



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 10:14-21
- Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25
- Philippians 2:5-11

DISCRIMINATING

QUESTIONS

- Discrimination
- Critical Inquiries

SEED:

“But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, “Lord, **who has believed our report?**” So then **faith comes by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**. But I say, **have they not heard?** Yes indeed: “**Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.**”” Romans 10:16-18 NKJV

“So God **created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...”” Genesis 1:27-28 NKJV

FRUIT:

“For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood **by the things that are made**, even

His eternal power and **Godhead**, so that they are **without excuse**,"
Romans 1:20 NKJV

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man**, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those **in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Now that we have solidified to what we are confessing when we call on the name of the Lord to be saved, we must identify who can and will bring such a message to the world. Think back about the layout of Paul's letter thus far:

In Chapter 1 we were introduced to God's wrath. It is the destiny for all those who deny or suppress the truth in unrighteousness. The gateway sin is sexually immorality, after which

a long list of horrific iniquities ensue. Man was created in the image of God, but some of His qualities were not instantly visible in Adam. Those invisible qualities were made visible when God extracted Eve from Adam and presented her to him for marriage. God is a divine family perfectly represented by the human family: one male, one female, marriage, and children. The enemy's chief strategy is to destroy the image of God by tearing apart the fabric of the human family with gender confusion, the ruination of godly marriage, and the murder of unborn children.

In Chapters 2 and 3 we saw the infinite distance separating faith-based obedience from works of law (legalism). All of mankind is guilty of sin and all of mankind is redeemed the same way, by faith, no matter what bloodline courses in your veins. However, there is a potential advantage for those raised with the Word of God, as long as they add faith and the blood of the Lamb to their previous understanding.

In Chapters 4 and 5 Paul emphasized that we are all justified by faith, not a list of laws. We also learned that every promise of God is available through this same faith. How? The practice of faith gives us continuous access to God's grace and that is what empowers our righteous living, which shows up in our testimony as we become obedient servants of God. Obedience is then met with God's blessings. We also acknowledged that one man ruined the

whole process and introduced death; that was Adam. And one man corrected it and brought life; that was Y'shua.

In Chapters 6, 7, and 8 Paul connected the entire redemption process to the Passover. We are freed from sin as we personally identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Y'shua. Death released us from the marriage bond to Satan, and we are freed to become the bride of Christ. But that does not mean the journey will be without struggles. The most important thing to remember in the midst of trials is that we have been delivered from death to a new life in Christ. Also critical is to recognize that we are freed from condemnation, as long as we walk in the Spirit and not according to the lusts of the flesh. All of creation is still waiting to be restored and that will happen when God's people grow up into the image of Christ and are presented to the world as mature sons of God, in what we might see as a spiritual bar-mitzvah. Christians are considered firstborn sons of God, and prophetically speaking, these true sons are revealed at the final Passover. On this prophetic journey to Christlikeness, all things work out perfectly for God's children who love Him and walk in His purpose, and nothing will ever separate us from God's love.

In Chapter 9 Paul dropped truth bombs in the earth when he amalgamated the entire understanding of who are children of God by bloodline and who are children of God by faith, into this mind-

shattering statement; "They are not all Israel who are of Israel." He then began to drill down to the marrow of such an idea, and what emerged was that we understood we have a choice to be part of one of either of three eternal destinies. Two of these eternal people groups are good. Those of faith and who are also covered by the blood of the lamb is the perfect choice; and those of faith only is a good choice, but not perfect. The rebels who choose neither of the good options will receive a different eternal inheritance—one with a lakefront view of the lake of fire! Paul brought us to prophecy and we discovered that from the time of God's promise to Abraham, there would be two good sets of descendants, one as numerous as the stars of heaven and one as numerous as the sands of the sea. We learned that these are, in-fact, two different inheritances, two different eternal people groups, which was confirmed by Paul when he taught that every knee shall bow to Y'shua—in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth. The latter, those under the earth, have no heavenly or earthly inheritance, but instead perish in eternity. The ideas we've explored and will explore about these two different good inheritances appear as we look through various lenses: Israel and Israel; faith plus blood and faith only; heavenly and earthly; stars and sand; two eternal priesthoods; rulers and citizens; and natural and wild olive tree branches.

In the first half of this chapter Paul laid down the gauntlet as he essentially issued this challenge. Who would grasp the height and depth and width of what he is proposing? And the focus was on the stars, those of faith who would choose the heavenly priesthood. And he further drilled down to what you are actually confessing when you declare, "I am the seed of Abraham," the one with faith, plus belief in the blood of the Lamb. You confessed, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit in your circumcised heart, "I will have radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God's commands."

And that brings us to this very moment. How could anyone possibly know any of this, or believe any of this? How could they ever know the person of Y'shua, the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, and all that is promised and available through Him, unless someone preached it to them? And that is exactly what we are doing! Belief is an act of faith and you can't exercise that faith if you have not heard the message, and someone has to preach that message!

This is the best news anyone could hope to bring to the world. It's the gospel of peace, or the peace that comes from the good news of Christ. If we unpack this a bit, if we dive a few layers deeper than what most Christians are used to or even comfortable with, a whole new world of revelation will open up to you. The gospel is both the simple idea of eternal redemption by grace

through faith, the gospel of salvation; and the complex idea of growing into the full stature and image of Christ, as a mature Christian. For you, those who have come thus far in this narrative, this mature gospel should come as no surprise. It is the gospel of the kingdom. It is the gospel to which the majority of the New Testament attests; repent, the kingdom of heaven that is in you is right here within your grasp. It's the gospel of the government of heaven; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. It's the gospel of radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God; if you love Me keep My commands. It's the gospel of becoming like Christ; as we all look in a mirror and are being transformed from glory to glory into His image. It's the gospel of the end of the age; and this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to the nations and then the end will come.

Who can be sent and what is the message? Maybe a better question is, "Who understands the message who can then be sent to effectively represent that message?" Isaiah says, salvation is the message of this gospel of peace. But Nahum says of this gospel—obey! Keep your appointed feasts; perform your vows unto the Lord. The wicked one shall be defeated, utterly cut off in the midst of your radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God.

We learned previously in this very book and elsewhere that Y'shua will not return until the restoration has occurred. He is waiting for us to put the enemy of our souls under His feet. And all of creation remains in chaos until that restoration has taken place. We explored how the destruction of the human family is the Devil's chief strategy and that the restoration of the family is the microcosm of the restoration of all things. Why? To achieve restoration we must return to the Garden when man was created in the image of God. Adam was created as one being, with both the woman and child within. God is One with both the Spirit and the Son within. Y'shua prayed for us during His final sermon before His death, "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one." The perfect picture of restoration, and what it looks like to be one, is Adam; "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Now, be fruitful and multiply."

