

Unity in Ephesus

Introduction

















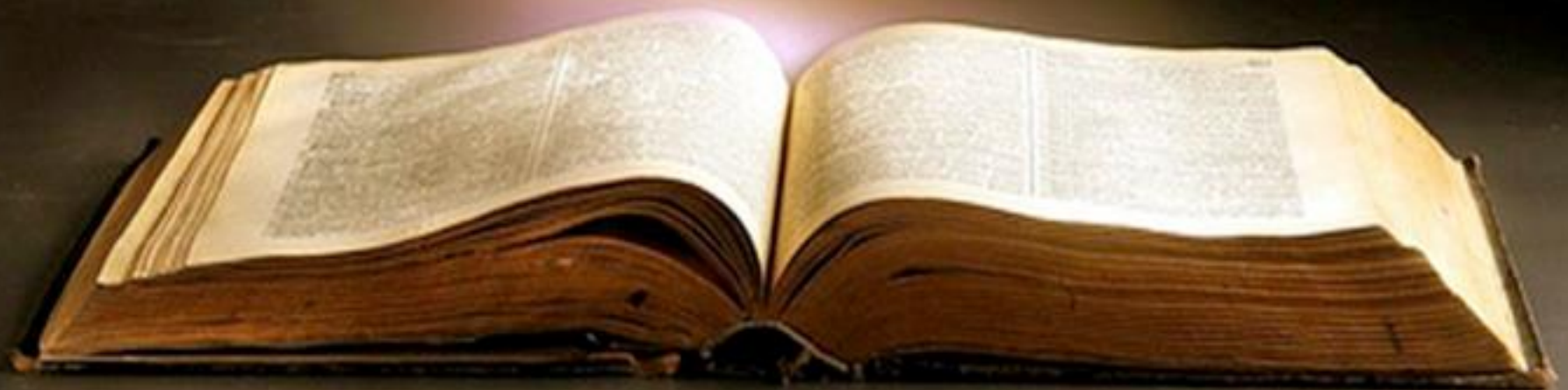






Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all.



AD 54 Paul 1st
visits Ephesus

AD 66 Paul
writes 1st
Timothy

AD 95 1st John
Written

AD
54

42 Years

AD
96

AD 62 Paul
writes
Ephesians

AD 68 Paul
writes 2nd
Timothy

AD 96
Revelation is
written

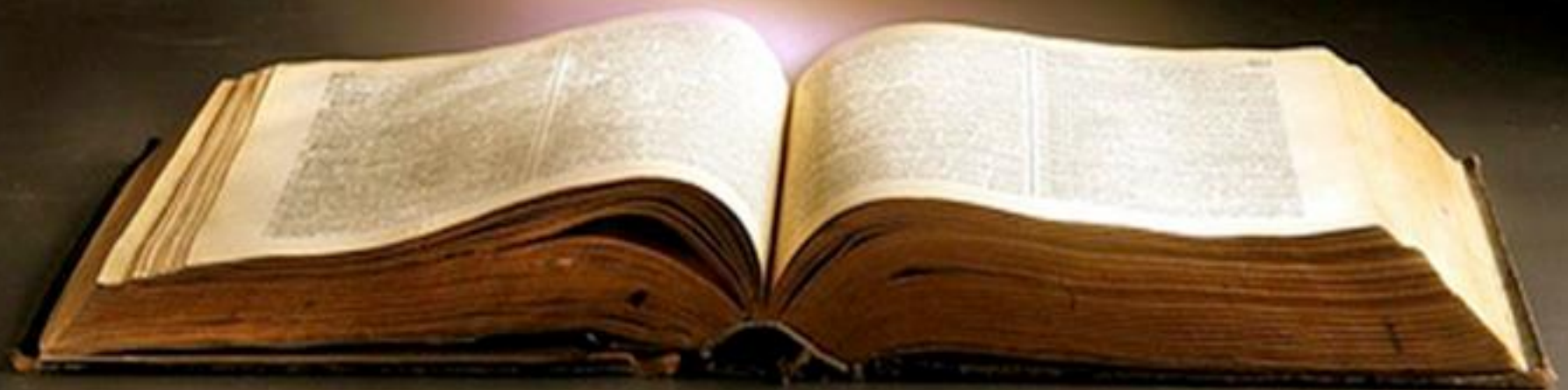
Unity in Ephesus

Class 1

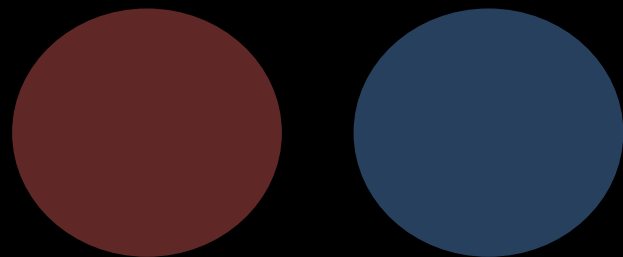
Acts 18:25

Being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the Synagogue.

