



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 3:14-18
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

THINK IN BIBLE!

- Diligent Blameless Disciples
- Biblically Literate Disciples

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, **be diligent** to be found in **peace, without defect and blameless** in his sight. Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul also**, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also **in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things**. In those, there are some things that are **hard to understand**, which the **ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction**. You therefore, beloved, **knowing these things beforehand, beware, lest being carried away with the error of the wicked**, you fall from your own steadfastness. But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:14-18

WEBUS

“**Every Scripture** is God-breathed and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person** who belongs to God may be complete, **thoroughly equipped for every good work**.” 2 Tim. 3:16-17 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Think in Bible!

Let's summarize our journey together in II Peter. I encourage you to review it; study the notes and watch every teaching (especially if you've missed any). And let's look forward to a place where righteousness dwells, where all things are in right standing and right alignment with Yahweh. What a glorious place.

As a true disciple, your life will be a beautiful journey that waves back and forth between difficult challenges and wonderful victories. It's all a process of sanctification. Along the way you will discover some amazing things and find that support comes from strange places and oftentimes, so does the resistance. You will be tempted, more than you can imagine, to get frustrated and angry, even wanting to quit the mission. When you are tempted to fall back on the "No one is perfect; I'm only human!" excuse, remember this; that is NOT what the Bible says about you! You are being transformed from glory to glory into Y'shua's image; focus on that! As a Christian, you are actually part human and part heavenly being! Say instead, "By God's grace I'm called to perfection, and I'm on my way!" Think of grace as both a direct connect to an infinite power source and a universal eraser. You have been empowered for transformation and you get to practice with a cushy safety net below. If you fall, get back up as Y'shua gently whispers in your ear, "Try again; you can do it!" Remember, God does not ask

us to do the impossible, because with God all things are possible. So, stop making excuses! You might fall short at times and identifying the reasons why is good, but also acknowledge that a reason is NOT an excuse. "Once you become good at making excuses, you will never again become good at anything else!"

And finally, Paul also taught in his own letters about the things in Peter's letter! Throughout this series, I elaborated on Peter's words most often by using Paul's teachings. Peter was a simple fisherman; Paul, a genius Torah scholar. He used paragraphs to say what Peter said in a sentence or two. Use the simple ideas of Peter as a skeletal framework on which to hang the complex details of Paul, in order to "add to your faith... Unfortunately, Paul's complex writing invites those with an agenda to take his words and bend them to their own belief system. If you isolate Paul's words from their original context, you can create your own doctrine, even your own denomination or religion. Don't do that! Don't be part of that problem. We already have 40,000 sub denominations. They will not last; ultimately there is one faith, one baptism, and one God!

Peter revealed how untaught and unstable people twist Paul's words to their own ultimate demise. In the end, the long list of obvious inconsistencies and apparent self-satisfaction-driven policies and doctrines will eventually cause their destruction. Their lust for power, attention, fame, worship and significance ends in

total collapse. You've seen this, yes? A life lived in contrast to the truth of God's word forces one to bend the scriptures to say what it needs to say to support a "pseudo-biblical" lifestyle. That is why the onus is on you to check the Word for yourself. Don't believe the words of man, unless his words align with God's words! It will take effort to know the difference, and that's what it means to become a "Biblically Literate Disciple." The wicked will twist God's word, but when you've learned to "Think in Bible" it will become obvious.

Here's the endgame; after your life is redeemed for eternity, you are then called to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. The Bible is an endless well of living water. Dive in and fear not; no one drowns in this well. And when you feel like you're going under, instead of panicking, you'll make the awesome discovery that you can breathe under water!

DILIGENT BLAMELESS DISCIPLES

1. Brining the entire letter full circle!

A. Be Blameless

- (1) We will keep Peter's instructions within the context of this letter we've been studying.
 - (a) Be diligent to remember and understand this doctrine, and put it into perfect practice!