And that is why the gospel of peace has two prongs; redemption by faith and obedience by faith. The former is entirely dependent on God; the latter is entirely dependent on your voluntary decision to, after your redemption by faith, practice that faith. Practice provides continual access to God's grace, which

empowers us to be obedient to God, to live in a way that is pleasing to Him—aiming always to be like Christ. And is this not exactly the message Paul is preaching? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, to do it, to practice it!” He says, “That is the word of faith I am preaching—that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...”

It’s about to get a tad ugly—difficult to hear. Not everyone will obey the gospel. And there is a disturbing reason! They don’t believe the report. Faith is when the message is both heard and believed. And belief is an act of faith, meaning authentic faith is demonstrated with action; action is the byproduct of obedience!

Let’s begin with the report. The best way to understand the report is to refer to the previous section. There is a gospel of salvation and a gospel of the kingdom, a free gospel and a gospel of obedience, the one that will cost you everything. Do you believe it? If you are saved by grace through faith, then there will be evidence. You must forsake everything; you must hear and obey God’s word. “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

The segregation of those who believe the report from those who don’t has roots buried deep in Israel’s history. When Moses sent twelve spies into the promised land, ten of them returned with one report, two with another. Whose report do you believe?

The bad report: “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” The result of believing the bad report is this: “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”

The good report: Joshua and Caleb spoke to the congregation saying: “The land is an exceedingly good land. The Lord will bring us into this land and give it to us. Do not rebel, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.”

Whose report do you believe? The word has been sent by His preachers and belief is an act of faith. Egypt is the place for those who reject the gospel of the kingdom, the gospel of obedience. Faith is real only if there is evidence and that evidence is obedience. Will you go into the promise land or back to Egypt?

But I have plausible deniability; I did not know! Paul says, “Not true!” The message has gone out to the furthest reaches of the earth. “How has it gone out?” you might be thinking. It’s the creation gospel. Creation itself is the evidence and it has testified to everyone. Yes, if you look around at any part of creation, you must

conclude that there is a God. But, it's more specific than that. It's man, who was created in God's image, that proves there is only one God, and proves who is that God. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. No plausible deniability! And when exactly did that occur? Right here: We just saw it, but it is so profound and so obvious, and is under such attack that no amount of explanation is too much.

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply." And yet, at that moment of creation, there was only Adam. The woman and child were invisible, and that is why this happened next. The Lord said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." And God extracted female DNA from Adam and made woman. And isn't it wonderful to realize that only men carry both male and female DNA? A woman has only female DNA. The woman was invisible inside of Adam, but Adam could never be invisible inside of Eve. You can extract a woman from a man, but you can't extract a man from a woman. Yet, man and woman were not meant to be separate, so this is what happened

next—marriage. Because the woman was taken out of man, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Then they become fruitful and multiply and fill the earth by bringing children into the world. What Y'shua said about marriage is this: "They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." And that is precisely what Satan wants to do—separate man from God's image!

"Have they not heard? Their sound has gone out to all the earth!" Yes, it has been there in plain sight since God created man in His image. And thus, the cunning serpent's chief strategy immediately after this reunion between man and woman was to deceive man and diminish his image, thus an attempt to delete God! Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? If you touch that specific fruit you will die." Today the questions are even more insidious. "Is there any such thing as a man or a woman? Is marriage really necessary? Are the unborn really alive?"

And that suppression of the truth has been going on ever since! What may be known of God, His image, was manifest in us at creation. And He showed it to us when He made Eve visible. His invisible attributes became clearly seen, being understood by the creation of mankind. And just as Adam was one with man, woman,

and child within, so, was Yahweh's eternal power and Godhead represented by a Father, Spirit, and Son. And all this so we would know Him and be without excuse. And still, many knew Him, but would not glorify Him as God. They'd rather exchange this truth of God for a lie. They'd rather erase God, delete Him, so they can create a new God in their own image, a permissive God who is there to satisfy their every carnal desire.

How could they not know these things? Natural Israel was God's chosen nation. Paul showed us that they had a distinct advantage, having been raised with and called to be good stewards of God's Word. But they were not. Instead, they did all sorts of foolish things: they sacrificed to demons and winsome gods of other nations. They became a perverse people of no faith. They provoked Yahweh to jealousy and moved Him to wrath by their attraction to foolish idols. So, God turned to those nations, the people from whom Israel extracted their new fangled gods, and He imparted faith into their hearts, converting them into His worshipers. This pivot was meant to do two things, the obvious is to save the nations. The not so obvious is to make Israel jealous—the pagans had stolen their God and they want Him back!

The combination of Israel's rebellion and God's turn toward the Gentiles was explosive. Israel, by and large, missed their long-awaited Messiah, and those who were once pagans snatched Him

up by faith! Are you telling me... that Gentiles, who were not looking for Yahweh have attained righteousness by faith? And Israel who pursued God with their legalism has not attained righteousness? Precisely!

And that is why we keep preaching, day in and day out. God is stretching His hand towards all of mankind—to the Gentiles, until their fullness is achieved, and to Israel until they wake up! And that is where we will go next. Some will add Y'shua, the blood of the Lamb to their faith. Some will remain faithful to their Judaism only, and some from both Israel and the pagan nations will reject God altogether, and thus we see God's eternal segregation of mankind into three eternal destinies.

“Think in Bible.” DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Romans is a letter filled with questions. Right from the start of exploration into this deep “theological treatise,” we discovered that ninety-two times Paul asked a question. As any good teacher should, Paul used questions to stir the imagination of his readers and provoke contemplation. It is a powerful tool to engage with people. Questions offer a significantly more effective method of interaction than flooding a teaching with statements. It's the perfect way to advance a conversation, discern someone's position,

determine their current level of understanding, share new information, impart knowledge, influence thought, and challenge disagreement. Questions must, however, be intentional, as both quality and delivery will determine their effectiveness.

In just eight verses, Paul asks seven discriminating questions: How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent? Lord, who has believed our report? Have they not heard? And, did Israel not know?

As we venture deeper still, we might add seven additional critical inquiries: Who can be sent? What is the message? How will they know the report is true? What have they already heard? Who will provoke who to jealousy? Who will listen and obey? And, why do we keep preaching? There are many questions to answer and this one thing we know... good questions are an excellent way to reverse discrimination. How so? Most see discrimination from a perspective of prejudice; Paul sees it as a path to holiness.

