

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 31 No. 3

July 2018

George L. Faull, Editor

"The Lord's Day" and "The Lord's Supper" By Terry Carter

INTRODUCTION

- × "What God has joined together, let not man separate" - **Matt. 19:6.**
- × I know the context of this passage is marriage, not the Lord's Day or the Lord's Supper.
- × Still, I believe we find a general concept here that applies.
- × We point out that it is not man, but God, that joins man and wife.
- × But it was God, not man, who joined the Lord's Day and the Lord's Supper.
- × We live in an age that has profaned the sacred rite of marriage by disobeying this.
- × We are also in an age where the sacred day and supper are being profaned, as well.
- × There are many who would uncouple what God has joined together:
 1. By worshipping on the Lord's Day without the Lord's Supper.
 2. By partaking of the Lord's Supper on other days than the Lord's Day.
 3. Some have abandoned both altogether.
- × Let's look at what each is and see why God has joined them.

- × Then, we will see what it really means to uncouple them.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- × The only place we find this phrase in Scripture is **Rev. 1:10.**
- × There has been much needless speculation as to what this means.
 1. By the end of the first century the first day of the week (and only that day) was commonly referred to as "The Lord's Day".
 2. Early church fathers contemporary with John made it clear in their writings: "And after the observance of the Sabbath, let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, queen and chief of all days." Ignatius (100 A.D.)
 3. This is not an isolated example:

"The universal and uncontradicted Sunday observance in the second century can only be explained by the fact that it had its roots in apostolic practice...Sunday was devoted to the commemoration of the Saviour's resurrection, and observed as a day of thanksgiving..." Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 1, pages 478-479

"The celebration of the Lord's Day in memory of the

resurrection of Christ dates undoubtedly from the apostolic age. Nothing short of apostolic precedent can account for the universal observance in the churches of the second century. There is no dissenting voice. [Emphasis is mine.] *This custom is confirmed by the testimonies of the earliest post-apostolic writers, as Barnabas, Ignatius, and Justin Martyr. It is also confirmed by the younger Pliny. The Didache calls the first day 'the Lord's Day of the Lord.'*" Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 2, pages 201-202

4. It was already the case that the first day of the month was called "Augustus Day", or "Emperor's Day".
 5. Money payments were made that day.
 6. It would be natural to refer to resurrection day as the Lord's Day - **I Cor. 16:1-2.**
- × It was a day of worship by the Christians...



“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together in one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons.” Justin Martyr (150 A.D.)

- ✗ He goes on to tell about an offering being taken and used to help widows and orphans, etc.
- ✗ Finally, he says that they assembled on Sunday because it was the day when creation began and the day Jesus arose from the dead.
- ✗ Constantine didn't change it, he simply protected, legally, what was already being done.
- ✗ It is not the Christian Sabbath
 1. The Sabbath is the seventh day, not the first day - **Exo. 20:8-11.**
 2. What the Sabbath was - **Eph. 2:15-16, Col. 2:14-17:**
 - a. A memorial of creation - **Exo. 20:8-11.**
 - b. Part of the Law, the old covenant made between God and Israel.
 - c. A rest from physical labors.
 - d. A type that has been fulfilled - **Heb. 3-4.**
 - e. Neither Moses nor Joshua was able to give them the rest God promised.

- f. But we have it in Christ, yet it is not a day of the week.
3. What the First Day of the Week is:
 - a. A memorial of Jesus' resurrection - **John 20:1.**
 - b. A memorial of the new creation in Christ - **II Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15.**
 - c. Part of the new covenant in Christ - **Matt. 26:27-28.**
 - d. The day the church began and when the Gospel was first proclaimed in full.
 - e. The day when the apostolic church met each week - **Acts 20:7, I Cor. 16:2.**
 - f. No mention of it being a rest, but certainly an expectation of our own resurrection.
4. This is borne out by the early church fathers:

“The fathers did not regard the Christian Sunday as a continuation of, but as a substitute for, the Jewish Sabbath, and based it not so much on the fourth commandment, and the primitive rest of God in creation, to which the commandment expressly refers, as upon the resurrection of Christ and the apostolic tradition...”