1. “Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, **be diligent** to be found in **peace, without defect and blameless** in his sight.” 2 Peter 3:14

WEBUS

- a) Peace: “*Grace to you and **peace be multiplied** in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord,*” 2

Peter 1:2 WEBUS

- a) True Peace comes with an authentic intimate relationship with Jesus. There is no other way!
- (b) Be diligent to be found blameless! How?
 1. “Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence**, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, perseverance; and in perseverance, godliness; and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. **For if these things are yours and abound**, they make you to not be idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **For he who lacks these things** is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent** to make your calling and election sure.

For if you do these things, you will never stumble.” 2

Peter 1:5-10 WEBUS

- a) Be diligent to practice your faith in the exact way I have instructed.
- b) Be diligent to ensure a dynamic, fruitful, intimate relationship with Christ.
- c) Be diligent to remember your sins are in the past, otherwise you will continue to repeat them and that will critically hinder your practice of faith.
- d) Be diligent to discover and fulfill your specific calling from God. Doing so will guarantee your success, as defined by God.
 - 1) Be diligent to be found blameless!
 - 2) **How? Train yourself to Think in Bible!**

(2) Think in Bible!

(a) *How do you learn to “Think in Bible”?* First, you must be instructed and disciplined!

1. “He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been **made a disciple in [instructed in] the Kingdom of Heaven** is like a man who is a householder, who brings out of his treasure new and old things.””

Matthew 13:52 WEBUS

a) Y'shua revealed that even the experts who had the most experience in the Scriptures (the scribes or biblical lawyers) needed to be disciplined in their faith as Christians. Do that and then pass on what you're learning!

1) ***"The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*** 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

(b) *How do you learn to "Think in Bible"? Know God's Word better than you know your own name!*

1. **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. With my whole heart I have sought you. Don't let me wander from your commandments. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, Yahweh. Teach me your statutes. With my lips, I have declared all the ordinances of your mouth."**

Psalms 119:9-13 WEBUS

a) God's word should reprogram your DNA—every thought, every action, and every desire!

1) ***"Also delight yourself in Yahweh, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your***

way to Yahweh. **Trust** also in him, and he will do this: **he will make** your **righteousness** shine out like light, and your **justice** as the noon day sun.”

Psalms 37:4-6 WEBUS

(c) *How do you learn to “Think in Bible”? Mediate on His Word day and night!*

1. “Blessed is the man who doesn’t walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand on the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; **but his delight is in Yahweh’s law. On his law he meditates day and night.** He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. **Whatever he does shall prosper.**” Psalms 1:1-3 WEBUS

- a) Reading, studying, contemplating, wrestling with, and then applying God’s word to every aspect of your life must be a daily practice!
- b) That practice will both water and cause to flourish your every endeavor (as each choice you make will have naturally been inspired by God).
- 1) “For **if these things are yours and abound**, they make you to **not be idle or unfruitful** in the

knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8

WEBUS

(d) *How do you learn to “Think in Bible”? Always...*

1. **“Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you. Don’t quench the Spirit. Don’t despise prophecies. Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”** 1

Thessalonians 5:16-22 WEBUS

a) **Always** Rejoice: even in the midst of trials!

- 1) *“In **this [born again to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance vv. 3-4] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved in various trials, that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—**”* 1 Peter 1:6-7 WEBUS

b) **Always** Pray: as if what you pray for will be determined by the passion of your prayers!

- 1) *“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The***

insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective.” James 5:16 WEBUS

- c) **Always** Give Thanks: as if your personal contentment depended on it!
 - 1) *“In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7
WEBUS
- d) **Always** Follow the Spirit: It indicates if your faith is either pretentious or authentic!
 - 1) *“There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who don’t walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**”* Romans 8:1 WEBUS
- e) **Always** Consult the Prophecies: as if it is required to truly understand Christ!
 - 1) *“I fell down before his feet to worship him. He said to me, “Look! Don’t do it! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers who hold the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God,***

***for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of
Prophecy.”” Revelation 19:10 WEBUS***

f) **Always** Stand Firm for what is Good: what presents itself as moral and valuable as opposed to corrupt and damaging.