DISCRIMINATION

1. Reverse Discrimination: from a form of prejudice to a path to holiness.

A. The Lord does discriminate between Egypt and Israel...

(1) Discrimination

(a) The recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another: **differentiation**, **distinction**, discernment, judgment, perception.

1. "Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. {7} But **against none of the children of Israel** shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that **the Lord does make a difference** [*distinction, differentiation, judgment*] **between the Egyptians and Israel.**'" Exodus 11:4-7 NKJV

2. Hebrew: (yaḇ·leh)

a) Make a distinction: to be distinct, marked out, be separated, be distinguished

- 1) Root (paw-law') (Strong's Hebrew 6395) to be separated or distinct, distinguished, make a distinction, set apart

(2) Holiness

(a) Be Holy for God is Holy

1. “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but **as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy [Leviticus 19:2].”**” I Peter 1:13-16 NKJV
2. “But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy [Hosea 1:6, 9; 2:23].” I Peter 2:9-10 NKJV
3. Hebrew (Holy)
 - a) Strong's Hebrew 6918 (kaw-doshe'): sacred, holy, Holy One, saint, set apart

1) *“Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘**You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.**’”* Leviticus 19:2

NKJV

2) *“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and **keep My covenant**, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”* Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV

4. Greek (Holy)

a) Strong's Greek 40 (hag'-ee-os): Set apart by or for God, holy, sacred

1) **[The exact way Paul made the distinction in Romans 9:25-26]** *“Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then **I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’** And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”* Hosea 2:23 NKJV

CRITICAL INQUIRIES

1. Questions: more effective than statements...

A. Three Leading Questions

(1) We previously solidified to what we are confessing when we call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

(a) Now we must identify who can and will bring such a message to the world.

1. "**How then shall they call on Him** in whom they have not believed? And **how shall they believe in Him** of whom they have not heard? And **how shall they hear without a preacher?**" Romans 10:14 NKJV

2. Think back about the layout of Paul's letter thus far:

a) **[Chapter 1]** We were introduced to God's wrath.

1) It is the destiny for all those who deny or suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

2) The gateway sin is sexually immorality, after which a long list of horrific iniquities ensue.

3) Man was created in the image of God, but some of His qualities were not instantly visible in Adam.

4) Those invisible qualities were made visible when God extracted Eve from Adam and presented her to him for marriage.

- 5) God is a divine family perfectly represented by the human family: one male, one female, marriage, and children.
 - 6) The enemy's chief strategy is to destroy the image of God by tearing apart the fabric of the human family with: gender confusion, the ruination of godly marriage, and the murder of unborn children.
- b) **[Chapters 2 and 3]** We saw the infinite distance separating faith-based obedience from works of law (legalism).
- 1) All of mankind is guilty of sin and all of mankind is redeemed the same way, by faith, no matter what bloodline courses in your veins.
 - 2) There is a potential advantage for those raised with the Word of God, as long as they add faith and the blood of the Lamb to their previous understanding.
- c) **[Chapters 4 and 5]** Paul emphasized that we are all justified by faith, not a list of laws.
- 1) We learned that every promise of God is available through this same faith. How?

- 2) The practice of faith gives us continuous access to God's grace and that is what empowers our righteous living, which shows up in our testimony as we become obedient servants of God.
 - 3) Obedience is then met with God's blessings.
 - 4) We acknowledged that one man ruined the whole process and introduced death; that was Adam.
 - 5) And one man corrected it and brought life; that was Y'shua.
- d) **[Chapters 6, 7, and 8]** Paul connected the entire redemption process to the Passover.
- 1) We are freed from sin as we personally identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Y'shua.
 - 2) Death released us from the marriage bond to Satan, and we are freed to become the bride of Christ.
 - 3) That does not mean the journey will be without struggles.

- 4) The most important thing to remember in the midst of trials is that we have been delivered from death to a new life in Christ.
 - 5) Also critical is to recognize that we are freed from condemnation, as long as we walk in the Spirit and not according to the lusts of the flesh.
 - 6) All of creation is still waiting to be restored and that will happen when God's people grow up into the image of Christ and are presented to the world as mature sons of God, in what we might see as a spiritual bar-mitzvah.
 - 7) Christians are considered firstborn sons of God, and prophetically speaking, these true sons are revealed at the final Passover.
 - 8) On this prophetic journey to Christlikeness, all things work out perfectly for God's children who love Him and walk in His purpose, and nothing will ever separate us from God's love.
- e) **[Chapter 9]** Paul dropped truth bombs in the earth.
- 1) He amalgamated the entire understanding of who are children of God by bloodline and who are children of God by faith, into this mind-

shattering statement; "They are not all Israel who are of Israel."

- 2) He then began to drill down to the marrow of such an idea, and what emerged was that we understood we have a choice to be part of one of either of three eternal destinies.
- 3) Two of these eternal people groups are good. Those of faith and who are also covered by the blood of the lamb is the perfect choice; and those of faith only is a good choice, but not perfect.
- 4) The rebels who choose neither of the good options will receive a different eternal inheritance—one with a lakefront view of the lake of fire!
- 5) Paul brought us to prophecy and we discovered that from the time of God's promise to Abraham, there would be two good sets of descendants, one as numerous as the stars of heaven who are set apart (holy) from the one as numerous as the sands of the sea.
- 6) We learned that these are, in-fact, two different inheritances, two different eternal people

groups, which was confirmed by Paul when he taught that every knee shall bow to Y'shua—in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth.

- 7) The latter, those under the earth, have no heavenly or earthly inheritance, but instead perish in eternity.
- 8) The ideas we've explored and will explore about these two different good inheritances appear as we look through various lenses:
 - a. Israel (good & holy) and Israel (good only)
 - b. Faith plus blood (good & holy) and faith only (good only)
 - c. Heavenly (good & holy) and earthly (good only)
 - d. Stars (good & holy) and sand (good only)
 - e. Two eternal priesthoods: Melchizedek (good & holy) and Levitical (good only)
 - f. Rulers (good & holy) and citizens (good only)
 - g. Grafted natural and wild olive tree branches (good & holy) and un-grafted natural olive tree branches (good only).
- f) **[First half of Chapter 10]** Paul laid down the gauntlet as he essentially issued this challenge.

- 1) Who would grasp the height and depth and width of what he is proposing?
- 2) The focus was on the stars, those of faith who would choose the heavenly priesthood.
- 3) He further drilled down to what you are actually confessing when you declare, "I am the seed of Abraham," the one with faith, plus belief in the blood of the Lamb.
- 4) You confessed, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit in your circumcised heart, "I will have radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God's commands."