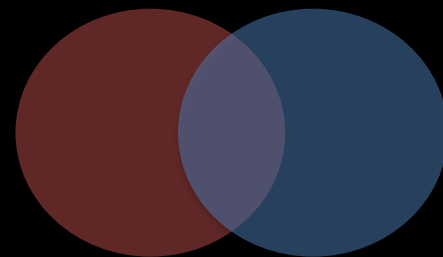
(RSV)



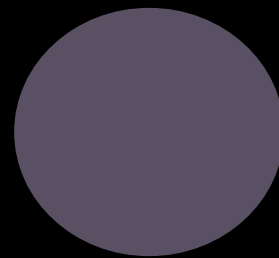
They could **avoid confrontation** and remain perpetually disunited



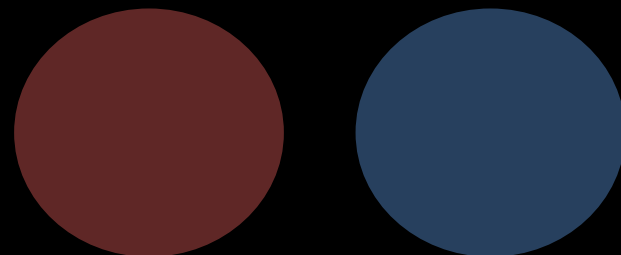
They could try to unite with Apollos on **common ground** such as repentance and ignore differences



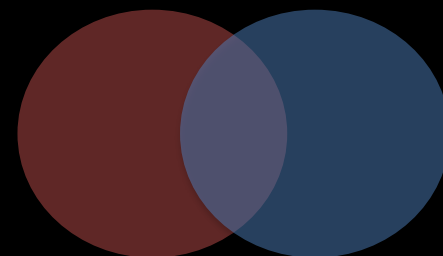
They could try to **unite on the truth** – expounding it carefully in an attempt to win Apollos to Christ and thus gain a brother in truth