1) *“Having regard for **honorable** things, **not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**” 2 Corinthians 8:21 WEBUS*

g) **Always** Abstain from Evil: don't even have a casual relationship with sin!

1) *“Don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for **what fellowship do righteousness and iniquity have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?** What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what portion does a believer have with an unbeliever? **What agreement does a temple of God have with idols?** For you are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God and they will be my people.” Therefore “‘Come out from among them, and be separate,’ says the Lord. **‘Touch no unclean***

thing. I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

WEBUS

(e) *How do you learn to "Think in Bible"? Always be ready to defend an accurate Biblical Worldview!*

1. "But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks** you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, **with humility and fear, having a good conscience.** Thus, while you are spoken against as evildoers, they may be disappointed who curse **your good way of life in Christ.**" 1 Peter 3:15-16 WEBUS

a) There is only ONE WAY to live and that is GOD'S WAY to live. And you should be able to defend that way of life to anyone at any time!

1) "***I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.***" Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

(f) *How do you learn to "Think in Bible"? Recognize that the value of God's Word should reach beyond the words on paper and into every crevice of your life.*

1. **“Every Scripture** is God-breathed and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person** who belongs to God may be complete, **thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

WEBUS

- a) What value is there when you have learned to *“Think in Bible”*? When God’s Word has reprogrammed your DNA, it will guide and inform every facet of your life...

- 1) *“How can a young man keep his way pure? **By living according to your word.** With my whole heart I have sought you. Don’t let me wander from your commandments.”* Psalms 119:9-10

WEBUS

- b) It will be your Higher Education...

- 1) *“These words, which I command you today, **shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children,** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.”* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

WEBUS

c) It will be your measuring rod and standard...

- 1) *“For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but **all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**”*

Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS

d) It will be what keeps you on the right path or knock you back onto the right path...

- 1) *“Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore **I hate every false way**. **Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path**. I have sworn, and have confirmed it, that **I will obey your righteous ordinances.**”* Psalms

119:104-106 WEBUS

e) It will be your handbook for morality and integrity;

- 1) *“Finally, brothers, **whatever things are true**, whatever things are **honorable**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good***

report: if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **worthy of praise, think about these things.**" Philippians 4:8 WEBUS

f) And, a life lived in alignment with GOD'S WORD as the FINAL WORD is the only true indication that you value what God values!

1) *“**Don't lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth**, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don't break through and steal; **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”*
Matthew 6:19-21 WEBUS

BIBLICALLY LITERATE DISCIPLES

2. Be Literate!

A. Peter compares himself to Paul

(1) Paul writes things that are hard to understand...

(a) Don't be ignorant!

1. “Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul also**, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also **in all of**

his letters, speaking in them of these things. In those, there are some **things that are hard to understand**, which the **ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."**

2 Peter 3:13-16 WEBUS

- a) Peter says, "What I have written to you here succinctly in this short letter, Paul has expounded upon in granular detail in his letters."
- b) However, Paul has a different background and therefore a different approach!
- c) I was just a simple fisherman when I was called, so my approach is direct and uncomplicated...

1) *"He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you **fishers for men.**"*" Matthew 4:19

WEBUS

- d) Paul was already a highly trained and renowned Torah scholar when he was called, so his approach is deep and mysterious.

1) *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but **brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict tradition of the law** of our fathers, being zealous*

for God, even as you all are today.” Acts 22:3

WEBUS

- 2) See [A Last Will and Testament](#) for all the details of the approach of a Scholar vs. Fisherman
- e) In his letters, Paul is responsible for laying out the details that have become the foundation of Christian theology.
- f) And it did not come easy; he hid himself away for years while God taught him what it means to apply the Holy Spirit to the Law. This has become Christian doctrine

- 1) *“Then **after a period of fourteen years** I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus also with me. **I went up by revelation, and I laid before them the Good News which I preach** among the Gentiles, but privately before those who were respected, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.” Galatians 2:1-2*

WEBUS

- g) However, back then and continuing even today, ignorant and unsettled [untaught and unstable] people mauled his teachings, oftentimes twisting them into a type of quasi-christian philosophy.