(b) **[Second half of Chapter 10]**

1. How will they call on, believe in, or hear about Him without a preacher?
 - a) That brings us to this very moment in the remaining eight verses in Chapter 10.
 - b) How could anyone possibly know any of this, or believe any of this?
 - c) How could they ever know the person of Y'shua, the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, and all that is promised and available through Him, unless someone preached it to them?

- d) And that is exactly what we are doing!
- e) Belief is an act of faith and you can't exercise that faith if you have not heard the message, and someone has to preach that message!
 - 1) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
 - 2) How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
 - 3) How shall they hear without a preacher?

B. How shall they preach unless they are sent?

- (1) Who can be sent and what is the message?
 - (a) This is the best news anyone could hope to bring to the world.
 - 1. "And how shall they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written: "How beautiful are **the feet of those** who preach **the gospel of peace**, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"“ Romans 10:15 NKJV
 - 2. It's the gospel of peace, or the peace that comes from the good news of Christ.
 - a) If we unpack this a bit, if we dive a few layers deeper than what most Christians are used to or even comfortable with, a whole new world of revelation will open up to you.

- b) The gospel is both the simple idea of eternal redemption by grace through faith, the gospel of salvation;
 - 1) *“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified.**”* 1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJV
- c) And the complex idea of growing into the full stature and image of Christ, as a mature Christian.
 - 1) For you, those who have come thus far in this narrative, this mature gospel should come as no surprise.
 - 2) *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**”* Ephesians 4:13 NKJV
- 3. It is the gospel of the kingdom.
 - a) It is the gospel to which the majority of the New Testament attests; repent, the kingdom of heaven that is in you is right here within your grasp.
 - 1) *“John the Baptist came preaching... **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**”* Matthew 3:12 NKJV

- 2) *“Jesus began to preach and to say, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”**”* Matthew 4:17 NKJV
 - 3) *“Y’shua said, **“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”**”* Luke 17:20-21 NKJV
- b) It’s the gospel of the government of heaven; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- 1) ***“Your kingdom come. Your will be done **On earth as it is in heaven.**”*** Matthew 6:10 NKJV
 - 2) *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And **the government will be upon His shoulder.** And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end...**”* Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV
- c) It’s the gospel of radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God;
- 1) *“If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**”* John 14:15 NKJV

d) It's the gospel of becoming like Christ; as we all look in a mirror and are being transformed from glory to glory into His image.

1) *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**"* II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

e) It's the gospel of the end of the age...

1) *"And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**"* Matthew 24:14 NKJV

4. Who can be sent and what is the message?

a) Maybe a better question is, "Who understands the message who can then be sent to effectively represent that message?"

b) Isaiah says, salvation is the message of this gospel of peace.

1) *"How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things,***

*Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”*” Isaiah 52:7 NKJV

c) But Nahum says of this gospel—obey! Keep your appointed feasts; perform your vows unto the Lord. The wicked one shall be defeated, utterly cut off in the midst of your radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God.

1) *“Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who
**brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace! O
Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform
your vows.** For the wicked one shall no more
pass through you; He is utterly cut off.”* Nahum
1:15 NKJV

5. We learned previously in this very book and elsewhere...

a) Y’shua will not return until the restoration has occurred.

1) *“and that He may send **Jesus Christ**, who was
preached to you before, **whom heaven must
receive until the times of restoration of all
things**, which God has **spoken by the mouth of
all His holy prophets** since the world began.”*
Acts 3:20-21 NKJV

- 2) *“Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet** **Before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Malachi 4:5 NKJV*
 - 3) *“For the earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**” Romans 8:19 NKJV*
- b) Was He is waiting for us to put the enemy of our souls under His feet. YES!
- 1) *“But this Man, **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God, **from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**” Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV*
- c) And all of creation remains in chaos until that restoration has taken place.
- 1) *“For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together **until now.**” Romans 8:20-22 NKJV*

6. We explored how the destruction of the human family is the Devil's chief strategy and that the restoration of the family is the microcosm of the restoration of all things. Why?
- a) To achieve restoration we must return to the Garden when man was created in the image of God. Adam was created as one being, with both the woman and child within.
 - 1) *"So God created man **in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...**" Genesis 1:27-28
NKJV*
 - b) God is One with both the Spirit and the Son within. Y'shua prayed for us to be one, during His final sermon before His death...
 - 1) *"**that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one:** I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be***

made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:21-23 NKJV

- 2) The perfect picture of restoration, and what it looks like to be one, is Adam; “God created man in His own image; ***in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*** Now, be fruitful and multiply.”
- c) God is One (a Divine Family) and Man is one (a Human family). Restoration of the family is the microcosm of the restoration of all things.
 - 1) “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And ***he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,*** Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”” Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV
- d) And that is why the gospel of peace has two prongs; **redemption by faith** and **obedience by faith**.
 - 1) **Redemption by faith** is entirely dependent on God; “For ***by grace you have been saved***

*through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”*Ephesians 2:8 NKJV

- 2) **Obedience by faith** is entirely dependent on your voluntary decision to, after your redemption by faith, practice that faith. *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith...**”* II Peter 1:5 NKJV
- e) Practice provides continual access to God’s grace, which empowers us to be obedient to God, to live in a way that is pleasing to Him—aiming always to be like Christ.
 - 1) *“Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
 - 2) *“Imitate me, just as I also **imitate Christ.**”* I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV
- f) And is this not exactly the message Paul is preaching? *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, to do it, to practice it!”*

- 1) *“But what does it say? **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**”* Romans 10:8-9 NKJV

C. Lord, who has believed our report?

- (1) What is the message?
 - (a) How will they know the report is true?
 1. **“But they have not all obeyed the gospel.** For Isaiah says, **“Lord, who has believed our report?”** So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Romans 10:16-17 NKJV
 2. It’s about to get a tad ugly—difficult to hear.
 - a) Not everyone will obey the gospel. And, there is a disturbing reason! They don’t believe the report.
 - 1) **“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”** Isaiah 53:1 NKJV
 - b) Faith is when the message is both heard and believed.

- c) And belief is an act of faith, meaning authentic faith is demonstrated with action; action is the byproduct of obedience!
- 1) *“Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**” James 2:17-18 [see 14-24] NKJV*

3. Let's begin with the report.

- a) The best way to understand the report is to refer to the previous section.
 - 1) There is a gospel of salvation and a gospel of the kingdom, a free gospel and a gospel of obedience, the one that will cost you everything.
 - 2) FREE *“For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**” Ephesians 2:8 NKJV*
 - 3) COST *“not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared*

beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:9-10 NKJV

4) *“And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost...**”* Luke 14:27-28 NKJV

5) *“So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has** cannot be My disciple.”* Luke 14:33 [see 25-35] NKJV

4. Do you believe it?

a) If you are saved by grace through faith, then there will be evidence. You must forsake everything; you must hear and obey God’s word.

