

Binding and Loosing

How the question of circumcision of the heart in the New Testament was bound by God in the Old Testament

Fred R. Coulter—October 20, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! Today we're going to cover a principle of the Word of God and His laws that explain why things get worse and worse!

Stop and think about it for a minute. There's a book coming out written by someone who went through the Old Testament showing how the apostles taught the Gospel from the Old Testament.

What do we have today with modern Christianity, and have had for hundreds of years? The Catholics say that's the 'old Law' and we don't need it.' Then they look to the Bible and say that *they* 'have the authority' to make the changes that they make. Protestants pretty will follow along with that, as well, especially with their Sunday-keeping and holiday-keeping. Look at in government: What happens in government when they have terrible laws, no laws, or conflicting laws.

We're going to look at something very important, which is *binding and loosing!*

Matt. 16—I'm going to read from the *King James* because here we have a fundamental assumption, false doctrine created from assumption and a complete lack of understanding of the Greek. I don't think it's a lack of understanding from the Greek; I think it is a way of translating so they will not be convicted that they don't like the Old Testament.

Matthew 16:18 (KJV): "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter... ['petros'] ...and upon this rock..."—'petra'

In the *Faithful Version* there's a whole paragraph explaining that in a footnote.

- 'petros'—*a small stone*
Would you build a house on a small stone?
- 'petra'—*huge, mammoth rock or cliff*

Who is the rock throughout the Bible? *The Lord in the Old Testament, Christ in the New Testament!* 'That Rock that followed them was Christ' (1-Cor. 10).

"...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (v 18). *Hell* comes 'hades' which means *the grave!*

If it's built upon Peter, did he, the man, die? *He's dead*, and his grave is somewhere on the Mt. of Olives, it's not at St. Peter's Basilica, because he never went there. {Church at Home: *Was Peter Ever in Rome?* churchathome.org}

Here's where the Catholics say that because Peter was the first pope, that whenever the pope makes an official decree it's authoritative as if God Himself had spoken it.

Verse 19 (KJV): "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: **and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven...**"

How many times do the Catholics repeat that? *At almost every Mass!*

"...and **whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven**" (v 19).

That's not the correct translation. Think about it for a minute! Can you pronounce something contrary to the Word of God and it be binding? *According to the King James translation, it looks like that's so!*

Psalm 119:160: "Your Word is true from the beginning, and every one of Your righteous ordinances endures forever."

Verse 89: "Forever, O LORD, Your Word is settled in the heavens."

- Can a man—any man, official, leader, whatever—go against the Laws of God? *The Catholics say that's the 'old Law.'*
- If the Law endures forever, is perfect, and God made it, how can you do away with it?

Verse 128: "Therefore, I esteem all Your precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way." *God's Word endures forever!*

- How did they ever come up with this meaning that's in the *King James* and is in the Catholic version as well?
- Isn't that the same thing that even some of the Churches of God are doing now? *Yes! Very subtly!*

Let's look at this from what the Greek actually says. In the *Faithful Version* it's translated correctly, and there are many other such verses in the *Faithful Version* that have corrected a lot of problems that are in the *King James* and other versions.

Matthew 16:19 (FV): "And I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven... [the understanding of the Word of God] ...and **whatever you may bind on the earth will have already been bound in heaven...**"

That's what it means in the Greek: 'desemenon'—perfect passive. That means that it is already done, and whatever decision you come up with must be from the Word of God and **has already been bound**; can't be any other way.

“...and whatever you may loose on the earth will have already been loosed in heaven” (v 19)—'lumenon'—*shall have been loosed*, perfect passive participle; already been decreed.

We're going to look at some of those and see that. That's why in the *Faithful Version* it's translated this way:

Verse 18: “And I say also to you that you are Peter; but upon this Rock...”

- How many mistakes did Peter make? *In this same chapter he started correcting Jesus to say, 'Lord, You're not going to go up to Jerusalem and this happen to you; never!'*
- What did Jesus say to Peter? *Get you behind Me, Satan!*
- How many mistakes that Jesus make? *None!*
- How many mistakes did God make? *None!*

That's why we translated it this way.