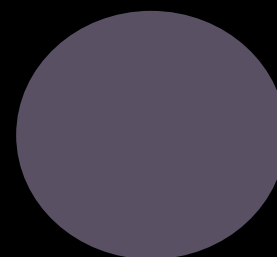
Isolation



Tolerance

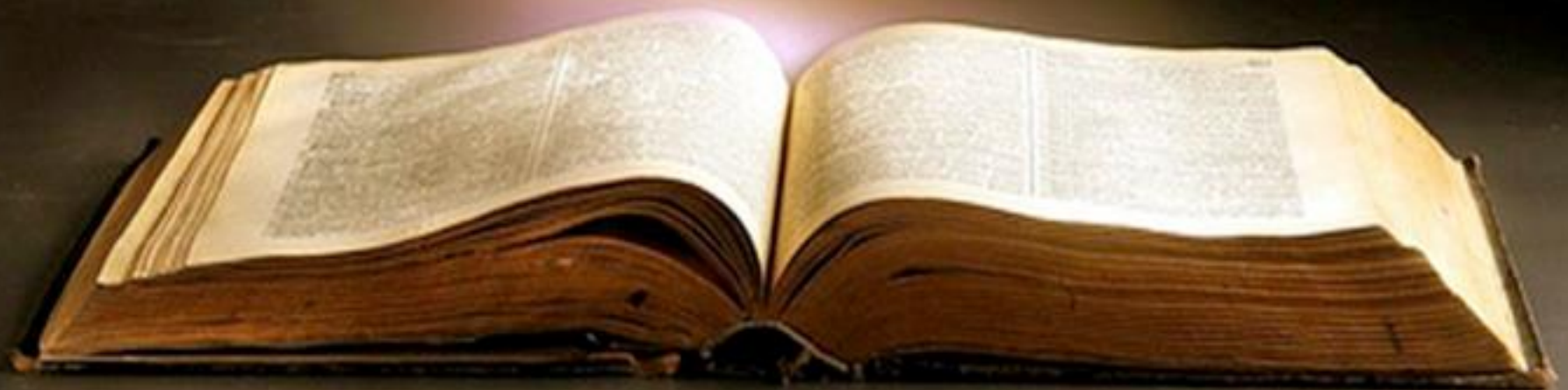


True Fellowship



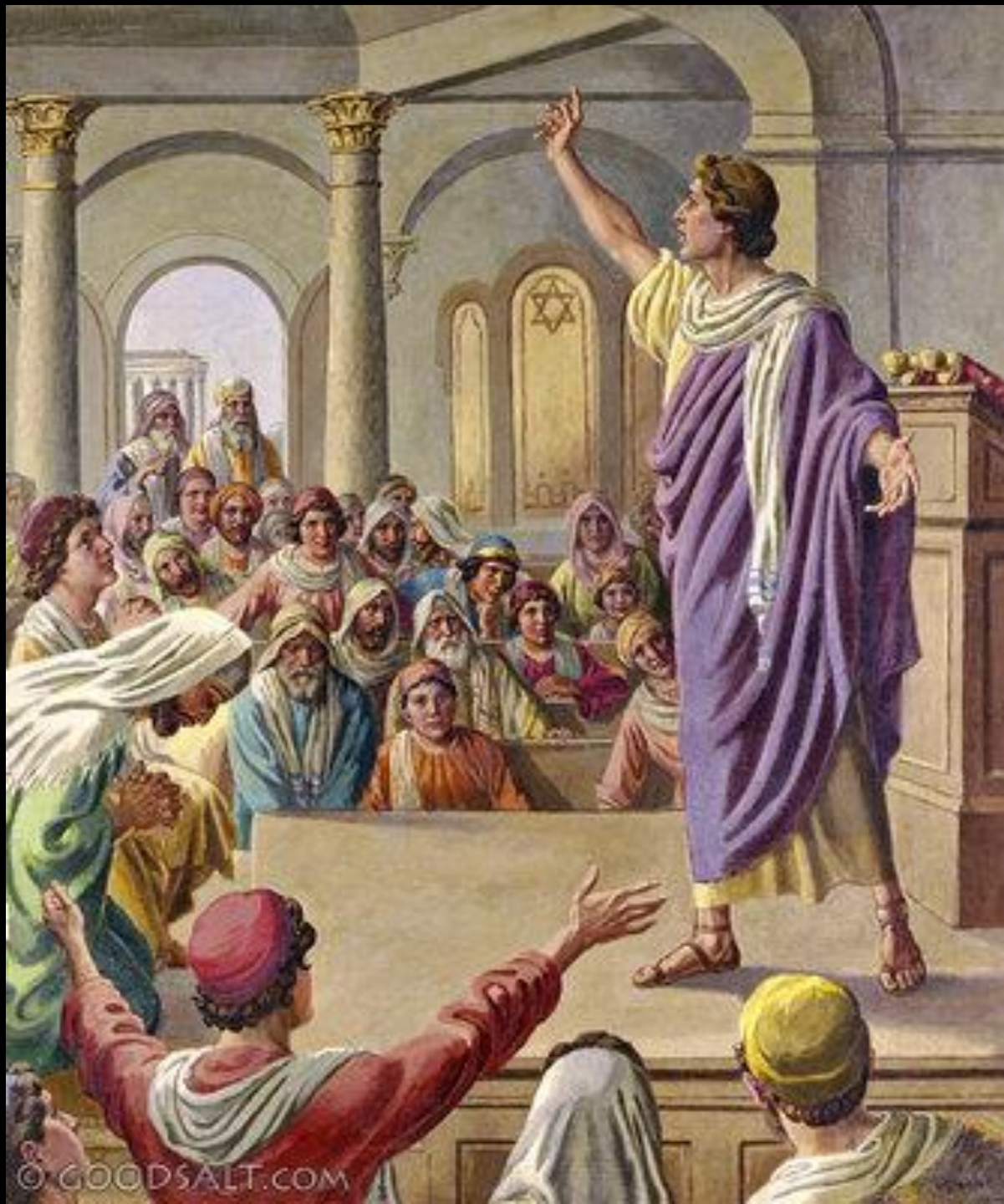
Acts 19:8-9

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.