- h) And which of these twisted teachings is emphasized as more important, (and the twisted teachings of others—mostly Christ), has dictated the denomination that has formed from it!
- 2. How can you defend against this type of soft-heresy?
 - a) Become a biblically literate disciple. Be informed, educated, trained, practiced and experienced!
 - 1) *“The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. **Now these were more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, **examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**” Acts 17:10-11*

WEBUS

- b) Don't waste your time arguing about silly things that don't matter. However, God approves of those who know how to properly handle His Word!
 - 1) *“Remind them of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord that they **don't argue about words to no profit, to the subverting of those who hear. Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need***

*to be ashamed, **properly handling the Word of Truth.***” 2 Timothy 2:14-15 WEBUS

B. Defending against Twisted Scriptures

(1) An Apologetics Festival

- (a) **Doers of the Law vs. Works of Law:** Be not the hearers, but the doers! See [Vernacular](#) for a full exposition.

- a) “For it isn’t the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, **but the doers of the law will be justified;**” Romans 2:13 WEBUS

2. Vernacular

- a) Doing the Law: faith-based-obedience empowered by grace.
 - b) Doing the law is NOT the same as “works of law,” which is empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination.

(b) Not the hearers but the doers...

- 1. **“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...”** James 1:22-25
 - 2. **“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works... faith without works is dead?”**
James 2:14-20

3. First let's contrast hearing vs. doing

- a) If you hear God's word but don't practice God's word, you are deceiving yourself if you think you are a true person of faith.
- b) Authentic believers look at God's law and obey it. They do the work that shows true faith.
- c) People can talk all they want about their faith, but if there is no substance behind their words, their faith is not real.
- d) "Can faith save him?" James asks. Of course it can! *"By grace through faith you've been saved."* (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- e) However, if there is no evidence, there is no real faith.

(c) Works of Law will save no one!

- 1. **"Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight;** for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the law, **a righteousness of God** has been revealed, being testified by the law and the prophets;" Romans 3:20-21 WEBUS
- 2. See [Cognitive Dissonance](#) to elaborate on righteousness apart from the law (Romans 10:1-8).

3. Here we have one of the great misunderstandings of Paul's deep writing style in Romans (the "*some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction*" writing style)
- a) "For it isn't the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, **but the doers of the law will be justified;**" (Romans 2:13) "**Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified .**" (Romans 3:20)
 - b) "Doers of the law" refers to faith-based-obedience empowered by grace.
 - c) "Works of the law" is empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination; it's more concerned with checking off a to-do-list of commandments.
 - d) Doing God's commands is a "living" type of obedience. It is empowered and attainable only by God's grace.
 - e) Working God's commands, as if they are a list of deeds to be accomplished, is a "dead" type of obedience, empowered by self-determination. Work's of law is no better than disobedience; it's actually a brand of legalism.

4. The many ugly faces of Legalism

- a) For an in-depth teaching on legalism see [Religionship or Relationship](#).
- b) The practice of adding anything to the free gift of salvation by grace through faith.
- c) Even if what you are adding to your faith is a good thing, something God wants you to do, a law that God requires you to obey, if you believe you must do it to receive or maintain your eternal redemption, then it is legalism.
- d) When we build our relationship with God into a system of rules and procedures—that is called religion.
- e) When we insist others adhere to our preferred system of rules and procedures—that is a brand of legalism.
- f) Legalism is equivalent to strangle-ism. It's the way we choke the life out of our relationship with God.
- g) God is not interested in legalism or religion.
- h) This is precisely the problem with works of law. It is a type of bondage because redemption has been attached to something other than faith in Christ.