1) *“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**”* I John 2:3-4 NKJV

5. The segregation of those who believe the report from those who don’t has roots buried deep in Israel’s history.

- a) When Moses sent twelve spies into the promised land, ten of them returned with one report, two with another. Whose report do you believe?
 - 1) “*Who **has believed our report?***” Isaiah 53:1
- b) The bad report:
 - 1) “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” The result of believing the bad report is this: “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” [See Numbers 13:27-33]
- c) The good report:
 - 1) Joshua and Caleb spoke to the congregation saying: “The land is an exceedingly good land. The Lord will bring us into this land and give it to us. Do not rebel, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has

departed, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.” [See Numbers 14:1-9]

- d) Whose report do you believe? The word has been sent by His preachers and belief is an act of faith.
 - 1) Egypt is the place for those who reject the gospel of the kingdom, the gospel of obedience.
“...*If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!... Would it not be **better for us to return to Egypt?**” ...
“*Let us select a leader **and return to Egypt.**”*”
Numbers 14:2-4 NKJV*
 - 2) Faith is real only if there is evidence and that evidence is obedience. “*Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**” James 2:18*
 - 3) Will you go into the promise land or back to Egypt?

D. Have they not heard?

- (1) What have they already heard?
 - (a) Plausible deniability; I did not know!
 1. “But I say, **have they not heard?** Yes indeed: “**Their sound has gone out to all the earth,** And their **words**

to the ends of the world [Ps. 19:4].” Romans 10:18
NKJV

2. Paul says, “Not true!”
 - a) The message has gone out to the furthest reaches of the earth. But remember, not everyone will acknowledge it...
 - 1) *“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. ...
“Lord, **who has believed our report?**”* Romans 10:16
 - b) “How has it gone out?” (In a way that no one can deny?) **It’s the creation gospel.** Creation itself is the evidence and it has testified to everyone. If you look around at any part of creation, you must conclude that there is a God.
 - c) Creation is equated with the Bridegroom (Y’shua) and His law (Just as Paul equated Y’shua with the law in Romans 10:4-8 from Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-14) See: [Cognitive Dissonance](#)
 - 1) *“**The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.** Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language*

Where their voice is not heard. {4} **Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.** In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is **like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,** And rejoices like a **strong man to run its race.** Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. **The law of the Lord** is perfect, converting the soul; **The testimony of the Lord** is sure, making wise the simple; **The statutes of the Lord** are right, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment of the Lord** is pure, enlightening the eyes; **The fear of the Lord** is clean, enduring forever; **The judgments of the Lord** are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. **Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.** Who can understand his errors? **Cleanse me** from secret faults. **Keep back** Your servant also from **presumptuous sins;** Let them not have dominion

over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight,** O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” Psalms 19:1-14 NKJV

3. It's more specific than just the idea of the physical elements of the universe.
 - a) It's man, who was created in God's image, that proves there is only one God, and proves who is that God. No plausible deniability!
 - 1) “For **since the creation** of the world His **invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even His eternal power and **Godhead,** so that they are **without excuse,** because, although **they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God,** nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were **darkened.**” Romans 1:20-21 NKJV
4. And when exactly did that occur?

a) Right here: We just saw it, but it is so profound and so obvious, and is under such attack that no amount of explanation is too much.

1) *“Then God said, **“Let Us make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*” Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

2) And yet, at that moment of creation, there was only Adam.

3) The woman and child were invisible, and that is why this happened next. *“And the Lord God said, **“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”**”*

Genesis 2:18 NKJV

- 4) And God extracted female DNA from Adam and made woman. *“Then **the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman**, and He **brought her to the man**. And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”“* Genesis 2:22-23 NKJV
 - 5) And isn't it wonderful to realize that only men carry both male and female DNA? A woman has only female DNA.
 - 6) The woman was invisible inside of Adam, but Adam could never be invisible inside of Eve.
 - 7) You can extract a woman from a man, but you can't extract a man from a woman.
5. Yet, man and woman were not meant to be separate, so this is what happened next—marriage.
- a) Because the woman was taken out of man, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
 - 1) *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother **and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh**. And they were both naked,*

the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Genesis 2:24-25 NKJV

b) Then they become fruitful and multiply and fill the earth by bringing children into the world.

c) What Y’shua said about marriage is this:

1) *“And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them **at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? **So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”**”*** Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV

6. And that is precisely what Satan wants to do—
separate man from God’s image!

a) “Have they not heard? Their sound has gone out to all the earth!”

b) Yes, it has been there in plain sight since God created man in His image.

c) And thus, the cunning serpent’s chief strategy, immediately after this reunion between man and woman, was to deceive man and diminish his

image, thus an attempt to delete God! Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? If you touch that specific fruit you will die?"

- 1) *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?**" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, '**You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it** [Note the self-deception: God NEVER says anything about touching the fruit], **lest you die.**' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.""* Genesis 3:1-5
NKJV

7. Today the questions are even more insidious.
 - a) Is there any such thing as a man or a woman?
 - b) Is marriage really necessary?

- c) Are the unborn really alive?
8. And that suppression of the truth has been going on ever since!
- a) What may be known of God, His image, was manifest in us at creation.
 - b) And He showed it to us when He made Eve visible.
 - c) His invisible attributes became clearly seen, being understood by the creation of mankind.
 - d) And just as Adam was one with man, woman, and child within, so, was Yahweh's eternal power and Godhead represented by a Father, Spirit, and Son.
 - e) And all this so we would know Him and be without excuse.
9. And still, many knew Him, but would not glorify Him as God. They'd rather exchange this truth of God for a lie.
- a) They'd rather erase God, delete Him, so they can create a new God in their own image, a permissive God who is there to satisfy their every carnal desire.

E. Did Israel not know?

- (1) Who will provoke who to jealousy?

