

We talked last week about why we can't be saved like the thief on the cross, who lived under the Law of Moses.

How did the church deal with the transition from the LOM to NT Christianity?

Slowly and with patience from God!

Jesus, just prior to His ascension into heaven, told His disciples to go into all the world – not just to Judea

Mat 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you

Act 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

When did they finally understand that they were not just to seek out the Jews in these places but all men? For a number of years, they weren't doing what He told them to.

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 2, the church is founded(AD 33)

3000 added the 1<sup>st</sup> day (41)

5000 men (Acts 4.4)

Deacons appointed Act 6.5 (one of  
whom was a proselyte – a convert to  
Judaism NIV)

1<sup>st</sup> uncircumcised Gentiles added Acts  
10,11 (about 10-11 years after the  
church was founded).

Date point Acts 12 AD44, Herod's death is recorded by Josephus.

Saul and Barnabas missionary journey Acts 13-14 (1 ½ years?)

Acts 15 – the church faces the question of whether the Gentiles had to become Jews (proselytes)

Act 15:1 And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

(2) And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

The matter is settled by a God given  
example (v. 7-12)

The argument is buttressed by the  
commands of God (v. 15-17)

A necessary conclusion is based on  
the Scripture (v. 19)



Four things are enjoined on the disciples to prevent offense to the Jews –

Act 15:19 "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, (20) but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (21) "For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

Circumcision has no value in this new covenant, however, the Jews continue to keep the Law of Moses until after Paul's imprisonment.

Note there is nothing about keeping the Sabbath in these 4 things – it was given to the Jews. And the Jews continue to observe it!

Act 21:20 And when they heard it they *began* glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law;

Deu 5:13 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (14) but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. (15) 'And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

The Jews continued to believe that they held a special place in God's plan and Paul wrote to the church at Rome, which had both Jews and Gentiles, while on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, that Circumcision of the flesh means nothing under Christ's Law Romans 2:25-29.

The Jews had held a special place (Rom 11.1) but the Gentiles had been grafted in (11.17-18) but could not be arrogant. Neither Jews nor Gentiles held a special position – they were all brothers.

Paul makes two more missionary journeys and then brings funds to help in the current distress in Jerusalem in 57AD (Acts 21)

The Jews are continuing in their observance of the Law of Moses!  
(24 years after the churches' establishment)

Act 21:19 And after he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. (20) And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; (21) and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

In effect, there were two distinct groups; one (the Jews – keeping the customs) evidently going to the temple on Saturday (the Sabbath) and Sunday (the Lord's day, to proclaim the Lord's death) while the Gentiles were meeting only on Sunday.

As the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists will tell you, Paul is recorded going to more synagogues than to meetings of the church. Acts 13.14, 15, 43; 14.1; 17.1, 10, 17; 18.4, 7, 8, 17, 19, 26; 19.8; 22.19 vs.  
13.1; 14.23, 27; 15.3, 4, 20; 20.7



When is the Lord's will finally written down? About AD70, just before the destruction of Jerusalem.

2Pe 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Heb 8:4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

Notice the present tense in Heb 8.4 – at this point temple sacrifices were still occurring.

Timothy has just been released from prison Heb 13.23 (the only mention of this) and Paul writes to him, perhaps from Asia (2Tim 1.15)

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; (15) and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

68-70 AD they had it all

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

68-70 AD they had it all

Paul is thrown in jail shortly after he arrives in Jerusalem Acts 21.33

Two years later (Acts 24.27) as he lingers in jail at Jerusalem, he appeals to Caesar (Act 25.11)

Paul writes the prison epistles – Eph Col, Phil,  
Philemon

After his release, he writes 1Ti, Tit and is then imprisoned again after which he writes 2Tim. That must coincide (2Tim 3.16-17) with Peter writing 2 Peter (see 1:3), Jude (see v.3) writing, the author of Hebrews writing (13.23) and John writing the Revelation for all of God's will for us today to have been written down.

68-70 AD they had it all

2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. (17) But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul then writes what that it is no longer acceptable for the Jews to continue keeping the Law.



Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (2) Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. (3) And I testify again to every man **who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.** (4) **You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

The four things of Acts 15 were a temporary solution to allow men to adjust their prejudices. In Galatians there is no difference in the worship of Jew and Gentile!

68-70 AD they had it all

Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. (24) Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. (25) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. promise.

(28) There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free man,  
there is neither male nor female; for  
**you are all one in Christ Jesus.** (29)

And if you belong to Christ, then  
you are Abraham's offspring, heirs  
according to

God allowed 35-38 years for the people of God to adjust to the New Covenant.

*But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

68-70 AD they had it all

Recalling Paul's words on Mars Hill, we might apply them to today – you have the entire will of God available to you today!

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, (31) because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Do You Believe the Word of God  
Has Been Completely Delivered?

If you do, act on it!

Act 22:16 And now what are you  
waiting for? Get up, be baptized  
and wash your sins away, calling  
on his name.'