

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

...Beginning The Search for Understanding.

**AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE
AND
THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL.**

by

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Beginning the Search for Understanding

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Even though most people agree that the Bible is the most unique book ever written, then why is it so difficult to understand? Many have their own ideas on how to apply it to their lives, but what we want to explore is WHY the Bible is so difficult to understand; and is it difficult because in reality it is a PUZZLE?

***"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me,
that I may open my mouth boldly,
to make known the mystery of the gospel,"
(Ephesians 6:19)***

What is this MYSTERY the Apostle Paul speaks of? The Greek word for "UTTERANCE" is Strong's no. G3056, *logos* (log'-os), which in this context means: **the thought and motive BEHIND THE WORD, the Divine Expression, doctrine.** This is Paul's request, that he be given the true meaning of the Gospel, so that he can make KNOWN the MYSTERY of it. This study not only proves that concept, but also shows how God requires each person to correctly solve this puzzle through supernatural revelation. First let's establish what 'puzzle' means:

puz·zle (puz-Źl), [*Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, c.1999*]

1. ...presenting difficulties to be solved by ingenuity or patient effort.
2. something puzzling; a puzzling question, matter, or person.
3. a puzzled or perplexed condition; bewilderment.
6. to put (someone) at a loss; mystify; confuse; baffle.
7. to frustrate or confound, as the understanding; perplex.
8. to exercise (oneself, one's brain, etc.) over some problem or matter.
9. to make intricate or complicated.
10. to be perplexed or confused.
11. to ponder or study over some perplexing problem or matter.
12. puzzle out, TO SOLVE BY CAREFUL STUDY OR EFFORT.

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The deeper one delves into Bible doctrines, the more obvious the above definitions become. The Bible uses techniques such as: allegories, parables, epithets, metonymies and the like to effectively create a puzzle which conceals the deep MYSTERIES of God. Why would God do that? Why would He give us a book that seems impossible to understand? So difficult in fact that it has been the center of dissension, wars, even dividing the Church on Earth into many sects. The answer is simple, once we understand how God proves one's OBEDIENCE, (Deu 8:1-3). Believe it or not, the effort to find the truth of His Word through careful study and effort is His test for obedience to His Son, as we will find out in this study.

This study itself is only a fragment of the overall doctrine of salvation; in fact it is a study of Bible doctrine itself. As we go through the related verses and word definitions, it shows us how the pieces fit together to form clear and harmonious teachings. Bible doctrines for the most part have been lost through centuries of apostate Christianity, which will be obvious as we go through the Scriptures on this subject.

1. A SYSTEM OF PARABLES.

The system of parables is but one facet of the Scriptures which establish beyond all doubt that the true meaning (or spirit) BEHIND the text is in fact a mystery. A meaning that has to be carefully and patiently pieced together as one solves any puzzle. The attempt to solve this puzzle LEADS to true spiritual revelation of the Word of God, and ultimately to the revelation of the WISDOM of God by the manifestation of Christ to the seeking believer, as He so promised (John 14:21). We first find that the Bible emphatically testifies there is a HIDDEN WISDOM of God, (1 Cor 2:7-8). This knowledge is not known to the majority of mankind and is not of this world, and a wisdom that is supernaturally revealed only to FEW.

"WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING;
THEREFORE GET WISDOM:
AND WITH ALL THY GETTING
GET UNDERSTANDING."
(Proverbs 4:7)

"BUT WHERE SHALL WISDOM BE FOUND?
AND WHERE IS THE PLACE OF UNDERSTANDING?"

"MAN KNOWETH NOT THE PRICE THEREOF;
NEITHER IS IT FOUND
IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING."
(Job 28:12-13)

This is not WISDOM acquired by man's intelligence, by any religion, or found even in THE HOLY BIBLE! According to Job, this type of wisdom is not found "in the land of the living" at all. That means that this wisdom is BEYOND the collective wisdom of mankind, beyond the physical realm of the universe.

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Therefore, this must be a divine spiritual wisdom that has to be supernaturally revealed and BESTOWED by God. In fact, it is salvation itself, but it comes not by a simple "sinner's prayer", but takes ALL OUR GETTING; and this wisdom is the object of the puzzle. Since it is not found in the land of the living, then obviously it is a MYSTERY, and we (with God's guidance), MUST search for it.

The word "PRINCIPLE" is *re'shiyth* (ray-sheeth'), which means: **first in place, time, order or rank; specifically a firstfruit, the beginning, chiefest, the first or principal thing.** The getting of this wisdom and understanding is to be our first and top priority in life. That is why Jesus said not to busy ourselves trying to attain the basics of life until we find this wisdom which is the righteousness of God.

"Therefore take no thought, saying, *What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"*

"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

**"*BUT SEEK YE FIRST*
THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS;
AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU."
(Matthew 6:31-33)**

The Greek word for "FIRST" is *proton* (pro'-ton), which is identical in meaning to the Hebrew word for 'principle'. It means: **firstly in time, place, order, or importance; before, at the beginning, chiefly, at the first of all.** If getting the hidden wisdom is the principle thing, and we are to SEEK FIRST the Kingdom of God, then the finding of the kingdom is the finding of the wisdom of God. For the Kingdom of God is obviously founded upon His wisdom and righteousness.

Since the Lord commands that we SEARCH for His righteousness, that means that (1) we do not possess it; and (2) it is well hidden, a mystery. In fact, we find in Scripture that the wisdom and understanding of God IS THE SPIRIT OF HIS DIVINE AGAPE LOVE THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS, (Rom 8:39), for Christ IS the wisdom and righteousness of God, (1 Cor 1:24,30); for the *agape* love of Christ EXCEEDS all knowledge and all science, (Eph 3:19). Note that the Greek words *agape/agapao* are used in New Testament scripture to represent the Divine love of God. There is also a human *agape* love (Mat 24:12), and at least **31** types of *philos* loves of man. (Compare love types in John 21:15-17).

Jesus promised that **IF** we obey and make this search our top priority in life, that our basic needs are provided for which has spiritual implications as well as physical. However, the majority of Christians REFUSE to believe that this command of Christ is to be taken in a literal sense, that He only means that we are 'willing' to make such a sacrifice. No, I can attest that He means EXACTLY what He said. That is why the rich young ruler would not pick up HIS cross and follow Jesus, (Mat 19:22). He would not leave the security of income or ambitions of life for the sake of finding the living Christ. That is why Jesus said it is impracticable for a wealthy person to enter the Kingdom.

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When it comes to actually doing it, they find their faith in the security of money is much stronger than their faith in God; in spirit, they are under the bondage of the spirit of MAMMON. They really do not believe Christ; THEY FAILED THE FIRST TEST.

**"MY MOUTH SHALL SPEAK OF WISDOM;
AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART
SHALL BE OF UNDERSTANDING."**

**"I WILL INCLINE MINE EAR TO A PARABLE:
I WILL OPEN MY **DARK SAYING** UPON THE HARP."**
(Psalm 49:3-4)

This passage gives us both confirmation and insight to this mystery. Notice that His 'mouth' (His words) only SPEAKS of this wisdom, **it is not the wisdom itself**, a very important point. And 'heart' in Scripture refers to the innermost center ESSENCE of the Spirit, (1 Pet 3:4). Out of the 'heart', (the ESSENCE of God), comes UNDERSTANDING. What is God's ESSENCE? "God is *agape*", (1 John 4: 8,16). His Divine love for all that He created! It is where both His mercy and His judgment comes from. Notice how this directly relates wisdom and understanding to *parables* and *dark sayings*. These very words prove the Bible contains a puzzle that has to be solved. The definitions of these words reveal a complex nature to Biblical understanding. Complex to the disobedient, yet made plain to those who obey Christ and SEEK FIRST. The word definitions also testify to this:

"PARABLE", H4912. *mashal*, maw-shawl'; appar. from H4910 in some orig. **sense of superiority in mental action; a pithy maxim, usually of a metaphorical nature; hence a simile (as an adage, poem, discourse): byword, like, parable, proverb.**

PITHY, (*Random House*), 1. **brief, forceful, and meaningful in expression**; full of vigor, substance, or meaning; terse; forcible.

MAXIM, (*Random House*), 1. **an expression of a general truth or principle**, esp. an **aphoristic** or **sententious** one:

METAPHORE, (*Random House*) 1. **a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance**. 2. something used, or regarded as being used, to **represent something else**; emblem; symbol.

SIMILE, (*Random House*), [*Latin: image, likeness, comparison*, n. of *similis* SIMILAR] 1. **a figure of speech in which two unlike things are explicitly compared**, as in "*she is like a rose.*"

"DARK SAYING", H2420. *chiydah*, khee-daw'; from H2330; **A PUZZLE**; hence a **trick, conundrum, sententious maxim**:--dark saying (sentence, speech), **hard question, proverb, riddle**.

H2330. *chuw'd*, khoo'd; **to tie a knot, (fig.) to propound a riddle**: put forth.

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CONUNDRUM, (*Random House*), (kã nunÆdrãm), 1. a riddle, the answer to which involves a pun or play on words. 2. anything that PUZZLES.

Notice all the word symbology techniques contained in the definition of 'parable' and "dark saying", which are but a few that the Bible uses.

***"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"
"SON OF MAN, PUT FORTH A RIDDLE,
AND SPEAK A PARABLE
UNTO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL;"
(Ezekial 17:1-2)***

The Hebrew for "RIDDLE" is also *chiydah* (khee-daw') which means: **a puzzle!** Note who this riddle is directed to: the House of Israel. Christians generally do not consider that they are part of the House of Israel, but are through the tribe of Judah, of who is Christ Jesus, which is another MYSTERY of the Church. Therefore the parables are for both the Jew and the Christian. Parables were also spoken by the prophets, and in a way that sometimes we would not perceive it, except it was brought to our attention. For example, Paul reveals in Galatians:

"For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman."

***"But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh;
but he of the freewoman was by promise."***

***"WHICH THINGS ARE AN ALLEGORY:
FOR THESE ARE THE TWO COVENANTS;
the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar."
(Galatians 4:22-24)***

The word "ALLEGORY" is very interesting and is *allegoreo* (al-lay-gor-eh'-o), which comes from two words, *allos* meaning: **different**; and *agoreo* which means: **speech**. Therefore it represents A DIFFERENT KIND OF SPEECH. Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary gives this definition:

"ALLEGORY, A **figurative** sentence or discourse, in which the principal subject is described by another subject resembling it in its properties and circumstances. **THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT IS THUS KEPT OUT OF VIEW, AND WE ARE LEFT TO COLLECT THE INTENTIONS OF THE WRITER or speaker,** by the resemblance of the secondary to the primary subject. **The distinction in scripture between a parable and an allegory, is said to be that a parable is a supposed history, and an allegory, a figurative description of real facts. An allegory is called a continued metaphor."**

The law was given to the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai through Moses. That law required obedience to God's commands according to the flesh.

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That is the first (old) covenant. The second (new) covenant came by PROMISE through Isaac for a Messiah who is the fulfillment of God's law. The point is that God used this 'allegory' to illustrate what these two covenants represent: work of flesh vs. spirit of grace.

***"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"***

***"TO UNDERSTAND A PROVERB,
AND THE INTERPRETATION;
THE WORDS OF THE WISE, AND THEIR DARK SAYINGS."***

(Proverbs 1:5-6)

Here, we find what a wise man is. The "wise counsels" are the Scriptures, (Ps 119:24). The word 'INTERPRETATION' is *meliytsah* (mel-ee-tsaw'), which means: **an aphorism [a truth expressed in few words]; also a satire: interpretation, taunting.** The root word basically means: **to interpret a foreign language.** That is what we have just seen 'allegory' means, a DIFFERENT SPEECH which has to be INTERPRETED. That is what the effort of the wise man is, to UNDERSTAND THE INTERPRETATION. Many Christians are attempting to justify their own ignorance and sin by claiming everyone has their OWN interpretation of Scripture. **NO, THERE IS ONLY ONE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE — GOD'S, AND HE TOLD US WE HAVE TO SEARCH IT OUT.** Those types of Christians place little significance to these types of verses. But why should they? They 'believe' they are already saved, therefore this has little significance to them, not realizing it is ESSENTIAL to the finding the TRUTH of salvation, the truth behind LIFE. Again, "dark sayings" means PUZZLE.

***"AND HE [JESUS] SPAKE MANY THINGS UNTO THEM
IN PARABLES..."***
(Matthew 13:3)

Jesus is famous for teaching in parables, but why? What are the parables for, and why did He use them knowing they make the understanding of His teachings more difficult? Perhaps Jesus did this to "weed out" the casual seeker and those who's intent is not right, who seek their own vain glory in Jesus' name. The Greek word for "PARABLE" is *parabole* (par-ab-ol-ay'), which means: **a similitude, symbolic fictitious narrative, apothegm or adage, comparison, figure, proverb.** The root word is *paraballo*, which means: **to throw alongside, to reach a place, or to liken: arrive, compare.** The parables of Jesus contain a wealth of gems waiting to be discovered, but the true interpretations are well hidden from the casual seeker. Why did Jesus do that? Why would He come down here, suffer and die for our sins, then make the true understanding of His Gospel message so difficult?

***"And the disciples came, and said unto him,
WHY SPEAKEST THOU UNTO THEM
IN PARABLES?"***

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*"He answered and said unto them,
BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN UNTO YOU
[THE TRUE DISCIPLES]*

TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES
OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
BUT TO THEM IT IS NOT GIVEN.
(Matthew 13:10-11)

The word "MYSTERIES" is *musterion* (moos-tay'-ree-on), which means: **a secret or "mystery" through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites.** The Random House dictionary defines "MYSTERY" as: **1. anything that is kept secret or remains unexplained or unknown. 2. any affair, thing, or person that presents features or qualities so obscure as to arouse curiosity or speculation. 4. obscure, PUZZLING, or mysterious quality or character. 5. any truth that is unknowable except by divine revelation.** —
Syn. 4. **PUZZLE, problem, secret, riddle.**

The last definition hits the nail on the head. Jesus said He was the truth and that He could only be known by divine revelation, (John 14:21-23). We have seen that Jesus is also the WISDOM of God, and since the wisdom of God is not found in the land of the living, then it is a truth that it is unknowable EXCEPT by Divine revelation, (Eph 1:17, 3:3-4). The revelation of Jesus Christ comes only to the obedient seeking believer, (1 Peter 1:13). We will explore this later. Therefore:

MYSTERY = PUZZLE

*"And with many such parables spake he THE WORD unto them,
AS THEY WERE ABLE TO HEAR IT."*

*"BUT WITHOUT A PARABLE SPAKE HE NOT UNTO THEM:
AND WHEN THEY WERE ALONE,
HE EXPOUNDED ALL THINGS TO HIS DISCIPLES."*
(Mark 4:33-34)

Jesus takes the meaning of THE WORD which is a MYSTERY, and reveals pieces of its puzzle through parables. The next statement is interesting. The word 'ABLE' is *dunamai* (doo'-nam-ahee), which means: **to be able or possible, can, could, may, might, be of power.** The word 'HEAR' of course means: **to understand.** The recipients of His parables were not always capable of understanding them. We will find that Jesus had to gradually 'meter' them out according to a person's ability.

The word "EXPOUNDED" is *epiluo* (ep-ee-loo'-o), which means: **to solve further, to explain, decide, determine, to expound.** What this proves is that the Lord Jesus Christ intentionally concealed the true meanings of His parables from all except His true disciples, those whom He CHOSE, those who sought UNDERSTANDING

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with all their heart. A good example of this is the *parable of the sower*, where Jesus gave the parable to His many followers, then further explained it to His few chosen disciples. Note that when Jesus gave His disciples the true meaning of His parables, they were together ALONE.

▪ **Hidden meaning of the Parable of the talents.**

Another interesting parable that directly relates to this study is the *parable of the talents*, (Matthew 25:14-30). This parable is mostly used by modern-day Christian teachers to emphasize financial stewardship, or promote God given abilities such as singing, speaking, etc. that should be used for the glory of God.

This is not implying anything is wrong with that application, but what is the true message that Jesus conceals in that parable?

***"For the kingdom of heaven is as
a man travelling into a far country,
who called his own servants,
and delivered unto them his goods."***

***"AND UNTO ONE HE GAVE FIVE TALENTS,
TO ANOTHER TWO, AND TO ANOTHER ONE;
TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS SEVERAL ABILITY;
AND STRAIGHTWAY TOOK HIS JOURNEY."
(Matthew 25:14-15)***

The "man traveling into a far country" is Christ Jesus and His first advent. Jesus began His ministry by personally choosing out "his own servants", his twelve disciples. Then, He "delivered unto them his goods". The word 'GOODS' is *huparchonta* (hoop-ar'-khon-tah) which basically means: **property or possessions, that which one has, things which one possesses**. Jesus was not known to possess anything material, but was rather rich in faith, knowledge, and power of the Holy Spirit of God. Christ's 'goods' are represented here as "TALENTS" which is *talanton* (tal'-an-ton), which is: **a measure of money** [usually gold and silver, verse 18). Money represents worldly wealth, but God regards true wealth as faith, (James 2:5). Again notice, Jesus gives according to a person's ability, he works within the capacity of a person's potential and their willing mind, (2 Corinthians 8:12).

***"TAKE THEREFORE THE TALENT FROM HIM,
AND GIVE IT UNTO HIM WHICH HATH TEN TALENTS."***

***"FOR UNTO EVERY ONE THAT HATH SHALL BE GIVEN,
AND HE SHALL HAVE ABUNDANCE: BUT FROM HIM THAT HATH NOT SHALL
BE TAKEN AWAY EVEN THAT WHICH HE HATH."***

**"AND CAST YE THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT INTO
OUTER DARKNESS:**

THERE SHALL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH."

(Matthew 25:28-30)

Notice that the unprofitable servant is also a SERVANT OF THE LORD, just as the other servants. Therefore he represents the unprofitable followers of Christ, unprofitable Christians. Christ gave him a certain amount of His 'goods' as this man was ABLE to receive it, just as the other servants were given according to their ability. Yet, instead of praise for keeping the TALENT safely hidden, he winds up REJECTED by the Lord. Where did he go wrong? This servant of Christ was NOT SAVED, but instead rejected and cast away FOREVER. The main key for finding the meaning of this parable is to compare verse 29 to Matthew 13:12, and Mark 4:24-25. Notice how it is used in the context of those passages:

**"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given,
and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not,
from him shall be taken away even that he hath."**

**"THEREFORE SPEAK I TO THEM IN PARABLES:
BECAUSE THEY SEEING SEE NOT; AND HEARING THEY HEAR NOT,
NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND."**

**"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith,
By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand;
and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:"**

**"FOR THIS PEOPLE'S HEART IS WAXED GROSS,
AND THEIR EARS ARE DULL OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE
CLOSED; LEST AT ANY TIME THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND
HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,
AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART,
AND SHOULD BE CONVERTED, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM."**

**"BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, FOR THEY SEE:
AND YOUR EARS, FOR THEY HEAR."**
(Matthew 13:12-16)

**"And he said unto them, TAKE HEED WHAT YE HEAR:
WITH WHAT MEASURE YE METE, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU:
AND UNTO YOU THAT HEAR SHALL MORE BE GIVEN."**

**"FOR HE THAT HATH, TO HIM SHALL BE GIVEN: AND HE THAT HATH NOT,
FROM HIM SHALL BE TAKEN EVEN THAT WHICH HE HATH."**
(Mark 4:24-25)

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Jesus' *parable of the talents* relates to UNDERSTANDING! He calls his servants – the many Christians, reveals to them a certain amount of his truth "AS THEY WERE ABLE TO HEAR IT" (here a little, there a little). When he returns and gathers them before his judgment seat, he will know who used what he gave them to bring about an increase. Notice that they should UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART. That is what Psalms said: that the meditation of the HEART shall be UNDERSTANDING. This is through the spirit, not the flesh of the carnal mind. Now compare this parable to this most interesting statement made by Paul in Romans:

**"SO THEN FAITH COMETH BY HEARING,
AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD."**
(Romans 10:17)

The word "HEARING" is *akoe* (ak-o-ay'), which effectively means: **give audience to, to hear**. The root word is *akouo* (ak-oo'-o), which means: **to hear (in various senses), come to the ears, to hearken to, TO UNDERSTAND**. If you listen to someone, but do not understand or misinterpret what they say, then in effect you did not HEAR them. Since FAITH comes by understanding, and understanding comes by the Word of God, then the more true understanding we have of the Word of God, THE MORE FAITH INCREASES. That is the most literal interpretation of this verse. Faith is referred to in Scripture as GOLD that is to be TRIED in the FIRES. Therefore:

Talent = riches of faith = amount of true understanding

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS CONCERNS ITSELF WITH THE MEASURE OF FAITH THAT INCREASES THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENCE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

▪ **Time Released Interpretations.**

We also find that the Bible contains "time released" interpretations that can only be completely understood at their appointed time. Most of these have to do with Bible prophecy, but portions of other doctrines are to also unfold in the "last generation". We will look at a few verses of scripture that prove this concept.

**"I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN A PARABLE:
I WILL UTTER DARK SAYINGS OF OLD:"**

"Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us."

"WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM THEIR CHILDREN,

SHOWING TO THE GENERATION TO COME

***the praises of the LORD, and his strength,
and his wonderful works that he hath done."***

(Psalm 78:2-4)

The phrase "GENERATION TO COME" in Hebrew is: *dowr-'acharown* (dore - akh-ar-one'), which literally means: **the last generation**. Notice that it is the LAST GENERATION of the last age that is to be given UNDERSTANDING of the Lord's parables and puzzles. The FEW who give up everything in life to seek the Lord IN TRUTH, have many of God's mysteries revealed to them through His Word. Many believe that we are the last generation. The Lord's strength is His Divine love!

***"And he said, Go thy way, Daniel:
FOR THE WORDS ARE CLOSED UP AND SEALED***

***TILL
THE TIME OF THE END."***

(Daniel 12:9)

The phrase "CLOSED UP AND SEALED" is the double use of *catham* (saw-tham'), which means: **to stop up, to keep secret: closed up, a hidden secret, shut out or up, stop**. In other words, the text remains a mystery till the last generation. The word "END" is *qets* (kates), which means: **the utmost, an extremity, after, end**. Again, the end of the "LAST GENERATION OR AGE" is when the mystery of the true meaning of Daniel will be revealed. This verse proves that God has the power to conceal the true meaning of His words from man, and reveal them when He chooses. Jesus worded it this way:

***"WHO THEN IS A FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT,
WHOM HIS LORD HATH MADE RULER OVER HIS HOUSEHOLD,
TO GIVE THEM MEAT [DOCTRINE]***

IN DUE SEASON?"