- (a) How could they not know these things?
1. "But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will **provoke you** to jealousy **by those** who are not a nation, I will **move you** to anger **by a** foolish nation."" Romans 10:19 NKJV
 2. Natural Israel was God's chosen nation.
 - a) Paul showed us that they had a distinct advantage, having been raised with and called to be good stewards of God's Word. But they were not faithful.
 - 1) "***What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."***" Romans 3:1-4 NKJV
 - b) Instead, they did all sorts of foolish things:
 - 1) "***They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Of the***

Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

*“And when the Lord saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters. And He said: ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are **a perverse generation**, Children in whom is no faith. **They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God;** They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. {21} But **I will provoke them to jealousy** by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.”* Deuteronomy 32:17-21 NKJV

- 2) They sacrificed to demons and winsome gods of other nations.
 - 3) They became a perverse people of no faith.
 - 4) They provoked Yahweh to jealousy and moved Him to wrath by their attraction to foolish idols.
3. So, God turned to those nations, the people from whom Israel extracted their new fangled gods, and He imparted faith into their hearts, converting them into His worshipers.
- a) This pivot was meant to do two things...

- 1) The obvious is to save the nations.
- 2) The not so obvious is to make Israel jealous—the pagans had stolen their God and they want Him back!

F. Who will listen and obey?

(1) The combination of Israel's rebellion and God's turn toward the Gentiles was explosive.

(a) Israel, by and large, missed their long-awaited Messiah

1. "But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was **found by those** who did not seek Me; I was made **manifest to those** who did not ask for Me."" Romans 10:20 NKJV

a) *"I was **sought by** those who did not ask for Me; I was **found by** those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name."* Isaiah 65:1 NKJV

2. Those who were once pagans snatched Him up by faith!

a) Are you telling me... that Gentiles, who were not looking for Yahweh have attained righteousness by faith? And Israel who pursued God with their legalism has not attained righteousness? Precisely!

1) *"What shall we say then? **That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to***

righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.”

Romans 9:30-31 NKJV

G. Why do we keep preaching?

(1) Separating Humans into Three Eternal Destinies

(a) That is why we keep preaching, day in and day out.

1. **“But to Israel he says: “All day long** I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”” Romans 10:21 NKJV

2. God is stretching His hand towards all of mankind—

a) To the Gentiles, until their fullness is achieved...

1) *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**”* Romans 11:25 NKJV

b) ...and to Israel until they wake up!

1) *“I have stretched out My hands **all day long to a rebellious people**, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;”* Isaiah 65:2 NKJV

2) *"A **people who provoke Me to anger** continually to My face; **Who sacrifice in gardens, And burn incense on altars of brick; Who sit among the graves, And spend the night in the tombs; Who eat swine's flesh, And the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; Who say, 'Keep to yourself, Do not come near me, For I am holier than you!'** These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day."*
Isaiah 65:3-5 NKJV

3. And that is where we will go next.

a) Some will add Y'shua, the blood of the Lamb to their faith.

1) *"For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."*

Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV

b) Some will remain faithful to their Judaism only,

- 1) *“**One law** shall be for **the native-born** and for **the stranger** who dwells among you.” Exodus 12:49 NKJV*
- c) Some from both Israel and the pagan nations will reject God altogether.
 - 1) *“because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and **their foolish hearts were darkened.**” Romans 1:21 NKJV*
- d) Thus we see God’s eternal segregation of mankind into three eternal destinies (heaven, earth, under earth).
 - 1) *“**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of*

*Jesus every knee should bow, of those **in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV*

- e) Why do we keep preaching? When do we stop?
 - 1) Not until we have the final Godly Segregation of People: the action or state of setting someone or something apart from others!

Summary: DISCRIMINATION

1. Reverse Discrimination: from a form of prejudice to a path to holiness.

A. The Lord does discriminate between Egypt and Israel...

(1) Discrimination

- (a) The recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another: **differentiation**, **distinction**, discernment, judgment, perception.

1. Hebrew: (yaḅ·leh)

- a) Make a distinction: to be distinct, marked out, be separated, be distinguished

- 1) Root (paw-law') (Strong's Hebrew 6395) to be separated or distinct, distinguished, make a distinction, set apart
- (2) Holiness
 - (a) Be Holy for God is Holy
 1. Hebrew (Holy)
 - a) Strong's Hebrew 6918 (kaw-doshe'): sacred, holy, Holy One, saint, set apart
 2. Greek (Holy)
 - a) Strong's Greek 40 (hag'-ee-os): Set apart by or for God, holy, sacred
 - 1) [The exact way Paul made the distinction in Romans 9:25-26]

Summary: CRITICAL INQUIRIES

1. Questions: more effective than statements...

A. Three Leading Questions

- (1) We previously solidified to what we are confessing when we call on the name of the Lord to be saved.
 - (a) Now we must identify who can and will bring such a message to the world.
 1. Think back about the layout of Paul's letter thus far:
 - a) **[Chapter 1]** We were introduced to God's wrath.

- 1) It is the destiny for all those who deny or suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
 - 2) The gateway sin is sexually immorality, after which a long list of horrific iniquities ensue.
 - 3) Man was created in the image of God, but some of His qualities were not instantly visible in Adam.
 - 4) Those invisible qualities were made visible when God extracted Eve from Adam and presented her to him for marriage.
 - 5) God is a divine family perfectly represented by the human family: one male, one female, marriage, and children.
 - 6) The enemy's chief strategy is to destroy the image of God by tearing apart the fabric of the human family with: gender confusion, the ruination of godly marriage, and the murder of unborn children.
- b) **[Chapters 2 and 3]** We saw the infinite distance separating faith-based obedience from works of law (legalism).

- 1) All of mankind is guilty of sin and all of mankind is redeemed the same way, by faith, no matter what bloodline courses in your veins.
 - 2) There is a potential advantage for those raised with the Word of God, as long as they add faith and the blood of the Lamb to their previous understanding.
- c) **[Chapters 4 and 5]** Paul emphasized that we are all justified by faith, not a list of laws.
- 1) We learned that every promise of God is available through this same faith. How?
 - 2) The practice of faith gives us continuous access to God's grace and that is what empowers our righteous living, which shows up in our testimony as we become obedient servants of God.
 - 3) Obedience is then met with God's blessings.
 - 4) We acknowledged that one man ruined the whole process and introduced death; that was Adam.
 - 5) And one man corrected it and brought life; that was Y'shua.

- d) **[Chapters 6, 7, and 8]** Paul connected the entire redemption process to the Passover.
- 1) We are freed from sin as we personally identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Y'shua.
 - 2) Death released us from the marriage bond to Satan, and we are freed to become the bride of Christ.
 - 3) That does not mean the journey will be without struggles.
 - 4) The most important thing to remember in the midst of trials is that we have been delivered from death to a new life in Christ.
 - 5) Also critical is to recognize that we are freed from condemnation, as long as we walk in the Spirit and not according to the lusts of the flesh.
 - 6) All of creation is still waiting to be restored and that will happen when God's people grow up into the image of Christ and are presented to the world as mature sons of God, in what we might see as a spiritual bar-mitzvah.

