

# **PAUL'S RELIGION**

**TESTIMONY – VOL. V**

**PART 4**

**BY**  
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## PREFACE

**Biblical scholars debate and disagree (vigorously), over The Apostle Paul's religious beliefs. Some believe James (The Lord's brother), Peter and John were at odds with Paul over their religious faiths. They claimed Paul preached a different gospel than the other Apostles. They implied Paul had started a new religion called Christianity. Is this true?**

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# INTRODUCTION

**Paul was having difficulty with some preachers, who came from Jerusalem and subverted his teachings – especially, in the area where The Christian Churches of Galatia and Southern Turkey were located.**

**Who were these people? Did this include James, Peter and John? Were Paul and the other Apostles causing Christians to split?**

## ANOTHER GOSPEL

**Paul, in *The Book of Galatians*, clarifies this confusion, “*I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ to another gospel* [Good News]: *Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert [twist] the gospel of Christ*” (Galatians 1:6-8). This cannot be stated any clearer!**

**Paul said, this *seemingly other gospel* was not another Gospel. It was, however, lacking a vital element – *grace* – which is *mercy*. Grace and mercy were not part of *The Ten Commandments in The Old Covenant. The Old Testament – The Old Covenant* dealt with works, but gave no *mercy*. Surprisingly, this argument continues to this present time, between denominations, while all are claiming to be Christians. How can this be?**

**So many Christians, Jews and Muslims have such hostility toward the other, one may wonder what kind of religion causes them to kill each other. Should not**

**Christianity have *brotherly love*? Who would want this type of love?**

### **EVEN PETER FEARED**

Here is Paul's explanation concerning the truth, "*For you have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure [a zealot] I persecuted the church of God and wasted [destroyed] it. And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions [works] of my fathers [genealogically]*" (Galatians 1:13-14).

This, so-called, other gospel, was not another Gospel, but *grace* and *forgiveness* was added because of Jesus Christ. The Jews continued to have their *Old Testament* "works" and, ignored what Jesus brought, which was "*mercy*."

Paul reveals, The Elders' *traditions* did not offer *grace*. You need to believe what Paul said about his *faith*, without your human ideas attached to it. These two Gospels were not opposed to each other, but merely, held different *traditions* and *works*. The difference was, one had *faith* without *grace*, while the other had "*faith with grace*." That is it.

Paul goes on further by saying, The Apostle Peter got caught up by these men from Jerusalem teaching conflicting traditions of *works*, "*And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us to bondage*" (Galatians 2:4). These traditions all brought them back into *works* (*bondage*)

which did not give *grace* or *freedom*.

One of these *works* was the necessity for the male to be *circumcised* (Galatians 2:3). This false Gospel was a *Jewish problem* requiring strict adherence to *The Entire Law of Moses*, with all its *deeds* and *works*. None of which allowed *grace*. Every part and partial part of *The Law* included, exacting obedience – not allowing any part of *The Law* to be broken. Breaking any point was a *transgression of The Complete Law* (James 2:10). This was a *Jewish problem* over its *works* and if broken, included the  *curses of The Law* (Deuteronomy 27).

In fact, James, Peter and John were not involved with this controversy, “*And when James, Cephas [Peter] and John, who seemed to be pillars [supports], perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go to the heathen and they to the circumcision*” (Galatians 2:9).

Do you realize what Paul just said? He combined *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant* regarding them as the same Gospel.

## THE OLD COVENANT AND THE NEW COVENANT

At times, the teachings (doctrine) are so simple, you cannot comprehend the difference between them. Why? Your *heart* and *mind* are the root cause. *Faith* is a strong power and motivator for your actions. That is why, only *faith*, can *save* and *justify* you (Romans 1:17). It all depends on what your *faith* and passion is. Your *faith* makes all the difference in your choice. *Faith*, or trust, in human nature and what concerns

you most, can become *a false god*. That is why God despises *idolatry* so intensely. Idolatry leads you to *sin*, which is the wrong direction designed to steer you away from *Salvation*. Following the desires of *human nature* will keep you trying to survive. You know this is an impossibility. You end up, in the end, at death's door.

Believing in Evolution makes no sense. You still die. Many have this *foolish faith*. Human beings just do not know the difference between *good* and *evil*. The question becomes what causes no harm. That should be your *faith and belief*. *The Law* informs you what not to do in this *human existence* to avoid *harm* (sin). Having a prosperous and good life still does not allow you to *live forever*. There must be another way, or *path*, to find *The Gift of Salvation*. *The Old Covenant Law of Moses* told you how to prosper in this life, but, in the end, you still die. *The New Covenant* has another goal and purpose. *The New Covenant* is *magnified* to give you *Salvation – Life Eternal* (Hebrews 10). What a difference! Both *Covenant contracts* are good and Holy, but works and deeds of *The Old Covenant* will not save you. *The Old Covenant* was a step to *The New Covenant* because it allowed you to understand that *The Law* was being magnified. It gave *mercy* to you. Both are on *the way to life*. *The Old Covenant* increases your *faith* in God, but *The New Covenant* brings you to *Salvation* through Christ. *The Old Covenant* is a *school master*, which only “leads” you “To Christ.” *The Old Covenant* was the first step leading to the second step – *The New Covenant which leads to eternal life*. *The New Covenant* allowed them to receive Eternity. What did Paul teach? Was it different from what James, Peter and John taught?