Verse 19: “And I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatever you may bind on the earth will have already been bound in heaven...”

What does this tell you that you have to do in making a decision concerning the Law of God? *You have to check the Law of God!*

“...and whatever you may loose on the earth will have already been loosed in heaven” (v 19).

This was for Peter as one of the leading apostles. He was not *the leading one* by himself, separately. There were two other: James and John, making three. That's how many went up to the Mt. of Transfiguration.

Matt. 18—this is over a dispute. How do you settle disputes? *By the Word of God!*

Matthew 18:17 (KJV): “And if he... [the one bringing the offense] ...shall neglect to hear them... [two or three witnesses] ...tell it unto the church... [the congregation and the elders] ...but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, 'Whatsoever **ye**...'” (vs 17-18).

What does 'ye' mean for you in the *King James English*? *The plural 'you'! All! 'thou' is singular; 'ye' is plural. So, it applies to an individual*

judgment by one person, minister, or collectively with congregations and the elders together.

“...‘Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’”

The same words are used, exactly as we have here in Matt. 18. So, the correct translation is:

(*FV*) v 18: “Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on the earth **will have already been bound in heaven**; and whatever you shall loose on the earth **will have already been loosed in heaven**.”

As we have seen, Matt. 16 is to the disciples, teaching them what's going to be for the New Covenant. Matt. 18 is also teaching them that when you have a problem that involves more than one person and how you resolve it. The correct translation is “...**will have already been bound in heaven**...”

Let's see how they did it in the Old Testament, and this has confounded a lot of people because they don't understand it. We'll see if we can unlock the understanding here.

Matthew 23:1: “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees have sat down on Moses' seat *as judges*...’”—to make judgments.

Where do we find this instituted for Israel? The beginning of it? *Exodus 18!* Judges for 10, for 50, 100 and 1,000. then you have the instructions given for judges and how to judge. You judge according to the Law of God, and you have to have two or three witnesses. You can't convict anyone on one witness.

- What were they to do in judgment? *They were to look at the Laws of God! Some judgments we find in Exo. 20-23 were already laid out.*
- What do you do if someone steals?
- What do they steal? *It tells you about sheep, cattle!*

It doesn't tell you about cars, but that would be a sure way to stop car theft! You provide them four or five of what you have stolen. So, the judgments they were to make are according to the Word of God.

Verse 3: “Therefore, every judgment that they tell you to observe, observe and do. But do not do according to their works; for they say and do not.”

- What were their works?
- What were the works of Judaism?
- *The traditions!*

This was until the establishment of the Church, of course! After the Church was established, how long was the overlap until the temple system was destroyed? 40 years! So, this is how it was run.

Christ was not eliminating the judgment necessary for the people of Judea and Galilee under the scribes and Pharisees until the Church was established and the temple was destroyed! But even after it was destroyed, the rabbis would then go to Scripture and/or *tradition!*

He's telling them that when they go by Scripture, you do it. If they don't go by Scripture you don't do it, *because it's their works!*

Let's see how these things come along here. Let me read you from:

The Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar by William D. Mounce:

In some translations of Matthew [16:19 and] 18:18, it sounds like Jesus promised his disciples that whatever they bound on earth would be bound in heaven, and whatever they loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven

Based upon the wrong understanding, what have the Catholics done? *They have gone against the Word of God, sanctioned idol-worship, changed the Sabbath!*

In other words, they had the power to bind and loose, and Heaven (i.e. God) would simply back up their decrees.

Then God is the Author of lawlessness or sin, *which He's not!*

But the matter is not quite so simple; the actions described in heaven are future perfect passives—which could be translated 'will have already been bound in heaven ... will have already been loosed in heaven.' In other words, the heavenly decree confirming the earthly one is based on a prior verdict [God had already made—"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in the heavens" (Psa. 119:89).]