- 7) Christians are considered firstborn sons of God, and prophetically speaking, these true sons are revealed at the final Passover.
 - 8) On this prophetic journey to Christlikeness, all things work out perfectly for God's children who love Him and walk in His purpose, and nothing will ever separate us from God's love.
- e) **[Chapter 9]** Paul dropped truth bombs in the earth.
- 1) He amalgamated the entire understanding of who are children of God by bloodline and who are children of God by faith, into this mind-shattering statement; "They are not all Israel who are of Israel."
 - 2) He then began to drill down to the marrow of such an idea, and what emerged was that we understood we have a choice to be part of one of either of three eternal destinies.
 - 3) Two of these eternal people groups are good. Those of faith and who are also covered by the blood of the lamb is the perfect choice; and those of faith only is a good choice, but not perfect.

- 4) The rebels who choose neither of the good options will receive a different eternal inheritance—one with a lakefront view of the lake of fire!
- 5) Paul brought us to prophecy and we discovered that from the time of God's promise to Abraham, there would be two good sets of descendants, one as numerous as the stars of heaven who are set apart (holy) from the one as numerous as the sands of the sea.
- 6) We learned that these are, in-fact, two different inheritances, two different eternal people groups, which was confirmed by Paul when he taught that every knee shall bow to Y'shua—in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth.
- 7) The latter, those under the earth, have no heavenly or earthly inheritance, but instead perish in eternity.
- 8) The ideas we've explored and will explore about these two different good inheritances appear as we look through various lenses:
 - a. Israel (good & holy) and Israel (good only)

- b. Faith plus blood (good & holy) and faith only (good only)
 - c. Heavenly (good & holy) and earthly (good only)
 - d. Stars (good & holy) and sand (good only)
 - e. Two eternal priesthoods: Melchizedek (good & holy) and Levitical (good only)
 - f. Rulers (good & holy) and citizens (good only)
 - g. Grafted natural and wild olive tree branches (good & holy) and un-grafted natural olive tree branches (good only).
- f) **[First half of Chapter 10]** Paul laid down the gauntlet as he essentially issued this challenge.
- 1) Who would grasp the height and depth and width of what he is proposing?
 - 2) The focus was on the stars, those of faith who would choose the heavenly priesthood.
 - 3) He further drilled down to what you are actually confessing when you declare, "I am the seed of Abraham," the one with faith, plus belief in the blood of the Lamb.
 - 4) You confessed, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit in your circumcised heart, "I will

have radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God's commands."

(b) **[Second half of Chapter 10]**

1. How will they call on, believe in, or hear about Him without a preacher?
 - a) That brings us to this very moment in the remaining eight verses in Chapter 10.
 - b) How could anyone possibly know any of this, or believe any of this?
 - c) How could they ever know the person of Y'shua, the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, and all that is promised and available through Him, unless someone preached it to them?
 - d) And that is exactly what we are doing!
 - e) Belief is an act of faith and you can't exercise that faith if you have not heard the message, and someone has to preach that message!
 - 1) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
 - 2) How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
 - 3) How shall they hear without a preacher?

B. How shall they preach unless they are sent?

- (1) Who can be sent and what is the message?
 - (a) This is the best news anyone could hope to bring to the world.
 1. It's the gospel of peace, or the peace that comes from the good news of Christ.
 - a) If we unpack this a bit, if we dive a few layers deeper than what most Christians are used to or even comfortable with, a whole new world of revelation will open up to you.
 - b) The gospel is both the simple idea of eternal redemption by grace through faith, the gospel of salvation;
 - c) And the complex idea of growing into the full stature and image of Christ, as a mature Christian.
 - 1) For you, those who have come thus far in this narrative, this mature gospel should come as no surprise.
 2. It is the gospel of the kingdom.
 - a) It is the gospel to which the majority of the New Testament attests; repent, the kingdom of heaven that is in you is right here within your grasp.

- b) It's the gospel of the government of heaven; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 - c) It's the gospel of radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God;
 - d) It's the gospel of becoming like Christ; as we all look in a mirror and are being transformed from glory to glory into His image.
 - e) It's the gospel of the end of the age...
3. Who can be sent and what is the message?
- a) Maybe a better question is, "Who understands the message who can then be sent to effectively represent that message?"
 - b) Isaiah says, salvation is the message of this gospel of peace.
 - c) But Nahum says of this gospel—obey! Keep your appointed feasts; perform your vows unto the Lord. The wicked one shall be defeated, utterly cut off in the midst of your radical grace-empowered faith-based obedience to God.
4. We learned previously in this very book and elsewhere...

- a) Y'shua will not return until the restoration has occurred.
 - b) Was He is waiting for us to put the enemy of our souls under His feet. YES!
 - c) And all of creation remains in chaos until that restoration has taken place.
5. We explored how the destruction of the human family is the Devil's chief strategy and that the restoration of the family is the microcosm of the restoration of all things. Why?
- a) To achieve restoration we must return to the Garden when man was created in the image of God. Adam was created as one being, with both the woman and child within.
 - b) God is One with both the Spirit and the Son within. Y'shua prayed for us to be one, during His final sermon before His death...
 - 1) The perfect picture of restoration, and what it looks like to be one, is Adam;
 - c) God is One (a Divine Family) and Man is one (a Human family). Restoration of the family is the microcosm of the restoration of all things.

- d) And that is why the gospel of peace has two prongs; **redemption by faith** and **obedience by faith**.
 - 1) **Redemption by faith** is entirely dependent on God;
 - 2) **Obedience by faith** is entirely dependent on your voluntary decision to, after your redemption by faith, practice that faith.
- e) Practice provides continual access to God's grace, which empowers us to be obedient to God, to live in a way that is pleasing to Him—aiming always to be like Christ.
- f) And is this not exactly the message Paul is preaching? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, to do it, to practice it!"

C. Lord, who has believed our report?

- (1) What is the message?
 - (a) How will they know the report is true?
 - 1. It's about to get a tad ugly—difficult to hear.
 - a) Not everyone will obey the gospel. And, there is a disturbing reason! They don't believe the report.
 - b) Faith is when the message is both heard and believed.