## CHAPTER 1

### OLD COVENANT – NEW COVENANT

**Did The Apostle Paul do away with *The Old Covenant Law of Moses*, as some believe?  
Did Paul begin a new faith (religion) or not?**

#### THE JEWS AND PAUL

Some, today, believe the same as The Jews did about Paul's religion. It seemed The Jews, no longer, thought "The Apostle" believed in God's *Law*, as given to Moses. Notice what James had to tell Paul. The Apostle Paul went to Jerusalem to discuss this problem with James and The Church Elders, concerning The Jews, "*And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they [James and The Elders] heard it, they glorified the LORD and said to him, You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous [jealous] of the law: And they are informed of you, that you teach all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs [works]]*" (Acts 21:19-21).

There were Jews who believed in Jesus Christ. When they heard Paul preach to The Gentiles, they misun-

derstood him and thought Paul was telling The Jews not to follow Moses' teaching. This failure to understand, was the genesis of misinterpreting Paul's preaching.

**James and The Elders in The Jerusalem Church, knew there was no difference between James, “The Bishop” of The Jerusalem Church and Paul.**

Read what James and The Elders told Paul to do, so that he could clear up the misunderstanding, “*Do therefore this that we say to you: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take and purify yourself with them and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning you, are nothing; but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law*” (Acts 21:23-24). As long as The Temple existed, *The Law of Moses (The Old Covenant) was in effect for The Levites.*

The Gentiles believe they *have to* keep themselves from things offered to “*idols*,” “*blood*” and “*strangled animals*” (Galatians 1 and 2). Quite clearly, James and The Elders understood Paul’s teaching. The Elders thought Paul changed his religion when The Jews and The Gentiles heard him.

Some thought, Paul did not believe in circumcision, or as James said, even “*The Keeping of The Law.*” When Christ changed *The Law (The Old Covenant to The New Covenant)*, they did not believe in circumcision. This same confusion is held by some to this day. James

knew that in Acts 15, The Church agreed that James, Peter and John should preach about Christ to those who were still under *The Old Covenant* and The Works of *The Law of Moses*. The Gentiles, on the other hand, were under *The New Covenant*, without *the deeds* and *The Works of The Law*. Paul took *The New Covenant* without *The Law of Moses* to The Gentiles. *The New Covenant*, through Christ, eliminated the works, such as circumcision. Now, “*The Law*” was to be embedded in an individual’s heart. Through Christ – you would not even think of breaking “*The Law*,” which includes lying, stealing, murdering, etc.

### PAUL’S OATH/VOW

When The Apostle Paul took *the “oath/vow”* with the other Jews, he had his hair shaved (Acts 18). “*The Law*” in Numbers 30 allowed Paul to cut his hair because the vow was over. God gave Samson supernatural strength to protect Israel, as long as, he honored God and did not cut his hair. Paul and the other Jews were ending the fulfilled time of their vows (according to *The Law of Moses*). Paul did the same with his vow. He trimmed his hair, showing his *faith* in obeying God’s Law. Paul, as a Jew, *faithfully* kept *The Law*, as long as The Temple stood. Paul’s vow proved, he obeyed every part of God’s Law, even *the keeping of vows*.

Paul’s *faith* should have proved to The Jews he was *a law-keeper*, according to Moses. He preached to The Gentiles, they did not have to keep all the deeds and works of “*The Law*” as The Jerusalem Church man-

dated (Acts 15). The Jews had to be weaned to have “*The New Covenant Law*” as part of their very being, to come – “To Christ.”

## OLD AND NEW CONTRACTS

*The Old Covenant* was for transgressors (sinners). *The Law*, like any *law*, is only for *unrighteous* people who keep sinning (I Timothy 1:7-10). *The Law* describes *sin*, but does not give anyone the ability to naturally know “*right*” from “*wrong*.*” Those who lack faith “In Christ” should be told, exactly, what *sin is* (I John 3:4).*

What makes *The New Covenant* different? Christ gave The Holy Spirit to The Gentiles without the need to keep “*The Works of The Law*.*” Once a Christian receives The Holy Spirit, God’s Holy Spirit leads them to know *truth* (good or evil) which leads them – “To Christ” without doing “*the works*.*” A Christian, under *The New Covenant*, knows God’s *Law* through The Holy Spirit in their *heart* and *mind*. Christians are not *willful, ignorant sinners*, but through *The New Covenant*, God writes His *Law* in their *hearts* (desire) and *minds* (thoughts) (Hebrews 10:15-16).**

**Jesus is your Author.** He is *your proof, by faith*, that God wrote “*The Truth of good and evil*” within the “*heart*” and “*mind*” of Jesus at His birth (Luke 1:35). Now, those with the Holy Spirit of God, by their *conscience*, know *good* and *evil*. Christians have to be *faithful* to have the Holy Spirit of God continually growing – “In Them.”

*The “New Covenant” does not take away God’s Law.* True Christians know God’s *Law* is written in their hearts and minds, making them “*free*” to do whatever by “*faith*.” *The Law* is never “*done away with*,” but resides in your very *conscience*. Christians have the same choice as Adam and Eve, but the difference was Adam and Eve rejected *The Tree of Life* and did not want to trust, or have “*faith*” in God.

Christians, by *faithfulness* in their *Father*, make the choice to do whatever God reveals to them. Jesus was a *faithful witness* (Revelation 1:5). Jesus is your example to follow.

