words of Tertullian, Marcion found it easy to argue for a new and hitherto unknown divinity revealed in its own Christ and thus with a little leaven has embittered with heretical acidity the whole mass of the faith. Tertullian, Adversus Marcionem 1.2(207-208ad)

This statement shows Marcion's doctrine and his theology had infected the church like cancer, the whole mass of the faith. What was it Marcion taught? Marcion taught the God of the Old Testament, the God of creation, the very same God who gave the Torah to His children Israel, is not the God of the New Testament. Marcion taught the New Testament was the antithesis to the Jewish scriptures, to the Hebrew Bible, and the point of Yeshua, coming was to liberate us from the hands of the wrathful God, the God of the law. Thus, because of this, a great divide was created with Marcion's teaching. It was a divide that separated the law (Torah), from grace, or the gospel message. The beautiful message of Yeshua. Marcion went out and separated Him.

Listen to Tertullian's commentary on Marcion. This is found in Adversus Marcionem 1.19, which basically means, against Marcion. Listen to Tertullian's comments because this is church history, the separation of law and gospel is the primary and principle exploit of Marcion. Did you catch that? He says the principal exploit of Marcion is to separate Torah from the beautiful gospel message of Yeshua.

He goes on, His disciples cannot deny this, which stands at the head of their document, that document by which they are inducted, into and confirmed in this heresy. For such are Marcion's antithesis, or Contrary Oppositions, which are designed to show the conflict and disagreement of the Gospel and the Law so that they may argue further for a diversity of Gods. This is an amazing statement!

Do you understand what Tertullian is saying here? He is saying the root of it all is for Marcion to argue the God of the Old Testament is not the God of the New Testament. The only way he could sell it, is to build a foundation that was to separate law from gospel. Because then, and only then, could he sell this heretical teaching.

That is fascinating! Let me further state; if you remember last week we talked about this separation of the Jew and the Gentile, dual covenant theology. I want you to understand something and listen to me closely because all of it comes from this teaching. In other words, the only way you're going to

accomplish separating the Jew from the Gentile is first you have to separate the law from the gospel. This is the root of it all!

Let's continue in his comments on Marcion, Therefore, as it is precisely this separation of Law and Gospel which has suggested a God of the Gospel, other than and in opposition to the God of the Law, it is evident that before that separation was made, [that] God was still unknown who has just come into notice in consequence of the argument for separation: and so he was not revealed by Christ, who came before the separation, but was invented by Marcion. In other words, Tertullian is saying this nonsense of separating Torah from the gospel message of Yeshua did not exist prior to Marcion; it was invented by Marcion.

He goes on to say, who set up the separation in opposition to that peace you catch between Gospel and Law which previously from the appearance of Christ until the impudence or arrogance of Marcion, had been kept unimpaired and unshaken by virtue of that reasoning which refused to contemplate any other god of the Law and the Gospel than that Creator against whom after so long a time, by a man of Pontus, separation has been let loose.

Think about those words for a second. There was peace and harmony between Torah and the Gospel of Yeshua. Only when Marcion came on the scene do we realize that separation has gone forth; separation has been let loose.

This was a pivotal moment in Christian history. A division was formulated, and this division was taught, and it was accepted by many. With heretical acidity, it has infected the whole mass of the faith.

I would like to throw something else in here. Marcion was the first person to establish what is known as the canon of scripture for the New Testament. For those of you are not familiar with canon or what it means when you state it's been canonized it means you officially recognize it as authoritative. In other words, you call it scripture. The first canon of the New Testament came from Marcion.

I want to show you what it looks like. This is Marcion's Bible. It contains: *Gospel of Luke, Galatians, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Romans, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians.* This was the Bible that would have been distributed, and all the Marcionianites had it. Do you notice anything missing? There are eleven books here. Today, there are sixty-six books in my Bible; however, there are eleven books here in Marcion's. The Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, has been completely thrown out. Hence, the separation of the God of the law and the God of the gospel who are the same, but not to Marcion.