- i) Even if it's a good thing, like obeying God's commands, if you attach any requirement for justification, other than faith, it is total bondage!
 - j) The liberty we have in Christ is that we have been freed from the erroneous belief that we can obey our way into redemption.
 - k) Any tradition that dictates strict obedience to God's commandments for salvation is legalism.
 - l) It is also legalistic to insist others must adhere to our or a preferred system of rules and procedures to be in right standing with God.
- (d) This is like telling Yahweh and others that your opinion of what it means to obey God takes precedence over His opinion!
1. Legalism: *"you are not a doer of the law but a judge of the law."*
- a) The Torah must be written on our hearts, through faith, in order to be pleasing to Yahweh.
 - b) Nevertheless, it can't just remain in our hearts as an intellectual concept. It must translate into action.

- c) Our faith needs to be applied to something as James taught: *“Faith without works is dead?”* James 2:20
- (e) Why would Paul use similar phrases that have the exact opposite meaning, one in Chapter 2 and then one 36 verses later in Chapter 3?
 1. As Peter clarifies... “in all his [Paul’s] epistles, speaking of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” II Peter 3:16
 2. Paul is a highly educated Torah scholar.
 - a) He presents information, at times, in such a way that can be quite confusing to novices, unless you are willing to really press in and seek the Lord for Holy Spirit guidance.
- (f) For most Christians, it does not get any more confusing than Galatians! By the works of the law no flesh shall be justified....
 1. “yet knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ**, even we believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ **and not by the works of the law**,

because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.” Galatians 2:16 WEBUS

2. This is that on which we just elaborated in Romans.
 - a) Man is not justified by works of the law (legalism).
 - b) Man is justified by faith in Christ (alone).
 - c) So we are very prepared to understand what Paul says next, and thus not, *“twist his words to our own destruction.”* 2 Peter 3:16

(g) Works of law is a curse!

1. **“For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who doesn’t continue in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.”** Now that no man is justified by the law before God is evident, for, **“The righteous will live by faith.”** The law is not of faith, but, **“The man who does them will live by them.””**

Galatians 3:10-12 WEBUS [See: Hab. 2:4, [From Faith to Faith](#)] Rom. 1:17]

2. Why are works of law a curse?
 - a) Because: *“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, **to do them.**”* (Referring to Deut. 27:26)
 - 1) Those who don’t do the law are cursed.

- 2) Works of law equates to “not doing the law!”
 - 3) Anyone practicing works of the law is not doing the law, so curses await.
- b) And because: *“The man who [actually] does them shall live by them [have life because of them].”*
(Referring to Leviticus 18:5)
- 1) *“...According to the **doings of the land of Egypt**, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the **doings of the land of Canaan**, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. **You shall observe [Do!] My judgments and keep [Do!] My ordinances, to walk in [Do!] them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep [Do!] My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.**”*
Leviticus 18:1-5 NKJV (See Romans 10 Below)
- c) It should be as clear as daylight now. Don’t get involved in any of those pagan activities of Egypt or Canaan. Do obey Yahweh’s laws and walk in them! If you do, you will have life (and not death)!

(h) **Weak in the faith:** The early Church was filled with converts from pagan belief systems. See [Identity Politics](#) for a full exposition.

1. “Now **accept one who is weak in faith**, but not for disputes over opinions. One man has faith to eat all things, but **he who is weak eats only vegetables**. Don’t let him who eats despise him who doesn’t eat. Don’t let him who doesn’t eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.” Romans 14:1-3 WEBUS
 - a) They came into Christianity knowing nothing about their roots in the Hebrew faith, and consequently nothing about the Scriptures.
 - b) This was not so with the Jews. They had a distinct advantage having been raised with the “oracles of God.”
 - 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.***” Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
 - c) Paul contrasts the weak in the faith with himself and others who know better...