## PAUL’S RELIGION

Without a doubt, Paul did not have a different religion in worshipping God. “*The Old Covenant*” and “*The New Covenant*” were predicated upon *The Law*. *The Old Covenant* was kept by human effort and works. *The New Covenant* is kept through *faith* and The Holy Spirit will guide you to Salvation.

*Spiritual growth* is not some mystery to Christians, but simply God’s Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s very essence and power changes your heart and mind, allowing you to have a *conscience* to know “*good*” from “*evil*,” like Christ.

Eating from “*The Tree of Life*” continues to produce *good fruit*, as you grow in God’s Holy Spirit. “*The Religion of Paul*” was no different from *The Old Covenant* given to Israel. Only one’s individual *faith* was dif-

ferent. The Israelites *lacked faith* in God and, therefore, had *a wrong heart* (Hebrews 3:9-11). “The Works of *The Law*” was meant to lead them to follow God. “Works,” however, did not do the trick, therefore, God gave them a gift – His Son. His Son came to magnify *The Law*, giving *mercy* to them, to make it easier for them (and for you). Christ brought *The New Covenant*.

For example, in school, most failed the test of *The Old Covenant*. Your teacher wants you to pass, therefore, He brings *a New Covenant “test”* which, if you follow, will help you to pass with flying colors. This manifestation, which Christ brought, allows you to be “saved.”

James, Peter, John and Paul, all followed *the same religion*, each having *faith* – “In *Christ* and God.” Remember, James, Peter and John preached to The Messianic Jews, while Paul preached to The Gentiles. *The Law* applied to both and according to Moses, could no longer be kept in its entirety. Changing *The Law* made them *sinners*, because they only kept a part of *The Law*. In order, to keep *The Law of Moses*, a person had to worship in The Temple, or that person breaks The Whole Law.

*The New Covenant* was now in full force until “*The Millennium*,” when The Temple would be restored, bringing the entire world – “To *Christ*” by God’s Law through works. *The Old Covenant* will be in force for the rest of the sinners. When led “To *Christ*” (as The Israelites of old were led – “To *Christ*”) then, they will come to *The Magnified New Covenant* (which is now part of their heart) which will lead them to Salvation.

## Chapter 2

### CONFUSION OF PAUL'S FAITH

*“But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, If you, being a Jew, live after the manner of Gentiles and not as do the Jews [fellowship with the uncircumcised and those not following The Law], why compellest you the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles. Knowing that a man is not justified [forgiven] by the works of the law [like vows], but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we [you] might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh [human] be justified [made perfect]”*  
(Galatians 2:14-16).

Peter and Barnabas knew they were under “*faith*” and, no longer under *The Old Covenant*. They accepted Paul’s rebuke, as Christians should accept any *true spiritual help*, they are taught.

Some use this *human confrontation*, as if Paul and Peter did not have the same religious *faith*, but Paul clearly, brought out Peter’s *faith*. Peter and Barnabas did not want to upset their fellow Jews who were cir-

cumcised and kept “*The Works of The Law.*”

Both were in agreement with Paul. Peter was responsible to The Jews, who were under *The Law*, while The Gentiles were not. Both could have fellowship, causing no difference between The Jews and The Gentiles, as long as they were on the path “*To Christ.*”

Here was Paul’s conclusion about fellowship – “In Christ,” “*I do not frustrate [set aside] the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain [for nothing]*” (Galatians 2:21). This statement is quite clear!

### HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Those who believed Paul and Peter were at *odds* and kept stumbling over what Peter said about Paul, “*As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [wonder], as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction*” (II Peter 3:16).

Some argue, Paul and Peter did not understand each other. Peter said, Paul’s writings are difficult to comprehend. Peter answers this dilemma himself, stating that only individuals who were “*scripturally ignorant*” would misread Paul’s *biblical* meaning. Peter understood, but *the unlearned* did not *understand*. In fact, “*the unlearned*” thought Paul was teaching a different Gospel, but Peter said, there was *no religious conflict*. Peter called The Apostle Paul, *a beloved brother*, who

wrote about The Return of The Messiah (II Peter 3:10 and 15).

## PAUL'S ENEMIES

Who really had a different religion? Not James, Peter, or John, but others who were “*the instigators*” or “*the unlearned*.” Read what Paul really taught, “*And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law* [being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ] *that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak* [vegetarians] *became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some*” (I Corinthians 9:20-22).

Paul plainly, explains his religious beliefs, leaving no doubt about what he believed. Paul was regarded as a Jew (from The Tribe of Benjamin). Paul was all things to all men, without The Works of The Law. To The Gentiles who were not circumcised, but kept *The Works of The Law*, Paul did likewise. However, Paul did keep *The Law* under *The New Covenant*, internally, in his *heart* (desire) and *mind* (conscience), without doing The Works of *The Old Covenant*.

Paul did not want to offend “*the weak*” in understanding, such as “the vegetarians” or “non-alcoholics.” Paul knew God would track them by their “*faith*,” depending upon their heart’s desires. He was “all things to all men,” but was under *The New Covenant, spiri-*

*tually, in his heart and mind.* Plainly, Paul's religion, was like the religion of James, Peter and John – for all was a matter of *faith* to them (Romans 4:23).

Paul's enemies were The Jews who believed that *The Law “with circumcision”* was required. Also, another group crept into The Church about 55 A.D., to subvert The Gospel of Christ.

The first problem confronting God's Apostles (according to Jesus) were *false prophets*, “*And Jesus answered and said to them* [disciples], *Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name* [authority], *saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many*” (Matthew 24:4-5).