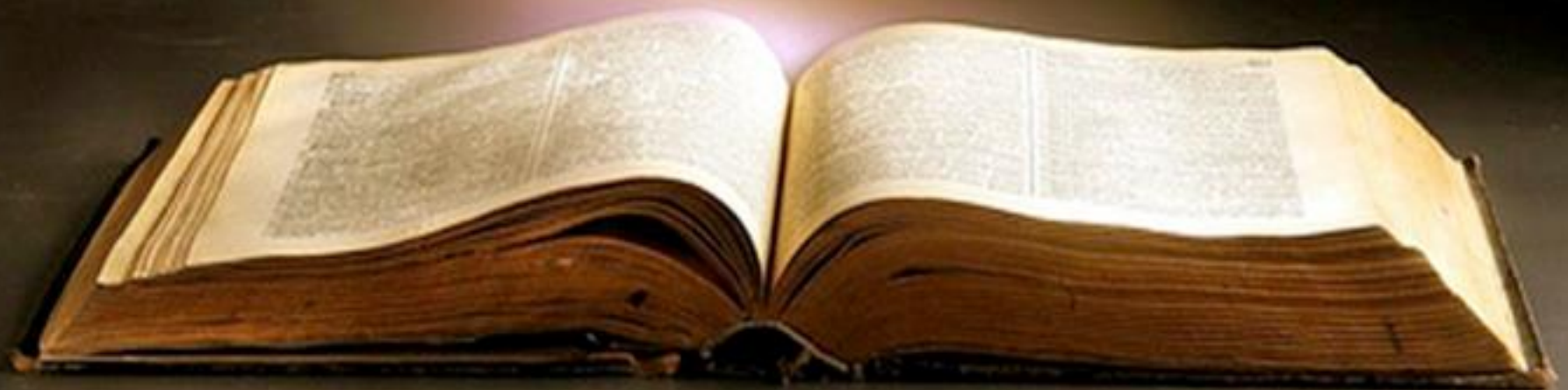
Exhortations for separation	Eph 5:7, 1 Tim 6:5
Exhortations for unity	Eph 4:3
Huge doctrinal controversies	2 Tim 2:18
Ecclesial members dis-fellowshipped	1 Tim 1:20
Ecclesial leaders lusting for power, tearing the ecclesia apart	Acts 20:29-30
A clear doctrinal test of fellowship and disfellowship implemented	1 John 4:1-4
Jesus saying that he hates the doctrine of some so-called Christians in Ephesus	Rev 2:6
An exhortation to love your brethren unlike any other ecclesia in the New Testament	1 John 4:18-21

Acts 17:2 reasoned
Acts 17:17 disputed
Acts 18:4 reasoned
Acts 18:19 reasoned
Acts 19:8 disputing
Acts 19:9 disputing
Acts 20:7 preached
Acts 20:9 preaching
Acts 24:25 reasoned



Acts 19:8-9

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.



Two issues over which the Ephesian ecclesia begins

Acts 18:24 – 19:7 Who is Jesus

Acts 19:8 – 9 What is the Kingdom of God

We either reconcile or we separate on the gospel. It unifies or it divides, but the gospel doesn't change. To study Ephesus is to study unity and to study separation based on the gospel.



THE BIRMINGHAM
AMENDED
STATEMENT
OF FAITH

*Including
Doctrines to be Rejected
and the Commandments of
Christ*

19. That God will set up a Kingdom in the earth, which will overthrow all others, and change them into "the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ."



THE BIRMINGHAM
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21. That the Kingdom which he will establish will be the Kingdom of Israel restored, in the territory it formerly occupied, namely, the land bequeathed for an everlasting possession to Abraham and his Seed (the Christ) by covenant.



THE BIRMINGHAM
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23. That the governing body of the Kingdom so established will be the brethren of Christ, of all generations, developed by resurrection and change, and constituting, with Christ as their head, the collective "Seed of Abraham," in whom all nations will be blessed, and comprising "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets," and all in their age of like faithfulness.



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28. That the mission of the Kingdom will be to subdue all enemies, and finally death itself, by opening up the way of life to the nations, which they will enter by faith, during the thousand years, and (in reality) at their close.

Catholics: The kingdom of heaven was inaugurated on earth by Christ. This kingdom shone out before men in the word, in the works and in the presence of Christ. The Church is the seed and beginning of this kingdom. Its keys are entrusted to Peter.

Lutherans: Generally, we speak of three kingdoms: 1) kingdom of power – in this God rules all creation with His almighty power, 2) kingdom of grace – this being the church on earth, consisting of each one who believes with Christ ruling the human heart, 3) kingdom of glory – being above or heaven where all the dead in Christ await the final day.