- c) And belief is an act of faith, meaning authentic faith is demonstrated with action; action is the byproduct of obedience!
2. Let's begin with the report.
 - a) The best way to understand the report is to refer to the previous section.
 - 1) There is a gospel of salvation and a gospel of the kingdom, a free gospel and a gospel of obedience, the one that will cost you everything.
 3. Do you believe it?
 - a) If you are saved by grace through faith, then there will be evidence. You must forsake everything; you must hear and obey God's word.
 4. The segregation of those who believe the report from those who don't has roots buried deep in Israel's history.
 - a) When Moses sent twelve spies into the promised land, ten of them returned with one report, two with another. Whose report do you believe?
 - b) The bad report:
 - 1) "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. The land through

which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." The result of believing the bad report is this: "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" [See Numbers 13:27-33]

c) The good report:

1) Joshua and Caleb spoke to the congregation saying: "The land is an exceedingly good land. The Lord will bring us into this land and give it to us. Do not rebel, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them." [See Numbers 14:1-9]

d) Whose report do you believe? The word has been sent by His preachers and belief is an act of faith.

- 1) Egypt is the place for those who reject the gospel of the kingdom, the gospel of obedience.
- 2) Faith is real only if there is evidence and that evidence is obedience.

3) Will you go into the promise land or back to Egypt?

D. Have they not heard?

(1) What have they already heard?

(a) Plausible deniability; I did not know!

1. Paul says, "Not true!"

a) The message has gone out to the furthest reaches of the earth. But remember, not everyone will acknowledge it...

b) "How has it gone out?" (In a way that no one can deny?) **It's the creation gospel.** Creation itself is the evidence and it has testified to everyone. If you look around at any part of creation, you must conclude that there is a God.

c) Creation is equated with the Bridegroom (Y'shua) and His law (Just as Paul equated Y'shua with the law in Romans 10:4-8 from Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-14) See: [Cognitive Dissonance](#)

2. It's more specific than just the idea of the physical elements of the universe.

- a) It's man, who was created in God's image, that proves there is only one God, and proves who is that God. No plausible deniability!
3. And when exactly did that occur?
- a) Right here: We just saw it, but it is so profound and so obvious, and is under such attack that no amount of explanation is too much.
 - 1) And yet, at that moment of creation, there was only Adam.
 - 2) The woman and child were invisible, and that is why this happened next.
 - 3) And God extracted female DNA from Adam and made woman.
 - 4) And isn't it wonderful to realize that only men carry both male and female DNA? A woman has only female DNA.
 - 5) The woman was invisible inside of Adam, but Adam could never be invisible inside of Eve.
 - 6) You can extract a woman from a man, but you can't extract a man from a woman.
4. Yet, man and woman were not meant to be separate, so this is what happened next—marriage.

- a) Because the woman was taken out of man, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
 - b) Then they become fruitful and multiply and fill the earth by bringing children into the world.
 - c) What Y'shua said about marriage is this:
5. And that is precisely what Satan wants to do—
separate man from God's image!
- a) "Have they not heard? Their sound has gone out to all the earth!"
 - b) Yes, it has been there in plain sight since God created man in His image.
 - c) And thus, the cunning serpent's chief strategy, immediately after this reunion between man and woman, was to deceive man and diminish his image, thus an attempt to delete God! Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? If you touch that specific fruit you will die?"
6. Today the questions are even more insidious.
- a) Is there any such thing as a man or a woman?
 - b) Is marriage really necessary?
 - c) Are the unborn really alive?

7. And that suppression of the truth has been going on ever since!
 - a) What may be known of God, His image, was manifest in us at creation.
 - b) And He showed it to us when He made Eve visible.
 - c) His invisible attributes became clearly seen, being understood by the creation of mankind.
 - d) And just as Adam was one with man, woman, and child within, so, was Yahweh's eternal power and Godhead represented by a Father, Spirit, and Son.
 - e) And all this so we would know Him and be without excuse.
8. And still, many knew Him, but would not glorify Him as God. They'd rather exchange this truth of God for a lie.
 - a) They'd rather erase God, delete Him, so they can create a new God in their own image, a permissive God who is there to satisfy their every carnal desire.

E. Did Israel not know?

- (1) Who will provoke who to jealousy?
 - (a) How could they not know these things?

1. Natural Israel was God's chosen nation.
 - a) Paul showed us that they had a distinct advantage, having been raised with and called to be good stewards of God's Word. But they were not faithful.
 - b) Instead, they did all sorts of foolish things:
 - 1) They sacrificed to demons and winsome gods of other nations.
 - 2) They became a perverse people of no faith.
 - 3) They provoked Yahweh to jealousy and moved Him to wrath by their attraction to foolish idols.
2. So, God turned to those nations, the people from whom Israel extracted their new fangled gods, and He imparted faith into their hearts, converting them into His worshipers.
 - a) This pivot was meant to do two things...
 - 1) The obvious is to save the nations.
 - 2) The not so obvious is to make Israel jealous—the pagans had stolen their God and they want Him back!

F. Who will listen and obey?

- (1) The combination of Israel's rebellion and God's turn toward the Gentiles was explosive.
 - (a) Israel, by and large, missed their long-awaited Messiah

1. Those who were once pagans snatched Him up by faith!
 - a) Are you telling me... that Gentiles, who were not looking for Yahweh have attained righteousness by faith? And Israel who pursued God with their legalism has not attained righteousness? Precisely!

G. Why do we keep preaching?

- (1) Separating Humans into Three Eternal Destinies
 - (a) That is why we keep preaching, day in and day out.
 1. God is stretching His hand towards all of mankind—
 - a) To the Gentiles, until their fullness is achieved...
 - b) ...and to Israel until they wake up!
 2. And that is where we will go next.
 - a) Some will add Y'shua, the blood of the Lamb to their faith.
 - b) Some will remain faithful to their Judaism only,
 - c) Some from both Israel and the pagan nations will reject God altogether.
 - d) Thus we see God's eternal segregation of mankind into three eternal destinies (heaven, earth, under earth).
 - e) Why do we keep preaching? When do we stop?

- 1) Not until we have the final Godly Segregation of People: the action or state of setting someone or something apart from others!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. There are many questions to answer and this one thing we know... good questions are an excellent way to reverse discrimination. How so? Most see discrimination from a perspective of prejudice; Paul sees it as a path to holiness.

A. Answer all the discriminating questions posed in this week's introduction (look into the the Sermon Notes to help):

- 1) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
- 2) How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
- 3) How shall they hear without a preacher?
- 4) How shall they preach unless they are sent?
- 5) Lord, who has believed our report?
- 6) Have they not heard?
- 7) Did Israel not know?
- 8) Who can be sent?
- 9) What is the message?

- 10) How will they know the report is true?
- 11) What have they already heard?
- 12) Who will provoke who to jealousy?
- 13) Who will listen and obey?
- 14) Why do we keep preaching?