Ignatius was the first who contrasted Sunday with the Jewish Sabbath as something done away with. So did the author of the so-called Epistle of Barnabas. Justin Martyr, in controversy with a Jew says that the pious before Moses pleased God without circumcision and the Sabbath, and that Christianity requires not one particular Sabbath, but a perpetual Sabbath. He

assigns the reason for the selection of the first day of the week for the purpose of Christian worship, because on that day God dispelled the darkness and the chaos, and because Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his assembled disciples, but makes no allusion to the fourth commandment... Dionysius of Corinth mentions Sunday incidentally in a letter to the church at Rome, A.D., 170: Today we kept the Lord's Day holy, in which we read your letter.” Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. 2, pages 202-204

“We see that the ante-Nicene church clearly distinguished the Christian Sunday from the Jewish Sabbath, and put it on independent Christian ground.” Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. 2, page 205

WHY WE MEET ON THE LORD'S DAY:

- ✗ Primarily to partake of the Lord's Supper - **Acts 20:7.**
- ✗ Paul also makes this clear in **I Cor. 11:17-22.**
 1. Sometimes I think we need to read these verses instead of the following ones before partaking.
 2. Observing the Lord's Supper improperly causes our meetings to be for the worse, not the better.
- ✗ I believe this is what the Hebrew writer is referring to in **Heb. 10:24-31.**
- ✗ **Acts 2:42** is often put forth as containing the elements of worship.
- ✗ We have examples of the apostolic church doing three of these daily.
- ✗ Note that Paul delayed leaving Troas when in a hurry so he could meet on Sunday and break bread - **Acts 20:6, 16.**

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- * Primarily a memorial of Jesus' death - **I Cor. 11:23-26.**
- * A proclamation of our faith in His death and return - **I Cor. 11:26.**
- * A time of self-examination - **I Cor. 11:27-34.**
- * A time of fellowship, communion - **I Cor. 10:16-22.**
- * A participation in His sacrificial death - **I Cor. 10:16-22.**
- * A corporate unifier - **I Cor. 10:16-22.**

WHAT WE ARE SAYING WHEN WE SEPARATE THE DAY AND THE SUPPER:

- * To memorialize either the death or the resurrection without the other is meaningless.
 1. The Lord's Supper memorializes His death.
 2. The Lord's Day memorializes His resurrection.
 3. Neither has meaning for us without its proper counterpart.
- * To meet on the Lord's Day without the Lord's Supper:
 1. Ignores the very reason for assembling.
 2. Is remembering a resurrection without a sacrificial death.
 3. Makes the resurrection meaningless to us without the sacrificial death.
- * To partake of the Lord's Supper on a day besides the Lord's Day:
 1. Ignores the clear apostolic precedent of Scripture.
 2. Remembers His death without remembering His resurrection.
 3. Brings meaninglessness to His death for us without His resurrection - **I Corinthians 15:12-19.**

Who do you suppose would want us to remember His death and forget His resurrection?

- * To forsake the Lord's Day for Saturday in particular.

1. Usually done for pragmatic reasons.
2. We would rather please the "seekers" than the Author of the memorials.
3. We prefer a convenient schedule to the Consecrated Covenant.
4. Our "theology" has followed the practice, not vice versa.
5. It acknowledges the holy day of the old covenant rather than that of the new.
6. But there is no salvation in that covenant.
7. It honors Law and forsakes grace.
8. It memorializes the physical creation rather than the spiritual new creation - **Exo. 20:8-11.**
9. It honors rest, rather than anticipating our resurrection.
10. It observes a type and ignores its fulfillment.

CONCLUSION

- ✓ I began by quoting Jesus when He said, "What God has joined together, let not man separate" - **Matt. 19:6.**
- ✓ I'm certain many have done this and not considered its implications.
- ✓ But God has joined the Lord's Supper and the Lord's Day for a reason.
- ✓ Let's not dishonor Him by usurping authority that doesn't belong to us.
- ✓ Let's make a clear sound for all the world to see concerning these sacred memorials.