(Matthew 24:45)

The phrase "DUE SEASON" is one word *kairos* (kahee-ros'), which means: **an occasion, a set or proper time, a convenient or due season, due time, a while. It designates a fixed or special occasion**. This may be a double-reference parable. One to the seeking believer for salvation, and the other applies to Bible prophecy. Again, Jesus confirms that certain doctrines are GIVEN to be understood only at a specific point in time. The next thing Jesus reveals is that the understanding of this hidden doctrine is only given to the FAITHFUL and WISE SERVANTS. Remember the unprofitable servant? He will not be given the revelation of doctrines, for he will remain in DARKNESS, but the other servants used their understanding to search for more.

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John 3:

18 HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
19 AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 FOR EVERY ONE THAT DOETH EVIL HATETH THE LIGHT, NEITHER COMETH TO THE LIGHT, LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE REPROVED.

21 BUT HE THAT DOETH TRUTH COMETH TO THE LIGHT, THAT HIS DEEDS MAY BE MADE MANIFEST, THAT THEY ARE WROUGHT IN GOD.

Here Jesus is further qualifying what it means to 'BELIEVE' in John 3:16, which is we must come to the LIGHT for our deeds to be judged and corrected; or else our disobedience will be counted as disbelief and we shall be condemned. What does he mean by coming to the light? God's word is a light; and Jesus is the light, (Ps 119:105; Jn 8:12). Greek for 'Light' is Strong's G5457 *phos*, and means: "to make manifest, illumination"; and compares to G5346 *phemi*, meaning: "to make known one's thoughts". By coming to the light of God's word, (the diligent study of Bible doctrines), God reveals the meditation of His heart (truth) to us which is the search of the narrow way that instructs and corrects us. This leads to the manifestation of Christ to be given the "light of life", the revelation of the Father's Divine *agape* love Spirit that is in Christ. This is being "born of water", (washing of water by the word, Eph 5:26); and "born of the spirit", (washing of regeneration, Tit 3:5). If for whatever reason we do not (in truth) come to the LIGHT, then we will continue in DARKNESS and death.

We have seen thus far that the Bible is written in a way that people will not understand the true meaning of it, except it be 'given' them upon the condition of obedience to the commands of Christ. This literally makes the Bible itself a PUZZLE whose truths are ONLY REVEALED CONDITIONALLY, and then through much work and patience to study it out. All the commands of Christ for salvation may be distilled down into one word –**SEARCH**. The next section not only confirms all we have seen thus far, but also gives us insight in how the puzzle works.

2. SOLVING THE PUZZLE.

Now that the Scriptures themselves have proven the Bible contains a mysterious puzzle, including the doctrine of salvation, then there ought to be Scriptures that tell us how to solve this puzzle. What are the KEYS that God gives us to unlocking the MYSTERY of His Word?

"IF ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL, HE SHALL KNOW OF THE DOCTRINE, WHETHER IT BE OF GOD, OR WHETHER I SPEAK OF MYSELF."
(John 7:17)

Beginning the Search for Understanding

This verse has profound implications. It is in response where Jesus was accused of having his own interpretation of Scripture. In Matthew 7, Jesus said that NOT everyone who calls upon his name will enter into heaven, but those that DO THE WILL of God. Here, we have the condition that "IF" we DO God's will, we shall KNOW DOCTRINE. The word "DOCTRINE" is *didache* (did-akh-ay'), which simply means: **instruction, a teaching**. What did Jesus teach? The GOSPEL message; and what is the Gospel message? That we BELIEVE in Christ. Christians want to know what God's will is for their life, but He's already said what His will is, they just refuse TO DO what He said. How do we believe in Christ? We seek to understand HIS doctrine (teachings) and obey what he commanded us to do. What did Christ command us to do?

**"ENTER YE IN AT THE STRAIT GATE:
FOR WIDE IS THE GATE, AND BROAD IS THE WAY,
THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION,
AND MANY THERE BE WHICH GO IN THEREAT:"**

**"BECAUSE STRAIT IS THE GATE,
AND NARROW IS THE WAY,
WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE,
AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT."**
(Matthew 7:13-14)

Jesus contrasts two different gates, two opposing WAYS that his followers will go. The following verses of that chapter prove that. In reality, **this produces two similar but opposing forms of Christianity**. By doing an extensive word study on these verses, you will find the MAJORITY of Christians enter into fabricated doctrines that are BROAD, (liberal) in their WAYS; a false WAY that leads to eternal damnation. Opposed to that is a very strait gate, a narrow doctrine with no deviation, and a WAY that is full of affliction, tribulation and sorrow. The narrow way is the TRUE WAY that leads to LIFE, to the living Christ, for life is in the Son, (1 John 5:11-12). Only FEW enter into this doctrine because it is full of obstacles. The MANY stumble on these obstacles (Ezek 14:1-11) which we will look at later, but the FEW continue through them to find their way to LIFE. If they have to FIND life, then that life is well HIDDEN and has to be SEARCHED for. Instead, the 'MANY' go into destruction because **their way OMITTS the SEARCH because there is NO FINDING**. First was the search for the hidden wisdom, next the search for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and now a search to find LIFE. They are all one and the same search. That is exactly how we WORK a puzzle. We search and examine all the pieces till we find matches that reveal a CLEAR and harmonious pattern, the revelation of His Word.

Note who Jesus is speaking to: his disciples which are Christians (Mat 5:1-2). They are already disciples **converted** to Christ. They made the decision to 'follow' Jesus, to sit at his feet and hear his instruction. Jesus is telling converted Christians that there is something they MUST DO in order to find TRUE LIFE, and that WAY is NARROW. The word "NARROW" is *thlibo* (thlee'-bo), which means: **to crowd, to afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble**. Notice this is opposite of the 'anon' with great joy crowd of the *parable of the sower*.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

TURN YOU AT MY REPROOF:
behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you,
I WILL MAKE KNOWN MY WORDS UNTO YOU.
(Proverbs 1:23)

The word "TURN" is the Hebrew word for CONVERSION, and "REPROOF" here is *towkechah* (to-kay-khaw'), which means: **chastisement, figuratively by words, correction, refutation, to proof, argument, be chastened, reasoning, rebuke, reproof, be often reproof.** This is what Jesus commanded his disciples to do in Matthew 18:1-4, to convert to being humbled as a child. This second conversion is an absolute requirement for salvation, (Heb 12:5-13). Notice this is also **CONDITIONAL**. **IF** we convert to God's chastisement of the narrow way, **THEN** He will pour out His spirit upon us, and **REVEAL HIS WORDS TO US**. That means that until then, His words **ARE NOT UNDERSTOOD, AND ARE BEING MISINTERPRETED BY ALL WHO REFUSE HIS WAY OF REPROOF**. Therefore, the Scriptures remain a **MYSTERY** and a **PUZZLE** to the **MAJORITY** of **CHRISTIANS** because modern Christianity **REJECTS** the **STRAIT GATE AND NARROW WAY OF REPROOF**. So what we have is:

TRUE DOCTRINE IS REVEALED ONLY IN THE NARROW WAY:

"MY SON, IF THOU WILT RECEIVE MY WORDS,
AND HIDE MY COMMANDMENTS WITH THEE;"

"SO THAT THOU INCLINE THINE EAR UNTO WISDOM,
AND APPLY THINE HEART TO UNDERSTANDING;"

"YEA, IF THOU CRIEST AFTER KNOWLEDGE,
AND LIFTEST UP THY VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING;"

"IF THOU SEEKEST HER AS SILVER, AND
SEARCHEST FOR HER AS FOR HID TREASURES;"

"THEN
SHALT THOU UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF THE LORD,
AND FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD."

"FOR THE LORD GIVETH WISDOM:
OUT OF HIS MOUTH COMETH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING."
(Proverbs 2:1-6)

This difficult saying is addressed to the child of God, and contains several conditions. The first condition is the BIG word "IF"; **IF** we will receive God's words **SO THAT** we will hear and apply them to our **HEART**. Next, we are to **CRY** for this knowledge.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Why? Because it is well HIDDEN. We are to SEEK, SEARCH, and ASK for it, because they are the hidden treasures of God. The word "SEARCHEST" is *chaphas* (khaw-fas'), which means: **to seek, to conceal oneself so to be sought, make diligent search, mask or disguise self, hide, to search out.** It is conditional upon the SEARCH that we FIND the KNOWLEDGE of GOD. Notice that we must first APPLY ourselves TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE WE FIND UNDERSTANDING. If we do not do these things, we will NEVER find God.

There are not many pathways to God, you do not have the option to seek God in the way that YOU choose. You can only come to God through HIS WAY. This is the basic command of Christ.

The commands to ENTER IN the STRAIT GATE; to PICK UP OUR CROSS and LOSE OUR LIFE; to ASK, SEEK, KNOCK; to LABOUR for the meat of DOCTRINE; to SEEK FIRST the KINGDOM; to REPENT a Biblical repentance, all of these are attributes of the same basic command. These are very clear, simple, and logical commands from the one true God WHO CAN BE FOUND, (Jer 29:13). The one thing that NO religion of the world, (including modern Christianity), can lay claim to or even understand.

The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day:

THE FATHER TO THE CHILDREN SHALL

MAKE KNOWN THY TRUTH.

(Isaiah 38:19)

Isaiah confirms what we just saw in Proverbs 1:23. If God has to MAKE KNOWN HIS TRUTH, then guess what? Otherwise IT IS NOT KNOWN. Who does He reveal it to? HIS [legitimate] CHILDREN. Jesus confirms this in John 8:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,

IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, [DOCTRINE]

THEN

are ye my disciples INDEED;"

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,

and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:31-32)

Notice who Jesus is speaking to: Jews who BELIEVE IN HIM. By today's standard, they would be considered "saved" **Christians** because they BELIEVE in Jesus. Then notice what He says to these believers in Christ, "IF" (a conditional particle) YOU (believers in Christ) CONTINUE IN MY WORD (what Christ taught)... Next we have another conditional word: "THEN". The word "INDEED" is *alethos* (al-ay-thoce'), which means: **of a surety, truly, IN TRUTH.** The root words mean: **true (as not concealing), not hidden.** This is an important point as we will later see. These believers are disciples, but they are not disciples IN TRUTH.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

If they are not "in truth", then they must be disciples who are NOT yet (or never will be) IN TRUTH. They are to CONTINUE IN CHRIST'S DOCTRINE [UNTIL] THEY KNOW THE TRUTH. They are NOT yet FREE. Again, that means the truth of God's word IS NOT READILY PERCEIVED, even by these Jews who were no doubt well educated in the Scriptures. Could it be that this "TRUTH" is the same WISDOM of God that is not found in the LAND OF THE LIVING? Notice that it is KNOWING this hidden truth that makes one FREE.

**"TAKE HEED UNTO THYSELF,
AND UNTO THE DOCTRINE;
CONTINUE IN THEM:
FOR IN DOING THIS THOU SHALT BOTH
SAVE THYSELF,
AND THEM THAT HEAR THEE."
(1 Timothy 4:16)**

Here we have the apostle Paul giving instruction to his "son in Christ" –Timothy. Timothy was already CONVERTED to Christ and the Christian faith, but Paul is telling him to CONTINUE IN THE DOCTRINE to be saved. Isn't that exactly what Jesus said? Did not Jesus tell them that "IF" they did so, 'THEN' they will be His disciples IN TRUTH and they shall KNOW the truth that will set them free? The word "FREE" means: **released from the bondage of sin and death!** What doctrine is Paul referring to? Obviously he is referring to the doctrine of SALVATION. Paul says continuing in the doctrine of salvation will lead Timothy to being SAVED. That of itself proves that CONVERSION to the Christian faith **IS NOT** regeneration as the Christian denominations claim. Despite modern beliefs, conversion and regeneration are not the same, a critical point easily proved.

So far we have seen how the knowledge of DOCTRINE is considered to be the TOP PRIORITY with the Lord. **At this point it should be made clear, that mental knowledge of Bible doctrines IS NOT SALVATION. Simply believing and trusting in Jesus as your personal Savior IS NOT SALVATION.** You MUST BELIEVE Christ, not the false teachers, and OBEY Him. Convert to the reproof of the Word which LEADS to the truth and the life. God requires us to learn His doctrine in order to prepare us for the revelation of the mystery of Christ, and to cleanse us from the lies mankind has generated concerning His word, (Ezek 36:25; Ps 119:29-30). Now we are going to look at some verses of scripture that not only further verify that Bible doctrine is a puzzle that has to be searched out by each individual, but also which has deep insight on how to piece the puzzle together.

**"WHOM SHALL
HE TEACH KNOWLEDGE?
AND WHOM SHALL
HE MAKE TO UNDERSTAND DOCTRINE?
THEM THAT ARE WEANED FROM THE MILK,
AND DRAWN FROM THE BREASTS."**

Beginning the Search for Understanding

**"FOR PRECEPT MUST BE UPON PRECEPT, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT;
LINE UPON LINE, LINE UPON LINE;
HERE A LITTLE, AND THERE A LITTLE:"**

**"FOR WITH STAMMERING LIPS AND ANOTHER TONGUE
WILL HE SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE."**
(Isaiah 28:9-11)

The world does not realize it, but both REAL TRUTH and TRUE INTELLIGENCE comes via the Bible, and in relation to that, there is perhaps no other passage of scripture as important as Isaiah 28.

These few verses from that chapter contain so much vital information to our subject, that it requires a close look. First notice who is to be the teacher –God Himself. The word "TEACH" here is *yarah* (yaw-raw'), which means: **to flow as WATER, to rain; to lay or throw an arrow, or figuratively to point out as if by aiming the finger, to teach, inform, instruct, lay, shew.** What is God to teach? DOCTRINE. Notice the code words for doctrine such as 'water' and 'rain'. The majority of Christians do not really understand what true Bible doctrine is, because their pastors and teachers themselves have not obeyed Christ's commands to search out the mystery of it. Did not Jesus say that we MUST be **BORN of WATER and of Spirit?** (Jn 3:5; 1Pet 1:23).

Then the Lord answers His own question. He will teach doctrine to those who are WEANED from the MILK, who are REMOVED from the BREASTS. Let's first find out what that means. The word "MILK" is *chalab* (khaw-lawb'), which means: **milk as in richness of kine, a suckling (not weaned, very young).** The root word is *cheleb* which means: **fat, hence the richest or choice part: best, fatness, finest, grease, marrow.** In other words, it is teaching that which is easy to take in and digest by the mind; pleasant and nourishing words, nothing HARD or NEGATIVE that would cause an unpleasant reaction or rejection. So before God teaches a person His doctrine, they first must be removed from feeding only on the pleasant words, the basic principles and promises of the faith, the carnal promises of Scripture, a concept proven in New Testament Scripture as we shall see.

**"That ye may suck, AND BE SATISFIED WITH
THE BREASTS OF HER CONSOLATIONS;
THAT YE MAY MILK OUT, AND BE DELIGHTED
with the abundance of her glory."**
(Isaiah 66:11)

This verse gives us the answer we are looking for. The word "CONSOLATIONS" is *tanchuwm* (tan-khoom'), which means: **to ease or comfort self; compassion, solace, comfort, consolation.** When we seek compassion and comfort, we do not want someone pointing out our faults and attacking our beliefs. The last thing we want is CHASTISEMENT. However in view of learning doctrine, we have to be taken off the breasts of Compassion and Comfort, we have to gradually be fed MEAT. It is the MEAT where understanding begins which increases FAITH.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

It is the MEAT that makes us GROW as Christians and leads us to TRUE SALVATION. Meat must be thoroughly chewed more than any other food, and sometimes it can be difficult to swallow, especially for the weaning Christian.

MILK = COMPASSIONATE & COMFORTING WORDS
= NO HARD SAYINGS and NO REPROOF

The Apostle Paul verifies this:

"And I, BRETHREN, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."

"I HAVE FED YOU WITH MILK, AND NOT WITH MEAT: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

"FOR YE ARE YET CARNAL: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"
(1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

Here is another proof that salvation is not an instant decision. Paul is addressing CHRISTIANS at the church at Corinth. The word "CARNAL" is *sarkikos* (sar-kee-kos'), which means: **pertaining to flesh, i.e. bodily, temporal, UNREGENERATE**. These are UNSAVED, UNREGENERATE CHRISTIANS; babes in Christ that have only the ABILITY to receive the principles of the doctrine of Christ. They have not CONTINUED long enough in the Word to be able to digest strong doctrine. Like Jesus' disciples, they are only able to take-in according to their ability. Notice that Paul fed them with MILK, even though he himself knew deep doctrine. He gave them that which they were ABLE to bear, and they have not OVERCOME the desires of the flesh which genders ENVY and STRIFE.

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and ARE BECOME SUCH AS HAVE NEED OF MILK, AND NOT OF STRONG MEAT."

"FOR EVERY ONE THAT USETH MILK IS UNSKILFUL IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR HE IS A BABE."

"BUT STRONG MEAT BELONGETH TO THEM THAT ARE OF FULL AGE, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."
(Hebrews 5:12-14)

Beginning the Search for Understanding

This verifies everything thus far. These Christians should be at the point of their walk to be able to teach others in the Word, but instead they are yet CARNAL and have no discernment. Notice that Christians who remain UNWEANED from the milk have **NO SKILL in the Word**, which is what Isaiah said. Only those who are removed from the milk of the Word are able to learn whole, strong DOCTRINE. The word "UNSKILFUL" is *apeiros* (ap'-i-ros), which means: **inexperienced, ignorant**. Ignorance is the opposite of knowledge. And "BABE" is *nepios* (nay'-pee-os), which means: **not speaking, i.e. an infant, or figuratively a simple-minded person, an immature Christian**.

This is exactly what has happened to Christianity. Because of false salvation doctrines that came in unawares, Christians have remained as "BABES". Feeding only on 'milk', they cannot tolerate the strong meat of true doctrine. The word "STRONG" is *stereos* (ster-eh-os'), which means: **stiff, i.e. solid, stable, steadfast, strong, sure**. It is the opposite of WAVERING, FICKLE, or SHIFTING. It is similar in meaning to SURE FOUNDATION or SOLID ROCK. So what we have is a SOLID DOCTRINE, an inflexible instruction that is STEDFAST and SURE which is totally opposite of the 'liberal' doctrines of men. Strong doctrine only belongs to those of "FULL AGE". The phrase is the double use of *teleios* (tel'-i-os), which means: **complete or completeness, a man of full age, one that is perfect [regenerate]**. Modern Christians look at the word 'perfect' and assume it means: not sinning, not prone to making mistakes. That is man's interpretation, not God's, for it is spirit PERFECTED, made complete by GOD'S AGAPE LOVE, to have LIFE more abundantly, (Jn 10:10). Therefore what we have is:

**STRONG MEAT = STRONG (WHOLE) DOCTRINE
[BOTH NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE ASPECTS]**

**FED WITH MILK = BABES = CARNAL =
UNREGENERATE CHRISTIANS**

**FED WITH STRONG MEAT = FULL AGE = PERFECT =
REGENERATE CHRISTIANS**

Next, Isaiah 28 gives us two major clues on HOW to learn doctrine:

**"FOR PRECEPT MUST BE UPON PRECEPT, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT;
LINE UPON LINE, LINE UPON LINE;
HERE A LITTLE, AND THERE A LITTLE:"**
(Isaiah 28:10)

The word "PRECEPT" simply means: **a command**; and "LINE" means: **a 'standard' for measure**. What does this all mean? Just by looking at the definitions, it would not be very clear. But to apply this daily in the narrow way of searching for the truth, it becomes very obvious. We take Scripture, especially the commands of Christ and we compare them with other verses of scripture. Looking for confirmations that establishes the true meaning.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Lines of Scripture here and there establish a standard, a pattern which begins to align the pieces of the puzzle. Scriptures that connect and verify each other until the meaning behind the commands become clear and sure, which establish the FIRM foundation. The word "LITTLE" is one of those simple words that are easily overlooked. We would typically assume it means a small portion of instruction or doctrine here, and a portion there, which does apply. But the word itself is *ze'eyr* (zeh-ayr'), which means: **to dwindle, to be small or little**. It relates to the Hebrew word *tsa'ar*, which means: **ignoble, be brought low**. To 'dwindle' means: **to shrink or 'pine' (waste) away**; and 'ignoble' is: **of low character, humbled**. This is exactly what God does to the one who converts to His REPROOF of the narrow way.

AS WE OBEY CHRIST AND SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH WITH ALL OUR HEART, MIND, AND STRENGTH, GOD BRINGS US DOWN IN UTTER HUMILITY BIT BY BIT UNTIL WE REACH THE POINT OF TOTAL DESPAIR, A TYPE OF SOUL DEATH WHERE THE LIFE OF THIS WORLD HAS NO MEANING, NO HOPE. IT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF CHRIST. IT IS THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. WE ARE TO GO AND WAIT IN THE LOWEST PLACE OF DESPAIR TILL THE LORD SUDDENLY COMES TO US. THEN WILL HE LIFT US UP OUT OF THAT PLACE AND EXHALT US WITH THE GLORY OF HIS SALVATION, (Luke 14:8-11) WHICH HAS BEEN HID IN HIM SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

**"FOR WITH STAMMERING LIPS
AND ANOTHER TONGUE
WILL HE SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE."
(Isaiah 28:11)**

The next clue Isaiah gives is this strange comment concerning "**STAMMERING LIPS AND ANOTHER TONGUE...**". This dark saying we will find has a double application. Paul relates this verse to "speaking in tongues", (1 Cor 14:21) which is for a SIGN to the people. But it also has another application as indicated by what the words mean:

"STAMMERING" H3934. *la'eg*, law-ayg'; from H3932; a **buffoon**; also a **foreigner**: **mock**, **stammering**.

H3932. *la'ag*, law-ag'; to deride; by impl. (**as if imitating a foreigner**) to speak unintelligibly:--have in derision, laugh (to scorn), mock (on), **stammering**.

stam·mer, [*Random House*], 1. to speak with **involuntary breaks and pauses**... —Syn. 1. pause, hesitate... STAMMER, the general term, suggests a speech difficulty that **results in broken or inarticulate sounds and sometimes in complete stoppage of speech**.