The quandary was Paul did not preach another Gospel or religion, but there was a political problem in The Church. James, Peter and John were not religiously different from Paul, but were in perfect agreement. False “*prophets*” were working their way into The Church – for control, because they understood it was a source of making money (filthy lucre).

The Jews, continually, opposed Paul until the time he left for Rome to appeal to Caesar as a Roman citizen.

This opposition was only a beginning, because greater enemies were soon to come. Ultimately, besides being enemies of Paul, they corrupted a good part of The Church of God. At this time, Jude (Jesus' brother) made a plea, “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write to you of the common salvation, it was needful*

*for me to write to you and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old [by Christ] ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace [mercy] of our God into lasciviousness and denying the only LORD God and our LORD Jesus Christ” (Jude 3-4).*

Now, you can begin to see who promoted the false premise that Paul taught a different Gospel and religion from what The Twelve Apostles preached. They, along with The Twelve Original Apostles, thought Paul was changing *The Old Testament*.

## CHAPTER 3

### THE GNOSTICS

The Jewish persecution ceased after a group of Jewish zealots vowed not to eat until they killed Paul (Acts 23:12-14). Being freed from any accusations by The Jews, Paul was released from prison, as you read in *The Book of Acts*. Paul, then, began preaching to The Gentiles.

#### A NEW ENEMY

When Paul was set free from jail, he began his journey to The Gentiles and a new enemy (false apostles) began to entrap him.

Paul defines his new enemies in Corinthians and what their purpose was, “*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste [undefiled] virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit [Satan], which you have not received or another gospel, which you have not accepted, you might well bear with him. For I suppose I was not a whit [the least bit] behind the very chiefest apostles*

” (II Corinthians 11:2-5). Once again, Paul was attacked by a new group claiming to be “The Chief.” They acted as if they were Jews, but

were not. Paul continued telling those at Corinth, he never asked for his expenses, but other churches helped him. He told The Corinthians, he would not take any money from them. He did not want to be chargeable to any of them.

Paul clearly defines his new enemies, “*For such are false apostles [not James, Peter or John], deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ*” (II Corinthians 11:13). Wow! Do you grasp what Paul just said? The false apostles wrote as if they were “*the chiefest apostles*” like James, Peter or John. They claimed to be “*apostles of Christ*” just as The Twelve Original Apostles.

The false apostles even said, they were Hebrews (Paul was a Hebrew), “*Are they Hebrews? So am I*” (II Corinthians 11:22). Paul also stated, “*Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers [Satan] also be transformed [fashioned] as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works*” (II Corinthians 11:15).

Jude describes the end works of *these deceitful apostles*, “*But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally [human nature], as brute beasts [carnal], in those things they corrupt themselves*” (Jude 10). *The Gnostics* (men of knowledge) claimed to have a deep spiritual knowledge like the original Apostles and claimed to be *The Chief* (just like James, Peter and John or The Twelve Apostles). Paul calls them *liars*, using *The Chief Apostles’ names* in their writings, called *The Gnostic “writings”* which

have been found in Egypt.

These “*apostles*” claim Jesus did not die, but lived, married and had children. They denied *the truth* about Jesus, who He really was and claimed His mother, Mary, was *a fornicator* who had sex with a Roman Centurion. This soldier, supposedly, died in battle and was buried in Germany. There was no ending to these *false writings*. These *Gnostics* corrupted The Gospel of Christ, by attacking Paul, but also infiltrated the other True Apostles, as well.

### PAUL'S EPHESIAN WARNING

When Paul was on his way to Jerusalem, before being imprisoned at home, he gave a severe prediction to The Elders at Ephesus, “*Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [Spirit] has made you overseers [Bishops], to feed the church of God, which he had purchased with his own blood. For I know this that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them*

” (Acts 20:28-30).

Paul gave details on how Gnostic Gentiles will enter “*The Church Ministry*” to infiltrate, preach another gospel of Christ, take money from them and want complete control over them (Jude 11). By the time, *The Book of III John* was written, “*Diotrepes [means a friend of Zeus] who loved to have the preeminence [be superior or chief] among them [church] received us not*”

(III John 1:9).

**Christians were being falsely, disfellowshipped from God's Church.** John, *a True Apostle*, said, "*Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does, prating against us [True Apostles] with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren and forbids them that would and cast them out of the church* (III John 1:10).

**The real Apostles were superseded, as Paul said, by *false apostles* who *claimed* to be of The Original Twelve Apostles.** Those original Apostles who were still alive (as John) had to spend their time exposing those false apostles.

### SELLING GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

**Another *Agnostic*, Simon Magus made matters worse by not only preaching another gospel, but actually attempting to sell God's Holy Spirit.** This magician's profession – "*performing miracles*," was greatly honored. Listening to Philip preach, Simon Magus asked to be baptized with the others. When The Apostle heard Philip had baptized Simon Magus, he sent The Apostles Peter and John to reveal The Holy Spirit. When Peter and John came, they prayed that those baptized, including Simon Magnus, sought God's Holy Spirit. Then, The Apostles laid their hands on those who were baptized, and they received God's Holy Spirit – except Simon Magus.

**Simon Magus wanted Peter to lay hands on him for**

**The Gift of The Holy Spirit,** “*But Peter said to him, Your money [will] perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your heart is not right in the sight of God*” (Acts 8:20-21). Another enemy to The Apostles had come on the scene.

All these attacks, first from The Jews, then from The Agnostics and now Simon Magus, undermined The Christians. Christians were torn when these *false apostles* tried to alter The True Gospel about The True Jesus.

