

## Key #5

**Key #5:** The Hebrew Law was an exclusive covenant between God and Israel. It was never given to the Gentiles; the Gentiles had their conscience to guide their behavior.

Romans 2:14-15 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, ... [15] in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

As a source of righteousness, Jesus replaced the Law because He fulfilled the Law.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Hebrews 10:9b ... He {Jesus} takes away the first {Old Covenant Law} in order to establish the second {New Covenant grace}.

As a code for righteous living, God wrote His laws on your heart. It is now by the power of the indwelling Christ in you that causes you to live a righteous life; it is not by your own human self-effort that you are able to live righteously.

Hebrews 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," ...

(See also Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13)

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,

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Colossians 2:2b-3 ... that is, Christ Himself, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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2 Timothy 2:7b ... for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

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1 Corinthians 1:30a But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, ...

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**True Tracts**

# "5 Keys" How to Understand the New Testament

You have the perfect teacher waiting to make the Bible come alive so that you will understand it like never before. The pure, unfiltered and unaltered Word of God, as taught by the Holy Spirit, will transform your mind and your life. It was cause you to grow in your Christian faith.

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John 16:13a But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;

## Traditional Teaching

For centuries, the Christian church has been drawn away from the original teachings of the Apostles by human wisdom and tradition. Early church leaders did not recognize the key to understanding the writings of the New Testament as they attempted to interpret Scripture apart from the "illuminating revelation" of the Holy Spirit. This practice continues to this present day. They also interpreted the New Testament from a Gentile perspective and neglected its proper Jewish context.

The source of authority in the early church became formal church doctrine instead of Scripture as revealed by the Holy Spirit. This, then, became the mechanism by which error has been passed down through the generations. As a result, there is now a form of "systematic unbelief" that diminishes, and at times even denies, the perfect work of the Cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Traditional beliefs are your enemy; they prevent you from understanding the Bible, especially the New Testament. God's spiritual truth is what transforms your mind and causes you to grow as a Christian. Being stuck on traditional "wisdom of men" teachings will cause your maturity to be slowed and it will make you stagnant in your faith.

## 5 Keys: Keys #1 & #2

There are 5 truths that will counter most of the error that is being taught today; these truths will allow God to open your spiritual eyes to His truth.

**Key #1:** All spiritual truth from the Bible can only be understood by the illuminating revelation of the Holy Spirit. This is because the human mind is incapable of understanding God's unfathomable truths. (See 1 Corinthians 2:1-16)

1 Corinthians 2:13 ... which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ...

**Key #2:** The New Testament must be interpreted in its original, primarily Jewish, context. If you interpret the New Testament from a Gentile perspective, as has been done historically, you will misinterpret Scripture in many critical areas including: the Law, forgiveness, the righteousness of believers and the person of Jesus Christ. (See John 4:22b; Matthew 15:24)

Romans 9:4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,

If you assume that Gentiles were or are under Law, that belief will greatly affect how you understand the New Testament. Jesus fulfilled the Law and ended it as the source of righteousness. Jesus ended the Law before Gentiles were even offered salvation through faith in Him.

## Keys #3 & #4

**Key #3:** All people are spiritual beings living in mortal "tents." Your spirit alone was redeemed at salvation while your mortal body and human soul (thoughts and emotions) still wait to be redeemed at some future time (Romans 8:23). This is the dichotomy of your inner redeemed, born again spirit and your outer not-yet-redeemed mortal body (See also 2 Corinthians 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24).

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**Key #4:** Jesus, eternal God and Creator, emptied Himself to live fully as a man during His time on this earth. This may sound like heresy to some but this is what the Bible teaches. Jesus had to empty Himself in order to be the perfect lamb and to be your model for a life of faith. Even in His sinless life, Jesus lived from the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism; He did not live from His own power. You have this same Holy Spirit in you. Jesus lives His righteous life through you; you follow in faith. (See John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18; Philippians 2:5-8)

(Continued on next panel)