When we look at this, we have to ask ourselves; are there any parallels whatsoever to Marcionism and today's Christianity? What is the church's primary focus today? In my experience I've talked to many pastors and congregants, and I grew up in Assemblies of God church, which is very charismatic, that is the primary focus? Interestingly enough, it is the same as Marcion's. It is the writings of Paul.

Now, let me state before I go any further, lest you misunderstand me and where I'm coming from, I cherish the epistles of Paul. I have read them, poured over them, and studied them. He is truly a man of God, and he speaks truth. His words were inspired by the Holy Spirit. I love the writings of Paul. But what's fascinating to me is all the focus for Marcion was exclusively on the writings of Paul. This is where I have a problem. And when I start looking at mainstream Christianity in general, this is not

saying every single person in mainstream Christianity is bad; do not put words in my mouth. I'm saying that by and large the theological doctrine taught is put on these very books.

I have a story I want to share with you. As I kid, I was sitting in a pew, and my parents used to make me bring my Bible to church. At that time, I really wasn't hip on that, but I had my Bible, and my buddy is sitting next to me in the pew, and he has his Bible. I remember looking at his Bible, and I can remember it was red and was this tiny, little, thin thing. I am looking at his Bible, and I asked him what it was. He told me it was his Bible. I was like, "why is mine so much bigger than yours?" His was a New Testament only Bible. That was the first time my eyes were opened to people carrying around a New Testament only. I thought it was really odd, and I thought about it for months. Afterward, I asked him why he had that [only the New Testament], His response was, "This is all I need."

When you look at Marcionism, and you look at mainstream Christianity today, by and large they have thrown out the law of God. They may carry around a Bible which includes the law of God, but do they go to it to establish what is true or holy? The law of God is what is utilized for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness as Paul instructs Timothy in II Timothy chapter three. That is what it is utilized for.

With the separation of law and grace that was perpetuated by Marcion, there naturally came a division between the Christians and the Jews. Marcion had poured the foundation to a massive wall which Yeshua tore down. And moving forward, we find that wall would only be built upon.

If we jump ahead just a couple hundred years to the fourth century, we find Christianity would appear to take a turn for the better. It had greatly suffered for generation after generation at the hands of pagan Rome. Christians were literally being persecuted; they were being tortured for their faith. They were even being killed under the bloodthirsty roman emperors. I think it's fair to say Rome had shown anything but compassion for the Christians.

However, with the arrival of the fourth century, we find someone who came to power who would impact Christianity dramatically. I am referring to Constantine, commonly known as Constantine the Great. He came to power in 306 AD. Within seven years of being in power, we find in 313 AD Constantine met up with a man by the name of Licinius in Milan where they developed something known as the Edict of Milan.

This Edict of Milan is quite significant because it allowed the Christians to practice their faith without fear of death or persecution. In other words, it protected their freedom to worship, and thus a new day had dawned upon Christianity. However, if we look at this, and we really start to investigate it, you'll find that Constantine didn't seem to think this religious freedom should include the Jewish people. We find at the council of Nicaea in 325 AD, he established exactly what he thought of the Jews. Listen to this statement, We desire to have nothing in common with this so hated people (Jews), for the redeemer has marked out another path for us. To this we will keep and be free from disgraceful association with this people.

I want you to see the separation Marcion had built, the foundation that was poured, Constantine came to power and built upon it. He separated the Christian from the Jew, which is something that when Yeshua came He did the exact opposite. Constantine doesn't stop here. It isn't enough to separate the

Christians from the Jews, but he takes it upon himself to start enforcing holy convocations. Maybe that's where he gets his name Constantine the Great.

Listen to what he said, On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and the people residing in the cities rest and let all the workshops be closed.

Now, on the surface Constantine appears to give Christians the freedom to worship, but in all reality he actually sought to create a whole new environment where pagans and Christians could come together and worship. You are looking at the first known edict requiring Sunday observance or sun worship. Still to this very day, we find modern-day Christianity observing Sunday, the first day of the week, as holy.