"ANOTHER", H312. '*acher*, akh-air'; from H309; to **hinder**, next, other, etc.; another, following, next, **strange**.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

H309. 'achar, aw-khar'; **to loiter** (be behind); by implying to procrastinate: continue, defer, **delay**, hinder, be late, stay there or tarry longer.

SPEECH or DISCOURSE that STOPS and CONTINUES LATER;

DOCTRINE IS BROKEN-UP IN SEGMENTS AND DISPERSED,
hence: A PUZZLE!

This is what Isaiah is describing, precept upon precept, line upon line. This is exactly what 'allegory' means, a "different speech" that requires interpreting. We go through the scriptures searching for information that relates to the subject in question till we gather it all together into one harmonious meaning.

When the Bible makes an imperative statement, it is a 'line', a standard by which to measure other scripture. For example, the complete doctrine of salvation is scattered throughout the Bible in pieces from the Garden of Eden, to the return of Christ. To take a verse of scripture such as John 3:16 and build a complete theology around it without qualifying its true meaning and comparing it to all the other scripture concerning salvation, is to bring certain destruction upon yourself. Jesus even WARNED of doing that, (John 5:39-40). Claiming salvation based upon the promises of scripture **is not** eternal life. Jesus said we must come to Him, the LIVING Christ, who is the knowledge of the truth. The truth and wisdom of God is not found here on Earth, which includes the Bible! Now compare this to what Jesus said, and His meaning behind this verse becomes clear:

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, [BREAD]
and said, TAKE, EAT: THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU:
this do in remembrance of me."
(1 Corinthians 11:24)

The word "BODY" is interesting, it is *soma* (so'-mah), which basically means: **the body as a sound whole**. This is a metaphor for SOUND, WHOLE DOCTRINE. This must be true because Jesus said He was the true 'bread' from heaven, and there was not a bone of Christ's body literally broken! Jesus no doubt foreknew this fact from the Scriptures, as shown in John:

"For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled,
A BONE OF HIM SHALL NOT BE BROKEN."
(John 19:36)

Why would Jesus make such a statement, knowing full well that the Scriptures had already foretold that none of His bones will be broken? (Psalm 34:20) The word "BROKEN" is *klao* (klah'-o), which means: **to break (specifically bread)**.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

In Scripture 'bread' is a similitude or metaphor for 'flesh', (John 6:51), and 'flesh' is meat, (John 6:55), and 'meat' we have already seen is DOCTRINE. To further verify what Jesus was referring to, compare the definition of 'broken' with the definitions from Isaiah 28:

bro·ken, [*Random House*], 1. break [up]. 2. **reduced to fragments; fragmented**. 4. **out of working order** 6. **changing direction abruptly**. 9. **interrupted, disrupted, or disconnected**. 12. **imperfectly spoken, as language**. 13. **spoken in a halting or fragmentary manner...** 14. **disunited or divided**. 15. not smooth; rough or irregular.

**CHRIST'S BODY = BREAD (from heaven) = DOCTRINE,
therefore,
TRUE DOCTRINE WAS BROKEN-UP FOR HIS TRUE DISCIPLES**

If that is not enough confirmation, then how about this:

**"COME, EAT OF MY BREAD,
AND DRINK OF THE WINE
WHICH I HAVE MINGLED."**
(Proverbs 9:5)

Again, the word 'bread' is a metaphor for DOCTRINE and 'wine' is SPIRIT. Did Jesus not say His words are SPIRIT and are LIFE? (John 6:63). The word "MINGLED" is *macak* (maw-sak'), and means: **to mix, especially wine with spices, to mingle**. The word 'mix' means: **1. to combine things into one mass, collection, or assemblage... 2. to put together indiscriminately or confusedly**. That has the same implication as STAMMERING SPEECH.

**"And the eyes of them THAT SEE shall not be dim,
and the ears of them THAT HEAR shall hearken."**

**"The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge,
AND THE TONGUE OF THE STAMMERERS
SHALL BE READY TO SPEAK PLAINLY."**
(Isaiah 32:3-4)

Here a little, there a little; line measured against line. Notice again that it is the 'HEART' (in the spirit) that shall UNDERSTAND. The DEEP things of God are SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED, (1Cor 2:12-14). The intermittent speech will be made clear to only those that have "eyes that see", and "ears that hear".

**"Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD,
until the day that I rise up to the prey:
for my determination is to gather the nations,
that I may assemble the kingdoms,
to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger:
for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy."**

"FOR THEN

WILL I TURN TO THE PEOPLE A PURE LANGUAGE,
THAT THEY MAY ALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD,
TO SERVE HIM WITH ONE CONSENT." (Zephaniah 3:8-9)

Notice again that it is the last generation, the people on Earth after Armageddon when Christ returns that the Word of God will be made clear. It is then that the people will call upon the Lord in **total agreement**. There will be NO MORE Christian denominations, and no more Judaism. Both Jew and Gentile will be united together (in truth) with Christ as "one new man", (Col 3:10). The opposite is also true, that UNTIL that time, the Word is not a pure language, but an unclear language that is only understood when God reveals much of it to those under the chastisement of the narrow way.

"These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs:
BUT THE TIME COMETH, WHEN I SHALL
NO MORE SPEAK UNTO YOU IN PROVERBS,
BUT I SHALL SHOW YOU PLAINLY OF THE FATHER."
(John 16:25)

Jesus spoke in 'proverbs' to CONCEAL something from all those that were not His. He conceals **the essence of the Father**, and God the Father is AGAPE love, (1 John 4:8,16). Jesus promised that the time will come (and now is), where He literally and plainly will reveal the Father to the true seeker, (Mat 11:27, Luke 10:22). Again, the Scriptures bear witness, the one true God CAN BE FOUND.

"AND THOUGH THE LORD GIVE YOU
THE BREAD OF ADVERSITY,
AND THE WATER OF AFFLICTION,
yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more,
BUT THINE EYES SHALL SEE THY TEACHERS:"
(Isaiah 30:20)

When you read this, did you understand the code words? The Lord Himself gives the doctrine of ADVERSITY, and the instruction of AFFLICTION. The word "ADVERSITY" is *tsar* (tsar), which means: **narrow, a tight place, i.e. trouble; an opponent (as crowding), adversary, affliction, anguish, close, distress, enemy, flint, foe, small, sorrow, strait, tribulation, trouble**. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY MEANS! This verse defines Jesus' command of Matthew 7:14.

Who are "THY TEACHERS"? The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and these three are ONE. It says your eyes shall see them -WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE. WE ARE TO KNOW THEM, FOR THAT IS ETERNAL LIFE THAT WE EXPERIENTIALLY KNOW THE FATHER AND THE SON, (Jn 17:3).

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

IT IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, (Jn 14:21-23; Gal 1:12; Eph 1:17-18; and 1 Peter 1:13]. Do you believe that enough to search out the doctrine for yourself? Or does this sound like foolishness to you?

"And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,"

***"CONFIRMING THE SOULS OF THE DISCIPLES,
AND EXHORTING THEM TO CONTINUE IN THE FAITH,
AND THAT WE MUST
THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION
ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD."***
(Acts 14:21-22)

Does your preacher or evangelist teach this? If not, why? The word 'MUST' is G1163, *dei* (die) which means; **it is necessary as binding**. The root word *deo* means: **the knit that bonds the true believer**. This is an absolute requirement. Look-up the word 'TRIBULATION', it is Strong's no. G2347 and its root is the Greek word used for 'narrow' in Matthew 7. This is not a reference of Christian persecution by non-believers, but the chastisement that comes from God's affliction of the soul of the true seeker in the narrow way of reproof.

▪ **Proof that the Bible is not abstract.**

The Holy Bible is an amazing thing, in some ways it is simple and straight forward, while in others it is deeply profound and complex. But how does the 'MANY' miss the mystery of scripture and Jesus rejects them? How can so many so-called Bible scholars and Doctors of Theology with their degrees enter and remain in gross error with their variety of interpretations? We find insight of this in Ezekiel 14.

"Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me."

***"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"
"SON OF MAN, THESE MEN HAVE***

***SET UP THEIR IDOLS IN THEIR HEART,
AND PUT THE STUMBLINGBLOCK OF THEIR INIQUITY BEFORE THEIR FACE:
SHOULD I BE INQUIRED OF AT ALL BY THEM?"***

***"Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD;
Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in
his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity
before his face, and cometh to the prophet;
I THE LORD WILL ANSWER HIM THAT COMETH
ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF HIS IDOLS;"***

**"That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart,
because they are all estranged from me through their idols."**
(Ezekiel 14:1-5)

There are several important aspects to this passage of Scripture. First, this concept applies to the learned elders of the House of Israel. Second, idolatry does not necessarily mean the worship of an entity apart from the one true God, but also relates to the worshipping of God or Christ falsely or in disobedience. This is what happened to Judaism, as well as modern Christianity. The word 'STUMBLING BLOCK' is H4383, *mikshowl* (mik-shole'), which basically means: **obstacle; an enticement, specifically an idol; a reason to fall**. The word 'STRAIT' [strait gate] in Matthew 7 is defined: **narrow from OBSTACLES close about**. These idols are 'obstacles' established by the imagination of the human mind and is based upon not understanding the Word of God. They represent false beliefs created from a perversion or misinterpretation of Scripture.

Note that God reflects back to them in word and prayers ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN FABRICATED BELIEFS! They come to God, but not in truth or in righteousness. That is why false Christian teachers and their doctrines are supported by the Bible because God reflects their spiritual blindness back to them. God says He does this because they have 'estranged' themselves from Him through their false teachings. To confirm this, we will advance to verses 8-9:

**"AND I WILL SET MY FACE AGAINST THAT MAN, AND WILL MAKE HIM A SIGN
AND A PROVERB, AND I WILL CUT HIM OFF
FROM THE MIDST OF MY PEOPLE;
AND YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD."**

**"AND IF THE PROPHET BE DECEIVED WHEN HE HATH SPOKEN A THING,
I THE LORD HAVE DECEIVED THAT PROPHET,
AND I WILL STRETCH OUT MY HAND UPON HIM, AND WILL DESTROY HIM
FROM THE MIDST OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL"**
(Ezekial 14:8-9)

This proves that a person can worship God outside of God's will and is not under Grace. This is also a grave warning against false prophets and teachers. Notice it is God that deceives the false prophet. Why? Because he has represented God falsely through believing the vain imaginations of his own heart. He bought into false doctrines that entered into the faith covertly, and procreated them to his followers, (2 Peter 2).

**"...YEA, THEY HAVE CHOSEN THEIR OWN WAYS,
and their soul delighteth in their abominations."**

**"I ALSO WILL CHOOSE THEIR DELUSIONS,
AND WILL BRING THEIR FEARS UPON THEM;
BECAUSE**

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

**WHEN I CALLED, NONE DID ANSWER;
WHEN I SPAKE, THEY DID NOT HEAR;
BUT THEY DID EVIL BEFORE MINE EYES,
AND CHOSE THAT IN WHICH I DELIGHTED NOT."**

(Isaiah 66:3-4)

Read that carefully for it shows that God will support any delusion (false doctrine or misinterpretation) that people develop because of their disobedience to Him. It is the MYSTERY aspect of the Bible that causes MANY to stumble due to their disobedience to Jesus' commands. IF the 'MANY' had obeyed from the heart the commands of Christ's doctrine, they would have eliminated the stumbling block idols of their heart and found the TRUTH Jesus said to search for. This falls into complete harmony how God conceals the true meaning of his words for those who do not CONVERT to His way of reproof, the WAY OF TRUTH. There are also warnings of this in the New Testament:

***"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:
BUT UNTO THEM WHICH BE DISOBEDIENT, the stone which the builders
disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"***

***"And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence,
EVEN TO THEM WHICH STUMBLE AT THE WORD,
BEING DISOBEDIENT: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED."***
(1 Peter 2:7-8)

This would include both Jews and Christians because they read, study, and use the Word. Why do they stumble in it? Because they are DISOBEDIENT. The word "STUMBLING" here is *proskomma* (pros'-kom-mah), which means: **occasion of apostasy, an offense, a stumbling block**. The other word "STUMBLE" is *proskopto* (pros-kop'-to), means: **to strike at, surge against as water; to stub on, trip up, beat upon, dash, stumble at**. In other words, disobedient Christians slip into apostasy because the Word of God TRIPS THEM UP, and causes them TO FALL, just as apostate Judaism. This again verifies how God reflects back their false beliefs because they are not searching the truth, but seek to confirm their own falsehoods. To 'surge' means to be tossed about or rise and fall, a surge of water like a strong wave. We know that 'water' is God's instruction. When a person attempts to get serious about studying God's word, He begins to toss them up and down, back and forth like a ship in rough water. The searcher must endure, continue on.

Since 'them' refuse to obey Christ to pick up their own cross and enter the strait gate, which is the reproof that comes from God's word, God does not make known His words to them. They remain in DARKNESS, they become UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS. Besides not realizing Bible doctrine has to be studied deeply and pieced together, the most common mistake of false Christian prophets and their followers is they choose to take some of the Bible literally, and other parts only symbolically. God says what He means, and means what He says, otherwise WHO'S INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT? The Bible warns that no scripture is of any 'private' interpretation, which includes Christian denominational beliefs.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Some attempt to justify their ignorance by saying: "the Bible is symbolic (or abstract), not literal"; or they may say: "everyone has their own 'belief' and interpretation". These are statements of ignorance, a "cop-out". These statements fall in line with MASONIC doctrine which teaches that all religions contain basic truth, but no one can say they have 'exclusive' truth. According to them, Jesus Christ cannot say: "***I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me***". That is EXCLUSIVE TRUTH, because it excludes ALL RELIGIONS of the world, INCLUDING SECULAR CHRISTIANITY, because they reject Christ's commands on how to find eternal life. Masonic doctrine is ANTICHRIST to its very core yet there are many Christian Masons who are easily influenced by the Cabbalistic and Gnostic influences of Freemasonry. Why? Because they refuse to come to the TRUE LIGHT of Jesus Christ, the son of the Living God!

"FOR THIS CAUSE ALSO THANK WE GOD WITHOUT CEASING, BECAUSE, WHEN YE RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YE HEARD OF US, YE RECEIVED IT NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN, BUT AS IT IS IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH EFFECTUALLY WORKETH ALSO IN YOU THAT BELIEVE."
(1 Thessalonians 2:13)

"And to this agree the words of the prophets; AS IT IS WRITTEN,"
(Acts 15:15)

"We having the same spirit of faith, ACCORDING AS IT IS WRITTEN, I BELIEVED, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;"
(2 Corinthians 4:13)

Does "AS IT IS WRITTEN" not mean in a sense it is LITERAL? Are we not to BELIEVE God's Word according to "AS IT IS IN TRUTH", which means as God gave it to us. Now when the word 'literal' is used, the scoffers will say that means no metaphors, no symbolic language. Many words do represent a hidden meaning, the message of Divine *agape* that has to be interpreted according to God's standard through His Word, but the scoffers who in their ignorance have no discernment or desire to seek out God's truth. From such turn away, (2 Timothy 3:5).

Now here is the catch, **GOD IS NOT GOING TO LEAVE IT UP TO MAN TO INTERPRET HIS WORD!** THE BIBLE IS EMPHATIC THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BY GODLY MEN WHO WERE SUPERNATURALLY GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

LIKEWISE, THOSE WHO SEEK THE TRUTH OF THE WORD ARE TO BE SUPERNATURALLY GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD OF THE TRUE INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE. This is so critical to realize, that we are going to view a few scriptures that proves this very important point.

**"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:
AND HE WILL SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME."**
(John 16:13)

**"AND WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE
THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND OF JUDGMENT:"**
(John 16:8)

Take a good hard look at these verses. The "SPIRIT OF TRUTH" is the Holy Spirit, (John 14:26, 15:26). The word "GUIDE" is *hodegeo* (hod-ayg-eh'-o), means: **to show THE WAY, to teach, to guide, to lead**. The root word is *hodos*, which is: **a conductor, a teacher, a guide, a leader**. This is a compound word from *hodos*, **THE 'WAY'**; and *hegeomai* which means: **to lead, to command with official authority, TO JUDGE, have the rule over**. The mission of the Holy Spirit is to teach and 'LEAD' the believer through the WILDERNESS, (See Exodus 23:20-22), UNTO JUDGMENT. Since the Holy Spirit HAS to GUIDE a person to the truth, then guess what? That means the truth cannot be known otherwise. That is in complete harmony where God said IF we will convert to His reproof it is HE that will make known His WORDS to us.

Notice that Jesus also includes instruction in PROPHECY. A teaching that many churches today reject; or they study the same books on Bible prophecy that has flooded the market because they cannot understand it from the Bible. Now if the Spirit of Truth is not allowed to teach on His own, and speaks ONLY what He hears, then how much more would God leave it up to a person to interpret the truth of His Word? Many Christians today if they even acknowledge the Holy Spirit generally limit Him to spiritual 'gifts' or certain 'feelings'. They are being told that having evidence of the Holy Spirit, is confirmation they are saved. Believe it or not, having the baptism and power of the Holy Spirit has NOTHING to do with the act of salvation. The 'MANY' of Matthew 7 had the power of the Holy Spirit as well as Judas Iscariot, yet Jesus sends them all away FOREVER. The 'MANY' obviously did not allow the Spirit of Truth to do His work. They rejected His conviction of SIN in their lives; they would not CONVERT to the REPROOF of RIGHTEOUSNESS; they refused to be brought down HERE A LITTLE and THERE A LITTLE unto JUDGMENT.

THEY BELIEVED THEIR CONVERSION TO FAITH IN JESUS WAS ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED OF THEM. THEY TAUGHT AS THEY WERE TAUGHT, BY THE DOCTRINES OF MEN.

THEY BELIEVED IN THEIR OWN INTERPRETATIONS, REJECTING THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST AND REJECTING THE CONVICTIONS FROM THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH. THEY ACTUALLY OPPOSED THEMSELVES AND CHRIST. THEY HAD THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST.

"BEWARE

lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, AFTER THE TRADITION OF MEN, AFTER THE RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT AFTER CHRIST."

(Colossians 2:8)

"BUT THE ANOINTING WHICH YE HAVE RECEIVED OF HIM ABIDETH IN YOU,

AND YE NEED NOT THAT ANY MAN TEACH YOU:

BUT AS THE SAME ANOINTING TEACHETH YOU OF ALL THINGS,

AND IS TRUTH, AND IS NO LIE,

AND EVEN AS IT HATH TAUGHT YOU,

YE SHALL ABIDE IN HIM." (1 John 2:27)

The word "ANOINTING" is *chrisma* (khris'-mah), which means: **an unguent or smearing [with oil], the special endowment of the Holy Spirit.** Carefully consider what this verse says:

THERE IS NO NEED THAT ANY PERSON SHOULD TEACH YOU THE WORD OF GOD. THAT ESPECIALLY MEANS CHRISTIAN PREACHERS, TEACHERS, AND EVANGELISTS. THEY ARE TO BEAR 'WITNESS' TO THE TRUTH, IF THEY ARE IN FACT TRUE SONS OF GOD. THEY ARE TO WARN YOU TO OBEY CHRIST AND WHAT HE SAID TO DO TO FIND LIFE, (Mat 28:20). YOU ARE TO BE TAUGHT THE WORD BY THE SAME 'ANOINTING' AS ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE TAUGHT. YOU ARE TO HAVE A ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTION WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT ANOTHER CHRISTIAN OR DENOMINATION TEACHES IS NOT IN ERROR EXCEPT YOU FIRST STUDY IT OUT FOR YOURSELF? KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES IS THE BEGINNING OF TRUE DISCERNMENT. NEVER ASSUME SOMEONE IS "SENT BY GOD". GOD MAY BE TESTING WHO YOU TRULY BELIEVE. REMEMBER JESUS SAID ALL CHRISTIANS WILL CHOOSE ONE OF TWO PATHWAYS. THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS TAKE THE BROAD WAY, AND ONLY FEW GO THE NARROW WAY. WITHOUT GOD GIVING YOU AN UNDERSTANDING HEART THROUGH MUCH STUDY, YOU WILL ONLY 'THINK' YOU KNOW WHO IS TRUE AND WHO IS FALSE ACCORDING TO THE IDOLS YOU SET UP IN YOUR OWN HEART.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,

BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH IS OF GOD;

[THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH]

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW

the things that are freely given to us of God."

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

**"WHICH THINGS ALSO WE SPEAK,
NOT IN THE WORDS WHICH MAN'S WISDOM TEACHETH,
BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH;
COMPARING
SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL."**

**"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:
for they are foolishness unto him:
NEITHER CAN HE KNOW THEM,
because they are spiritually discerned."
(1 Corinthians 2:12-14)**

How do you solve any puzzle? You select pieces that appear to relate to the area in question, then COMPARE them to the other pieces to find a fit. Except with this puzzle, you are to have the guidance of God's Spirit. This verse expresses WHY it necessary to allow God's Spirit to teach you. THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW. And this word "KNOW" is *eido* which means to UNDERSTAND. Note what we are to speak, what the Holy Spirit teaches us, and He speaks only what He is told.

See how the pieces go together? The key word here is "COMPARING" which is *sugkrino* (soong-kree'-no), which means: **to judge of one thing in connection with another, i.e. combine (spiritual ideas with appropriate expressions) or collate (one person with another by way of contrast or resemblance), to compare with.** It comes from the combination of G4862: **close association**, and G2919, **to discern or judge**. The word 'collate' means: **1. to gather or arrange in their proper sequence. 3. to compare (texts, statements, etc.) in order to note points of agreement or disagreement.** This confirms what we have already been told to do with scripture. As said earlier, we take everything the Bible says about any subject and through comparative analysis and with the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we slowly put all the pieces of the puzzle together. During that slow process, **God tears apart our spirit and soul**, bringing us down to total humility. It is a supernatural process. Notice Paul contrasts the Spirit of Truth with the spirit of error which is the "SPIRIT OF THE WORLD", (1 Jn 4:6). The spirit of the world is man's wisdom which cannot know the HIDDEN WISDOM of God.