- 1) ***“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”*** Romans 15:1 WEBUS
- d) And yet, as you also probably experienced in your own personal conversion, when you are impacted by an encounter with the Holy Spirit, you are imparted a desire to love and please the Lord. This desire, however, does not come with any actual knowledge base of what that should look like.
- e) In Rome, where there were many believers who were once Gentiles, there was much confusion about what they were permitted to eat and what days were holy.
- f) Much of that confusion was clearly about which meats were clean or unclean according to God’s word (Leviticus 11). Again, Gentiles had no background in this stuff.
- g) To be safe, those who were weak in the faith, or without previous knowledge, chose to limit themselves to eating only vegetables.
- h) If you too were once a Gentile and you also have no knowledge of such things, let this be known: there is no commandment in the entirety of the

Torah (Law) limiting your food choices to vegetables only.

- i) There are, however, commanded limits to the meats you can eat, but you'd need to be knowledgeable before you'd feel comfortable believing you can eat all things permitted by God, otherwise your options would remain in doubt.
- (i) **Doctrines of demons:** See [The Food Channel Meets The History Channel](#) for a full exposition.
- 1. "But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **seducing spirits and doctrines of demons**, through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron, **forbidding marriage and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer. If you instruct the brothers of these things, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which**

you have followed. But refuse profane and old wives' fables. Exercise yourself toward godliness." 1 Timothy 4:1-7 WEBUS

2. Overview of demonic doctrines...

- a) **Marriage is not a thing...** Marriage is not important, or we can redefine marriage. It can be between any gender, or no gender at all. See [In the Image of God](#) for a full exposition
- b) **You must not eat...** God created certain things we are permitted to eat for food and certain things we are not. However, we created our own doctrine that says you CANNOT eat certain things that God said you CAN eat. Any time you insert your belief above God's Word, and teach it as doctrine, you are spreading a doctrine of demons.

3. Let's break down the food doctrine of demons a bit further

- a) Was Paul teaching that food laws had changed? Was Paul saying it is a doctrine of demons to still restrict foods according to the laws of clean and unclean in Leviticus 11?
- b) KEY REVELATION: "foods **God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe

and know the truth;" **"sanctified through the word of God."**

- c) Had Yahweh ever created unclean foods to be received with thanksgiving? Of course not!
- d) Would Paul ever refer to the Laws in Leviticus, to which he strictly adhered, as **"doctrines of demons"**? He would not and did not!
- e) Paul is obviously referring to some other doctrine, some other restriction imposed by man.
- f) The explanation is clear; the doctrine of demons is any doctrine that espouses that you cannot participate in foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
- g) When you know the "truth" you will not be fooled by deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.
- h) How disturbing... most Christians today do not know the truth and thus are vulnerable to deception on this topic!
- i) Now consider how what is historically taught on this topic **is the EXACT OPPOSITE of the truth.**
- j) Ask yourself, as a follower of Christ: "How could have I been deceived by such a spirit?"

4. To conclude...

- a) Every creature is good? Context: every creature God created for food is good for food! This DOES NOT mean every creature is good for food. It does mean every creature created for food is good for food!
- b) In that context, nothing is to be refused. You are permitted to eat anything you wish from the creatures God created for food. And as always, pray and thank Him.
- c) Does not mean you must eat certain animal foods; simply means you can. Does mean, if you insist you MUST NOT eat what God created for food... it's a doctrine of demons!

5. Now if we revisit Romans 14, it is even more clear to whom Paul refers as weak in the faith...

- a) It is those who don't know the difference between animals created for food from those that are unclean and NOT created for food.
- b) **Pauls admonition:** Don't cause those who are weak in the faith to stumble by exercising a liberty around them (the liberty to eat freely the animals

permitted for food), when they are yet uncertain about what the Word of God says on the matter!

c) Why are they uncertain?

1) They are weak in the faith!

d) What should you do because they are uncertain?

1) Answer: You eat only vegetables!

e) What should you do around them so they don't stumble?

1) Answer: You too should eat only vegetables!

(2) Other notable Scriptures from Paul (not elaborated here)

(a) **The End of the Law (Romans 10:1-8)** See [Cognitive Dissonance](#) for a full exposition.