What is the problem with that? It's contrary to the word of God. You as man cannot declare what is holy; only God gets to declare what is holy. Your choice is to identify it or to turn away from it.

Let me read to you something out of the catechism of the Catholic Church. For those of you who are not familiar with the catechism, it basically tells you what the Catholic Christian Church does and why they do it. It is very informative.

Listen to what it says, we all gather on the day of the Sun, for it is the first day [after the Jewish Sabbath, but also the first day] when God separated matter from darkness, made the World; and on the same day Jesus Christ our savior rose from the dead.

The Catholic Church is quite open about their observance of the day of the sun, which they themselves testify is the day after the Jewish Sabbath. It is interesting how the terms start to work and start to develop. This is Christian, but to observe the Sabbath is Jewish. Don't you find it odd when you tell a fellow believer you're keeping the seventh day holy, the typical response is, "What? Are you Jewish?"

How many times have you been asked that? Are you Jewish? Let me read to you Paul's thought on the matter. Romans 2:26-29, Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law,.... I need to stop here. I can't let this go. If mainstream Christianity states the law has been done away with, what is Paul talking about here? I ask this because apparently I would not/should not keep the righteous requirements of the law under that ideology. With that ideology, there is no law, so there is nothing to keep.

And again, If the uncircumcised man (Gentile) keeps the righteous requirements of the law.... Let me stop again. What does the law require? Righteousness. That is what it requires, righteousness. Continuing, ...will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? In other words, will not this Gentile be called a Jew?

<sup>27</sup>And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law,... there again; Paul is talking about fulfilling the law, which is something the church tells us today has been done away with. Continuing, ...if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? <sup>28</sup>For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; <sup>29</sup>but he is a Jew.... This is where you gasp! Paul just said the Gentile coming into faith in the Messiah Yeshua is a Jew. Can you believe that? Reading on, ...who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

It's interesting if I walk in the commandments of the Hebrew Bible, if I walk like a Jew, those commandments, according to the New Covenant, have taken root in my heart. The things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart; therefore, I will speak the law. If the law has been written on my heart, I will speak it. It will come out of my mouth. If I walk like a Jew, and I talk like a Jew, then I am a Jew inwardly. My circumcision is of the heart through the Messiah Yeshua.

Listen to what the Catholic Encyclopedia has to say about the practices of Christians during the reign of Constantine. Not only Gnostics and other heretics, but Christians who consider themselves faithful, (Interesting. Did you catch that? Christians who consider themselves faithful) held in a measure to the worship of the sun. Leo the Great in his days says that it was the custom of many Christians to stand on the steps of the church of Saint Peter and pay homage to the sun by obeisance and prayers. When such conditions prevailed it is easy to understand that many of the emperors yielded to the delusion that they could unite all their subjects in the adoration of the one sun-god who combined in himself the Father-God of the Christians and the much worshiped Mithras; thus the empire could be founded anew on a unity of religion.

This is scary! This is syncretism. This is bringing that which is unclean and mixing it with that which is holy. This is blasphemy! And you wonder why the church is observing things like Christmas which is observing a festival of Mithra. You can take it all the way back here. This was Constantine's great vision of bringing and uniting pagans with that which is holy.

Again remember, I grew up observing Christmas myself not knowing any better. The Lord is merciful in forgiving!

We continue, In the dedication of Constantinople in 330 AD a ceremonial half-pagan, half-Christian was used. The chariot of the sun-god was set in the marketplace, and over its head was the place of the Cross of Christ, [you have pagan elements; you have Christian elements] while the Kyrie Eleison ("Lord, have mercy.") [A liturgical prayer] was sung. Shortly before his death Constantine confirmed the privileges of the priest of the ancient Gods. Many other actions of his have also the appearance of half-measures, as if he himself had wavered and had always held in reality to some form of synchronistic religion.