You might do a study on your own taking the Ten Commandments and see how many of them are found in the New Testament. *You will find all of them are!*

Deut. 6[transcriber's correction]—here is one the most fundamental things that God has commanded His people *always*. Can you loose this?

- you can't loose anything that God has bound

- you cannot bind anything that God has loosed

We will find that we come later to problem of physical circumcision!

Deuteronomy 6:1: "Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it, **that you might fear the LORD your God**... [Isn't that in the New Testament?] ...to keep all His statutes and His commandments... [read 1st, 2nd, 3rd John about commandment-keeping] ...which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore... [based on the first two verses] ...O Israel, and **be diligent to observe it, so that it may be well with you**... [God always wants it to be well with those who follow Him] ...and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (vs 1-5).

Has that been *predetermined and pre-bound* by God some 1500 years before New Testament time. Jesus Christ teaching New Testament doctrine.

Matthew 22:35: "And one of them, a doctor of the law, questioned *Him*, tempting Him, and saying, 'Master, which commandment is **the great commandment** in the Law?'" (vs 35-36)—*the overarching commandment on which everything else hangs!*

Verse 37: "And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and greatest commandment... [already bound in the Old Testament; bound in the New Testament] ...and *the* second *one* is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets"' (vs 37-40).

They say when a pope sits in his official chair—called 'ex-cathedra'—whatever he says is Divinely inspired by God. Did the pope sit in 'ex-cathedra' and order the execution of the Christians in the Piedmonts? Israel of the Alps? *Yes, he did!*

God never honored that, but He has rewarded those who were martyred with the promise of eternal life! So, they will be resurrected!

Did you see the movie on Queen Elizabeth? Remember the scene with the pope and a couple of cardinals right there, and they were talking about their planned assassination of Queen Elizabeth. The

pope said that ‘God will bless this assassination.’ What happened? *They caught the pope coming onto the shore of England and killed him! God will not bind evil edicts!* Men may bind them!

We also find this a little differently in Mark 12. If God says it once, or Jesus says it once, or it’s written once, does He mean it? *Yes, He does!* Just take the seventh-day Sabbath and go through the Old Testament and see how many times God says to keep the Sabbath. How He even told Jeremiah to tell the people, ‘Listen! If you just quit sacrificing these children in the Valley of Hinnom, and you keep the Sabbath, I won’t send you into exile!’

Mark 12:28: “And one of the scribes who had come up to Him, after hearing them reasoning together *and* perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is *the* first commandment of all?’ Then Jesus answered him, ‘*The* first of all the commandments *is*, “Hear, O Israel.... [direct quote from the Old Testament] ...**Our one God is the Lord, the Lord**”’” (vs 28-29).

Read Appendix O: Binding and Loosing in the New Testament

Verse 30: ““And you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This *is the* first commandment. And *the* second is like this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”....” (vs 30-31).

What is one of the first questions that Jesus answered in bringing in the New Testament? *He answered it because He knew that people would say—like the Pharisees—‘If you keep our traditions, they’re greater than the commandments of God!’* So, He wanted everyone to know that it isn’t going to happen that way.

I’ve pointed this out before, there are two negatives here in Matt. 5:17.

- ‘oo’ or ‘ook’—*absolutely won’t happen*
- ‘me’—*don’t let the thought enter into your mind*

Matthew 5:17: “**Do not think...** [‘me’] ...that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not... [‘ook’] ...come to abolish, but to fulfill”—*to fill to the full or to complete!*

When you come to the Christianity of the world today, they don’t follow the basic structure of God’s way. They follow a lot of the teachings, but they don’t follow what God has commanded.

Verse 18: “For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled. Therefore...

[remember that this is in the first couple of months of His teaching] ...whoever shall break one of these least commandments...” (vs 18-19).

What commandments do *the Christians of this world think* are the least? *For Catholics it’s:*

- Sabbath
- idolatry
- Holy Days

for Protestants it’s:

- Sabbath
- Holy Days

Is heaven and earth still here?