Summit's Fall Schedule

Begins Aug. 21st – Dec. 13th, 2018
Fall Break – Nov. 19th – 23rd, 2018

Tuesday

6:30-9pm – Proverbs – Kendall Faull

Wednesday

9-Noon – John's Epistles/Jude – Shane Capps

1:30-4:30pm – 1 Corinthians – Terry Carter

Thursday

9-Noon – The Eternal Struggle – George L Faull/Terry Carter

1:30-4:30pm – Minor Prophets – Dale Holzbauer

6:30-8:30pm – Galatians – Jerry Paul

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Women Workers & Volunteers at Summit

Executive Secretary

JANICE PHILLIPS



Jan served for 24 years as Executive Secretary. I always tell people that if it had not been for Jan Phillips serving as a volunteer for Summit, the school would never have existed. If you received your education, or appreciate what the school has done, you owe a great debt of gratitude to her and to her husband, Alva, who allowed us to use her energies for the Lord at Summit. She lives in Kokomo, IN and remains a great encourager to us.

Printer/Copier

MARY SUE FRIEND



Mary Sue served Summit as printer/copier for 19 years. Her first husband, Richard McMahon, was an encourager as is her present husband, Bill Friend, who has chauffeured me to several of my preaching appointments. Mary Sue's expertise was her pride in making our material attractive and printer-ready. She cared if what we sent out was Christ-honoring and the best that we could do.

Audio/Video/Cook

JOY HOLDER



Joy worked as a volunteer at Summit for 15 years. She oversaw the work in the Audio/Video department. For customer orders, she would copy the audio cassette or VHS taped lectures for the outgoing orders. She also typed and edited some of our manuscripts and booklets. Those who attended our Thursday evening classes, remember Joy's cooking for the meals which are served prior to the beginning of classes. Her volunteer work helped us in a difficult time.

Bookkeeper/Treasurer

CAROL SEE



Carol completed 25 years as bookkeeper and treasurer. She also assisted for years at the display booth during Family Camp in Hillsboro, OH. Her husband,

Melvin, was a great encourager and gopher for Carol and Summit. He assisted with mail errands for the Gospel Unashamed. Carol has enjoyed her quarter of a century with us. Her detailed work and prayers helped us keep our records straight. She, like the rest of us, marvel at God's provision of funds for the School. She continues to work at Summit to this day.

Executive Secretary

BRENDA BARKER



Brenda has served us 17 years as Executive Secretary. She does a beautiful job designing ads, books, covers, brochures, tracts, letterheads, catalogs, PowerPoint presentations, and Summit's Website.

She has great computer knowledge and ability. She provides reminders for our schedules and appointments, answers incoming calls and types up master copies for class notes.

Brenda serves as host at our gatherings and she fields many questions for our student body. She coordinates Summits dorm room rentals and arrangements at special events and programs.

To many, she is the face of Summit and we do not know how we would function without her. I always say at the office, "Do you want to speak to the ones in charge or do you want to speak to the one who knows what's going on?"

She also serves as projectionist, video recorder of classes, CD and DVD producer. She prepares a weekly menu for the Thursday night classes and assists in preparing meals for those attending.

Printer/Copier

SHARON ICE



Sharon served us for 2 years in the Printing dept. She was a hard working energetic volunteer and has been a great help in editing the Gospel Unashamed newsletter and articles. She, too, took pride in what she produced for Summit.

Her husband, Steve, also helped like our other workers. Sharon's zeal knows no bounds and it was always pleasant to have her here working.

Sharon continues to assist us in editing the Gospel Unashamed newsletter. She and Steve reside in Peru, IN

Librarian/Editor

RUBY SIDERS



Ruby worked for Summit about 22 years as an editor. She was Summit's librarian who hand cataloged all the books for Summit's Restoration Hall

library. Ruby succumbed to cancer in 2014. She always told us she didn't want to leave this world without finishing the Library entries... and she did! She was a sweet Christian lady and is greatly missed.

Printer/Copier

LISA CARTER



Lisa is the wife of Summit's president and has been working for us the last couple of months as printer/copier of what we produce.

She has her work cut out for her as she has come to work during our busy season.... getting ready for Hillsboro Family Camp!

I have wanted to publically thank these women and other volunteers who come occasionally to labor with us with the Gospel Unashamed but there are too many to mention. These eight women have been the main office workers.

I also have another motive in doing so. They have been essential to my ministry and to Summit's success. Would I be incorrect to say that they have been servants of the Church and helpers like Phoebe?

Could I not say they have given their lives to Christ's service, or that they bestowed labor on us like Priscilla and Aquila?

Paul mentioned several sisters and mothers-in-the-Lord and saluted those who helped him. Not a one of the women he mentioned were preachers of the Gospel.

It is impossible to tell if Junia was a man or a woman! Many translators call him a male. However, the person was of note among the apostles but certainly not one of the 12.