Jesus foretold that the “*falling away*” from *The Truth of Christ, The Messiah*, was caused by *false prophets*. The “*false apostles*” were telling lies about The True Apostles including Paul, The Gentile’s Apostle. “*False apostles*,” from the period of The Jewish *Persecution*, claiming to be God’s real Apostles infiltrated The Church of God spreading lies about The Twelve Original Apostles.

## CHAPTER 4

100 C. E.

**By the end of The First Century, The True Apostles were replaced by *false apostles*, especially by The Gnostics. *The Book of Revelation* by John, foretells the future of The Gospel of Christ and His Apostles.**

### THE SEVEN CHURCHES

***The Book of Revelation*, was the last book of *The Bible*, at the end of The First Century. It was written to The Churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey).**

**The Apostle John, personally, had a vision from God on The Island of Patmos. In this prophecy, Christ warned The Seven Churches and the angels watching over them about their *spiritual status*. These churches were joined by a mail route from one to another, with a cross section of differing doctrines.**

**Some churches were growing *spiritually*, while others were not. Amazingly, these churches were situated very close together, yet doctrinally, they were far apart. In less than 100 years, these doctrinal differences produced a great variation of beliefs which ended in chaos, and has continued to do so to this very day, “*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten* [punish]: *be zealous* [jealous] *therefore and repent. Behold,***

*I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice [Holy Spirit] and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup [feast] with him and he with me. To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame [faith] and am set down with my Father in His throne. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit [Holy Spirit] said to the churches" (Revelation 3:19-22). Jesus loved His seven churches even with the diversity of their doctrines. Those who grew spiritually, would become rulers in The Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:10). Others, because of His great love for them, will be chastised. However, everyone would have their turn to be saved.*

### A MINISTERIAL BATTLE

Jesus had to warn The Church in Thyatira, “*But to you I say and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden [persecution]. But that which you have already hold fast [faith] till I come*” (Revelation 2:24-25).

Jesus loved all these doctrinally differing churches, but warned them not to continue learning from and following “*the depths of Satan.*” You are now ready to understand why Jesus picked only those particular seven churches from all The Churches of God surrounding The Mediterranean Sea. Here is Christ’s first warning to Ephesus, the first of The Seven Churches. Paul warned in *The Book of Acts*, this church will have *wolves rise up among them which will devour them* (Acts 20).

**Jesus describes, what is good about The Ephesian Church and what is wrong, “But this you have [faith], that you hate the deeds [works] of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit [Holy Spirit] said to the churches [plural]; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God [Kingdom]. And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things said the first and the last, which was dead and is alive; I know your works and tribulation and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue [school] of Satan” (Revelation 2:6-9).**

**You are about to discover why Jesus wrote to these seven churches and the angels over them. Notice His warning to The Pergamos Church, “I know your works and where you dwell [live], even where Satan’s seat is [home base]: and you hold fast my name [Christians] and have not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells” (Revelation 2:13). Wow! This warning is both very revealing and astonishing.**

**Pergamos, of all The Seven Churches, was the most faithful, spiritually, but was infected by Satan’s seat. Pergamos was the headquarters where Satan was dwelling with his synagogue or school. The entire Mediterranean area with all of God’s churches – Satan’s headquarters was in Pergamos which had originated in Ephesus. Satan’s “false teachings” (doctrines) were centered in Asia Minor (Turkey) connecting these seven churches by the mail route. The Christians communi-**

cated with all seven churches. Satan infected all these churches, yet those in Pergamos were *the most faithful* (Revelation 2:12-13). Jesus and *The Pergamos Church* hated “*The Nicolaitanes*.” With great persecution, by *Satan’s Synagogue*, some still remained *faithful*. Originally, Babylon began at The Tower of Babel, in The Land of Shinar, and found its way to Neo-Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar’s time. Later, Turkey and Asia Minor became the new seat of Satan (Genesis 10, 11, Daniel 2 and Revelation 2). Satan, from Pergamos, infiltrated all of God’s churches through this *mail route* and this was the reason *The Book of Revelation* was written to Satan’s new seat (in Turkey) at the end of The First Century.

From Pergamos, Satan’s *false ministers*, acting as angels of *light* and *truth*, were spreading their *satanic doctrine*. They went so far, as to perpetrate, the *killing of Christ’s martyr, Antipas*. This is amazing and wonderful. Revelation was written to expose how Babylon grew into The Churches of God worldwide and why Jesus warned them, “*To come out of Babylon*” (Revelation 18:4). This was a direct warning worldwide in all nations for The People of God – “*To come out of Babylon*.” What system was used to place God’s people in Babylon?

## THE CAUSE OF BABYLON

The methods Satan used were exposed by The Ephesian Church. Satan’s system was of *The Nicolaitanes*. Who were they? *The Book of III John* gives you the answer. Diotrephes was a friend of Zeus, who was

**Baal, a lord or master over the people.** Diotrephes was their *master* as to what they doctrinally think. If this advice was not followed, they were disfellowshipped from The Church and finally martyred.

“*Nicol*” in Greek means “*to conquer*” and “*laity*” conveys “*the congregation – the common people.*” *The Nicolaitanes*, which The Ephesians and The Pergamos Church hated, because they were controlled, having no freedom of choice. God always allows you to choose with your *free choice*, otherwise, you would not be able to show your *faith*. Whatsoever is not of *faith* – is *sin* (Romans 14:23). Jude warned you, return to *the faith* once delivered to *the original saints*. *Satan* was blocking the way to *Eternal Life*. Unless Christians are allowed to grow *spiritually*, their *faith* will be lost and The Church will always *split*.