**"STUDY
TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
RIGHTLY DIVIDING
THE WORD OF TRUTH."
(2 Timothy 2:15)**

This is another key verse of scripture that requires digging into the word meanings. The key words here are 'study' and 'rightly dividing'. Notice THIS IS TOTALLY CONDITIONAL! In order to show ourselves approved unto God, we are to STUDY the Word of God. How are we to study the Word? By RIGHTLY DIVIDING IT! This takes MUCH WORK, TIME AND EFFORT.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

It is NOT a WORK of the LAW, or a perversion of GRACE. It is OBEDIENCE to Christ and OBEDIENCE to the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. Consider and compare the meanings of the key words:

"STUDY", G4704. *spoudazo*, spoo-dad'-zo; from G4710; **to use speed, to make effort, be prompt or earnest: do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.**

|
G4710. *spoude*, spoo-day'; from G4692; "speed", (by impl.) **despatch, eagerness, earnestness: business, earnest care, carefulness, diligence forwardness, haste.**

|
G4692. *speudo*, spyoo'-do; from G4228 [foot, race]; **to "speed" ("study"), urge on (diligently or earnestly); by impl. to await eagerly: (make, with) haste unto.**

"RIGHTLY DIVIDING", G3718. *orthotomeo*, or-thot-om-eh'-o; **to make a straight cut, (fig.) to dissect (expound) correctly the divine message: rightly divide.**

DIVIDE, [*Random House*], 1. **to separate into parts, groups, sections, etc.** 6. **to distinguish the kinds of; classify.**

DISSECT, [*Random House*], [Latin *dissectus* to cut up]

1. **to cut apart to examine the structure, relation of parts, or the like.**

2. **to examine minutely part by part; analyze**

EXPOUND, [*Webster-1828*], 1. **To explain; to lay open the meaning; to clear of obscurity; to interpret; as, to expound a text of scripture; to expound a law.** 2. **To lay open; to examine; as expounding: MAKING CLEAR THE UNDERSTANDING.**

Doesn't this sound like Isaiah? Does this not establish what "TO INTERPRET" means, as CORRECTLY LAY OPEN ITS MEANING? Doesn't "examine minutely part by part" sound like "precept upon precept", "line by line"? Isn't DOCTRINE what we need to be MADE CLEAR TO THE UNDERSTANDING of our HEART? **How can a person claim salvation when in truth, THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT?** If you believe you are saved, WHO TOLD YOU THAT, a preacher? Upon what do you base that belief on? The Scriptures? "Search the scriptures, for in them you THINK you have eternal life...", (Jn 5:39-40).

"NOT PURLOINING,
but showing all good fidelity; THAT THEY MAY
ADORN THE DOCTRINE
OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR
IN ALL THINGS."
(Titus 2:10)

This is one of those verses that is easily overlooked. The word "PURLOINING" is very interesting. It is *nosphizomai* (nos-fid'-zom-ahee), which means: **to sequester for oneself, to embezzle, to keep back, purloin.** It comes from *nosphi* which means: **apart from or clandestinely.** It has the same connotation as 'ravens' in Matthew 7:15 and 'privily' in 2 Peter 2:1.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

To 'purloin' and 'sequester' basically mean to ILLEGALLY CONCEAL A PERSON'S RIGHT OF PROPERTY, which in this case it their right to the Kingdom of God. We will briefly study that concept in the next section. The "showing all good fidelity" qualifies what not purloining means. The word "FIDELITY" is *pistis* (pis'-tis), which is one of the main Greek words used for "FAITH". But in this context it means: **the truthfulness of a religious teacher, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation, constancy in such profession, the system of religious Gospel truth itself**. Paul is testifying to his intent. He is not concealing the truth of the WAY of salvation, but revealing it. Why? So that they will 'ADORN' the DOCTRINE of God in ALL THINGS.

The word "ADORN" is *kosmeo* (kos-meh'-o), which means: **TO PUT IN PROPER ORDER; to decorate, garnish or trim a wick of a lamp**. (Remember the 10 virgins of Matthew 25:7 when [spiritually] awakened, they were to 'trim' the wicks of their lamps, where 'lamp' represents the word of God, (Psalm 119:105). The root words in this context mean: **orderly arrangement**. We find yet another clue that is in complete harmony with previous verses. We take all related verses and lay them out in an orderly arrangement which is the same as being taught PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT, COMPARING THE SPIRITUAL, EATING THE BREAD OF CHRIST, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD. The false teachers hold-back that aspect because they do not know it themselves.

"I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY OF TRUTH:
THY JUDGMENTS HAVE I LAID BEFORE ME."
(Psalm 119:30)

Just as Jesus said there are two WAYS and Psalms 119 compares the "way of lying", vs. the "way of truth". The "broad way" is obviously the way of lying because it leads to destruction and unfortunately MOST CHRISTIANS take that way. The "narrow way" is the "WAY of truth", the only way that leads to LIFE for the FEW. The word "LAID" is *shawah* (shaw-vaw'), which means: **to level or equalize, figuratively to resemble, bring forth and COMPARE, countervail, be equal, lay out, be alike, make plain, to profit from, to reckon**. Does this sound familiar? Therefore the WAY of TRUTH is the diligent study of doctrine.

"REMOVE FROM ME
THE WAY OF LYING:
AND GRANT ME THY LAW GRACIOUSLY."
(Psalm 119:29)

When we speak of something and feel strongly that we are right, we take offense of those who attempt to correct us. Many times it is painful to admit we are wrong. That is why the chastisement of God is a long slow difficult process. He has to make ourselves admit that which we were led to believe was in error. He has to operate on our hearts and REMOVE the lies, DESTROY the idols in our hearts. The 'judgments' are PRECEPTS, and to lay out and comparing the precepts IS the WAY of TRUTH. Obviously the 'MANY' of Matthew 7 chose the 'broad' WAY OF LYING, and failed to correctly divide scripture because if they had, they would have found the truth. Do we not get the gist of what the Bible is trying to tell us?

**WE ARE EXPECTED TO STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINES TILL WE PUT THEM
IN THEIR PROPER ORDER WHICH CAUSES US TO UNDERSTAND THEIR
PROPER MEANINGS.**

Do you see? The NARROW WAY has many facets to it. It is God's way to accomplish a number of required things in one mode of operation for our benefit and His glory. One of those aspects is that we allow Him to teach us His doctrine so that we can know His Word, and WHEN we find the truth, THEN we are able to teach others without lying, (Mat 7:5; Ps 51: 10-13).

**"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."**

**"BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD;
AND IN HIS LAW DOETH HE
MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT."
(Psalm 1:1-2)**

The first part of this passage points at the religious. Notice how this man learns, how much he devotes his time and effort to it. The word "MEDITATE" is *hagah* (haw-gaw'), which means: **to murmur by implying to ponder, to imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, speak, study, talk.** This takes us back to Psalm 49:3, "**the meditation of mine heart shall be of UNDERSTANDING**". You read it, study it, and meditate upon it till the Holy Spirit gives you understanding.

We have perfect harmony of the scriptures here. The Spirit of the Lord has revealed to you a few pieces of the puzzle. This is barely the tip of the iceberg. Either you accept it or reject it, the freewill choice is yours. Either you delight in the law of the Lord, or you sit in the seat of the scornful. There is no middle ground. Unfortunately, Jesus foretold that the majority of Christians are not ABLE to obey his command.

**"Then said one unto him,
LORD, ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?
And he said unto them,"**

**"STRIVE
TO ENTER IN AT THE STRAIT GATE:
FOR MANY, I SAY UNTO YOU, WILL SEEK TO ENTER IN,
AND SHALL NOT BE ABLE."
(Luke 13:23-24)**

Are we to take this literally? If so, then consider the seriousness of this reply of Jesus when asked if only FEW are to be SAVED. Do a word study on "MANY" and you will find it means: **most, the greatest number, the overall majority.** This is not a reference to the general population of the world; these people SEEK to ENTER IN the sheepfold, who seek to be saved from their sins; to enter into the Kingdom of God, into the New Covenant.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Jesus says THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO ENTER IN. Why? We have already learned why, and Jesus gave us the clues. His answer to only FEW being saved was in relation to entering in the STRAIT GATE. The key word here is "STRIVE", which is *agonizomai* (ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee), which means: **to struggle, literally to compete for a prize, figuratively to contend with an adversary, or generally to endeavor to accomplish something, fight, labor fervently, strive.**

"In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,"

**"AND FOR A SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT TO HIM THAT SITTETH IN JUDGMENT,
AND FOR STRENGTH TO THEM THAT
TURN THE BATTLE TO THE GATE."
(Isaiah 28:5-6)**

The word 'STRENGTH' is *gebuwrah* (gheb-oo-raw'); and is defined: **a force by implying valor, a victory, power.** Remember that Jesus said the majority of Christians who seek to enter the Kingdom, are not able. From Isaiah we see it takes the strength of God to fight the good fight of faith.

In other words it takes a major effort just to enter the strait gate, which is why the majority will not do it. They cannot accept that God would make it that difficult. They refuse to SIT in JUDGMENT, and instead they take the easy way and claim anything other than 'belief' are WORKS and LEGALISM.

They say: "That STRAIT doctrine has to be searched out, pieced together. There are too many obstacles in the way of understanding it. It is a WORK of the flesh! And the serpent says, "Yea, hath God said you are saved by faith? To be approved unto God by much study, is that not a 'work', and not grace?". But just how serious are we about being truly saved? How much do we believe there is a literal Hell and a Lake of Fire to spend eternity in for disbelieving Christ and not OBEYING His clear commands? Notice the word 'TURN' means conversion and what we are to convert to: A MAJOR BATTLE TO ENTER GOD'S GATEWAY.

3. WHOLE DOCTRINE REJECTED.

Jesus, Paul, Peter and Jude all warned that the MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS REJECT TRUE DOCTRINE, and thereby are deceived into a FALSE WAY of salvation which leads to their ruin. What the New Testament teaches about false Christian prophets and false Christianity is far too extensive to include here. However, we want to touch on a small part of that doctrine so to view this study from a different perspective, showing the effectiveness of the Gospel mystery. According to both Peter and Jude, one of the characteristics of false Christian teachers is they 'deny' (contradict) the Lord. In other words, whatever Jesus commands, they covertly teach the opposite. Their doctrines sound so right, that most people never suspect they are being deceived.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

On the contrary, they will proudly defend their belief. By accepting the wide gate-broad way theology as 'truth', the puzzle to find the mystery of God can never be solved because to them, there is no hidden truth to search out.

The beginning of the last section began with God's call that "IF" we TURN TO HIS REPROOF, He will MAKE KNOWN His words to us. The 'MANY' obviously did not make this additional conversion. God also gives His reply for rejection of His reproof:

***"Because I have called, and ye refused;
I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;"***

***"BUT YE HAVE SET AT NOUGHT ALL MY COUNSEL,
AND WOULD NONE OF MY REPROOF:"***

***"I ALSO WILL LAUGH AT YOUR CALAMITY;
I WILL MOCK WHEN YOUR FEAR COMETH;"* (Proverbs 1:24-26)**

Consider the severity of this comment by the Lord. By ignoring or misinterpreting the counsel of the Lord, you establish it as NOTHING. Or if you REFUSE to BELIEVE God's Son when He commanded you to enter into the narrow way of reproof, then when you find yourself about to experience death, crying out to God will avail nothing. He will laugh and mock such a person. Where is His grace then? Where is grace when Jesus rejects the 'MANY' in Matthew 7? For they will realize their FAITH and TRUST in Christ was in vain.

***"PREACH THE WORD;
BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON;
REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH
ALL LONGSUFFERING AND
DOCTRINE."***
(2 Timothy 4:2)

This is Paul's charge to Timothy, a fellow brother in Christ. Notice HOW Timothy is to preach, with DOCTRINE. Timothy could not do this except He first learn the whole true doctrine himself. God had obviously already taught both Paul and Timothy. They did the will of God and they KNEW doctrine. They had found the truth and became REGENERATED CHRISTIANS. Then, the Apostle Paul gives this warning about Bible doctrine:

***"For the time will come when THEY
WILL NOT ENDURE
SOUND DOCTRINE;
BUT AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS***

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

***shall they heap to themselves teachers,
having itching ears;"***
(2 Timothy 4:3)

The word "SOUND" is *hugiaino* (hoog-ee-ah'ee-no), which in this context means: **to be uncorrupt –true in doctrine, be safe and sound, whole doctrine.** The word "ENDURE" is *anechomai* (an-ekh'-om-ahee), which means: **to hold oneself up against, put up with, endure, forbear, suffer.** SOUND doctrine is true WHOLE doctrine, it is all the Bible has to say about any subject. We have previously seen how we are to study doctrine, but Paul forewarns these Christians will refuse to do it. They willingly refuse the reproof of God and thereby consider all His counsel as NOTHING. They simply WILL NOT TOLERATE THE TRUE SALVATION DOCTRINE OF THE STRAIT GATE. THEY CANNOT ENDURE TO HOLD THEMSELVES UP AGAINST IT. THEY WILL NOT COME TO THE LIGHT THAT THEY MIGHT BE JUDGED. They lust after their own false teachings.

Since they will not allow the Spirit of Truth to convict them in the LIGHT of God's judgment, then they reject the leadership of the Holy Spirit and opt to create THEIR OWN TEACHERS who are fashioned after THEIR OWN LUSTS of the idols in their hearts. These teachers reach out and "TICKLE" their ears. Isaiah also prophesied of these:

**"THAT THIS IS A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE, LYING CHILDREN, CHILDREN
THAT WILL NOT HEAR THE LAW OF THE LORD:"**

**"WHICH SAY TO THE SEERS, SEE NOT;
AND TO THE PROPHETS,
PROPHECY NOT UNTO US RIGHT THINGS,
SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS,
PROPHECY DECEITS:"**
(Isaiah 30:9-10)

This is the same message in Timothy. Remember that faith comes by 'hearing' (understanding) the Word of God. These people REFUSE to UNDERSTAND the LAW of the Lord. There is only one underlying LAW –the *agape* LOVE of God, (Gal 5:14). They refuse to hear of it because it convicts them of their own conditional loves, their self-centered desires, therefore they are lying children. They have not converted to the reproof of the narrow way so God can reveal His words to them. They refuse to continue in the *logos*-Word to find the truth.

Notice, like Timothy, THEY tell their leaders what to speak and teach, totally ignoring what the Holy Spirit teaches. THEY will only hear "SMOOTH" THINGS. The word "DECEITS" is *mahathallah* (mah-hath-al-law'), which basically means: **a delusion.** They create their own delusion by procreating their own teachers. They refuse all the 'hard' sayings of scripture, rejecting the meat of doctrine. They only want to feed on MILK. They are void of the chastisement that God gives to EVERY son that He receives, (Heb 12:8). They are CURSED lying children.

**"AND THEY SHALL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS
FROM THE TRUTH, [COMMANDS OF CHRIST]
AND SHALL BE TURNED UNTO FABLES."
(2 Timothy 4:4)**

Paul continues to describe this adulteration of Christianity. First, they refuse to allow the Holy Spirit to teach them doctrine and instead bring in their own teachers who preach only COMPASSION and COMFORT; an easy sounding gospel with NO NEGATIVES; a 'flesh' gospel. Next they "TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH". Jesus said He was the 'truth'. **Notice that they themselves do not turn away from Christ Jesus, they only turn THEIR EARS away from what Jesus said**, from what He commanded us to do that we might be saved. They do not like what Jesus had to say, they refuse to believe He meant what He said, that it was literal. They utterly reject they have to sell off their wealth, turn away from the world and pick up their own cross to die. That is foolishness to them. They say Jesus picked up the cross and died in their place, they don't have to die. Unfortunately for them, Jesus never made any such comment. That is a twisting of Scripture by the false teachers. He died FOR us, but NOT INSTEAD of us. On the contrary, He commanded we take up OUR OWN CROSS and to die for His sake, (Mat 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-37, 10:21; Luke 9:23-25).

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit, (Ps 51:17). The phrase "TURN AWAY" is the double use of *apostrepho* - *apostrepho* (ap-os-tref-o), which means: **to turn away or back, to bring again, to pervert, to turn away from**. The word *apostrepho* is the combination of *apo*, which means: **a reversal**; and *strepho* which means: **conversion**. In other words, their conversion TO Christ is REVERSED by turning away TO ANOTHER CHRIST. They do a 180° turn from the Spirit of Truth, to the spirit of error through perversion of Scripture. They turn to a Christ IDOL that requires no sacrifice; that forgives every sin in the name of 'grace'; a Christ that says obedience to His commands is a WORK, a LEGALISM. "Just believe Jesus is the Son of God; live right and attend church on Sunday, and your name is written in the book of life", they say.

The word "EARS" is *akoe* (ak-o-ay'), which essentially means: **to understand the sense of what is heard, be aware or perceive meaning**. This is exactly the point of this study, of piecing together the puzzle. In other words, they refuse to seek to understand the meanings of what Jesus taught. They leave-off from the truth of Christ and 'convert' to a much broader WAY, a liberal way. The word "TURNED" is again *apostrepho*. They REVERT and PERVERT themselves unto FABLES. The word "FABLES" is *muthos* (moo-'thos), which means: **a tale, fiction or "myth"**. The root words mean: **to instruct or initiate into religious rites [rituals]**. (Similar to the meaning of 'mystery'). A 'tale' is an imaginative narrative that relates the details of some real or imaginary event. 'Fiction' is a short tale to teach a moral lesson, or it means to speak falsely, lie. And 'myth' is any invented story, idea, or concept; an unproved or **false collective belief that is used to justify a social institution**. Do you get the sense of what these words mean?

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

INSTEAD OF SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND THE DOCTRINES OF JESUS CHRIST, THEY HAVE THEIR PREACHERS TEACH MORAL LESSONS THAT SUPPORT A FALSE COLLECTIVE BELIEF THAT THEY USE TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES AND THEIR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH THEY CALL 'CHURCHES'. THEY REFUSE TO HOLD THEMSELVES UP AGAINST SOUND DOCTRINE AND INSTEAD CHOOSE A SOCIALIZED "CHURCHIANITY". PAUL EXACTLY DESCRIBES THE MAJORITY OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TODAY.

Therefore at the END, Jesus has no choice but to REJECT THEM, and send them ALL away. They never entered the strait gate; they never submitted to the reproof of God, they never continued in doctrine till they found Christ. They never repented. Hence, Jesus has to say to them:

"I - NEVER - KNEW - YOU".

[BECAUSE I TOLD YOU TO]

"Enter ye in at the strait gate"

[AND TO]

**"BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS,
WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING,
BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES."**
(Matthew 7:13-15)

Jesus follows the command of a strait gate and narrow way with a warning. He first warns of a false way, then tells us how to enter into life. He follows that command with an explicit warning of false Christian prophets. This is an important piece of the salvation doctrine puzzle. Why would Jesus place this particular warning here after commanding us to enter the strait gate? We will find that He foreknew what would happen to His church upon Earth. The evidence is in Matthew 7.

The word "BEWARE" is *prosecho* (pros-ekh'-o), which means: **to hold the mind towards, i.e. pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to, give attendance to, beware, be given to, take heed to, have regard.** It relates to G3563 *nous* (nooce), which is: **understanding.** This is not some casual command that Jesus is making, but is to be an integral part of Christian awareness because to "hold the mind towards" means constant vigilance. Who are we to constantly watch out for? FALSE CHRISTIAN PREACHERS, TEACHERS, and EVANGELISTS. The sheep are Christians and if there is doubt to that, then do a word study in the New Testament on 'sheep'. The word "CLOTHING" is *enduma* (en'-doo-mah), which means: **apparel (especially the outer robe), clothing, garment, raiment.** The root words mean: **to sink down into.** These are Christian LEADERS of the faith who clothe themselves with humility because an authentic Christian is brought down into total humility before God. Therefore, they attempt to have all the outward appearance as TRUE SHEEP. They look like sheep, act like sheep, and 'baa' like sheep. SURPRISE! THEY ARE NOT SHEEP!

Beginning the Search for Understanding

The hidden INNER MAN of their spirit is as a GREEDY HUNGRY WOLF, and found in EVERY Christian denomination of today.

The word "RAVENOUS", is *harpax* (har'-pax), which means: **rapacious, extortion, ravening**. The root word is *harpazo*, which means: **to seize, catch away, pluck or pull up, take by force**. What are they taking? SOULS. The word 'rapacious' in this context means: **seizing for the satisfaction of greed**. The word 'extortion' is: **to compel someone to give up something of value through intimidation, or abuse of authority; to take something illegally by reason of one's office**. In this case the office of a preacher, teacher, or evangelist.

The word "WOLVES" is interesting. The Greek word is *lukos* (loo'-kos), which is: **wolf**; but it is akin to the word *leukos* (lyoo-kos'), which is from the word *luke*, which means: **white, light**. These GREEDY WOLVES appear as the true LIGHT of Jesus Christ who steal souls for Satan and for gain. But Paul said that is no marvel because Satan also appears as an angel of LIGHT. Paul also warned:

***"Wherefore I take you to record this day,
that I am pure from the blood of all men."***

"FOR I HAVE NOT SHUNNED TO DECLARE UNTO YOU

ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD."

(Acts 20:26-27)

"FOR WE ARE NOT AS MANY,

WHICH CORRUPT THE WORD OF GOD:

but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

(2 Corinthians 2:17)

Notice how Paul is justified from the blood of all men. Just as "not purloining", he has not concealed any part of the counsel of God. The word "SHUNNED" is *hupostello* (hoop-os-tel'-lo), which means: **to withhold out of sight, to cower, to conceal, keep back, shun, to withdraw**. It is a compound word from *hupo*, which means: **covertly**; and *stello*, which means: **to avoid**. The word "ALL" is *pas*, which means: **the whole**, just as the word 'sound' means. And of course "COUNSEL" means: **instruction in doctrine**. Paul had declared to them every essential part of the doctrine of God. Therefore:

***SOUND DOCTRINE = WHOLE TRUE DOCTRINE
(ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD)***

In contrast, Paul then further warns of what is coming:

***"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,
over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church
of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."***

"FOR I KNOW THIS, THAT AFTER MY DEPARTING

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

SHALL GRIEVOUS WOLVES
ENTER IN AMONG YOU,
NOT SPARING THE FLOCK."

"ALSO
OF YOUR OWN SELVES SHALL MEN ARISE,
SPEAKING PERVERSE THINGS,
TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM."