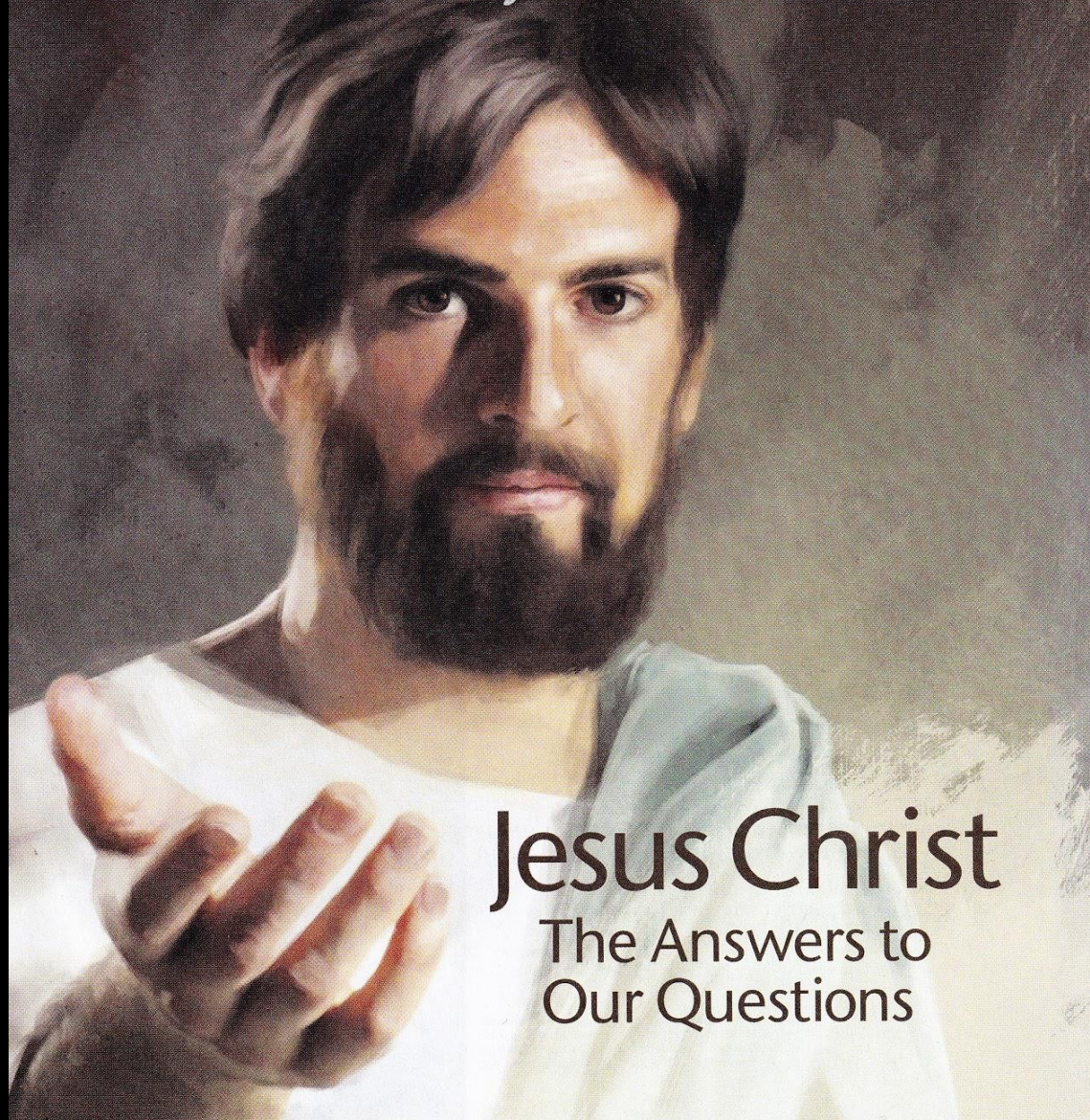


[http://lutheranmissions.org/
the-kingdom-of-god/](http://lutheranmissions.org/the-kingdom-of-god/)

Jehovah's Witness:
God's kingdom is said to be an actual government, set up by God in heaven, that will rule over the earth after removing all human governments at Armageddon. Jesus began ruling as king of God's kingdom in 1914.

What Does the Bible Really Teach.
Watch Tower Society. pp. 215–218.

