

Romans 16

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to **the teaching which you learned**, and turn away from them.”

Romans 1

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For **in it the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, “*But the righteous man shall live by faith.*”

Righteousness
and Faith
(faith)

ch. 1-8

Righteousness
and Israel
(Hope)

ch.9-11

Righteousness
and Living
(Love)

ch.12-16

Observations

- There is no question that there were other “competing” unorthodox doctrines circulating in the 1st century causing “dissensions.”
 - ✓ Some critics have suggested that there really was no single orthodoxy in the first century.
 - ✓ The canon of Scripture was recognized in response to false teaching.
- Believers are to be vigilant through a firm commitment to Paul’s gospel because the false teaching is seductive and dangerous (stumbling block).
- Paul wrote Romans so that believers would be firmly established in their faith.

How did the early church respond to heresy?



²⁵ Now to Him who is **able to establish (strengthen) you** according to **my gospel** and **the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past**, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to **obedience of faith**; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”

- Paul’s gospel was a mystery (not understood) until it was revealed to the Apostles after Christ’s crucifixion, resurrection, & Pentecost.
- Paul’s gospel was not based on Jesus’ teaching but rather the teaching about Jesus’ death and resurrection.
- Paul’s gospel was distinct from Jesus’ gospel.

The Gospel preached by Paul has a different emphasis than the Gospel preached by Jesus.

Faith as conduct

CHRISTIANITY



The Gospel
of Jesus

The Gospel
of Paul



Faith as confession

Jesus’ Gospel of the Kingdom	Paul’s Gospel of the Cross
Matthew, Mark, Luke, (John)	Acts, Epistles
Faithfulness	Faith
Repentance from sins	Repentance from (dead works)
Practiced holiness	Positional holiness
Under the Law	Indwelling Holy Spirit
Our walk	Christ’s work
Preached to the Jews only	Preached to the world
Kingdom ethics centered	Cross & Resurrection centered
Fulfillment of the promises to Israel	A mystery before it was revealed to Paul
Old Covenant	New Covenant

Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring **more revelation and understanding.**

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as **the beginning of the Gospel community.**

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”



Old Testament - Gospels

Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

Paul's Gospel is centered in the **death and resurrection of Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15

“¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

THE GOSPEL STORY

The Epistles

The Gospels

The Old Testament

EXPLANATION

EVENTS

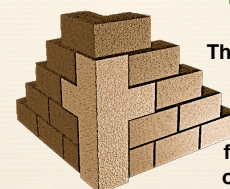
FOUNDATION

Ephesians 2:19-22

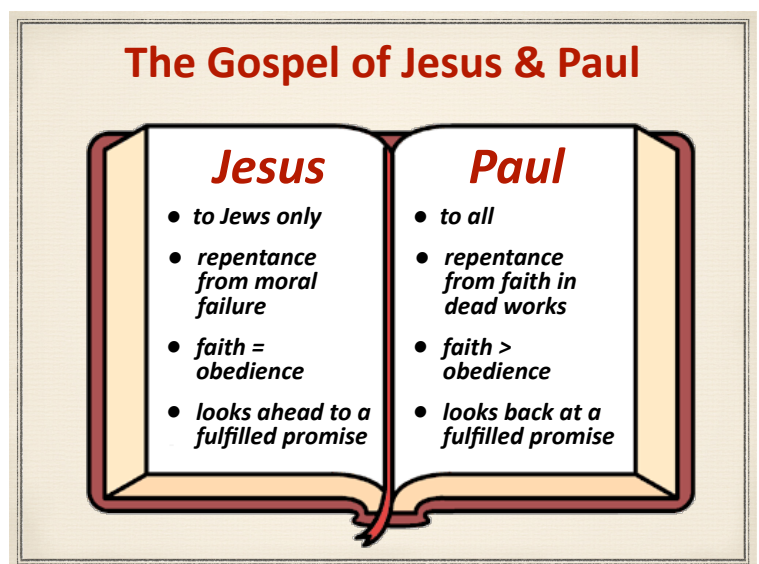
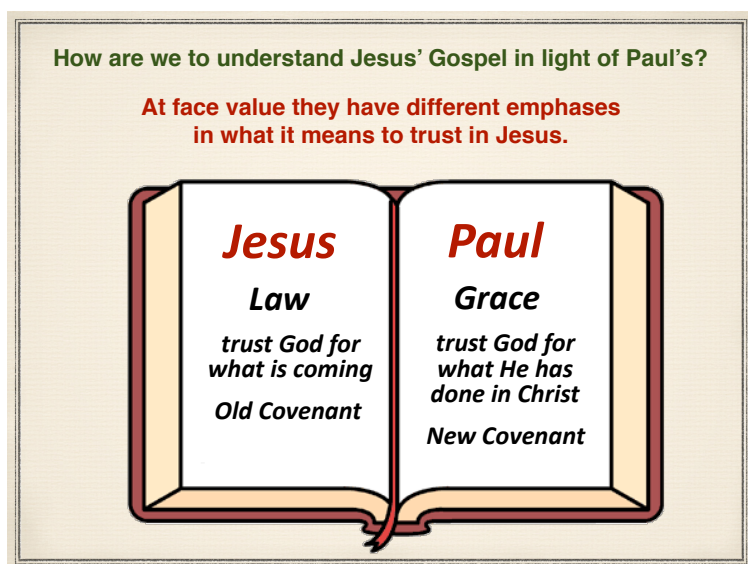
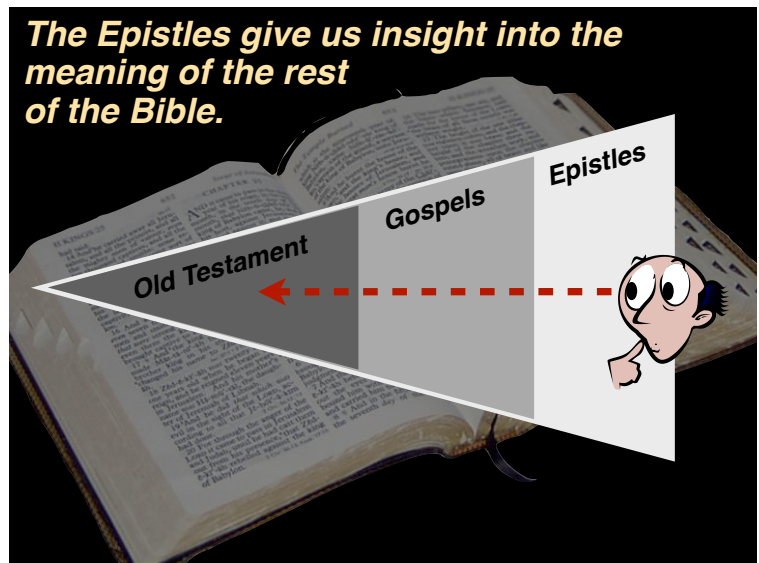
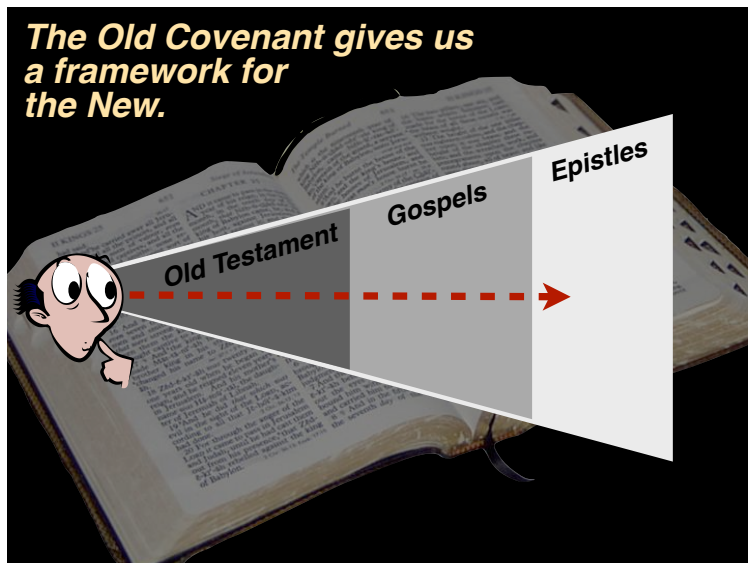
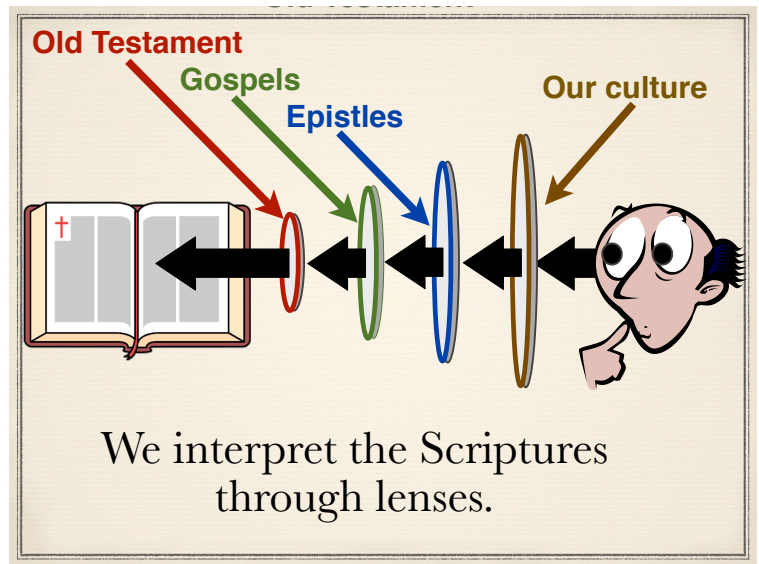
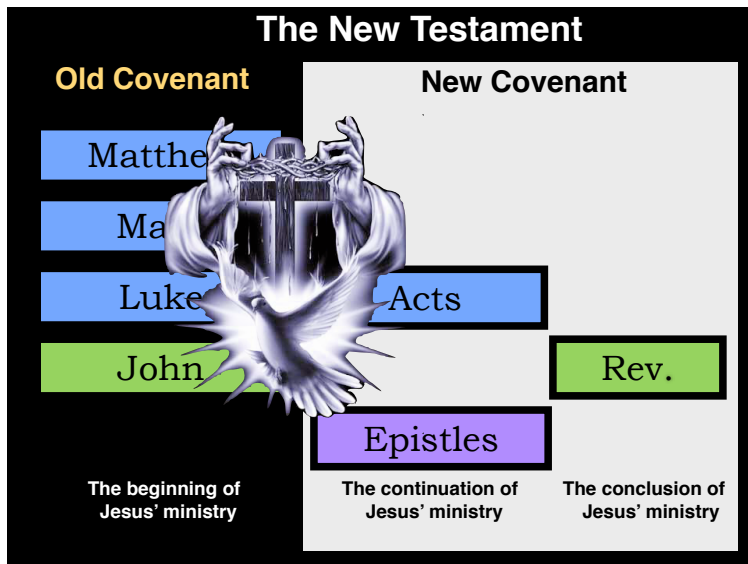
“¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Jesus (corner stone) in his death and resurrection.