The final system of Satan, doctrinally, is to mislead God’s people into Babylon and to destroy the belief in the saints along with the teachings of The Twelve Apostles of Christ.

Remember what Jesus said about The Church in Smyrna? “*I know the blasphemy of them which say they are the Jews* [Twelve Apostles], *and are not, but are the synagogue* [school] *of Satan*” (Revelation 2:9).

This explanation cannot be any simpler. The teachings from *Satan’s seat in Pergamos* was denying *the faith* of *the saints of old* (The Original Twelve Apostles). Weak Christians followed *Satan’s false apostles*, portraying themselves as *angels of light*, “*For such are false apos-*

*tles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles [Jews] of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works”(II Corinthians 11:13-15). “Are they Hebrews [Jews]? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more [chosen by Christ]; in labours more abundant, in stripes [beaten] above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft” (II Corinthians 11:22-23). There it is. Satan was centered in Pergamos, but Paul defines the devil’s method of teaching from Pergamos as “*apostles*” who were falsifying and denying “*the truth.*” Satan’s ministers falsified their Jewish beginnings and claimed to be angels. Angels are similar to those over The Seven Churches directing Satan’s angels (demons) to act as The Original Jewish Apostles. They were not angels, but by force (doctrinally) were controlling The People of God with their *false teachings*.*

Paul is attacked as having *a false doctrine* not of The Hebrews, but preaching his own doctrine. The final chapter closes the book about this *false teaching* inferring The Apostle Paul had his *own religion* differing from that of The Original Twelve Apostles.

## CHAPTER 5

### MARICONE'S GOSPEL

Who gave the world The Gospel of Paul instead of The Gospel of Christ? Around 150 to 250 c. e., a theologian in Rome named Maricone preached Paul's *gospel*, as being different from The Gospel of James, Peter and John. Maricone claimed, only The Apostle Paul's writings were *the true scriptures of The Gospel*. Maricone claimed, *The Old Testament* was irrelevant, as was all "Jewish thinking" like The Twelve Apostles. He said, they did not preach The Gospel of Christ. Paul's religion was different and *pure religion* was in Paul's writings only.

### THE GNOSTICS

Did you know that The Apostle Paul denounced all *Gnostic* teachings as being *false*? Paul's instructions to Timothy, "*O Timothy, keep that which is committed to your trust, avoiding profane [contempt for God] and vain [foolish] babblings [incessant talk] and oppositions of science falsely so called*" (I Timothy 6:20). In Greek, the word for "science" is "gnosis" which means "knowledge." This word is translated as false science, because it is knowledge learned through *human experiences* going back to The Tree of The Knowledge of

## Good and Evil.

The Greek word for “*Godly knowledge*” is “*Epi-Gnosis*,” or “*Godly science, as knowledge given at the beginning*” – The Tree of Life. “*Epi*” in Greek, connotes “*the beginning*.” False science is *knowledge gleaned from human experience, but, without God.*

Gnostic writings are nothing more than human knowledge from many nations, as they experience life. There were Asian Gnostics, Aztec Gnostics, Greek Gnostics, Indian Gnostics and Jewish Gnostics. A Gnostic is one who learns their *knowledge* from and by, *the experiences of their personal human existence*. Paul calls all these conclusions “*false science*.”

Paul taught Timothy about Godly Science, or the teachings of *The Truth*, “*Let as many servants as are under the yoke [slaves] count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine [teaching] be not blasphemed*” (I Timothy 6:1).

God had His *teaching* or *doctrine* (knowledge), which is contrary to *false science* (human knowledge), “*If any man teach otherwise and consent not [human gnostic] to wholesome [complete knowledge] words [logos], even the words of our LORD Jesus Christ and to the doctrine [teaching] which is according to godliness [beginning – genesis]; He is proud [ego driven], knowing nothing, but doting about questions [theories – guesses] and strifes [differences] of words [theories], whereof comes envy, strife, railings [argumentative], evil surmisings [guessing], Perverse disputings of men of [human thoughts]*

*corrupt [twisted] minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain [greed] is godliness: from such withdraw yourself. But godliness with contentment is great gain” (I Timothy 6:3-6).*

**There is not a clearer picture of Paul’s religion concerning The Gospel.** Paul taught, individuals must start with The Beginning of The Word of God in Genesis, then, to follow *The Teachings of Christ*, who revealed *the truth to The Original Twelve Apostles* (being Jews by their religion including Paul).

**Mankind has been confused by both The Jews and The Gentiles!** They are confused, about “*the works*” demanded in *The Old Testament* and, *the grace* (mercies) Christ brought in *The New Covenant to The New Testament*. Paul was a Pharisee by religion in keeping *The Law of Moses*. The only difference was, he obeyed by *faith* and not by *the works*, or *deeds* of *The Law in The Old Covenant*. Paul kept God’s *Law* according to Christ’s *New Covenant*.