Then He tells us something else that’s important. He came at a time when there was the crossover of His ministry of beginning to undo the covenant with Israel and build the Church. Then when the temple was destroyed, the whole covenant with Israel and all of the sacrifices and rituals ceased.

Who caused the temple to be destroyed? *God did!* Showing absolutely that all of the ritual laws *were temporary!*

Verse 19: “Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall practice **and teach them**, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven” (vs 19-20).

What is the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? ***Everyone assumes that it’s keeping the commandments of God!*** Their righteousness was ***their traditions!*** Then Jesus explains the spiritual aspect of it. ***All of those traditions have been put aside!***

(go to the next track)

What about circumcision? *Circumcision was a sign of the covenant!* Let’s see what God told Abraham:

Genesis 17:9: “And God said to Abraham, ‘And you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you in their generations.... [on down in time] ...This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you. Every male child among you shall be circumcised. And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. And it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. And a son of eight days shall be circumcised among you, every male child in your generations; he that is born in the house, or bought with silver of any foreigner who *is* not of your seed. He that is born in

your house, and he that is bought with your silver, must be circumcised. And My covenant shall be in your flesh **for an everlasting covenant**” (vs 9-13).

- Are the Laws of God everlasting? *Yes!*
- Is there a *letter* of the Law? *Yes!*
- Is there a spirit of the Law? *Yes!*
- How do we reconcile this?

Everlasting means that as long as the circumstances remain! What we’re going to show is that physical circumcision is not required under the New Testament. When Christ was crucified, died and resurrected there was a different circumcision to take place. This was for men and women.

We are going to find a future establishment of ***circumcision of the heart!***

Deuteronomy 10:12: “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways... [we find the ways of Christ in the New Testament] ...and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, you above all people, as *it is* today. **Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stiff-necked**” (vs 12-16).

Was this established before physical circumcision was no longer required? *Yes! Shall have already been bound in heaven!*

Verse 17: “For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, the mighty and awesome God Who does not respect persons nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and loves the stranger in giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him, and you shall hold fast to Him, and swear by His name. **He is your praise, and He is your God, Who has done for you these great and awesome things**, which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with seventy persons....” (vs 17-22).

Circumcision of the Heart:

Rom. 2 is a good example of the physical circumcision that has been replaced, not done away, with a higher standard. That is the prophecy already established in the Old Testament: *circumcision of the heart!* Paul writes of it, and he gets pretty serious with the Jews.

We’ll put a little bit in here about the Gentiles, because we have prophecies in Isaiah about how the Gentiles will come to the Truth. That began with Christ, and especially with the ministry of the Apostle Paul.

Romans 2:13: “Because the hearers of the Law...”

- Is the Law perfect? *Yes!*
- Is it forever? *Yes!*
- How are we to keep it? *In the spirit!*

The letter is acceptable for those who are not converted! But for those who are converted, it is to be *spiritual*—letter and spirit.

“...are not just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified” (v 13).

That’s quite an interesting verse from this point of view: ***You cannot be justified if you’re breaking the Law in the letter!***

- think on that likewise *spiritually*
- think on that with the Protestants
- think on that with the Catholics

They have Sunday! ***They say*** that ***IF*** you take the Eucharist or Sacrifice of the Mass—which is a counterfeit of the true Passover of Christ—*or* the Lord’s Supper as the Protestants have it, ***then*** you’re justified. ***But if they’re not keeping the Law***—which is the Sabbath—***they’re not justified!***

Verse 14: “For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* Law, practice by nature the things contained in the Law, these who do not have *the* Law are a law unto themselves.” *God is recognizing they were keeping the Law though they were not a part of Israel!*

Verse 15: “Who show the work of the Law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also as they accuse or defend one another); in a day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel” (vs 15-16). *That’s quite a Scripture there!* Also, it’s a prophecy of the coming second resurrection.