"THEREFORE WATCH, AND REMEMBER,
that by the space of three years
I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."
(Acts 20:28-31)

This is the same warning that Jesus and Peter gives and has the same exact meaning. The word "FLOCK" in this context relates to Christian sheep. The word is *poimnion* (poym'-nee-on), which figuratively is defined: **a group of believers**, which is a CHURCH. Paul verifies this by relating the 'flock' as the "church of God" which Jesus purchased with his blood. Can that be made any clearer? These are CHRISTIANS and their CHURCHES that Jesus and Paul are speaking about. The phrase "TAKE HEED" is the same Greek word Jesus used for 'beware'. Notice what they are told to do to counteract this deception:

"TO FEED THE CHURCH OF GOD". How are they to do that? Through reproof, rebuke, and exhortation with whole TRUE DOCTRINE. Paul KNEW that after he left this world these wolves would penetrate into mainstream Christianity and spoil the church. This is imperative, it is not a maybe or possible situation. These wolves are GREEDY and OVERBEARING and they have successfully entered into all Christian congregations from Catholics to Protestants, to Evangelicals. WITHIN THE CHURCH ITSELF men (and now women) raise themselves up to prominent and strategic positions and propagate false doctrines.

The word "SPEAK" here is *laleo* (lal-eh'-o), which means: **preach, talk; or effectively teach**. The word "PERVERSE" is interesting. It is *diastrepho* (dee-as-tref'-o), which means: **to distort by misinterpretation, morally corrupt, to pervert, or turn away [from the truth]**. Notice that their false Christian gospel DRAWS IN Christians. The phrase "DRAW AWAY" is the double use of *apospao*, and is similar in meaning to 'extortion'. Paul knew this would all but destroy the true church of Jesus Christ, and undermine all the efforts of the Apostles. **This of itself proves that modern day Christianity refuses to study Bible doctrine, because otherwise the wolves would be EASY to spot.**

This was not only a problem then, but has been an on-going process that is to continue till the last day to a point when the Christian churches will not tolerate sound doctrine at all AS THEY NOW DO. Since they do not tolerate it, then obviously they neither know it nor teach it, for you cannot teach that which you do not know or understand. Peter gives the same warning and also confirms how they pervert Christ's salvation doctrine:

***"But there were false prophets also among the people,
EVEN AS THERE SHALL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU,
WHO PRIVILY SHALL BRING IN DAMNABLE HERESIES,
EVEN DENYING THE LORD THAT BOUGHT THEM,
AND BRING UPON THEMSELVES SWIFT DESTRUCTION."
(2 Peter 2:1)***

These may be the same wolves that appear as true sheep. The word study on "false teachers" here confirms these are Christian doctors of theology, preachers, and teachers of all sorts. They propagate among themselves erroneous Christian doctrines, particularly the SALVATION DOCTRINE. Notice again that they enter in among main stream Christianity. These are not obvious Christian-type 'cults'. These are not even detected by the overall body of Christ.

The word "PRIVILY" is *pareisago* (par-ice-ag'-o), which means: **to lead in aside, i.e. introduce surreptitiously, to privily or secretly bring in.** The Random House unabridged dictionary defines 'surreptitious' as: **to obtain or accomplish by stealth, secret or unauthorized, clandestine, obtained by subreption.** The key word here is 'subreption', which is, *Canon Law: a concealment of the pertinent facts in a petition, as for dispensation or favor, that in certain cases nullifies the grant;* or in *Scots Law: the act of obtaining something, as an escheat, by concealing pertinent facts; a fallacious representation or an inference from it.* Is this not the result of extortion just as Jesus warned?

These false Christian leaders pervert the Gospel by omitting the pertinent facts of Scripture which nullifies the granting of the Grace of God for salvation. They misinterpret what Jesus said, claim He has already did everything and refuse the command to pick up their own cross. The word "DENYING" is *arneomai* (ar-neh'-om-ahee), meaning basically the same as 'subreption'. It is a combination of Strong's no. G1, meaning: **not**; and G4483, **to say**; which means: **to contradict, disavow, reject, deny, or refuse.** Again, by doing a word study on "dis-avow", we find the same concept: **(NOT) to declare frankly or openly; (DIS-) own; (UN-) acknowledge; (NOT) confess; (NOT) admit.** It is what these people DO NOT SAY that gets Christians into trouble. We had better heed what Peter is saying.

***"AND MANY SHALL FOLLOW THEIR PERNICIOUS WAYS;
BY REASON OF WHOM
THE WAY OF TRUTH
[CHRIST'S STRAIT GATE AND NARROW WAY]
SHALL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF."***

***"AND THROUGH COVETOUSNESS
SHALL THEY WITH FEIGNED WORDS
MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU:
WHOSE JUDGMENT NOW OF A LONG TIME LINGERETH NOT,***

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

***AND THEIR DAMNATION SLUMBERETH NOT."
(2 Peter 2:2-3)***

By now, it should be absolutely clear to you, (unless you are in denial), that the VAST MAJORITY of Christians follow the false Christian preachers and teachers all their Christian lives, and end up in eternal destruction. Again, they themselves do not turn away from Christ, these people PROMOTE Jesus Christ. They only turn from Christ's WAY, the WAY of truth. Like in Timothy, they turn their EARS from him, they refuse to HEAR what Christ actually commanded them to do. There is only one other WAY that Jesus gave than the narrow way, the WIDE GATE and BROAD WAY, the WAY of lying. The word "FEIGNED" is *plastos* (plas-tos'), which means: **moulded, artificial, fictitious, false**. The root word is *plasso* (plas'-so), meaning: **to mould, shape or fabricate or form**. It is the same root word was used for 'WIDE' in WIDE GATE. By greed, their false words draw in the SOULS and WEALTH of millions and millions of Christians.

PETER IS WARNING THAT THE ESSENTIAL FACTS OF TRUE SALVATION HAVE BEEN CONCEALED, AND THE MOST COMMON WAY OF SALVATION TODAY IS UTTERLY FALSE. JUDE EXPRESSED THE SAME WARNINGS.

The point here is this: by concealing essential facts of salvation such as the command to enter the strait gate, to walk the narrow way unto life; to pick up our cross and lose our life that we may find it; to REPENT a Biblical repentance, and wait for the manifestation of Christ, if you avoid or misinterpret these essential commands then you **cannot** be saved and Satan wins victory over your soul.

They ignorantly ALTER and PERVERT THE PUZZLE. How is that possible? Because they simply refuse to take Christ's commands literal and search out the doctrines. The scriptures declare it is their own conceit that blinds them. Jude parallels 2nd Peter, and he quotes Enoch concerning these false teachers, (Jude 1:14-15). The entire book of Jude and Galatians, not to mention many other passages and parables of Scripture are completely devoted to false Christianity. The Book of Enoch also reveals a MYSTERY concerning the false Christian leaders:

***"AND NOW I KNOW THIS MYSTERY,
THAT SINNERS WILL ALTER AND PERVERT
THE WORDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
IN MANY WAYS,
AND WILL SPEAK WICKED WORDS, AND LIE,
AND PRACTICE GREAT DECEITS,
AND WRITE BOOKS
CONCERNING THEIR WORDS."***
(I Enoch 104:10)

The "words of righteousness" is God's Word, and with every new Bible version that comes out these days, it appears to become more and more perverted in their interpretations.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Then, there is no end to the books being produced by Christian writers on their view of every subject under the sun. "Vanity, vanity, it is all vanity, saith the preacher". Unfortunately, they draw away MILLIONS of followers and their money. They are making 'merchandise' of them. The majority of Christians purchase and use their 'study Bibles', reference their commentaries, and feed on all sorts of their information. THEY WILL SPEND HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN SEARCH TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. YET, THEY REFUSE TO DO THE **ONE** THING CHRIST SAID: TO ENTER THE STRAIT GATE DOCTRINE THAT LEADS THEM TO THE TRUTH.

*"Now therefore **hearken**, O Israel,
UNTO THE STATUTES AND UNTO THE JUDGMENTS, WHICH I TEACH YOU,
FOR TO DO THEM, THAT YE MAY LIVE, AND GO IN AND POSSESS THE
LAND WHICH THE LORD GOD OF YOUR FATHERS GIVETH YOU."*

**"YE SHALL NOT ADD UNTO THE WORD
WHICH I COMMAND YOU,
NEITHER SHALL YE DIMINISH OUGHT FROM IT,
THAT YE MAY KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS
OF THE LORD YOUR GOD WHICH I COMMAND YOU."**
(Deut 4:1-2)

This is why the Lord warns about altering His Word, (Prov 30:5-6; 2 Cor 2:17; Rev 22:18-19), the same reason as the false Christian prophets hide all the essentials of the WAY of truth, so that we may KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS and LIVE. Jesus brought a NEW commandment that we are to keep, a new law: the law of *agape* love, (Jn 13:34-35). The word "DIMINISH" confirms what we have already seen. The Hebrew word is *gara'* (gaw-rah'), which means; **to scrape or shave off, remove, lessen or withhold, abate, clip, do away with or take away, keep back, make small.** It sounds like Isaiah 28, but instead of LEARNING doctrine here a little there a little, these CONCEAL the doctrine a little here and a little there. This is what our Lord had to say about the false leaders:

*"But he answered and said,
EVERY PLANT,
WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER HATH NOT PLANTED,
SHALL BE ROOTED UP."*

"LET THEM ALONE: THEY BE BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND.
AND IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND,
BOTH SHALL FALL INTO THE DITCH."
(Matthew 15:13-14)

This is a serious statement and warning from our Lord. The word 'plant' is a metaphor for a child of God, true or untrue. Plants of course comes from a 'seed', which is the Word of God, (Luke 8:11).

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Since there are plants that have not been planted by God, then who planted them? This implies they are AMONG the true plants. If we compare this to the *parable of the tares* (Mat 13:24-30), we will find it is Satan that plants these among the true wheat. The other word "PLANTED" is another one of those simple words that is easily overlooked, but is the KEY in understanding the application of this verse.

The Greek is *phuteuo* (foot-yoo'-o), which does mean: **to set out in the earth, to implant**. To 'implant' means to "graft in", which is how the CHURCH is made part of Israel. But figuratively this word for 'planted' means: **to instil doctrine**. The word 'instil' is interesting because it implies salvation is not an instant decision upon conversion to the Christian faith. Random House defines it: "*to infuse slowly or gradually into the mind..., to put in drop by drop*". The Latin origin of the word means: **to drip, to distill**; and 'distill' is a process of purification. This is exactly what God said He will do to us. But, one can read and study the Bible regularly, participate in church classes and sermons, even attend and excel in a Christian seminary AND still miss the whole point, the MYSTERY of the Gospel.

The Bible calls it "spiritual blindness", or "gross darkness". Jesus simply says to leave these people ALONE. You can't reason with these people. For both the BLIND Christian teachers along with their BLIND followers, will all fall into the ditch (pit of hell). They are of the 'MANY' who never suspect there is a MYSTERY of Christ that MUST be found. Except they REPENT, they will go to their graves, never knowing the truth.

4. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS.

We have seen overwhelming proof that the Bible is in fact a puzzle. We have seen a portion of the Biblical evidence that reveals that the vast majority of Christians reject Christ's commands, thus rejecting whole doctrine that leads to true salvation. We saw the warnings that the church shall be infiltrated and their doctrines perverted by false Christian preachers, teachers, and evangelists; but WHY? Since God foreknew all this, why does He allow such strong delusion to enter into His congregation upon Earth?

***"EVEN HIM, [the BEAST OF REVELATION]
whose coming is after the working of Satan
with all power and signs and lying wonders,"
"AND WITH ALL DECEIVABLENESS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
IN THEM THAT PERISH;***

***BECAUSE
THEY RECEIVED NOT THE [AGAPE] LOVE OF THE TRUTH [JESUS],
THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED."***

***"AND FOR THIS CAUSE [NO OTHER REASON]
GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION,
THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE:"***

**"THAT THEY ALL MIGHT BE DAMNED
WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, [JESUS' SAYINGS]
BUT HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS."
(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)**

Do you see? An unrighteous heart is DECEIVABLE, but a righteous heart is NOT deceivable. Here we see what makes a righteous heart is the Divine *agape* love of God that is IN Christ Jesus. Salvation is based upon receiving the *agape* love of Jesus within a new heart through experiential spiritual union with Him. That is the NEW COVENANT, the Divine Gospel Scheme of the New Testament. The only reason God sends this delusion is because His people refuse to receive the love of the truth, the *agape* of Jesus Christ. LOOK AT WHAT IT SAYS: THE RECEIVING OF CHRIST'S AGAPE LOVE IS WHAT MAKES ONE SAVED. They deny there is a strait gate and narrow way that leads to life, which is the bestowment of God's *agape*. They contradict what Christ said about picking up OUR cross to be spiritually and mentally crucified. They disavow what Jesus said about seeking FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. So because of this hypocritical form of Christianity, God Himself sends this STRONG DELUSION where ALL place their trust in a lie, that they ALL may be DAMNED.

If they will not receive the *agape* love of Christ that they may be saved, then what is the lie? ***Could it be that they will believe they are saved through their own faith, even if the object of that faith is Jesus?***

Remember the wide gate and broad way is the WAY of LYING that eliminates the SEARCH; a WAY that will eventually lead to the ANTICHRIST and his MARK. This is the way of spiritual DARKNESS where both teachers and their followers fall into the pit of damnation. According to Revelation, once that 'mark' is received that person is forever DAMNED, (Rev 14:9-12).

This passage makes it clear. God allows gross spiritual darkness to remain upon all who reject His Son, and the bestowment of his divine love. The 'MANY' of Matthew 7 remained blind to the truth. They stand in shock before Christ when he rejects their faith and all of their sincere dedication to carry out His work. They did not *search* to qualify what 'BELIEF' really means. They mentally acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God, but they IN TRUTH did not BELIEVE Jesus. They did not believe His commands to find life. They accepted Jesus as their 'savior' ON THEIR TERMS. They called Him LORD but DID NOT the things which He said, (Luke 6:46). Because they were disobedient and would not turn to the reproof of God, CHRIST SHUT UP THEIR UNDERSTANDING, WHICH CAUSES THEM TO REMAIN IN DARKNESS UNDER THE POWER OF SATAN BECAUSE CHRIST HOLDS THE KEY OF DAVID.

▪ **The Key of David.**

The Key of David is something that is rarely mentioned in Christian teaching. When it is, it is usually misconstrued. We are going to look at it in depth, because it is THAT KEY which allows us to correctly piece together the puzzle of Bible doctrine; to RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word and find its true meaning.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

This key proves that understanding of the Word of God has to be given supernaturally, and then only to 'FEW'.

"AND THE KEY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID
WILL I LAY UPON HIS SHOULDER;
SO HE SHALL OPEN, AND NONE SHALL SHUT;
AND HE SHALL SHUT, AND NONE SHALL OPEN."
(Isaiah 22:22)

What is this "KEY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID"; and who is Eliakim in Isaiah 22? The word "KEY" is *maphteach* (maf-tay'-akh) which simply means: **an opener, to open something up**. We typically perceive it as a metal device that controls the access of a lock, whether a door, box, or to operate a vehicle of sorts. For our context, Noah Webster's dictionary of 1828 says: "**That which serves to explain anything difficult to be understood**".

This definition definitely relates to understanding parables and dark sayings. The root word for 'KEY' is *pathach* (paw-thakh'), which means: **to open wide, to loosen, break forth, draw out, let go free**. This is similar to what 'expound' means: "to lay open the meaning". This is a spiritual key for no man has power over it. The word for "SHUT" is *cagar* (saw-gar'), which means: **to shut up, to surrender, close up, deliver up, give over, give up, shut out, or stop**. This sounds like the casting of the unprofitable servant into outer darkness.

The word "OPEN" is *pathach*, which is also the root word for "KEY" above. Therefore in effect, this key either constricts or releases something, it makes free or shuts out. Who has control of this key? The text in Isaiah identifies him as: "my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah". The name 'ELIAKIM' means: **God of raising**; and to raise means to **"restore to life"**. "HILKIAH" means: **a portion of 'Jah'**. 'JAH' is a sacred name of GOD, (Psalm 68:4); and a 'portion' of God is His Son of who shall raise up the throne of David and restores LIFE to Israel. The word "DAVID" is Strong's no. H1732 which means: **loving**; and the root word is *dowd* (dode), which is: **to love**. The word "HOUSE" means: **family or lineage**. And a key serves to give one access to something. So the most literal interpretation of "Key of the House of David" according to the word meanings is:

"ACCESS TO THE FAMILY OF LOVE",

where God's Kingdom is the family of *agape* love, (Matt 12:50). We find direct reference to the "key of David" also in Revelation, in the message to the Churches:

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;
These things saith he that is holy, he that is true,
HE THAT HATH THE KEY OF DAVID,
HE THAT OPENETH, AND NO MAN SHUTTETH;
AND SHUTTETH, AND NO MAN OPENETH;"
(Revelation 3:7)

Beginning the Search for Understanding

He that is holy and true is of course Christ Jesus which verifies the interpretation of Isaiah 22. Christ has been given the responsibility of OPENING or SHUTTING something that NO MAN has power over. The word "KEY" means: **a key (as shutting a lock)**. The root word is *kleio* (kli'-o), which means: **to close, shut up**. The word "OPENETH" is *anoigo* (an-oy'-go), which comes from the combination of *oigo*: **to open**; and *ana*, which means: **up, each, every man, repetition, intensity, a reversal**. And "SHUTTETH" is *kleio*, which is used for the root word for "KEY" in Greek. The definition of 'openeth' gives us the clue "EVERY MAN". It is interesting that the root meaning of 'key' in the Old Testament is "open", but in the New Testament it is "shut"!

**"WITH HIM IS WISDOM AND STRENGTH,
HE HATH COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING."**

"BEHOLD, HE BREAKETH DOWN, AND IT CANNOT BE BUILT AGAIN:

**HE SHUTTETH UP A MAN,
AND THERE CAN BE NO OPENING."**

(Job 12:13-14)

Job is describing attributes of the Lord. This gives us the connection between the Lord's wisdom and understanding to that of Christ's power of shutting or opening A MAN. What shuts or opens a man? The KEY OF DAVID.

This is where we begin to find FEAR of the Lord, when we realize He can SHUT OUT a person so that they will NEVER FIND or SEE the LIGHT of His Son. Or never gain the knowledge and understanding that leads them to being free from the bondage of sin and death. Let's return back to Revelation to find the companion verse to Job:

"I know thy works: BEHOLD, I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE

**AN OPEN DOOR,
AND NO MAN CAN SHUT IT:**

**for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word,
and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)**

This is Christ speaking to the spirit of the Christian church of Philadelphia. What door has He OPENED to them? The word "DOOR" is *thura* (thoo'-rah), which means: **a portal or entrance (the opening or the closure, lit. or fig.); door, or GATE**. Is He referring to the STRAIT GATE? Does this opening up give certain spiritual discernment? Notice WHY He has opened this door or gate; because they KEPT His word. The word 'KEPT' means essentially the same as OBEY or DO. Neither have they DENIED (contradicted) Christ's name (authority). Jesus gave seven warnings to the seven Churches of Revelation TO REPENT. How did Jesus say to repent? To enter into the STRAIT GATE because it leads to the LIFE which is in Christ. What are we told to do that will lead us to Christ?

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To continue in DOCTRINE till we find the TRUTH, because Jesus is the truth; and Jesus is the LIFE! Therefore, GATE is a metaphor for DOCTRINE. Either a "wide gate" false doctrine that leads to destruction, or "strait gate" true doctrine that leads to life.

After converting to Christianity by making a "profession of faith", we first search to enter into Christ's strait doctrine that will eventually lead us to regeneration –the LIFE that is IN Him, **IF WE FAINT NOT**, (Gal 6:8-9). Christ may elect to keep us SHUT OUT, or OPEN us up to it, that is his MERCY and right because HE HOLDS THE KEY. He is the Lord that BOUGHT us; and we MUST reckon with our redeemer.

THEN OPENED HE [JESUS] THEIR [THE DISCIPLES]
UNDERSTANDING,
THAT THEY MIGHT
UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES,
(Luke 24:45)

Now we are finding what the KEY actually does. Can this be more clear? This verifies EVERYTHING. Jesus OPENED His disciples' UNDERSTANDING? Why? SO THEY ARE ABLE TO ENTER THE STRAIT GATE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST. This is a witness that the TRUE meaning of scripture CANNOT BE KNOWN TO JUST ANYONE WHO SITS DOWN AND READS AND STUDIES THE BIBLE.

That is why the 'MANY' do not even realize there IS a strait gate. We MUST come to Christ ON HIS TERMS by OBEYING His commands. These are Christ's own disciples —Christians. This is AFTER Christ's resurrection. That means BEFORE this, they DID NOT have this understanding of Scripture. The word "UNDERSTANDING" is *nous* (nooce), which is: **to know, by implying meaning**. It compares to *psuche* (psoo-khay'), which relates to that which is spirit. Remember that understanding the scriptures is OF THE HEART, in the spirit.

The other word "UNDERSTAND" is *suniami* (soon-ee'-ay-mee), which means: **to put together, mentally comprehend, consider, understand, be wise**. Notice the difference, and what Jesus does. Having the power of the "KEY OF DAVID" he OPENS their heart, the spiritual eye of awareness enough so that they might BE ABLE TO PUT THE PUZZLE TOGETHER AND FIND THE TRUTH. This is a very critical point to realize. It relates back how God will MAKE KNOWN HIS WORDS, IF we undergo His instruction and correction of our errors. Only then will God smash the IDOLS within our heart.

***And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple,
of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us:***

WHOSE HEART THE LORD OPENED,
THAT SHE ATTENDED UNTO THE THINGS
WHICH WERE SPOKEN OF PAUL.
(Acts 16:14)

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The Lord in the previous verse OPENED the disciples understanding, and here the Lord opens the HEART of this woman. Notice it is the Lord Himself that does this, not Paul. She was already a worshipper of God. That means that she has been worshipping God with the understanding of her heart CLOSED UP, spiritually blind and in darkness. This is what happened to the MANY Christians. The Lord OPENED her up so that she could attend to what Paul is saying. The word "ATTENDED" is *prosecho* (pros-ekh'-o), which means: **to hold the mind towards, to pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, beware or take heed.** Again, it compares to the Greek word *nous*, (nooce), which is: **understanding in the mind.** This is the deep understanding of the heart, in the spirit that has to be supernaturally opened in order to comprehend the Word of God. We will look at a few more verses that will further confirm this.