1. "Christ is the **end [fulfillment]** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

a) The law did not come to an end or is not at its completion because Christ's righteousness is in you; No, it's because of Christ's righteousness that you now have the ability to obey God's law (grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience).

2. "The one who does them **will live by them.**"

a) We are not stuck with the problem of living up to God's law if we presume it is His holy standard; we gain all that life has to offer when we desire to

live by His standards. (See Galatians 3:10-12 and Leviticus 18:5 above)

3. “**But** the righteousness which is of faith says this...”

a) “But” is better translated as “And.” It is the same Greek word in the original passage. The righteousness of the law does not contradict the righteousness of faith. Instead, the righteousness of faith is the way God intended for the righteousness of the law to manifest in the earth.

(b) **Teaching against the Law (Acts 21:17-26)** See [Forgiven Yet Liable](#) for a full exposition.

1. “You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all **zealous for the law; but they have been informed about you that you teach** all the Jews who are among the Gentiles **to forsake Moses**, saying that they ought **not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. ...Take this vow so... “that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.**

a) Paul was constantly being accused of teaching against the law of Moses and when he arrives in

Jerusalem, James, the leader of the church, demands that he set the record straight. *“Paul, are he doing that; the people want to know?”*

b) What did Paul do? He took the vow and paid the expenses of the other men to do the same, as an open declaration that he “walked orderly keeping God’s law.”

(c) **Alive apart from the law (Romans 7:8-11)** See [The Operating System of Creation](#) for a full exposition.

1. “...For apart from the law, sin is dead. **I was alive apart from the law once**, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.”

a) Why would Paul make such an odd statement? The law had been in place for nearly 1500 years at the time of Paul’s birth. He was never alive without the law existing.

b) What he is alluding to is that humans had plausible deniability prior to the law being codified on Mount Sinai.

c) But, when the law “became official,” man’s sinful nature was accentuated because he was no longer able to excuse his sin.

(d) **The Law is Rubbish (Philippians 3:4-9)** See [I'll Make that Trade](#) for a full exposition.

1. "... However, I consider those things [Hebrew of Hebrews] that were gain to me as a loss for Christ. Yes most certainly, **and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ...**"

a) Paul was describing his pedigree as a Jewish man, a man who had reached the pinnacle of understanding the law as a Pharisee, and then he was comparing that achievement with his new life of intimacy with the Messiah, the One he had been waiting for his whole life.

b) A lifetime under the instruction of God's commandments is beautiful, but if measured against an intimate relationship with Christ, it has no comparison! It would look like rubbish in the presence of a priceless treasure!

(3) More...

(a) A few other notable scriptures (not from Paul) that are oftentimes twisted!

1. **Peter's Vision:** (Act 10:9-16; explained in 11:1-18)
 - a) It was about men, not food!
2. **The woman accused of adultery:** (John 8:1-12)
 - a) Jesus was upholding the Torah not changing it.
3. **The controversy over hand washing and food:** (Mark 7:1-23)
 - a) There is no command to wash hands before a meal in the Torah; that is a doctrine and commandment of men.
 - b) *"Thus making all foods clean"* in Mark 7:19 was added for clarification at a later date, and it is not part of the original manuscripts.
4. **The Sabbath was made for man and Y'shua is the Lord of the Sabbath:** (Mark 2:23-28)
 - a) This does not change the sacredness of the Sabbath day or what the Sabbath is (a specific day of rest and set-apart time for the Lord).
 - b) It simply clarifies why the Sabbath was created and who created it. (All things have been created through Y'shua and for him. Colossians 1:16)

C. The Safety Net of Knowing...

- (1) If you know these things in advance...
 - (a) You won't be deceived by the errors of the wicked!