Now Paul talks to the Jews to show that circumcision is raised to higher standard: *circumcision of the heart and mind!*

Verse 17: “Behold, you are called a Jew, and you yourself rest in the law, and boast in God, and know *His* will, and approve of the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law; and are persuaded *that* you yourself are a guide of *the* blind, a light for those in darkness, an instructor of *the* foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of the knowledge and of the Truth *contained* in the

Law” (vs 17-20). *So, they have that!*

Now then, Paul asks, v 21: “You, then, who are teaching another, do you not teach yourself also?...” This is important; we are to be taught by God through His Word, by His Spirit. We are to be the activators of that learning by prayer and study.

“...You who preach, ‘Do not steal,’ are you stealing? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ are you committing adultery? You who abhor idols, are you committing sacrilege? You who boast in law, are you dishonoring God through your transgression of the Law? For through you the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles, exactly as it is written. For on the one hand, circumcision profits **if you are observing the Law...**” (vs 21-25).

That’s why Jesus told the disciples, the priests and Pharisees that ‘you say, but you do not do; therefore, all your circumcision—even if you circumcise on the Sabbath—is not in the spirit of the way that things should be.

Verse 24: “For through you the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles, exactly as it is written.” You still hear that today. Who is one of the greatest blasphemers of the Jews and God in America of that very thing? *Louis Farrakhan!*

Verse 25: “For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the Law*; on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the Law*, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” How much greater is the spiritual application of the laws and commandments of God?

Verse 26: “Therefore, if the uncircumcised is keeping the requirements of the Law... [in the letter of the Law] ...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law, judge you, who, with *the letter and circumcision, are a transgressor of the Law?*” (vs 26-27).

So this is a major change prophesied back in Deut. 10, *circumcision of the heart!* He also brought it out through Jeremiah to the sinners in Judea at the time he was preaching where he said, ‘Circumcise your hearts.’

Verse 28: “**For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is external in the flesh.**”

If circumcision made things so right with God through the Jews, who else was circumcised at the same time Abraham was? *Ishmael!* What has the circumcision done for goodness and righteousness for the Arabs? For Islam? *And they require circumcision!*

Verse 29: “Rather, he *is* a Jew who *is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, in the*

spirit *and* not in *the* letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.” That’s quite a thing indeed!

All the way through the book of Romans it’s based upon the *circumcision of the heart* and how you get that.

Ken and I were going over the list of studies that we have done in the New Testament:

- *The General Epistles*
- *The Epistles of Paul*
- *The Book of Revelation*

But we haven’t done Acts in a verse-by-verse study. But we do have *A Harmony of the Gospels*, which you can study with that.

Read Acts 13 & 14. Paul went around and preached and baptized all of those whom God called during about a two-year tour that he had. That’s where he got stoned and was left for dead, but God raised him up. There were many converts, all of them not circumcised. Remember the account of Cornelius and Peter and all of those who received the Holy Spirit, and Peter had them baptized.

That was to show, by God, this absolute miracle of giving the Gentiles the holy Spirit without being circumcised, because the Jews were stuck on circumcision in the flesh. So, Paul (Acts 2) was showing that now it is of the spirit. It was hard to get over that.

Acts 15:1: “Now, certain men who had come down from Judea were teaching the brethren, *saying*, ‘Unless you are circumcised after the custom of Moses, you **cannot** be saved.’” The Greek there means *impossible to be saved*.

You can understand that looking at it from a strictly orthodox Jewish point of view, which they hold to today. All these adult men there.

Verse 2: “Therefore, after a great deal of strife and arguing with them by Paul and Barnabas, the *brethren* appointed Paul and Barnabas, and certain others from among them, to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this question. So then, after being sent on their way...” (vs 2-3)—and told them what things were going on.

Then they came to Jerusalem and were welcomed by the Church, v 4: “And when they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the Church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all the things that God had done with them. **But there stood up certain of those who believed, who were of the sect of the Pharisees...** [note that this is the last time you hear of the Pharisees within the Church] ...saying, ‘It is obligatory to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the Law of Moses’” (vs 4-5).