Billy Graham was of note among six Presidents who sought his advice but he was not a President.

My point is, Jan, Carol, Ruby, Mary Sue, Brenda, Joy, Sharon, or Lisa never preached a sermon to men.

The women in **Romans 16** were helpers, highly esteemed, workers for the Lord, Paul's companions in the Gospel, etc. To use Dorcas or these women as alleged progressives do, is an error. These women are used to push women preachers in the Scripture. It is an abuse of Scripture and poor hermeneutics to do so.

There is no refuge for women preachers in **Romans 16** any more than there is at Summit. These women are admired for what they did for us.

NOTE: Brother Faull has been diagnosed with bone cancer (Multiple Myeloma). He wants to thank so many for the cards, emails, phone calls & visits. Such encouragement, backed by your prayers, is overwhelming. May God bless you for caring!

The Way Things are Supposed to Be!

--by Dr. Todd Dill

(Adapted and modified from Jim Shannon-Northwest Church of Christ)

There is an old saying: "A man should be as 'vigorous' as a panther, as 'swift' as an eagle, as 'fleet' as a stag, and as 'strong' as a lion, to do the Will of his Creator."

In the above saying, everything is doing what it was created to accomplish and they are recognized by that.

- ➔ Panthers are vigorous.
- ➔ Eagles are swift.
- ➔ Stags are fleet.
- ➔ Lions are strong.

Man is supposed to do God's Will. We are the pinnacle of God's creative work. We should be doing what we were created to do and be recognized by that, just like each of these examples.

You and I were created to be the way we were supposed to be! What is that? How are we supposed to be?

1 Peter 2:21, NAS – "**For you have been called for this purpose**, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps."

There it is.... You and I were called/created for this purpose – for this reason, to follow in the steps of Christ. We are to be like Christ!

Interestingly – in that text you see the word "example". All of the 14 English translations I checked used the very word, "example". That is the Greek word, "*hupogrammos*". It literally means, "to write under" or "copy to write after".

The idea is that of a copybook that a child would be given to trace letters for copying.

This tried and true method of teaching penmanship is still used today. At the top of the page is a specimen of beautiful numbers and letters flawlessly penned. The page below is white and spotless, prior to the

student's attempts to transcribe the copy.

Initially, the awkward attempts to properly duplicate the writings and the top of the page would be made, but with diligence and patience and practice – writing over and over again – success is achieved.

What a beautiful illustration of the Christian life. That is exactly what the inspired apostle Peter is wanting his readers to grasp. Jesus is the beautiful writing at the top of the page. He is our copy head!

Peter goes on to write, **1 Peter 2:22**, "He committed no sin, no deceit was found in his mouth."

Jesus is our *hupogrammos*! He is the "copy for imitation."

Ironically, this is the only place in the Bible that the word "*hupogrammos*" is used – why is that?

My opinion, we have only one example to follow; there is only One worth imitating. We have only one *hupogrammos*.

The writer of Hebrews says in **Hebrews 1:3**, "The son is the radiance of God's glory and **the exact representation** of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

Paul, in the book of Colossians, puts it this way:

Colossians 1:15-16, "15 **He is the image of the invisible God** the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Hupogrammos – worthy of imitation! Paul clearly told the Church at Corinth: **1 Corinthians 11:1**, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." NIV

"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." NAS

The Greek word that Paul uses here is *mimetes* – **to imitate or follow**.

You will quickly notice that this word “*mimetes*”, is very similar to our English word, ‘mimic’ or ‘mime’. We all know what those words mean.

I can think of no better example than my grandson, Harrison. He is 2-years old and at the age where he ‘mimics’ people. I bend to put air in the tire, he bends to put air in the tire. I pull a weed from the garden, he pulls “something” from the garden, not necessarily a weed!

Why does this happen? It is because he is very attentive and observant to follow or mimic my example. How attentive and observant are we to follow the example of Christ?

Harrison will gladly follow in my steps all over the yard. How willing are you and I to follow the examples that Christ left and follow in His steps? Would you be willing to exhort others as Paul did in Philipians?

Philippians 3:17, “Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.”

That’s scary! Do we want others to pattern their lives after ours and follow our example? You should, if you are a true Christ-follower! That is the way things are supposed to be. You and I were called to follow Christ. We should be clearly recognized for these qualities and others should follow our example.