TO OPEN THEIR EYES,
AND TO TURN THEM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT,
AND FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD,
that they may receive forgiveness of sins,
and inheritance among them which are
SANCTIFIED BY FAITH THAT IS IN ME.
(Acts 26:18)

This is part of Jesus' commission that He gave the Apostle Paul. The word "EYES" here is *ophthalmos* (of-thal-mos'), which is defined: **an eye**, which represents the spiritual eye of awareness. Notice the sequence given here: first, their understanding must be OPENED. Second, they undergo a CONVERSION of 'darkness' (way of lying), to light (revelations of hidden truths); and finally God regenerates them by giving them spiritual rebirth; to go from a child of Satan to a legitimate child of God. Also notice two other important points. One, it is only AFTER this change that the forgiveness of sins takes place; and two, their sanctification is by the faith that is IN Christ Jesus, not their own faith in Jesus. The BLOOD of Christ does not cover the Christian BEFORE authentic spiritual rebirth occurs. Until regeneration, we remain in DARKNESS and under the legal jurisdiction of SATAN and the law. Consider the word 'POWER', which is *exousia* (ex-oo-see'-ah), which means: **a privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, or mastery (a superhuman token of control), delegated influence; authority, JURISDICTION, liberty, power, RIGHT, strength.** The root word means **LAWFUL.** Satan gained legal right over man at the fall in Eden.

FOR GOD DOTH KNOW THAT IN THE DAY YE EAT THEREOF,
THEN YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED,
AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.
(Genesis 3:5)

Even here, the underlying condition of man has to do with the eye of understanding, in the spirit. Adam and Eve were created in the spiritual image of God, because God is spirit, (John 4:24).

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Therefore they experientially KNEW the essence of God which is divine *agape* love because God gave them that essence. He breathed into them the "Spirit of Life". They were ONE with God and creator. Their "eye of understanding" was open to perceive life only through God's love. When they broke the command of God and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they fell into condemnation. The center of spiritual awareness of God's essence in them died, and an eye of awareness of the knowledge of evil was born, that is, "came into being". The knowledge of what we call carnal morality. Now all subsequent generations would be BLIND to the essence of God, becoming a MYSTERY, and remains THE mystery of the GOSPEL.

"OPEN THOU MINE EYES,
THAT I MAY BEHOLD WONDROUS THINGS OUT OF THY LAW."

"I AM A STRANGER IN THE EARTH:
HIDE NOT THY COMMANDMENTS FROM ME"
(Psalm 119:18-19)

The literalness of these verses hold grave consequences, and gives us insight to what happened to the 'MANY'. These verses also testify to the puzzle aspect of the Scriptures and supernatural blindness to its truth. There are two related KEY words here, 'open' and 'hide'.

The word 'OPEN' is *galah* (gaw-law'), which basically means: **to denude by stripping away the outer covering, to reveal or make appear, to disclose or discover the true meaning, to open, make plain, to shew, tell, or uncover.** Notice this prayer is to God, and what is the Psalmist asking God to open? HIS EYES. The Hebrew for "EYES" is *'ayin* which is singular: an eye; the center of awareness which is in the spiritual HEART, the eye of understanding, the ability to spiritually perceive the true meaning of the Word. When someone explains something to us which we understand, we naturally respond, "I see".

The word "HIDE" is *cathar* (saw-thar'), which is: **to hide by covering, be absent, keep close, conceal, hide self, to keep secret.** This is interesting because it is assumed that God's commandments are there for anyone to read, which they are. There is a physical side of God's law which was given to keep peace and order, (1 Tim 1:9). But there is ANOTHER facet to His commandments: one that is HIDDEN to all except those who God gives the ability to UNDERSTAND what those commandments really mean. Perhaps that is why the Bible says "study to show thyself approved". If you make an honest effort to search the Scriptures for the truth, then you have begun to obey the command of Christ: **"If you continue in my word...ye shall know the truth"**, He said. To take this a little deeper, let's look at what Christ said leading up to that statement:

"Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying,
YE BOTH KNOW ME, AND YE KNOW WHENCE I AM:
AND I AM NOT COME OF MYSELF, BUT HE THAT SENT ME IS TRUE,

WHOM YE KNOW NOT."

(John 7:28)

"Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered,

YE NEITHER KNOW ME, NOR MY FATHER:

IF YE HAD KNOWN ME,

YE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO."

(John 8:19)

On the surface, these two verses may appear as contradictions. But the more you compare them, the more obvious it becomes. In John 7:28 Jesus is speaking as the "son of man" and refers to God as 'HE'. In John 8:19 Jesus is speaking as the "Son of God", and refers to God as His FATHER. Jesus knew these people were perceiving the flesh man Jesus, the carpenter's son of Nazareth. But they did not KNOW the spirit of God or the spirit of the Son of God. God is spirit, and God is *agape* love. The Divine Spirit of God beget Jesus. They are of the same spirit. Jesus was the spirit of God's divine *agape* in the flesh. Therefore He was God's spirit in the flesh of man. If those Jews were also born of the Divine *agape* love Spirit of God, then they would have recognized Jesus as the Messiah –THE SON OF GOD, THE OFFSPRING OF GOD'S SPIRIT OF DIVINE AGAPE.

The point is, there are knowable physical and knowable spiritual aspects of Christ. The same goes for His Word, there are both a physical application of the Bible as well as the spiritual meaning behind the physical.

Jesus represents the words of God, the essence of the Word made flesh, (John 1). These are two wholly different aspects of Christ. The Jesus of the 1st century was a real literal person that many people saw, touched, and heard. The Bible is a real literal book that is seen, touched, heard. But just as there is a HIDDEN spiritual essence of Christ that has to be supernaturally revealed to be understood, so is also the written Word. And except God OPENS one's eye of understanding, they can never learn the MYSTERY. We ARE... at His mercy.

"BUT WE SPEAK THE WISDOM OF GOD IN A MYSTERY,

EVEN THE HIDDEN WISDOM,

WHICH GOD ORDAINED BEFORE THE WORLD UNTO OUR GLORY:"

(1 Corinthians 2:7)

"BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN,

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of

man, the things which God hath prepared for them

THAT [AGAPAO] LOVE HIM."

"BUT

GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US

BY HIS SPIRIT:

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**FOR THE SPIRIT SEARCHETH ALL THINGS,
YEA, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.**
(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Remember that the wisdom of God is not found in the land of the living. It is hidden, a MYSTERY to all except to whom God reveals it. Eye has not seen it, ear of man has not heard it, neither has it entered into man's heart (spiritual understanding). **BUT**, God does reveal it to those whom He selects; those who believed the Son and obeyed His commands to find it. Notice the revealing of God's mystery here is past tense for those who *agape* love Him. Many dedicated Christians in the world *phileo* love God their entire life and never have His secret revealed to them, for the revelation of the wisdom of God comes at the baptism of regeneration, (Titus 3:5, Ps 25:14).

The word "DEEP" is *bathos* (bath'-os), which figuratively means: **mystery**. God gives His spirit of truth to those who OBEY Him, (Acts 5:22), who will guide us into all truth, BUT ONLY IF HE IS ALLOWED TO AND WE OBEY AND SEARCH FOR IT. For if we believe falsely that we are saved when in truth we are not, then when the Holy Spirit of God convicts us that something is not quite right, we are told by the false Christian prophets to ignore it, that we need to control our 'thinking'. They say that is Satan trying to attack your faith with doubt. If Satan deceives a person to trust in the wide gate Christianity, then why would he attempt to convince you otherwise? You might even begin to question their social institutions and start digging into the Bible doctrines to search the truth for yourself!

**BIND UP THE TESTIMONY, SEAL THE LAW
AMONG MY DISCIPLES.**
(Isaiah 8:16)

It is interesting that this is the only verse in the Old Testament where the word 'disciples' is used. The word is *limmuwd* (lim-mood'), means: **instructed one, accustomed to, learned or taught**. The root words means: **to instruct with the Oriental rod of incentive**. Even today, some Japanese men trained to be corporate executives are humbled by being struck across their back with a bamboo rod. The Greek defines 'disciple' similarly, with its root word meaning: **to understand**. The phrase "BIND UP" in Hebrew is the word *tsarar* (tsaw-rar'), which means: **to shut up**. The word "SEAL" is *chatham* (khaw-tham'), which is: **to close up, mark, seal up**. So even the Old Testament foretold that the MYSTERY of God would be hidden among the Lord's 'DISCIPLES'. That is what Paul said: "WE [the disciples], speak the wisdom of God in a mystery".

**"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for;
BUT THE ELECTION HATH OBTAINED IT,
AND THE REST WERE BLINDED"**

**"(ACCORDING AS IT IS WRITTEN, GOD HATH GIVEN THEM
THE SPIRIT OF SLUMBER, EYES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT SEE,**

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AND EARS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HEAR;) UNTO THIS DAY."
(Romans 11:7-8)

Consider the impact and literalness of this verse. Then we can see how God is capable of sending a strong delusion, because **ALL of Judaism REMAINS BLINDED TO THE IDENTITY OF CHRIST UNTIL THIS DAY!** A member of Judaism would find that 'offensive', but nevertheless it is written and it is so. Notice who are the ONLY ones NOT blinded, THE ELECT. That means that all of apostate Christianity is also blinded. It is typical for a person to believe they are of the elect. In fact, if you question the multitude of Christians today, you probably would not find one convert that would claim not to be one of the elect. However, Jesus revealed that the overall majority of Christians are not of the elect, He said they seek to be, but are not able. Peter expresses this same thing.

If a person is BLINDED, then that means they cannot SEE what genuine truth is. If they are in DARKNESS, then they do not have the LIGHT of Jesus Christ, which is a metaphor for the revelation of Divine *agape* love, which is why this is such a mystery to them. Do a study on 'light' and you will find it represents the *agape* love Spirit of God that it is the experiential knowledge of God and His Son, because they are the TRUE LIGHT.

**"FOR I WOULD NOT, BRETHREN,
THAT YE SHOULD BE IGNORANT OF THIS MYSTERY,
LEST YE SHOULD BE WISE IN YOUR OWN CONCEITS;
THAT BLINDNESS IN PART IS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL
UNTIL
THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN."**
(Romans 11:25)

Paul is speaking to fellow Christians. Notice the condition that Paul throws at them that their ignorance relates to their own conceit. This verse also rejects the false interpretation found among some teachers and so-called 'elect' Christian groups today, that God is finished with the Israel of old. That God has established a new Israel, thereby rejecting the Jews. Paul warns that Israel's belief is nothing but IGNORANCE due to their own conceited nature, which is temporary. However, this verse does give us a sure example of SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS in action. Just look at the religion of Judaism today.

**"THEREFORE SEEING WE HAVE THIS MINISTRY,
AS WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY, WE FAINT NOT;"**

**"BUT HAVE RENOUNCED THE HIDDEN THINGS OF DISHONESTY,
NOT WALKING IN CRAFTINESS,
NOR HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD DECEITFULLY;
BUT BY MANIFESTATION OF THE TRUTH
COMMENDING OURSELVES TO EVERY MAN'S CONSCIENCE
IN THE SIGHT OF GOD."**

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**"BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID,
IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST:"**

**"IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD
HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT,
LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST,
WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM
(2 Corinthians 4:1-4)**

The phrase "HANDLE...DECEITFULLY" is one word *doloo* (dol-o'-o), which means: **to ensnare, adulterate, handle deceitfully**. The root word is *dolos* which means: **a decoy, to trick with 'bait', to deceive**. Paul is contrasting himself against those who he has mentioned that have corrupted the Word, as ministers of Satan, who use the positive aspects of scripture as BAIT for a trap. Most students of the Bible interpret "THE GOD OF THIS WORLD" as being Satan. That it is Satan that blinds people's minds to the mystery of the Gospel; but Jesus referred to Satan as the "PRINCE of this world". However, Isaiah refers to God Himself as "THE GOD OF THE WHOLE EARTH", (Isa 54:5), which is confirmed by John:

**"Therefore THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE,
because that Esaias (Isaiah) said again,"
"HE [GOD] HATH BLINDED THEIR EYES,
and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes,
NOR UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART,
and be converted, and I should heal them."
(John 12:39-40)**

This is why we should FEAR God. He is able to cast us into spiritual blindness and OUTER DARKNESS where we CANNOT find the truth or even believe there is a hidden mystery to be found. Satan may do all he can to keep us away from finding the mystery and truth of God, but it is the God of both Heaven and Earth that blinds the minds of them who believe not. **Remember the Key of David works two ways, it opens AND shuts**. They do not believe they have to CONVERT to the narrow way of reproof, because they are BLINDED to it. Therefore, Christ will not heal and save them. The word "BLINDED" in the last two references is interesting. It essentially means **to obscure by conceit**, and is worth showing the word study:

"BLINDED", G5186. *tuphloo*, toof-lo'-o; from G5185; **to make blind**, i.e. (fig.) **to obscure**.

|
G5185. *tuphlos*, toof-los'; from G5187, *tuphoo*, toof-o'-o; from G5188; **to envelop with smoke**, i.e. (fig.) **to inflate with self-conceit:--high-minded, be lifted up with pride, be proud**.

|
G5188. *tupho*, too'-fo; appar. a prim. verb; **to make a smoke**, i.e. **slowly consume without flame**.

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ob·scure, [*Random House*], 1. (of meaning) not clear or plain; ambiguous, vague, or uncertain. 2. not clear to the understanding; hard to perceive. 3. not expressing the meaning clearly or plainly.

This brings us back again to Isaiah 28. A speech that is hard to understand, that starts then stops. This confirms the concept of piecing a puzzle together with the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit of God.

**"BUT HE THAT HATETH HIS BROTHER IS IN DARKNESS,
AND WALKETH IN DARKNESS, AND KNOWETH NOT WHITHER HE
GOETH, BECAUSE THAT DARKNESS HATH BLINDED HIS EYES."
(1 John 2:11)**

Remember that Jesus said, "...if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch". Here we have the reason for the blindness which is "DARKNESS", or as said earlier, "spiritual blindness". "DARKNESS" is *skotia* (skot-ee'-ah), which means: **dimness, obscurity**. The root word is *skotos*, which means: **error or an adumbration**. Random House defines 'adumbrate' as: **to produce a faint image or resemblance of, to darken or conceal partially**.

What causes this darkness? CONCEIT, PRIDE of any Jew, Gentile, or Christian who REFUSES to humble their self and believe Christ's words. They DENY Christ by rejecting His key commands. This is what we have already seen the false Christian teachers do by 'subreption'. Because of their blindness to the truth, there feigned doctrines conceal the essential elements of salvation. Their salvation doctrine is only a FAINT RESEMBLANCE of the true salvation doctrine of Christ, but theirs is fake, a sham. Satan was originally an anointed Cherub (archangel), of perfect beauty. His pre-fall station was God's paradise of Eden, and protected it by 'covering', which means to CONCEAL, (Ezk 28:12-15). After his fall, he used his God given ability of concealment to deceive and devour mankind. Notice this hinges upon the word 'HATETH'. Then the opposite must be true: HE THAT LOVES HIS BROTHER IS IN LIGHT! And it has already proven that light is the revelation of God's Divine *agape* love. John also confirms this:

**"WE KNOW
THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE,
BECAUSE
WE [AGAPAO] LOVE THE BRETHREN.
HE THAT [AGAPAO] LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER
ABIDETH IN DEATH."
(1 John 3:14)**

Jesus said in order for us to find life, we had to enter the strait gate, and that the way to life, was narrow. You do not simply "get saved", and then walk a narrow way of works and behavior as some teach. That is NOT what Jesus said at all. In fact, that is actually works of self-righteousness in the name of Jesus.

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John also contrasts two ways: death vs. life, darkness vs. light, which is *agape* love vs. man's love which John says 'hates', and Jesus called it 'evil'. NOTE: ***The only distinction John makes here between the condition of DEATH and LIFE, is a love-type issue.*** It should then be obvious to anyone this is the only issue between God and man, the knowledge and possession of this 'type' of love; a type of love that is well HIDDEN, and remains a MYSTERY because it is not found in the land of the living. Later, we will explore where this mystery is found. Since Jesus said that the strait gate and narrow way LEADETH to the life, (*agape* love), then that means that true salvation is ONLY AT THE END of the narrow way of reproof. It is not at the beginning or middle, but at the END!

***At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee,
O Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
BECAUSE THOU HAST HID THESE THINGS
FROM THE WISE AND PRUDENT,
AND HAST REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES.
EVEN SO, FATHER: FOR SO IT SEEMED GOOD IN THY SIGHT.
(Matthew 11:25-26)***

Jesus thanked the Heavenly Father for CONCEALING the truth! The people could not understand what Jesus and His works were all about. They could not realize that this man that stood before them, who healed thousands and told them to seek eternal life was the AGAPE LOVE SPIRIT OF GOD IN THE FLESH. Who are the wise and prudent? The well educated, doctors of theology, and experienced teachers of the Scriptures. IT IS GOD THAT BLINDS THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCEITED DISOBEDIENCE that refuses to face humility.

Jesus' prayer was in relation to the religious refusing "REPENTANCE". There are many Christian writers today that say that repentance is a work in addition to salvation, but Jesus said lest a person repents, they will perish. The word "HID" is *apokrupto* (ap-ok-roop'-to), which means: **to conceal away fully, to keep secret, to hide**. What has God hidden? Not only the mystery of *agape* love, but also the WAY OF REPENTANCE that leads to Divine *agape*. Jesus said that the WAY of repentance was very difficult to find, it takes much WORK. Since these things have to be FOUND, then that means they are well HIDDEN and must be searched for. To search for something valuable takes priority, time, and effort. The strait gate and narrow way of repentance has NOTHING to do with "works of the law". If you lose something very valuable, do you not diligently search for it? Can that search sometimes be intensive? And what does searching for something have to do with "law keeping", or being good or bad? NO search means NO find. Millions of Christians have no idea what the truth really is because they did not believe Christ when He commanded them to enter the strait gate to find it. Their disobedience counted as disbelief of Christ and to the will of God. God allows the wise and prudent and their followers to be under a delusion of their own making. They REJECTED His counsel, so God has HID from them what 'repentance' really is.

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Greek for "PRUDENT" is *phronimos* (fron'-ee-mos), and means: **those with practical skill or acumen; intelligence or mental acquirement; or in a bad sense conceited.** Notice how all this relates to the flesh, to the carnal nature and abilities of man as well as his CONCEIT. Jesus contrasts these intellectual giants with "BABES" which is *nepios* (nay'-pee-os), and is defined: **a simple-minded person, or an immature Christian.** God said he will confound the wisdom of the wise. Who do the masses of Christians follow? The educated doctors of theology; preachers/priests and evangelists, especially the famous ones who have thousands of followers in their congregations and television audiences. Who does God reveal His mysteries to? BABES who are fed on the 'sincere' milk of the Word without hypocrisy; newborns into the Kingdom of God through the revelation of Christ.

**"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men?
for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
BUT I CERTIFY YOU, BRETHREN, THAT THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS
PREACHED OF ME IS NOT AFTER MAN."**

**"FOR I NEITHER RECEIVED IT OF MAN,
NEITHER WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT BY
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST."
(Galations 1:10-12)**

Where do the highly educated doctors and teachers of theology receive their instruction of the Gospel? From other wise and prudent men in their seminaries and colleges. Remember that Christians of the last days turn from sound doctrine unto 'fables'. They HEAP TEACHERS to themselves. We saw how the word 'fable' relates to using fictitious stories of moral lessons, but the word 'fable' is also defined: **"tuition of educational facilities"**, *semen-airys*, which mean: **human "seed receptacles"**. The word "REVELATION" is *apokalupsis* (ap-ok-al'-oop-sis), which means: **disclosure, to lighten, be revealed, revelation.** This is further confirmation and means exactly what it says. Since the truth and wisdom of God is well hidden and only revealed to His elect, then those who have OBEYED the commands of Christ and searched for it, **at the end of the search, the truth will be revealed.** Otherwise, the search would go on until the person dies without ever finding the truth, which would make Jesus untruthful. He said that IF we stayed in His word we would FIND the truth, and that truth is IN him! That saying of Jesus goes against every Christian belief today, who say there is no further revelation than the Bible, only faith. But true 'saving' faith is a tried faith, a testing of OBEDIENCE that LEADS TO the Grace that is IN Christ Jesus.

**"WHEREFORE GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND, BE SOBER,
AND HOPE TO THE END
FOR THE GRACE
THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU
AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST;"**

"AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN,

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NOT FASHIONING YOURSELVES ACCORDING TO THE FORMER LUSTS IN YOUR IGNORANCE:" (1 Peter 1:13-14)

Did you catch that? This verse in Peter says it all! Peter is telling us to strengthen the procreative power of our mind and HOPE to the END. We are saved by hope, (Rom 8:24, Lam 3: 24-27), a type of faith that awaits something. Hope is where faith is tried; HOPE was the faith 'OF' Christ when He picked up HIS cross. The word for "END" here is *teleios* (tel-i'-oce) which means: **complete, of hope without wavering - to the end**. The root words mean: **completeness, of full age, perfect man; the point aimed at**. The goal is authentic regeneration, saved, born again, LIFE! And what does Peter say is to take place at the END of this HOPE? CHRIST BRINGS THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD TO THE SEARCHING CHRISTIAN WHEN HE IS REVEALED TO THEM FROM HEAVEN.

If a person is already SAVED by grace when they convert to Christianity, as the various denominations claim, then why would GRACE have to be brought to them again? Perhaps it is because regeneration actually DOES NOT occur when they convert to Christianity. They believe in their own lie. Because if one BELIEVES they are saved, when in truth they are not, then they have NO NEED to search any further. Paul said we are saved by Grace through faith; then isn't Peter saying the same thing here? He is if you qualify what true Biblical faith really is.

Again, this refutes the instant salvation faith gospel. When is GRACE to be bestowed upon the believer? (1) WHEN IT IS BROUGHT to the obedient seeking believer by Christ himself; and (2) it is brought at the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. The word "REVELATION" here is also *apokalupsis*. And what is to be REVEALED? **His spiritual essence, THE MYSTERY of the Gospel**. Jesus is to come to the OBEDIENT believer and reveal the Grace of God to them which is himself. He said so himself, (John 14: 21-23). Jesus IS the grace of God, therefore he will suddenly appear without notice to the true seeker when they have reached the END of their HOPE in waiting for Him. The Lord will SUDDENLY appear in their inward temple and overthrow the MERCHANTISERS.