Apostles (foundation) explain the meaning of the cross and resurrection.



The Epistles explain the meaning of the Gospel and provide the foundation teaching of the Christian faith



The emphasis of the Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

The great symbols of the faith are NOT



The Law



The towel and basin



Crown of a King

reminding us of the life of Jesus

The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

reminding us of the death and resurrection of Jesus

The obedience of faith

Romans 1:5

“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the **obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles,

Romans 16:16

“leading to **obedience of faith**,”

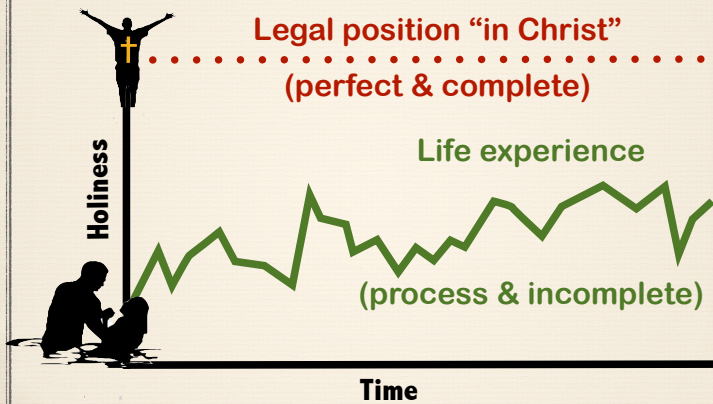
Faith is the obedience that saves, not the means to the obedience that saves.

We are saved by grace
(apart from good works)
unto (so that we might live out)
good works.

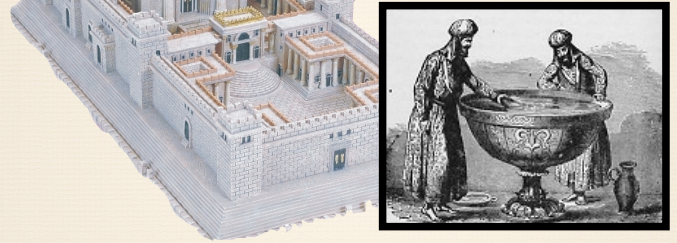
Positional truth

- ✓ It is a declaration & non-experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ **It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.**

The two aspects of holiness



The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.



This had to do with his official position not his personal character.

1 Peter 3:21

"baptism
now saves you"



This had to do with his official position not his personal character.

Four concerns

- We can displace Jesus' cross and resurrection with his ethics and miracles.
- We can combine the old and new covenants and do justice to neither.
- We can separate the physical from the spiritual and disrespect our humanity.
- We can confuse faith with works and forfeit inner peace.



Martin Luther

"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: 'I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!'"

"²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to **obedience of faith**; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen."

**From
the obedience of faith
to obedience by faith**