1. “You therefore, beloved, **knowing these things beforehand, beware, lest being carried away with the error of the wicked**, you fall from your own steadfastness. But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:17-18

WEBUS

- a) If you are a biblically literate disciple who “Thinks in Bible!” you won’t be so easily deceived by those who twist God’s word to fabricate false doctrines
- b) Remember, Y’shua’s doctrine is His Father’s doctrine...
 - 1) *“Jesus therefore answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.” John 7:16*

WEBUS

- c) Beware of lip service coupled with inauthenticity. When you spot that species creeping around, you can be certain the doctrines of men and not the doctrines of God are sure the follow!
 - 1) *“The Lord said, “Because this people **draws near with their mouth** and **honors me with their lips**, but they have **removed their heart** far from me, and their fear of me is a*

commandment of men which has been taught;"

Isaiah 29:13 WEBUS

- d) Instead, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In other words,
"Think in Bible!"

- 1) **Grace:** access to God's supernatural empowerment such that you can use it to animate your entire life as a Christian.
- 2) **Knowledge:** every thought nurtures a deep intimate relationship with the Father by nurturing a deep intimate relationship with the Son. *"He who has seen me has seen the Father."*
John 14:9

D. Final Instructions: "Think in Bible!"

- (1) "throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God **and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**" 2
Corinthians 10:5 WEBUS

(a) How?

1. **"Every Scripture** is God-breathed and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person** who belongs to God may be complete, **thoroughly**

equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

WEBUS

a) By measuring every thought against God’s Word!

“Lord, what do you have to say about this?”

(2) “Don’t be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2 WEBUS

(a) How?

1. “But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks** you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, **with humility and fear, having a good conscience**. Thus, while you are spoken against as evildoers, they may be disappointed who curse **your good way of life in Christ**.” 1 Peter 3:15-16 WEBUS

a) God’s word has reprogrammed your DNA. You’ve aligned your heart with God and are prepared with a biblical reason for why your life is a reflection of His holiness.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. How do you learn to “Think in Bible”? Use the following to craft your answer in a detailed essay.

- A. You must be instructed and disciplined! (Matthew 13:52; 2 Timothy 2:2)
- B. Know God’s Word better than you know your own name! (Psalms 119:9-13; Psalms 37:4-6)
- C. Meditate on His Word day and night! (Ps. 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:8)
- D. Always... Rejoice; Pray; Give Thanks; Follow the Spirit; Consult the Prophecies; Stand Firm for what is Good; and Abstain from Evil (1 Peter 1:6-7; James 5:16; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 8:1; Revelation 19:10; 2 Corinthians 8:21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)
- E. Always be ready to defend an accurate Biblical Worldview! (1 Peter 3:15-16; Galatians 2:20)
- F. Recognize that the value of God’s Word should reach beyond the words on paper and into every crevice of your life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. What value is there when you have learned to “*Think in Bible*”? Use the following statements and support Scriptures to craft your answer.

- A. When God’s Word has reprogrammed your DNA, it will guide and inform every facet of your life. (Psalms 119:9-10)

- B. God's Word will be your Higher Education. (Deut. 6:6-7)
- C. God's Word will be your measuring rod and standard.
(Hebrews 4:12-13)
- D. God's Word will be what keeps you on the right path or
knock you back onto the right path. (Psalms 119:104-106)
- E. God's Word will be your handbook for morality and integrity.
(Philippians 4:8)
- F. And, a life lived in alignment with GOD'S WORD as the
FINAL WORD is the only true indication that you value what
God values! (Matthew 6:19-21)

3. How do you become a biblically literate disciple? Use the following statements and passages to craft your answer.

- A. Be informed, educated, trained, practiced and experienced!
(Acts 17:10-11)
- B. Don't waste your time arguing about silly things that don't
matter. However, God approves of those who know how to
properly handle His Word! (2 Timothy 2:14-15)

4. Refer to the Sermon Notes pages 19-33 and present the correct interpretation of the following passages:

- A. Doers of the Law vs. Works of Law
- B. Those who are weak in the faith.
- C. The doctrines of demons.

5. Bonus

- A. Review all the scripture passages referenced in the sermon notes on pages 33-41 and ponder on their profound explanation which is oftentimes opposite to widely held Christian beliefs.