Notice the revelation is only in reference to OBEDIENT CHILDREN, not the 'bastard' sons who are without the chastisement that God gives to every son He receives. Not the 'lying' children who will not HEAR the law of the Lord. The word ignorance contains the word 'IGNORE', and to ignore Christ's sayings is to remain in DARKNESS and DEATH, which IS spiritual ignorance. People do not realize they are in this condition. That is all mankind knows, that is what NORMAL is to us UNLESS we receive the REVELATION of the truth. In-truth we DO NOT LOVE. We may think we do, but in reality it is a very conditional fondness for people or things. The 31 types of *philos* love are based upon the mind and feelings. Divine *agape* love flows from God through our spirit, (if it has been bestowed upon us at the revelation of Christ). Sometimes we get notions that something is not right within us, that something is missing, an occasional feeling of emptiness and aloneness. Then, we busy ourselves and set our mind on other things. Our fallen nature decides what it thinks is best for us. **We are SERVANTS to that which we KNOW.**

**"FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND GOING ABOUT
TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS,
HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES UNTO
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD."**

**"FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
to every one that believeth."
(Romans 10:3-4)**

Read that carefully and meditate on what it says. The righteousness of God is the fruit of His *agape* love, (Heb 12:11); and this essence is well HIDDEN in Christ. God said He could be found **IF** we searched for Him with ALL our heart, (Jer 29:13). That is why Jesus said "seek ye first"; ask, seek and knock till God opens the door of repentance. If we ignore Christ's commands, if we do not SUBMIT ourselves to God and His chastisement that leads to the bestowment of His righteousness, then we have no choice but to live by a feigned 'righteousness' which Isaiah says is as a filthy rag. It is as polluted blood. And since the righteousness of God is hidden from man, then the only standard man has is his own perception of what morality is. The many lost Christians live in self-righteousness in the name of Jesus.

Therefore man's limited awareness only allows the Bible and his mind to give him a FAINT RESEMBLANCE of what God considers true and righteous. That is why Jesus said that eternal life was NOT in the Scriptures, we have to come to Him. That is why the false Christian leaders teach moral lessons and examples of faith from the Bible, and not Christ's doctrine. It does not dawn on these people that morality, even by Christian standards, is the result of a FALLEN nature. Even if a person could exercise their will to the point they could live LIKE Jesus and keep all 600 plus laws, Jesus still does not KNOW THEM, they will perish. True righteousness is a genuine rebirth of the Spirit, not a work of the flesh. Simply being a 'good' person or Christian WILL NOT SAVE YOU. Man's 'goodness' is relative in the realm of good-evil and is not even close to the scale of God's righteousness because the highest moral achievements of mankind are still sub-standard to God. Man can NEVER attain to the standard of God in the fallen state. You cannot achieve that which cannot be found in the material universe. But, it can be FOUND. It can be supernaturally BESTOWED under the narrow conditions Christ gave. Unless and until that bestowment, (which is totally experiential), we have but a dim view of what true love really is. Paul spoke of this very thing:

"FOR WE KNOW IN PART, AND WE PROPHECY IN PART."

**"BUT
WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME,
THEN
THAT WHICH IS IN PART SHALL BE DONE AWAY."**

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

"FOR NOW

WE SEE THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY;

BUT THEN

FACE TO FACE:

NOW

I KNOW IN PART;

BUT THEN

SHALL I KNOW EVEN AS ALSO I AM KNOWN."

(1 Corinthians 13:9-10,12)

This is a very interesting passage. If we disbelieve that there is to be an experiential revelation that effects a change in awareness (spiritual rebirth), by Jesus Christ manifesting Himself to the true seeker, then what Paul is saying here would indeed remain a total MYSTERY. This passage also clearly shows the difference of the Greek words used for the word 'KNOW', where English only has the one.

The original Greek in this passage reveals two different types of 'knowing', for two entirely different conditions. Paul uses one type of 'knowing' BEFORE perfection comes, and the other type of 'knowing' comes AFTER perfection. Do a study on 'perfect' in the Bible and its variations and you will find they are epithets for spiritual regeneration. Notice that Paul says we can only KNOW IN PART BEFORE perfection comes. Doctors of theology and Bible scholars study the Bible intently all their life. Jewish scribes deeply study the *Torah* (books of the law), scrutinizing what every letter means. We can study all the doctrines and mentally accept there is a hidden truth, a hidden wisdom. We can study and claim we know all about God, and intellectually know the historical Jesus. This "KNOW" is G1097 *ginosko* (ghin-oc'e'-ko), and is defined: **to "know" absolute in a great variety of applications and with many implications, to allow, be aware of, feel, have knowledge, [carnally] perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, to understand.** This is intellectual knowledge that continually increases based upon information and experiences analyzed by our human mind. We can only *ginosko* know God and Christ IN PART. We can only learn the true meaning of Scripture IN PART. **WE CAN OBEY CHRIST, SEARCH AND PIECE THE PUZZLE TOGETHER TO A CERTAIN POINT.** Yet, there is something missing. "IN PART" means: **incomplete knowledge.** There is a type of knowledge about God and His Son so well hidden that NO ONE can find it except they OBEY, search, and wait for it.

THE FINAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, THE MYSTERY OF GOD HAS TO BE SUPERNATURALLY REVEALED FROM HEAVEN. BECAUSE SALVATION, WHICH IS DIVINE PERFECTION, IS KNOWING GOD AND HIS SON, (John 17:3). This type of KNOWING can only come AFTER the truth and wisdom of God is revealed to you. This "KNOW" is *epiginosko* (ep-ig-in-oc'e'-ko), which means: **to know upon some mark, to recognize by implying to become fully acquainted with, to acknowledge or know well, [spiritually] perceive.** A person cannot become fully acquainted with God except God be revealed to them.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

This gives them a 'mark' an indicator of who and what the true and living God is; the standard of the spiritual and physical universe. This is an **experiential** knowledge. This is the reason for the revelation. The revelation of Christ not only allows a person to experience the real and literal creator God who is concealed from mankind, but it also places the seeker in the "White Throne" JUDGMENT because they now have the MARK of comparison of what TRUE LOVE IS vs. the darkness within of what they only thought was love.

To the wide gate Christian, this opposes what they have been told faith is. Just as there is a before and after knowing, there is also a before and after faith. The BEFORE faith is based upon obedience as faith IN Christ and HOPE in the promises of the Gospel. The faith AFTER the revelation is an unfeigned faith that has been tried, the faith OF Christ proven and tested, (Galations 2:16), and a **regenerative belief** that results from an experiential encounter with Christ. The faith of wide gate Christianity is a FEIGNED faith. James calls it "dead faith"; a faith without the WORK of the narrow way. They believe God 'is', but that is as far as they allow their faith to go. They lack the other essential part of Biblical faith, which is to obey Christ's commands and diligently seek Him, (Heb 11:6).

The word "DARKLY" is a compound of two Greek words *en-ainigma*, which *en*: **denotes a fixed position in place, time or state.** And *ainigma*, which means: **an obscure saying ("enigma"), i.e. obscurity.** Random House defines 'enigma' as: **(from Latin *ainigma*: to speak in riddles); 1. a puzzling or inexplicable occurrence or situation. 3. a saying, question, picture, etc., containing a hidden meaning; riddle.** Its synonym is the word **PUZZLE**. The word "GLASS" means: **mirror**. Can you begin to understand how all these pieces fit together? Except a Christian receive the revelation of Divine *agape* of God, they can only reflect back to themselves an obscured awareness. They do not see themselves as they truly are. It is due to the darkness of sin, a type of spiritual death that happened to mankind way back in Eden. According to Jesus, the real 'sin' is in the heart that we DO NOT ACTUALLY LOVE. That is our moral predicament. We became as gods, accusing or excusing ourselves and others based upon our relative righteousness of some degree of good or degree of evil. At times it may not seem that way, but when compared to God's love, it is always very conditional. Moral sense is a type of love that flows inward toward self. The FEW who *epiginosko* know God and Christ, perceive the world clearly through God's eyes of Divine *agape*, a selfless love that flows outward toward others from the heart. True Biblical repentance is the decision from the heart TO LOVE as God loves, only AFTER it is REVEALED to them.

"True conversion to Christianity should effect a genuine LIFE change, but true regeneration is a LOVE CHANGE. The two are a strait gate and narrow way apart." --Stewart Best, The Testimony

***"HE THAT HATH MY COMMANDMENTS, AND KEEPETH THEM,
HE IT IS THAT LOVETH ME: AND HE THAT LOVETH ME SHALL BE LOVED OF
MY FATHER, AND I WILL LOVE HIM,
AND WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM."***

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

***"Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord,
how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself UNTO US,
AND NOT UNTO THE WORLD?"***

***"Jesus answered and said unto him, IF a man love me,
he will keep my words: and my Father will love him,
AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM,
AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM."***
(John 14:21-23)

The word 'HATH' in this context means **to know and understand**, [*Random House Unabridged Dictionary*]. The word 'KEEPETH' is G5083, *tereo* (tay-reh'-o); and means: **to fulfill a command, observe, obey, do**. How can one obey if they DO NOT understand the commands? Why does Jesus give this condition? Because it is the evidence of OBEDIENT self denial to find the living Christ, and the result of entering the strait gate, of picking up the cross to DIE for His sake.

This passage is very clear English, why can't the false Christian teachers take this as it is? The word 'MANIFEST' is G1718, *emphanizo* (em-fan-id'-zo); which means: **to exhibit in person, disclose by words; to appear, declare plainly, inform, to show, signify**. And what is Jesus to reveal? His own self, His essence to the one who has sought and called upon Him **IN TRUTH**, (Psalm 145:18). This is not a reference the second coming of Christ to rule the world; this is the manifestation of Christ to the obedient seeking believer that brings the Grace of God for salvation.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. WITHOUT IT, THE REST OF THE PUZZLE IS MEANINGLESS, AND THERE IS NO SALVATION APART FROM IT. THE REVELATION BRINGS THE FINAL ACT OF REPENTANCE, THE CONFESSION FROM OUR MOUTH TO OUR CREATOR THAT AFFECTS A CHANGE OF HEART AND SPIRITUAL UNION WITH GOD AND CHRIST. IT IS IN TRUTH, UNDERGOING THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT TO ENTER INTO THE NEW COVENANT, THE KINGDOM OF GOD. WE ARE SIMPLY COMMANDED BY OUR LORD TO FIND THIS TRUTH; A SEARCH THAT IS THROUGH DAILY SUPPLICATION, STUDY AND MEDITATION OF DOCTRINE. WE ARE TO REMAIN IN THAT SEARCH TILL CHRIST MANIFESTS HIMSELF TO US AND BRINGS THE GRACE OF GOD. IT IS A LONG ARDUOUS TASK THAT TAKES ALL OUR GETTING. THAT IS THE TRUE WITNESS OF SCRIPTURE, IT IS THE TESTIMONY OF THE FEW TO WHOM CHRIST LITERALLY REVEALS HIMSELF. SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE IF THIS IS SO. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND OBEY CHRIST'S DOCTRINE.

5. KNOWING THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST.

In this section, we are simply going to continue and bring together all that we have previously seen: to further confirm there is a MYSTERY of Christ and His Gospel. A mystery that has to be searched for, supernaturally revealed and then acknowledged by the 'FEW' to whom this mystery is given. Let's begin with the related passage from John chapter 8.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

**"Then said Jesus to those Jews WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM,
IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD,
THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED;"**

**"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."
(John 8:31-32)**

We looked briefly at this earlier (page 16). We now want to focus on KNOWING THE TRUTH which will be proven to be authentic salvation. The word "KNOW" here is *ginosko*. This is the 'before' intellectual knowing that Paul related to. Jesus gave us the conditions upon which the truth may be known. Understanding true Bible doctrine in order to perceive or comprehend the ultimate truth when it is revealed at the manifestation of Christ to the believer. The word "CONTINUE" is *meno* (men'-o), which means: **to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy), to abide, continue in, dwell in, to endure, be present, remain in, stand, to tarry for**. This does not necessarily mean to 'live' His Word, which comes AFTER regeneration, but to dwell in Christ's sayings; to literally stay in deep study, searching for the truth itself. This has the same connotation as 'HATH' and 'KEEPING' His commandments.

Jesus said we have to LABOR for the MEAT, (John 6:27). Proverbs says labor not to be rich and cease from our own wisdom, (Prov 23:4). If we refuse for whatever reason, then we are NOT Jesus' disciples INDEED. The word 'INDEED' is G230 *alethos* (al-ay-thoce'); which basically means: **in truth**. Jesus was speaking to Christ believing disciples, Christians. Jesus is telling them there is something else THEY MUST DO if they are to be His disciples IN TRUTH. The search IS TEMPORARY, but it takes considerable TIME, FAITH, and PATIENCE. But IF we will do it, Jesus said we could find that truth, we could KNOW. In order to show how this directly relates to salvation, we will continue:

"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

**"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
WHOSOEVER COMMITTETH SIN IS THE SERVANT OF SIN."**

**"AND THE SERVANT ABIDETH NOT IN THE HOUSE FOR EVER:
BUT
THE SON ABIDETH EVER."**

**"IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE,
YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED."
(John 8:33-36)**

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Jesus contrasts the word "FREE" directly to the bondage of sin. One major aspect of salvation is being released from the bondage of sin. We may still sin because of our 'flesh', but union with the Spirit of Christ frees us from the bondage of it. In other words, sin can no longer rule over the regenerated Christian. If that were not true, then Jesus could not FREE anyone. If you say this freedom only comes in the "after life", then it would be DEATH that set us free, and death is the enemy of Christ, (1 Cor 15:25-26). The "HOUSE" represents our body and Jesus is saying that the servant of God is in their body only temporarily, BUT if we were made free in Christ, we become a SON of God and shall abide in our body forever. For the LIFE of God is *generative* power, but death (separation from God) is a *degenerative* power.

Notice that it is the KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH that sets us free, and it is the SON who makes us free. Jesus is confirming He is TRUTH, He is the only one that sets us free from sin and death.

God the Father does not set us free, nor does the Holy Spirit set us free, and Mary –mother of Jesus cannot, nor can any other name under the heavens set us free. Jesus purchased legal rights over mankind by fulfilling the law of *near kinsman-redeemer*, (Lev 25:47-50). When Christ frees us from the bondage of sin and death, we are free indeed, (of a truth). The point here is that true freedom is KNOWING THE DIVINE TRUTH that is hidden IN Christ. It is knowing Christ and Him knowing us. This is not only a 'mental' knowledge, but a total **experiential** knowing that comes from supernatural revelation. And until we come to that revelation, then the real truth remains a MYSTERY.

***"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;
IF GOD PERADVENTURE WILL GIVE THEM REPENTANCE
TO THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH;"***
(2 Timothy 2:25)

The first line in this verse is a 'indicator' of a person's spiritual status. The word "OPPOSING" is *antidiatithemai* (an-tee-dee-at-eeth'-em-ahee), which means: **to set oneself opposite, be disputatious**. In other words these people (especially many Christians), are quick to oppose a person and argue the Bible. They love to dispute against the truth because in reality they HATE the truth.

The phrase "IF God peradventure" means what it says. **It is ONLY up to God whether a person may be given the opportunity to REPENT**. We can beg, search, and ask the Lord into our heart a thousand times a day, and it will not effect salvation the least bit. Jude warned that Grace will be perverted. Grace IS unmerited favor, which means we are TOTALLY at the mercy of God for salvation. The so-called "sinners prayer" is nothing more than the manifestation of man's arrogance and impatience toward God. God is sovereign. He decides who He shall save, and when it will happen, (Exodus 33:19). What God wills us to do is to OBEY Christ (know doctrine) and to SEE His Son, (John 6:40). Notice the CONDITION the Lord gives here. First we must continue in Christ's doctrine till we FIND the truth. You can't acknowledge this hidden truth except it first be revealed to you. Once the truth is shown, then we have the choice of accepting it.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Also notice this when authentic Biblical REPENTANCE takes place. It is AFTER the acknowledging of that truth that final act of repentance comes. Notice it is God who gives THIS repentance, not man. The agreement with God through Christ the mediator that we will LOVE is what the New Testament is all about. Now is this repentance a WORK, a LEGALISM in addition to faith that many modern Christian preachers and teachers claim that it is? Repentance, like conversion is greatly misunderstood. There is a repentance that is an ongoing process that begins with us having a change of mind to convert to following Christ, and ends with God and His Son creating a change in heart through spiritual union. Repentance is nothing more than a mental (or spiritual) decision that is followed by an 'act' (a conversion). Here, the work of repentance is completed, which is followed by God's act of regeneration. An act of God's will upon the HEART.

***"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:
FROM SUCH TURN AWAY."***

"For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

***"EVER LEARNING, AND NEVER ABLE TO COME TO
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."***
(2 Timothy 3:5-7)

What is GODLINESS? The word "GODLINESS" is *eusebeia* (yoo-seb'-i-ah), which specifically means: **the gospel scheme, godliness, holiness**. The word 'scheme' in this context refers to the hidden meaning of the Gospel which is Divine *agape*. Godliness means: **god-like**; and what is God like? He is spirit, and He is love. Paul is talking about the false Christian leaders, the wolves in sheep's clothing. They have an outward form of *agape* of Christ, but they DENY its power. They contradict or disavow it. Paul said to AVOID these people. Jesus said "let them alone". God said "come out from among them and be ye separate". These people are very sincere and intelligent, always promoting Jesus, but NEVER are they ABLE to come to the *epignosis* KNOWING. The word *epignosis* (ep-ig'-no-sis), it is similar in meaning to its root word *epignosko*; which means: **recognition of, full discernment, acknowledgment**. They may hold several degrees of doctorates, memorize ten thousand verses, have twenty thousand volumes of Biblical books, and study for thousands of hours and still MISS the entire point of Scripture. Why? because they are disobedient children. God calls them 'bastard' sons, (Heb 12:8, Duet 23:2). They worship Christ but DISOBEY His commands. Scripture reveals its their conceit that causes them to REJECT the reproof of God that they might FIND LIFE.

***"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of
God our Saviour;"***

***"WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED,
AND TO COME UNTO***

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."

(1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Here we find again that being SAVED is coming to the knowledge of the truth. It is not God's desire that anyone remain lost and perish forever. It was the Grace of God that made a WAY, that all men may choose according to their own free will. Grace brought Christ Jesus. Jesus brought THE WAY. Jesus called that way: NARROW. But the overall majority of Christians do not like that WAY, so they create ANOTHER WAY, one that is NOT narrow. Their way leads to destruction.

***"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together
IN [AGAPE] LOVE,
AND UNTO ALL RICHES OF THE
FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING,
TO THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE MYSTERY
OF GOD, AND OF THE FATHER, AND OF CHRIST;"***

***"IN WHOM ARE HID ALL THE TREASURES
OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE."***

(Colossians 2:2-3)

This verse brings it all together. Notice what unites their HEARTS! Here also we have another qualification of RICHES, which is the "full assurance" of understanding, which is in total harmony with the *parable of the talents*. Whole true faith and understanding comes after the revelation, it comes with the WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of the mystery. First we had "acknowledgment of the truth", which is the same as "acknowledgment of the mystery". The mystery is the truth, the wisdom of God that is hid in Christ Jesus! Paul also reveals where these treasures are found: IN GOD THE FATHER AND IN CHRIST. That is why they are not found in the material universe, they are not found in "the land of the living" because God and His Son abide outside of the glass-like sphere of the universe, beyond space and time. The Heaven (Genesis 1:1; John 16:28; Ephesians 4:10), that is above all heavens (Genesis 1:7-8, 16-17; Deuteronomy 10:14).

***"AND ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS
PUT ON CHARITY
[DIVINE AGAPE LOVE],
WHICH IS THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS."***

(Colossians 3:14)

Paul had previously listed a number of things that relate to moral excellence. Then he says that ABOVE the whole of all that, PUT ON AGAPE. *Agape* is the same Greek word for 'charity'. Just like the previous passage, *agape* IS the BOND, the knitting together of the state of perfection which is completeness, or ONE with our Creator.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Do an in-depth word study on "BOND" and you will find that it means that *agape* is the uniting principle that completes the act of spiritual regeneration. This is being 'born again', ONE with God and Christ, complete, perfect. Read this confirmation by Christ:

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me,

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, AS WE ARE."

(John 17:11)

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME through THEIR WORD;"

"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE;

AS THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME, AND I IN THEE,

THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US:

that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

"AND THE GLORY WHICH THOU GAVEST ME I HAVE GIVEN THEM;

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE:"

"I IN THEM, AND THOU IN ME,

THAT THEY MAY BE MADE PERFECT IN ONE;

AND THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THOU HAST SENT ME,

AND HAST [AGAPAO] LOVED THEM,

AS THOU HAST [AGAPAO] LOVED ME."

(John 17:20-23)

"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it:

THAT THE [AGAPE] LOVE

WHEREWITH THOU HAST LOVED ME

MAY BE IN THEM, AND I IN THEM."

(John 17:26)

Being ONE with the Father and the Son is through the Spirit of God's Divine love. That is what makes one complete, perfect, saved. It is the GLORY OF GOD that He ordained for us from the beginning of the world. This is the hidden message, the underlying SCHEME of the Gospel. It is the desire of Christ Jesus that His followers come to the knowledge that God sent Him because God AGAPE LOVES THE KOSMOS AND AGAPE LOVES HIS SON. There is nothing difficult or complex about all this, it is only HIDDEN from the wide-gate Christianity of the MANY.

THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Carefully Consider what Jesus said in verse 20 and 21. Jesus not only prays for his twelve disciples, but ALL who believe on him according to THEIR word. Then notice what He says next, THAT THEY ALL **MAY BE** ONE as He and the Father is ONE. These are Christians who BELIEVE in Christ according to their profession of faith, **BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE THEM 'SAVED' CHRISTIANS.** THEY ARE NOT YET ONE IN THE AGAPE LOVE SPIRIT OF GOD. THEY MUST CONTINUE IN THE WORD AND FIND THE TRUTH. Maybe you believe Christ is the Son of God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength. However,

BELIEF AND TRUST IS NOT SALVATION.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT SALVATION IS, FOR THE 'MANY' ONLY THOUGHT THEY KNEW. THE TRUTH OF SALVATION REMAINED A MYSTERY TO THEM AND THEY WERE REJECTED BECAUSE OF IT. YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE ONE OF THE MANY CHRISTIANS. REPENT AND BE CONVERTED TO THE REPROOF OF GOD, AND HE WILL SEND JESUS CHRIST UNTO YOU, (Acts 3:19).