## JEWS TO GNOSTICS AND MARICONE

**First, The Jews persecuted Paul and his Gospel of Christ. Then, Maricone taught that Paul’s religion was neither that of The Jews, The Apostles nor Christ.** Maricone wrote to, only, give credence to Paul’s teachings. He also wrote his own versions of Paul’s “writings” and “teachings” This corrupt “*teaching*” about The Apostle Paul penetrated the understanding from 100 C. E. to 200 C. E. The Gnostic teachings of Maricone regarding Paul’s religion was completely altered

and thus, false. Paul was in complete agreement with James, Peter and John and all The Twelve Original Apostles. Maricone through false preaching Gnostic, sealed the belief that Paul's religion was in opposition to The Twelve Jewish Apostles.

### MARICONE TO CONSTANTINE

Jude, Christ's brother, warned about returning to *the faith of the saints* like The Twelve Apostles. *The temple* was destroyed in 70 A.D. by Titus and until 135 A.D., Caesar prohibited all Jews from entering Jerusalem. Their teachings were no longer permitted in The Roman Empire. Maricone, a true *Gnostic*, promoted Paul, as having the “only” Gospel of Christ and only, observed Paul's writings as *scripture*.

From this *false premise*, this teaching permeated The Christian World by the word of many Christian Bishops. By the time of Constantine, Rome and its power were deteriorating, politically. Constantine needed to unite Paganism and Christianity for Rome's sake. Patriotism was lacking, when Constantine attempted to unite *Christianity with sun worshipping which he believed to his death*.

A new Rome was started in Constantinople (Istanbul) by building a beautiful, awesome cathedral for Christianity called “*Sophia*,” which meant “*wisdom*” in Greek.

Both The Gnostics and Christian Bishops divided The Christian World. In fact, there were many disputes

by various Christian Bishops, both Gnostics and otherwise. These disputes resulted in nothing, but debates, arguments, disfellowshipping and assassinations within the so-called Christian communities surrounding The Great Mediterranean Sea. Constantine grasped this moment by forcing the diverse Christian community to come together at Nicea, a small nearby town close to Constantinople. This meeting was to unite The Empire, under *the sun*, with *the sign* of the cross which took place in 325 A.D. Constantine, by force, with The Centurions holding *swords*, stood behind each Bishop structuring a new Christianity, uniting *sun worshippers* and Christians. With Gentiles in the majority, The Jews were blamed for Christ's death.

Wondering how he would explain this new Christianity to his churches, Eusebius, one of The Bishops, accepted this new form of Christianity. The followers in Eusebius' Churches did not believe, as Constantine did. Eusebius' major objection in following Constantine was, he would deliver Christians from persecution and martyrdom.

A new breed of Christianity was born with The New Rome at Constantinople. (Request the free book, *Satan's Image*). Justinian restored all of The Old Roman Empire surrounding The Mediterranean Sea as in Constantine's day. Justinian duplicated this New Rome of government, education, commerce, the arts and every aspect of Roman *life* in its precise *image*. This "image" has prevailed to this day.

**Paul's true religion along with many false teachings in Constantine's time are prevalent today. There are two avenues for you to travel. You can follow the false teachings of Satan. It is very easy, to follow Satan's way – it is *the way of life* for the majority of Christians.**

**On the other hand, True Christians must repent, pray and study The Word of God. A false religion cannot benefit you. Only, The One True God can offer Eternal Life. Study your *Bible* – throw off any false teachings you may have. The magnified *New Covenant* will free you and offer you The Gift of Life. You, Christ and God, with all The Sons of God, will have miraculous “*spiritual gifts*,” in becoming like God. Mere man cannot know the magnitude of the opportunities, God and His Son, have in store for you. Perhaps, if you put “the highs” of your life – such as winning a football game, getting the job of a lifetime, marrying your soul mate, the birth of a long-awaited child, or winning a \$300,000,000 lottery – would only give you a small glimpse into the wondrous things God is planning for you. Your excitement, each and every moment, will culminate much like the burst of a trillion firecrackers and the celebration will never end. This is God's promise to you.**

## **LETTERS FROM READERS**

**I was given one of your books to read. It literally blew me away. I am a Christian who's now doing time in a Texas Prison, I am a student of The Word as I prepare for The Lord's Ministry when I'm released. I'm 59 years old and I am active in Chapel activities in here at The Duncan Unit – doing worship (keyboard) and Bible Studies. I would very much like to be added to your mailing list. I want to know more about you and your ministry, please. Also, I am interested in receiving your book "God's Puzzle Solved" and whatever other books you might be led to send. If you have a catalog of available materials I would be interested in those, also. Thank you for your ministry to us behind bars. May God richly bless your ministry.**

**Don't know the rhymes or reasons you are able to send this material without charge. Guess God must have a good line of communication between you. Anyway thanks.**

**You are mesmerizing. I have gone through your meticulous and marvellous books. I appreciate them.**

**I found one of your books in a used book store. The book was a blessing and that is why I asked the question how do I get started on this walk. You shared on how to and I thank you. I would never even think of putting these books up for sale. Your books are so informative and I need this purpose in my life. I thank**

**you for being a man of God. So many people have a word from God but you have to buy it from them.**

**Who ever put my name to receive these books – thank them for me. God bless them and “you all.”**

**After nearly 40 years in a few Sabbath churches, I finally am seeing/understanding about “works and the law” and the differences between The Old Covenant and The New through your publications. It is changing my life.**

**Thank you so much for letting God inspire you to put His word out. Everything you have written has confirmed what I have understood over the years as in God’s truth. You write in an understandable way and it is easy to read. His plan is for all mankind to become like Him. It is so heart warming, awesome and it brings joyous tears to my eyes. I am sharing these books with others who work in The World Wide Church of God.**

**Your insight and revelation from God is a true blessing and conformation from The Spirit of God. Bless you for giving so willingly and freely.**

**I would like to thank you for the time and expense required to send me all the requested publications. I have been extremely blessed by your books. They have increased my understanding of God’s purpose for my life, enhanced my relationship with our Father and enlightened my perception of how God works in our everyday life.**

I've really been enjoying my new journey in Christ. You guys have been helping me a great deal in my journey. I'm a new Christian. My life has been getting better spiritually since I've been studying The Word. I've got a new outlook on life. I want to pass on what I have learned to my daughter who is 3 years old. I want to raise her differently than the way I was raised.