When they say the Law of Moses, *they include all their traditions!* Jews do it to this day!

Verse 6: “Then the apostles and the elders gathered together to see about this matter.... [Who is missing? *The Pharisees!*] ...And after much discussion had taken place...” (vs 6-7).

Here is why Peter was so at fault when he came to Antioch (Gal. 2). Who was the first one to go to the Gentiles? *Peter!*

“...Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Men, brethren, you know that from *the* early days, God made *the* choice among us *that* by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the Word of the Gospel, and believe. And God, Who knows the heart, bore witness to them *by* giving them the Holy Spirit, even as *He did* to us, and made no difference between us and them, *and has purified their hearts through the faith*’” (vs 7-9)—accomplished by baptism (Col. 2).

Verse 10: “Now therefore, why do you tempt God by putting a yoke upon the necks of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” *That yoke was not the Law of Moses!* The yoke was *all of the traditions!*

Isn’t that what Jesus said in Matt. 23, that they put ‘burdens upon them that are heavy to bear’? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 11: “But by the grace of *the* Lord Jesus Christ we believe **we shall be saved in the same manner as they also**.... [notice that they were put on an equal basis] ...Then all the multitude kept silence and heard Barnabas and Paul relate what signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. And after they were silent, James answered *and* said, ‘Men, brethren, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited *the* Gentiles to take out a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, as it is written, “After these things, I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David which has fallen; and its ruins I will build again, and will set it up... [a prophecy of the Church] ...so that the residue of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, says *the* Lord, Who does all these things.” Known to God are all His works from the beginning of the world” (vs 11-18). *That’s exactly what we’re talking about:*

- *shall have been bound* in heaven
- *shall have been loosed* already in heaven

The question of circumcision was already answered! They were going through and doing exactly what we’re doing now.

I know what the Protestants and Catholics will say, that the letter that James wrote doesn’t

mention the Sabbath and Holy Days. Why? *Because they were already keeping them!* So, they wrote this letter saying they were going to send this down to them.

Verse 23: “*And they wrote letters* by their hand, as follows: ‘The apostles and the elders and the brethren, to those brethren *who are* of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Greetings! Inasmuch as we have heard that certain *ones* among us who went *to you* have troubled your souls with words, saying, “*You are obligated* to be circumcised and to keep the law” (to whom we gave no such command” (vs 23-24).

You read that and you say you don’t have to keep the Law. What did we read in Rom. 2? *The hearers of the Law are not justified before God, but the doers of the Law!* This does not wipe that away. This means *the law of their traditions!*

Verse 25: “It seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send to you chosen men with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have dedicated their lives to *proclaim* the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who shall themselves also tell *you* by word *of mouth* the same things *that we have written*. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, to lay no further burden upon you than these necessary things: To abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality; if you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell” (vs 25-29).

These were special problems among the Gentiles; that’s why they are listed.

Col. 2 is another one of the difficult places in the writings of the Apostle Paul. I suggest you study through Appendix Z: *Understanding Paul’s Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God*. This lays out every difficult Scripture of Paul and explains them. It’s very long, but that will help you. Colossians is very interesting in the things that are contained here:

Colossians 2:1: “Now, I want you to understand what great concern I have for you, and *for* those in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face in *the* flesh; that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto *the* knowledge of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ” (vs 1-2). *That’s the whole thing concerning:*

- repentance
- baptism
- growing
- overcoming
- loving

- serving
- understanding the difference between Christ and the Father
- understanding the mystery of God

I think that when we're resurrected and we start understanding what we really need to know, we're going to be surprised that even the greatest amount of knowledge we can have in this age is kind of like 'a drop in a bucket.'

Verse 3: "In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.... [then Paul gives some warnings]: ...Now, this I say so that no one may deceive you by persuasive speech. For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. **Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him; being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught,** abounding in it with thanksgiving" (vs 3-7).