TEXT: Genesis 1:26-27, 31, “26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.” NIV

God created things the way they were supposed to be. God has told us how we are supposed to live our lives, He didn’t leave us to guess.

He even sent us the perfect example...His only Son!

God has preserved His perfect Word and it is readily available to constantly reference to know His Will for us. As Christians, He has given us His Spirit to guide and direct us. We really have no excuse for not being the way were supposed to be; and yet many things today are not the way they are supposed to be.

But there is a way things are supposed to be...our text in **Genesis 1** tells us God created the world and things were good. That is the way it was supposed to be!

1. There is a Way Things are Supposed to be...a Good Way!

God created man. **Genesis 1:27**, “He made them male and female.” Those are His Words, not mine! I have searched the Bible top to bottom and found no other options offered!

Genesis 1:31, “God saw all that He had made and it was very good.” From this I think we can conclude that things are supposed to be good.

2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”

Do you see the word, “righteousness”? What is righteousness? It is being the way you are supposed to be. That is what God wants us to be! He has given us His very Word (God-breathed) so that we know: right from wrong, good from evil, light from darkness; the way it is supposed to be!

Paul continues in **2 Timothy 3:17**, “So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

God’s work of creation was good, at the completion it was very good. He expects us to do likewise, and He has thoroughly equipped us to accomplish that.

Not only that, Jesus tells us that He will not make us do it on our own. **John 14:18**, “I will not

leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

Orphans have no parents, they lack guidance. Parents are supposed to be guides; that’s what they are supposed to be. Jesus promises to ask His Father to not let us act as orphans. **John 14:16**, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor/ Comforter/ Helper to be with you forever.”

God thoroughly provides therefore we should be ready to be what we are supposed to be: But...

2. We Do Not Live Perfect Lives. Does that surprise anyone?

Romans 3:10-18, “10 As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” The poison of vipers is on their lips.” 14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

NIV

Paul quotes a bunch of Old Testament here which essentially is God’s view of man. Basically, all of us are not the way we are supposed to be!

If we keep reading in the third Chapter of Romans, we will see the summation in **verse 23**, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Yet in our text from **Genesis 1:27**, it stated that we were originally made in His image and now none of us is in His image, except one, our *hupogrammos*, our example – Jesus!

Since we mess up, since we sin, since we are not what we are supposed to be, God provides

Jesus, His Holy Spirit, and His Word, all to bring us back to where we are supposed to be.

Have you ever heard someone say, "In a perfect world..." and then complete the sentence to illustrate how they thought it should be? I always want to ask, "How would you know?" How many actually saw THE perfect world? Only two, Adam and his wife, Eve. Yet even though they saw it and experienced it, they didn't appreciate it!

We certainly don't live in a perfect world today. We have a perfect Creator. He gave us a perfect Law. He sent us a perfect Son. Be we are not perfect, we need divine assistance. We need help – **2 Corinthians 5:17**, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

Jesus is our start-over, our second chance...in Him we can be what God wants us to be. But God in His goodness, doesn't stop there. Even after our start-over, our second chance, those "in Christ" have **1 John 1:9**, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

How many remember what the definition of "righteousness" was? Being what you are supposed to be. Right? What might the definition of unrighteousness be? NOT being what you are supposed to be. **1 John 1:9** says, He will purify us from all unrighteousness.

God desires righteousness and not unrighteousness. He wants you to be the way you were created to be and He is willing to do everything possible to help you get that way and stay that way. He wants you to be complete/perfect like Him.

Return to **2 Timothy 3:17** and notice something else we didn't address initially when we read that verse. Paul wrote, "...that the man of God may be perfect." KJV

or "...the man of God may be complete." ASV, NKJV

The idea that Paul is expressing is something that has all its parts like a pie that has all its slices together. Something that has everything that goes with it. What gives us the ability to be this way – perfect, complete? **2 Timothy 3:16**, "All scripture..."

God's Word, by studying His Word, we can get all our parts together. We can learn what God wants us to be; how we are supposed to be.

3. We Do Not Get Back on Track by Lowering the Standard.

So many churches today are advertising with slogans like...

"No matter what you have done, you're welcome..."

"Come as you are..."

I don't disagree with their intent as we are all sinners; but those slogans which imply so much more...