I really enjoy reading and learning from your books. They are so understandable.

Thank you – thank you – thank you and God bless you. I just received your books at 12:50 pm. I am so thankful to God and for your obedience. You told me to start with God's Story and as I read and go back to The Word, the puzzle sets me FREE. Thank you, Thank you and God bless you and yours.

I may not understand it all right now and I know you do not take money for the books, but how can I bless the work you are doing? ("We cannot accept any money. The Staff of Art Mokarow suggest you grow in God's word, help the poor, orphans and widows. Art cannot accept any money. He was given it freely – so he freely gives to those who want to follow God,"

I appreciate your love and commitment in Christ's vineyards. Thanks for being "Jesus' focused," "grace oriented" and "love motivated."

Thank you so much for sending me your wonderful book, "God's Puzzle Solved." The book is logically

**well-written and I appreciate your efforts.**

**Received my book today. I am excited to start reading it.**

**Shalom. Allow me to thank you and your organization for the Art Mokarow CD. I acquired a computer last week and on inserting it in, I notice the many great teachings in it. Thanks very much, may The Almighty bless you.**

**I would just like to thank you. You are a blessing. If at anytime you need funds donated, please let me know. Thank you and God bless?**

**I have finished reading “Faith With Works.” To get faith, one should get the full knowledge (faith) about God and His plans for mankind. And should apply the knowledge (faith) to produce action (works). God bless you for honoring God’s word in Matthew 10:8. “Freely you have received, freely give.”**

**The spiritual material you sent me has helped me to develop in the spiritual aspect of life and to other individuals.**

**I just got the books today. I must say they are really, really good books. Not only can they be useful for Christians but non-Christians as well as the first chapter describes very clearly to them that God created everyone.**

**I have these books: the prophecies, End Times, God’s**

## **Puzzle, Occult Holidays, Revelations Warnings yet to be fulfilled, The anti-Christ, Martyrdom, Rapture**

**We need so many more people like you in this country reaching out!!!! Our United States needs so much help for the Christian world – especially in Washington D.C.**

**I received today your CD Books to be read on the computer. I LOVE IT!!! I have been reading some as soon as I got it (around 1:00 pm – it is now 2:00 am). Thank you !!! I also received the order form to order 4 books at a time. But, I was wondering rather mailing it in can I please order them by e-mail. I would love to have your books to be able to carry with me, where ever I go, so I may be reading and studying them.**

**E-mailing you again! And each time that we e-mail, we have learned so much more and feel God is pulling the scales off our eyes to realize basic fundaments of truth as we never knew them before. (Having existed in the dark parts of Gods Sabbath churches for 40 years (you could say). This unscaling is a result of reading your works. We feel a blessing. Having gone through all your books now, after picking them up at a Festival site last year, we feel a bit “alone” for the lack of a better word, I guess you could say. There is only one other family who share our enthusiasm that we know of!!**

**My husband and I have read your three books. Your books put the truth in plain language that a young**

**child could understand.**

I am a 67 year old retiree. Eight years ago last September 1, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, then became a student of The Bible. When I began studying The Bible, I found out that much of what main stream Christianity teaches is not biblical. That is when I began contacting ministries such as yours to determine the real Bible truth. When I initially found The Lord, the Holy Spirit indicated that I didn't come to Christ, but was called. For the past several years I have been spending most of my waking hours studying "in one form or another." I also have had the constant urge to "evangelize" whenever I can and now when I do, I evangelize the truth of. No more fairy tales for me. Many of the people I meet and speak to about the Lord have a little "Bible" knowledge and most times have a hard time believing the truths I promote because they don't agree with what they previously have learned. This is where the information I have received from you and your minister gets to be put to good use again. They tend to listen more when I produce other written proof and The Bible reference(s). That's the first part of my "Thank you."

**Being that I only receive the basic social security (no private retirement funds)The Bible has a number of references to the importance of a witness. In my testimony to The Lord of the people I am grateful for Him bringing into my life, you, and your ministry, are high on that list. Thank you again. God bless you and your ministry.**

**The spiritual material you sent me has helped me to develop in spiritual aspects of life and to other individuals. Don't be weary to give because God wants us to give to share what we need.**

**I just got the books today. I must say they are really, really good books. Not only can they be useful for Christians but non-Christians as well. The first chapter describes very clear to them that God created us.**

**Hello, there, I want to send a word of thank you to you. I received the CD and I am a grateful person. May the Almighty God bless you big.**

**I love your books. Thank you for the books you have already sent. Enjoying them very much.**

**Your books have profoundly changed my reading of The Bible. I read your books and The Bible everyday. God bless you!**

**I find your books very useful and on praying to God to give you more knowledge about The Gospel Truth to be able to write more books that will reach every nation in the world. May you continue to lend to many nations but borrow from none. Thank you very much once again and God richly bless you.**

**You seem to be more knowledgeable than most.**