The other night I was up and it was dark and I was sitting there thinking going over past times. I remember going to Ambassador College when everybody was seeking God and things were good. They had prayer booths down in the basement; everybody prayed and studied; things were good! The Church was growing! The campuses were expanding! They opened up Big Sandy and Bricket Wood and things looked great. Wonderful thing to happen!

Then along came men with persuasive speech and began to teach other things. Then great crimes were unearthed. I was thinking, because I have picture that Robert McDonald III gave to me and I was sitting by a stream that ran down from Mayfair. He was taking pictures and he had me sit down there with the librarian because he wanted to take a picture. It was a clear day and you could see the mountains.

Sidebar on the mountains: When I first got to Ambassador College they had so much smog there you couldn't see the mountains. Later when the heat goes down you see the mountains.

They had this stream that went down and they had wonderful big goldfish and after some years different kids would come over, and when we all went to Church they would fish and get the goldfish.

I was thinking about that and look what they did with the college, all the building and the auditorium and gymnasium. They had two studies up there and everything was going fine. **Then** gross sin was found and BAM! it all started to come apart, **all because of persuasive speech!**

Last time I looked at the campus in Pasadena, California, big high-rise expensive condominiums were all along Green Street. Down further from there they had expensive high-rise condominiums.

So, God's judgment against a man who wanted to be with the wealthy put the wealthy where he was rejected! Ironic! Think about it!

Verse 8: "**Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.**"

This is not the traditions of the Jews, These are the traditions of the Greek religions. Remember 1-Cor. 15, Paul said, 'WHAT! Some of you don't have knowledge of the resurrection?'

What was that? *The first introduction of the immortality of the soul!* They were arguing, 'With what body do they come? You put them in the ground and it's all gone; what's going to happen?' **"...traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ."**

Verse 9: "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"—*spiritually!* Everything we have comes from God the Father through Him!

Verse 10: "And you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of all principality and power." ***There is no greater power on earth than His!***

What did Jesus say when He ascended into heaven? *All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me (Matt. 28)!*

Verse 11: "In Whom you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ.**" *That goes clear back to Deut. 10! That which has already been bound in heaven!*

How does this circumcision take place? Verse 12: "Having been buried with Him in baptism, by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead." ***Your sins forgiven and receiving of the Holy Spirit of God!***

Someone is always going to come along with 'a better idea.' That's the first inclination of human beings toward God. They try and find something *really good* that they can bring to God that 'He must accept!'

Verse 13: "For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses. He has blotted out the note of

debt against us *with* the decrees of *our sins*, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross” (vs 13-14).

That was all prophesied! You talk about Christ’s life and everything, ***it was all planned before the foundation of the world!*** As Paul wrote, ***‘Before the ages of time!’***

- What was nailed to the cross? *Christ!*
- Who was Christ? *The sacrifice for the sins of mankind!*

Take away the sin of the world! The translation in the *King James* is terrible here, because it looks like He’s nailed the commandments of God to the cross, *which is stupid!* The only thing that was nailed to the cross was: This is the King of the Jews! in Latin, Greek and Hebrew!

Here’s what Paul has done concerning philosophy, which gets into demonism and occultism.

Verse 15: “After stripping the principalities and the powers, He made a public spectacle of them, *and* has triumphed over them in it... [the crucifixion] ...Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking, or with regard to a Festival, or new moon, or *the Sabbaths*” (vs 15-16).

Protestants go there and say, ‘See, did away with all of those.’ Bad translation in the *King James*, not according to the Greek. That’s why we have it correct in the *Faithful Version!*

Verse 17: “**Which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming...**” The *NIV* says ‘a shadow of things that have come.’ *Wrong—completely—translation!*

“...but the Body of Christ” (v 17)—meaning that ***the Church*** is going to tell us the meaning of these things through the Word of God!