I agree with that statement; it is clear. Here you have the Catholic Encyclopedia bringing out into the open the reality of the matter, the reality of Constantine. Even though he is often thought of as a great friend of Christianity, we find Constantine's form of Christianity was more of a Christianity which welcomed pagan practices all under the cloak of peace and harmony as though to bring unity, but that unity would come at a great price; at the expense of compromising what is holy; tampering with things that ought not to be tampered with.

Let me take you to Deuteronomy 4:1-2 where we find the warning has gone out, Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. <sup>2</sup> You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

There's an old saying; those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it. If you do not read the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, I fear for you. Those who do not know their history are doomed to

repeat it. We shouldn't wonder why the church is meeting on the venerable day of the sun and paying homage. We shouldn't wonder why they're observing different festivals with pagan origins all the while forsaking the festivals found in scripture.

Do you ever wonder why the church no longer celebrates Pesach, Passover? Let me read to you a letter from Constantine, and this was specifically to all those who couldn't make it to that Council at Nicaea 325 AD. When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was universally thought that it would be conventional that all should keep the feast on one day; for what could be more beautiful and more desirable, than to see this festival, through which we receive the hope of immortality, celebrated by all with one accord, and in the same manner? It was declared to be particularly unworthy for this, the holiest of all festivals, to follow the custom [the calculation] of the Jews, who had soiled their hands with the most fearful of crimes, and whose minds were blinded. [Do you see the anti-Semitism pouring forth?] In rejecting their custom.... Can I just say one thing? It's not a custom; it is a commandment of God, ...we may transmit to our descendants the legitimate mode of celebrating Easter, which we have observed from the time of Savior's Passion to the present day [according to the day of the week]. We ought not, therefore, to have anything in common with the Jews,....

Do you remember the separation that Marcion started between the law and the gospel, which proved to separate the Jew from the Gentile? Here you're seeing it has just been built upon. For the Savior has shown us another way; our worship follows a more legitimate and more convenient course.

Sarcastically I say, of course. Because if we change it, Passover will never end up in the middle of my work week disrupting my work. It's far more convenient just to have it on a Sunday. Let me tell you something: giving your life to Yeshua will not be convenient. I don't know who told you that it would be. It is the exact opposite.

I want to jump ahead another 40 years from the Council of Nicaea. We come to another council called the Council of Laodicea. It is at this council they establish sixty cannons. One cannon is being debated at the end, but that's irrelevant to today's message. For the sake of time, I just want to look at four of these cannons. I think you're going to find them quite interesting!

Now, these are decrees that people are to keep. Canon 29, Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.

Do you know what this is saying? You are not allowed to keep a commandment of God that comes directly from scripture, and if you do, you are cut off from the One who saved you. You are to be anathema. They are forsaking observance of God's righteousness.

Let me also remind you in Torah, the commandments found in her are literally said to be the voice of God. They are the voice of God! You can read Deuteronomy 28 where it states this. Talk about turning your ear away from hearing the law; from hearing the voice of God.

Next, we have Canon 37, It is not lawful to receive portions sent from the feast of the Jews or heretics, nor to feast together with them.

Again, we see this divide is being built upon to separate the self-professed Christians from the Jews. Let me remind you, we were called to be one with them; we were called to be one with Israel, and here they're forbidding us to keep feasts with the Jews. God has commanded us to keep these feasts. Yeshua came to break down the middle wall of separation. It is terrifying!

Let's look at one more. Canon 38, It is not lawful to receive unleavened bread from the Jews, nor to be partakers of their impiety.

It's fascinating when you actually read Paul's epistles. Two times in his epistle to the Corinthians, he commands the observance of Passover. This is the festival God had ordained; a command which came out of His mouth. He had commanded them to observe the festival of Passover.

I think this is fascinating considering we're finding conflicts all over the place. The practices of the modern-day, Christian church are not lining up with that of the Bible, both Old and New Testament. They are just not lining up!

We will close here.

Shabbat shalom