"No matter what you have done, you're welcome here at Grace Church, where you can continue in your sins..."

"Come as you are...and we'll let you stay that way! You'll never be judged here!"

NO – we've all messed up, we have all sinned, but we don't get back on track by lowering the standards. In the beginning God set the standards and they were very good (perfect), it was the way it was supposed to be – that is, the goal we are to strive to attain!

Finally....

4. Don't Look for "Fake" Christianity, or a Reproduction.

The original is always worth more than the reproduction. Often when we fail at the real we look for something close but easier...exchanging the way it is supposed to be with that which was NEVER meant to be. Don't fall into that foolish trap. The apostle Paul mentioned this in

his letter to the Roman Christians.

Romans 1:22, "Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." NIV

We may not bow to images of birds, animals, and reptiles, but often mortal man ends up being the object of worship.

Sadly today, so many are satisfied with "fake"; willing to believe a lie. This is certainly nothing new as our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell for a lie and were eternally separated from God. This was not what God desired for His creation; not the way it was supposed to be, but He allowed it as they followed their own free will.

2 Thessalonians 2:11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. KJV

Mankind has taken pleasure in "unrighteousness"! They take pleasure in NOT being what they are supposed to be. This is so rampant today! It seems like nobody wants to be the way they are supposed to be!

In the book of Proverbs we find:

Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is disgrace to any people. NIV

Being the way God wants us to be exalts a nation.... The NLT translates this verse – "Godliness makes a nation great..."

Godliness is the real answer. As my friend and teacher, George Faull often says, "Godliness is God-like-ness."

As our original text says in **Genesis 1:27**, we were created in His image. To be the way we are supposed to be, we need to strive to be like God.

That is the way it is supposed to be!

Promises and Abilities Belonging Exclusively to the Apostles

Remember when we sang the little chorus, "Every promise in the book is mine, every book, every chapter, every line"? This was to encourage us to believe every promise.

Well, it's not true. The only promises we should claim are the ones made to us. We cannot claim every promise in the book. Some were given to specific persons.

This lesson is to impress upon you to not claim that every promise is a promise to you.

I want to show you the specific ability and promises made to the apostles of Jesus. Twenty different people were called apostles and you need to understand the apostles are not created equal.

There were apostles (one sent) of Christ and of the Church. Others were called "apostles" and others "missionaries". **Philippians 2:25**

But we will be looking at the eleven, Matthias (Judas' successor), and Paul (who was born out of due time. He is "THE apostle to the Gentiles").

1 Corinthians 5:8, Acts 1:22

Here are Promises and Unique Gifts Which the Apostles of Jesus Possessed:

1. They Would be Given a Comforter of the Same Kind.

John 14:16-20, "16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless (*orphans*): I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20 At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

2. They Would be Taught all Things.

John 14:26a, "But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things..."

3. They Would Have all Things Brought to Their Remembrance that Jesus Said.

John 14:26b, "...and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

4. They Would be Given Special Peace; Unlike the World Gives.

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

5. They Would be Guided into all Truth. Progressive Truth Would be Given Free from Error.

John 16:13a, "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak..." **Acts 2:42**

6. They Would be Shown Things to Come.

John 16:13b-15, "13...and He will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you."

7. They Would Have Special Signs as Apostles.

Mark 16:17-20, "17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

8. They Could Read the Hearts of Men.

- × Ananias and Sapphira. - **Acts 5**
- × Simon - **Acts 8**
- × Elyamus – **Acts 13**

9. They Were Able to Give Special Gifts to Men and Women by the Spirit by the Laying on of Their Hands.

2 Corinthians 12. How did you get gifts?

Acts 8:14, "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:"

Acts 19:2-6, "2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said

unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." No gifts were given but in an apostle's presence. **Acts 10**

10. They Would Be the Foundation of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:13-14, "13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." See **Ephesians 2:20**.

11. They Could Do What Christ Did, and More.

John 14:12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, **the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**"

12. They Would Sit on 12 Thrones Judging the 12 Tribes as They Sit in His Kingdom at His table.

Luke 22:30, "That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." See also **Matthew 19:28**.

13. They Could Loose and Bind What God had Loosened and Bound.

Matthew 18:18, "Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**"

14. They Would Bear Witness After the Spirit Came.

John 15:27, "And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 2:32

For further enlightenment on this subject, please order the audio recorded presentation.