- not a philosopher
- not someone who comes along and says that the Greeks have a good idea

Notice what it leads to, v 18: “**Do not allow anyone to defraud you...** [*take it away*; defraud is that you *accept something less*] ...of the prize *by* doing his will in self-abasement and *the* worship of angels, intruding into things that he has not seen, ***vainly puffed up by his own carnal mind.***”

That’s how it is with Catholicism! That explains it very clearly. If you’re getting into those things, you are not

Verse 19: “Holding fast to the Head, from Whom all the body, being supplied and knit together by the joints and bands, is increasing *with* the

increase of God. Therefore, if you have died together *with Christ* from the elements of the world, why are you subjecting yourselves to *the* decrees of *men* as if you were living in *the* world?” (vs 19-20). *That’s exactly what happened to the Church!*

Verse 21: “*They say*, ‘You may not handle! You may not taste! You may not touch!’ **The use of all such things leads to corruption, according to the commandments and doctrines of men**” (vs 21-22)—*perfect description of Lent!*

What are you going to give up for Lent? *I think I’ll give up my chewing gum!* Some in the Philippines really get extreme. They get crucified by putting a nail through their hands and feet. They’re not stabbed with a sword in the side. If they really want to mimic what Christ did, they should bring on the sword. Those are all things in *will-worship!*

Verse 23: “Which indeed have an outward appearance of wisdom in voluntary worship of *angels...* [fallen angels] ...and self-abasement, and unsparing treatment of *the* body, not in any respect to the satisfying of *the needs* of the flesh.”

I mention in #3 in *How Did the Catholic Church Go Wrong* {churchathome.org} that there are more witches in America than Presbyterians in the Presbyterian Church. Randy Vild got a good clip and showed that.

Guess where 20% of the witches in America live? *New York City!* It showed all the witches doing all these hexes against Justice Kavanaugh. All the Catholics—because he’s Catholic, and in America they are not like Catholics overseas—are trying to counteract all the hexes of the witches against Kavanaugh. Let’s see how that works!

Just like they had their fights against all the encroaching false doctrines and demons—high level demons. When it says ‘principalities and powers’ those are high-level demons. It kind of looks like that what’s going on in America today over this coming election.

This is eventually going to happen, we don’t know if there’s going to be a short turn back for a while, but Putin made the comment that America is ‘falling down’ and coming apart. Look at all the things that’s right on the verge of it. Who knows what’s going to happen?

- ***IF*** they get the wall built there may be a little more time
- ***IF*** the forces against abortion get some victories to cut back on abortions, then we may have a little more peace

But we don’t know how it’s going to go! Look at California. The one ad is really good showing all the homelessness, needles on the street, human dung on

the street, high prices of gas, this, that and the other thing. It's the only ad that John Cox, the Republican running for governor has, but it's really good. It says, **'Don't you think it's time for a change?'**

- *The Book of Revelation*

FRC:bo
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All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 16:18-19
- 2) Psalm 119:160, 89, 128
- 3) Matthew 16:19, 18-19
- 4) Matthew 18:17-18
- 5) Matthew 23:1-3
- 6) Deuteronomy 6:1-5
- 7) Matthew 22:35-40
- 8) Mark 12:28-31
- 9) Matthew 5:17-20
- 10) Genesis 17:9-13
- 11) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 12) Romans 2:13-29
- 13) Acts 15:1-18, 23-29
- 14) Colossians 2:1-23

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Corinthians 10
- Exodus 18; 20-23
- Acts 2; 13; 14
- Galatians 2
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Matthew 28

Also referenced:

Church at Home:

- Video: *Was Peter Ever in Rome?*
- Article: *“Binding” and “Loosing” in the New Testament* {<https://www.churchathome.org/articles/binding-and-loosing-in-the-new-testament.html>}
- Series: *How Did the Catholic Church Go Wrong* {churchathome.org}

Books:

- *The Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar* by William D. Mounce
- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version:

- Appendix O: [Binding and Loosing in the New Testament](#)
- Appendix Z: [Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God](#)

Sermon Series with CDs & Transcript Books:

- *The General Epistles*
- *The Epistles of Paul*