"And without controversy

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS:

GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH,

justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

(1 Timothy 3:16)

What is the great mystery? GODLINESS. And we have already seen that 'Godliness' is the spirit of *agape* love of God that is IN Christ Jesus. It was God's Spirit of *agape* that manifested in the son of man –Jesus of Nazareth. The Spirit of Christ was justified because of the selfless nature of His essence, being a witness to both the heavens and the Earth.

"HOW THAT

BY REVELATION

HE MADE KNOWN UNTO ME THE MYSTERY;

(AS I WROTE AFORE IN FEW WORDS,"

**"WHEREBY, WHEN YE READ, YE MAY UNDERSTAND MY KNOWLEDGE
IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST)"**

(Ephesians 3:3-4)

Paul verifies that the MYSTERY, the completion of the puzzle **has to be supernaturally REVEALED.** The word again for "REVELATION" is *apokalupsis* (ap-ok-al'-oop-sis): **an appearing, a manifestation.** This is something Christ does to us. We have no control over this supernatural act. It is a real, literal experience. Apart from this revelation, there is NO true salvation. To claim salvation by faith only, is the lie of false Christianity. Ask them, they have no such testimony. What has to be revealed? THE MYSTERY. What is the mystery? GODLINESS.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

What is Godliness? God's spirit of Divine *agape*! The Godliness of Christ. This basic Scriptural truth manifests itself verse after verse after verse, a complete harmony in doctrine. Who are you going to choose to believe? Are you going to turn to your local apostate church with its luring social programs, the convincing and super wealthy TV evangelist, or to the teachings of Christ Jesus?

**"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints,
is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the
UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST;"**

**"AND TO MAKE ALL MEN SEE WHAT IS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY,
WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD
HATH BEEN HID IN GOD,
WHO CREATED ALL THINGS BY JESUS CHRIST:"**
(Ephesians 3:8-9)

Do you see the overwhelming message of the Scriptures? Paul has been GIVEN the Grace of God, he has been given REPENTANCE through acknowledging the hidden truth. Paul claims it was given him so he can bear witness of it to the Gentiles. He was finally given the 'UTTERANCE' to make known the mystery. The word "UNSEARCHABLE" is *anexichniastos* (an-ex-ikh-nee'-as-tos), which basically means: **untraceable, past finding out**. That is what Proverbs and Job said. The root words in essence mean: **the origin of its path cannot be found**.

Why? Because it is NOT FOUND in the land of the living, it is HID in God and can only be found by the manifestation of Christ to the seeking believer. Paul had seen it and can only bear witness to it. This confirms that salvation cannot come by *ginosko* knowledge of God. You may 'think' you know Christ through Scripture, and you may 'believe' in Christ enough to move mountains. But it is BEYOND the means of mortal man to attain to the MYSTERY on his own effort. Man has to be MADE to see by revelation. Again notice that understanding relates to wealth.

**EVEN THE MYSTERY WHICH HATH BEEN HID
FROM AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS,
BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST TO HIS SAINTS:
TO WHOM GOD WOULD MAKE KNOWN
WHAT IS THE RICHES OF THE GLORY
of this mystery among the Gentiles;
WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU,
THE HOPE OF GLORY: (Colossians 1:26-27)**

All Christians who undergo authentic regeneration are SAINTS. And it is only to these that the mystery is MANIFESTED. Again, the word "MANIFEST" means: **to render apparent, to appear, manifestly declare, make manifest forth, shew self**. Just as Jesus said He manifests HIMSELF to the believer.

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The "riches of the glory", we now know is: UNDERSTANDING DIVINE AGAPE, which is Christ IN us. That we may be ONE in Him as He is ONE with the Father. That is the HOPE. We first have faith IN Christ enough to OBEY Him that we might find the faith OF Christ, (Gal 2:16).

Jesus sent the 'MANY' away simply because He NEVER KNEW them. IF they had obeyed what Christ told them to do, they would have realized there is a hidden mystery. Then, IF Jesus had been IN them, and they IN Him, then Jesus could not say He never knew them. Paul also confirms the revelation of the mystery has been a secret since the beginning of the world, (Romans 16:25), being ordained by God for our glory. This mystery ENDS in the days of the seventh angel of Revelation, (Rev 10:7). That is when Christ comes, and the mysteries are MADE PLAIN. The tongue of the stammerers will speak CLEARLY. Christians should be careful about BOASTING that these things do not regard them, that it only pertains to Israel and not to the 'Church'. Paul warned of this very thing, (Romans 11:18-21). The book of Revelation applies directly to the CHURCH of the LAST DAYS, where we find the same message:

***Because thou [CHURCH OF LAODICEA] SAYEST,
I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS,
AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING;
AND KNOWEST NOT
THAT THOU ART WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR,
AND BLIND, AND NAKED:
(Revelation 3:17)***

Fear surfaces here when one fully realizes that Jesus is referring to the Christian Church of the latter days, the "Laodicean age" of the spirit of the lukewarm Church. The churches of the last days become ineffective because they become controlled by the materialistic nature of the world, the spirit of mammon. They spend most of their tithe and offerings on their own selves, (their social institutions) to create more programs and staff so they may draw in more and more disciples after them. They grow RICH and their houses are full of deceit, (Jer 5:26-28). They become so self reliant, that they say in their HEART, they have no needs. But Jesus says they "KNOWEST NOT". The word for 'know' here is *eido* (i'-do), which basically means: **to see, have an awareness of, to understand**. That is why the 'MANY' stand in total shock before Jesus. Instead, they are 'BLIND' and 'NAKED'. The word "BLIND" is *tuphos* (toof-los'), which means: **opaque, MENTALLY BLIND**. It's root word is *tuphoo* (toof-o'-o), which means: **to envelop with smoke, or figuratively to inflate with self-conceit; high-minded, be lifted up with PRIDE, be proud**. Does that sound familiar? Therefore, they remain in darkness, subject to their own conceits and the POWER of Satan.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF THE LATTER DAYS ARE A LOST CONGREGATION OF SOULS THAT HAVE NO IDEA OF THEIR TRUE STANDING BEFORE THE LORD THEY WORSHIP. JESUS SAID THEIR WORSHIP IS IN VAIN, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINE THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN, WHICH MAKE HIS COMMANDS OF NONE EFFECT.

EXCEPT THEY REPENT, THEY WILL BE THRUST OUT OF HEAVEN FOREVER AND SUFFER ETERNAL DAMNATION DUE TO THEIR OWN SELF-CONCEIT AND INFLATED PRIDE. THE ONLY WAY THAT THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS "KNOWEST NOT" THAT THEY ARE LOST, IS TO SHARE A COMMON BELIEF IN FALSE SALVATION DOCTRINES. BELIEFS THAT CONVINCED THEM THEY ARE SAVED, WHEN IN REALITY THEY ARE NOT. AND THE 'MANY' ONLY FIND THIS OUT WHEN IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

***"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord,
THAT YE HENCEFORTH WALK NOT AS OTHER GENTILES WALK,
IN THE VANITY OF THEIR MIND,"***

***"HAVING THE UNDERSTANDING DARKENED,
BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD
THROUGH THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN THEM,
BECAUSE OF THE BLINDNESS OF THEIR HEART:"***

***"WHO BEING PAST FEELING HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES OVER UNTO
LASCIVIOUSNESS, TO WORK ALL UNCLEANNESS WITH GREEDINESS."***

***"BUT YE HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST;"*
*(Ephesians 4:17-20)***

Jude also warns the false Christian teachers turn the Grace of God into LASCIVIOUSNESS, and their followers give themselves over to it. They refuse to worship God in TRUTH and in SPIRIT. Therefore, in their delusion they worship the spirit of MAMMON in the name of Jesus, and mammon generates GREED. Notice how Paul words it: "BUT YE HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST". Therefore, the others have learned Christ in a PERVERTED WAY, a broad way theology. The phrase "PAST FEELING" is *apalgeo* (ap-ah-geh'-o), which basically means: **become apathetic**. This virtually describes many people today, especially the Christian majority. They will speak of anything except the desire to know DOCTRINE. A true Christian is viewed as a FANATIC, someone with a "chemical imbalance" suffering from O.C.D. or other mental disorder because they appear 'fanatical' in comparison to the apathetic and apostate 'MANY'.

Notice again that the 'blindness' is in the HEART, in the spirit where understanding is to come. The modern Christian leaders and teachers have all sorts of impressive mental knowledge of Christ, the Bible, and human psychology. Many devote their entire mental awareness to Christ. All of which adds to their self-conceit. But it ALIENATES them from the LIFE that is HIDDEN in God, they are a stranger to what the true essence of God is. It is foreign to them. It is a MYSTERY, they KNOWEST NOT, and remain in spiritual DARKNESS. Take note that one of the reoccurring points that the Scriptures has stressed to us is, "blindness of heart", or darkness of understanding, which is the opposite of ILLUMINATION. The Scriptures have revealed there is a mental understanding and a spiritual understanding. These two are different from one another. There are regenerate Christians who refer to this as inner heart vs. outer heart.

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The two are almost always confused, except you know the difference. We always begin with 'mental' illumination of the outer consciousness.

"But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, AND DIPPED IT IN AN HONEYCOMB, AND PUT HIS HAND TO HIS MOUTH; AND HIS EYES WERE ENLIGHTENED."

"Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: SEE, I PRAY YOU, HOW MINE EYES HAVE BEEN ENLIGHTENED, BECAUSE I TASTED A LITTLE OF THIS HONEY."
(1 Samuel 14:27, 29)

The word "ENLIGHTENED" in Hebrew is 'owr (ore), which means: **to be luminous, be enlightened, set on fire, to shine**. Remember that Jesus said the Church of Laodicea was neither hot or cold. They were not "set on fire" because of the ignorance that is in them. Their spiritual EYE is closed. They have a ZEAL for Christ, but not according to the TRUTH. Here, when Jonathan tasted the honey, he received revelation, his understanding was opened. He could now perceive how his father "troubled the land".

HOW SWEET ARE THY WORDS UNTO MY TASTE! YEA, SWEETER THAN HONEY TO MY MOUTH!

**THROUGH THY PRECEPTS
I GET UNDERSTANDING:
THEREFORE I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY.**
(Psalm 119:103-104)

Remember how 'milk' represents words of compassion and comfort? Now the precepts of God's Word is being compared to HONEY. The word "SWEET" is *malats* (maw-lats'), which means: **to be smooth, pleasant**. Honey is also very nourishing. Psalms compares honey to God's words and precepts, and Isaiah 28 says it is precept upon precept that leads to "GETTING UNDERSTANDING".

HONEY = ENLIGHTENMENT BY THE WORD

**"IT IS NOT GOOD TO EAT MUCH HONEY:
SO FOR MEN TO SEARCH THEIR OWN GLORY
IS NOT GLORY."**
(Proverbs 25:27)

Without this piece of the puzzle, we would have walked away with a false impression. Like the "milk of the Word", so is honey. Along with honey, we must also be fed the STRONG MEAT of doctrine.

Beginning the Search for Understanding

This is why the false Christian leaders and teachers are ever learning and unable to come the KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH. They bypass wandering in the 'wilderness' of the narrow way, and instead they expect to go directly to the promised land of "milk and honey". They remain there seeking their own GLORY, which they think is of the Lord. They are enlightening their own eyes of their own mental intellect, while their heart remains DARK AND DESPERATELY WICKED.

**"THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY,
MAY GIVE UNTO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM
AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM:"**

**"THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING
BEING ENLIGHTENED;
THAT YE MAY KNOW
WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING,
AND WHAT THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE
IN THE SAINTS," (Ephesians 1:17-18)**

Paul is speaking to Christians, the Church of Ephesus. They yet have found the hidden WISDOM of God. The word "KNOWLEDGE" here is *epignosis*, which is: **full discernment, acknowledgment, an experiential knowledge**. How are they to have FULL DISCERNMENT? By REVELATION of the knowledge of God! The Greek word for "ENLIGHTENED" is *photizo* (fo-tid'-zo), which means: **to shed rays, to shine or to brighten up; enlighten, illuminate, bring to light or give light to, make to see**. What are we to be made to see? The HOPE of God's calling, the RICHES of the GLORY that is IN the saints. The divine *agape* love of God! This is the illumination of both the spirit AND mind. To have singleness of heart. To first understand Christ's literal commands that there is a mystery of God, then to search and FIND it. John said eternal life is to know God and Christ, (Jn 17:3). Here we find the knowledge of God and Christ comes by REVELATION.

**EYES OF UNDERSTANDING ENLIGHTENED =
TO SEE THE REVELATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST.**

**"BUT CALL TO REMEMBRANCE THE FORMER DAYS, IN WHICH,
AFTER YE WERE ILLUMINATED,
YE ENDURED A GREAT FIGHT OF AFFLICTIONS;"**

**"PARTLY, WHILST YE WERE MADE A GAZINGSTOCK
BOTH BY REPROACHES AND AFFLICTIONS;
AND PARTLY, WHILST YE BECAME COMPANIONS OF THEM
THAT WERE SO USED."
(Hebrews 10:32-33)**

Now we are back to mental illumination. How can we tell? Notice the sequence of events. Remembrance of the former days would place these people in their early days of Christianity, when they were babes in Christ. Jesus ILLUMINATED (opened)

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their understanding so they could enter the strait gate. It is AFTER this initial illumination that they were able to discover that they had to find the truth, a "lively hope" that led them through the narrow way; a time of enduring a great fight of afflictions.

The word "ENDURED" is *hupomeno* (hoop-om-en'-o), which means: **to stay under or behind, to remain in, to undergo or bear trials, have fortitude, to persevere, to abide, endure, take patiently, to suffer, or tarry behind.** It sounds like when Jesus said to continue, and we have need of patience. This is NOT instant salvation where you say a simple "sinners prayer" and 'POOF' you're saved! What do they endure? A GREAT FIGHT OF AFFLICTIONS. The word "FIGHT" means the same as STRIVE (to enter the straight gate, Luke 13:24), to FIGHT to lay hold of eternal life, (1 Tim 6:12); to TURN the BATTLE to the gate. And "AFFLICTIONS" is *pathema* (path'-ay-mah), which is: **something undergone, hardship or pain, subjected to an emotion or influence, affection, affliction, motion, suffering.** This is what 'NARROW' essentially means.

First Christ opens their understanding enough to realize THERE IS a mystery that has to be found, that there is a strait gate and narrow way that they must convert to. These obviously entered in, that is, turned their back to the pursuit of a false faith with its anon joy, in search for true joy and peace. They faced a GREAT fight of afflictions, a total chastisement; to become a partaker of the sufferings of Christ. We pick up our cross first, then God gradually NAILS us to it. We can't enter the Kingdom on our own, and we dare not give up and go back to the world. We are ALONE, NAILED TO THAT CROSS enduring suffering and shame. The world becomes DARK to us and God awaits the cry from our spirit: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

**"WITH THE PURE THOU WILT SHOW THYSELF PURE;
AND WITH THE FROWARD THOU WILT SHOW THYSELF FROWARD."**

**"FOR THOU WILT SAVE THE AFFLICTED PEOPLE;
BUT WILT BRING DOWN HIGH LOOKS."**

**"FOR THOU WILT LIGHT MY CANDLE:
THE LORD MY GOD WILL ENLIGHTEN MY DARKNESS."
(Psalm 18:26-28)**

Take note of the first verse. Another confirmation of Hebrews 4:12 that God mirrors back to people the nature and intent of their heart when they read the Word. The word "PURE" is *barar* (baw-rar'), which relates to **being BRIGHTENED.** The word "FROWARD" means: **perverse, false.** Who is it that God SAVES? Only the AFFLICTED people. When are they afflicted? After they were illuminated and walk the narrow way. Note that it is ONLY the Lord who can light our candle, to illuminate our darkness, which is another witness to the Key of David and being guided by the Holy Spirit. This verse is repeated in 2 Samuel 22:27-29. The word "AFFLICTED" in that reference is *'aniy* (aw-nee'), which means: **depressed in mind or circumstance; afflicted, humble, lowly, needy, poor.**

Beginning the Search for Understanding

Remember that Jesus said it was the POOR that is given the kingdom of heaven; only those who have been afflicted and brought down to total humility in the narrow way. The concept of God saving only those who are humbled by His instruction and chastisement is another confirming study, another important portion of the salvation doctrine puzzle.

**"AND THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY,
AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES,
AND ALL KNOWLEDGE;
AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH,
SO THAT I COULD REMOVE MOUNTAINS,

AND HAVE NOT CHARITY, [AGAPE LOVE]
I AM NOTHING."
(1 Corinthians 13:2)**

Let's take this as Isaiah said, line by line in order to realize the impact of what Paul is telling us.

"AND THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY". This indicates Paul possesses the POWER of the Holy Spirit. The gift of prophecy is one of the nine essential gifts of the Spirit, (1 Cor 12:10). The 'MANY' of Matthew 7 also had gifts of the Holy Spirit for they also prophesied in Jesus' name, but were not saved. A power baptism of the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with salvation, nor is it proof of salvation. Paul confirms that here.

"AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES, AND ALL KNOWLEDGE", Paul understood ALL the mysteries of the Bible. The Lord can OPEN a person's understanding and they may be able to piece all the puzzles together, and still fall short of the mark.

"AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH", Paul has just stuck a sword into modern Christian theology with this one. Their whole foundation is built upon a simple "FAITH" gospel. Paul testifies that you can have all the faith there is; faith in God, Jesus and the Bible, and that is not enough.

"AND HAVE NOT CHARITY, I AM NOTHING". Do you understand what Paul is saying? Again the word "CHARITY" in the Greek is *agape*. The word "NOTHING" is interesting, which is *oudeis* (oo-dice'), which means: **not even one man or woman, i.e. none, nobody, nothing**; in other words, NOT ONE WITH GOD.

We can know and understand all about the Word, have a photo memory of the Bible and site thousands of verses and still be lost. We can have such a great baptism of the Holy Spirit and have all the gifts and still be lost. We can have all the faith in the world and be confident in all the claims of the Bible, but still be lost. We can be a super evangelist with millions of followers, healing thousands of sick souls and be lost as lost can be. WHY? BECAUSE WITHOUT POSSESSING THE AGAPE LOVE OF GOD, WE CAN NEVER BE ONE WITH GOD AND CHRIST. That is what true salvation is.

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That is the ENTIRE issue between man and God. **POWER is not charity. KNOWLEDGE of the Bible and its doctrines is not charity. FAITH is not charity.** Without charity –GOD'S AGAPE LOVE,

WE ARE NOTHING!

If we are NOTHING, then we are not a SON OF GOD, we are NOT BORN AGAIN with the AGAPE LOVE SPIRIT OF GOD. WE ARE NOT ONE WITH OUR CREATOR, WE ARE NOTHING BUT A SOUL LOST IN DARKNESS AND DEATH.

**"BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF [AGAPE] LOVE
THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD:
THEREFORE THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT,
BECAUSE IT KNEW HIM NOT."**
(1 John 3:1)

This is another testimony that shows the difference between a saved son of God and an unsaved one which is possessing *agape* love. Notice that John declares it is a love TYPE. The phrase "what manner of" is the double use of *potapos*, which means: **of what possible sort [type]**. The root words imply: **when and from what origin**. That we already know the answer, it has been HID in God since before the foundation of the world. The word "BEHOLD" is *eido* (i'-do), which is: **to see, to know, be aware of, look on, perceive, be sure of, understand**. It compares to the word *optanomai* (op-tan'-om-ah-ee), which means: **to gaze with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable; to appear, shew self**. This expresses the same idea as 'revelation' and 'manifestation'. Something displayed that we are to SEE with our eyes. We are to see what the love of God REALLY IS, and only then will we have the ultimate experiential KNOWLEDGE of God, the *epiginosko* knowledge. Notice how John then relates this back to the mystery. The words 'knoweth' and 'knew' here is *ginosko*-know. The world does not contain the *epiginosko* knowledge of God. Neither does the world intellectually recognize or understand the essence of *agape* because they must OBEY Christ's sayings to FIND it. This verse establishes that the only way to HAVE the divine love of God is to have it BESTOWED through union with His Son. Some Christians teach that the divine love of God only comes AFTER this life when they 'get' to heaven. There are some Christians who fraudulently lay claim to it now.

The word "BESTOWED" is *didomi* (did'-o-mee), which means: **to give, bestow, bring forth, commit, deliver up, grant, to make, offer, have power, receive, show**. Therefore man does not know or possess this love type at all. It is totally alien to him, a MYSTERY. The FEW who seek for it, are promised to be shown it, then receive its SEED. They KNOW the SECRET of God because it has been SHOWN to them; and they are the FEW of Christ's strait-gate way of Christianity.

**"THE SECRET OF THE LORD
IS WITH THEM THAT FEAR HIM;**

Beginning the Search for Understanding

AND HE WILL
SHOW THEM HIS COVENANT.
(Psalm 25:14)

Jesus does not enter into a contract with anyone under fraudulent conditions. Those that seek Him by the WAY He commanded, will be literally **shown** what the New Covenant is all about. The word 'SHOW' is *yada'* (yaw-dah'); in this context means: **to know by seeing; acknowledge, acquainted with, be assured, be aware, discover, make to know, have knowledge of, a mark, perceive, privy to, be sure, have understanding.** It is only THEN, the obedient seeker KNOWS the Father and the Son. For the New Covenant (Testament) is a legally binding contract between man and God through its mediator –Jesus Christ. Every soul has to settle this issue with their REDEEMER in accordance to HIS TERMS, according to the LAW of God. Man is reconciled to God through Christ, but man must reconcile himself to the Lord that bought him who is Jesus Christ. It is the LAST ACT of the *Kinsman-redeemer* law that is fulfilled in Christ Jesus, (Lev 25:50); it is the last piece of the puzzle, the END of the mystery of God. *Selah.*

**"Through desire a man, having separated himself,
seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom."**

**"A fool hath no delight in understanding,
but that his heart may discover itself."**
(Proverbs 18:1-2)

Do you have the desire to find the wisdom of God?

~ End of Study ~

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