APRIL 1, 2012
THE WATCHTOWER
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



Jesus Christ

The Answers to
Our Questions

Mormons: The LDS Church considers the church itself as the kingdom of God on the earth. However, this is limited to a spiritual or ecclesiastical kingdom until the Millennium when Christ will also establish a political kingdom of God... However, Latter-day Saints believe that this theocratic "kingdom" will in fact be quasi-republican in organization



[LDS Bible Dictionary](#)", KJV (LDS), LDS Church, 1979; "Chapter 24: The Kingdom of God", [Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor](#), [Teachings of Presidents of the Church](#), LDS Church, 2001, pp. 219–228; Chapter 45: The Millennium", [Gospel Principles](#), LDS Church, 2011, pp. 263–267

But there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. - Gal 1:7-8 KJV

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. - 2Pe 2:1 KJV

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. - 2Th 2:12 KJV

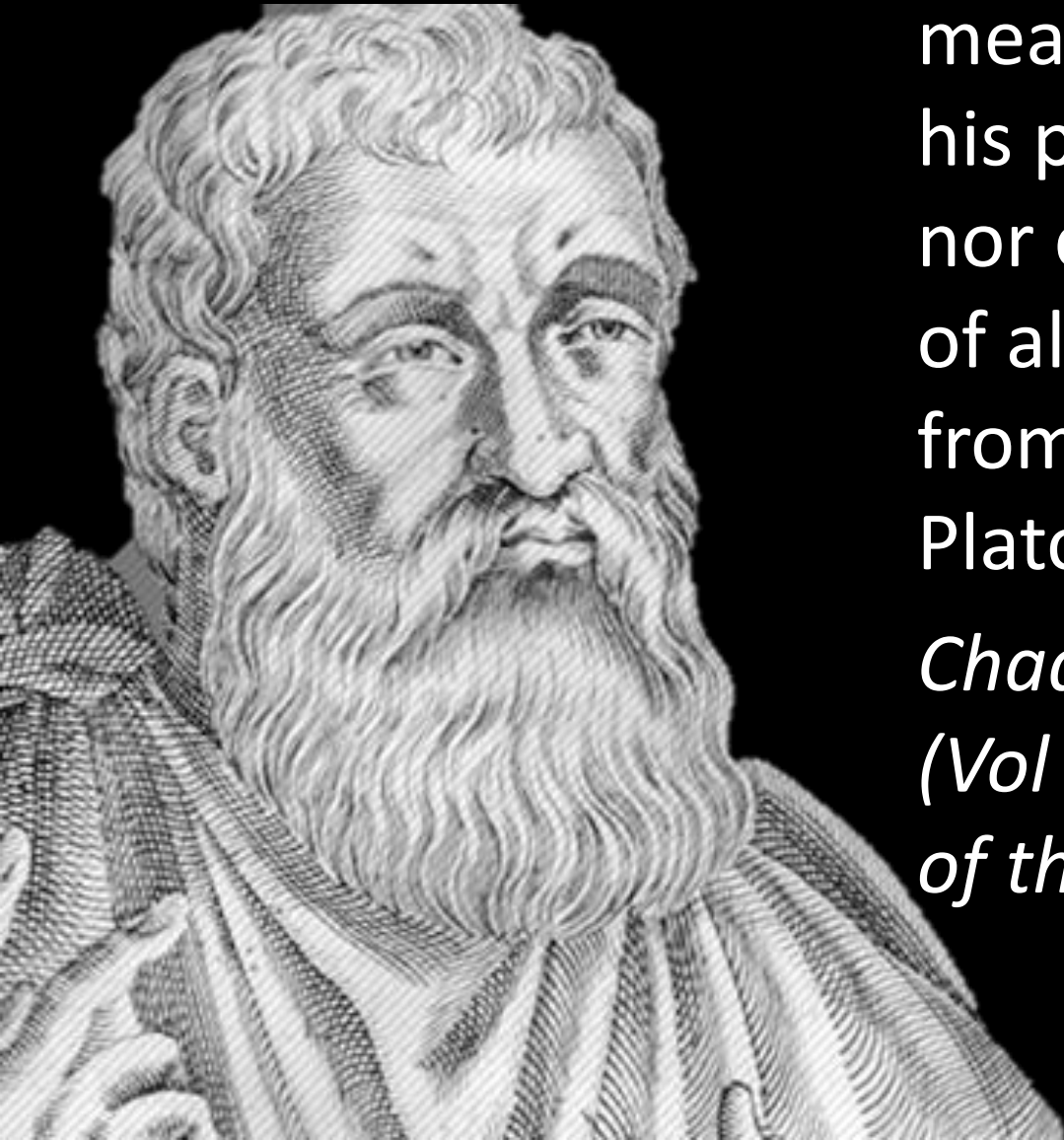
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. - 2Ti 4:3 KJV

Acts 19:18-20

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

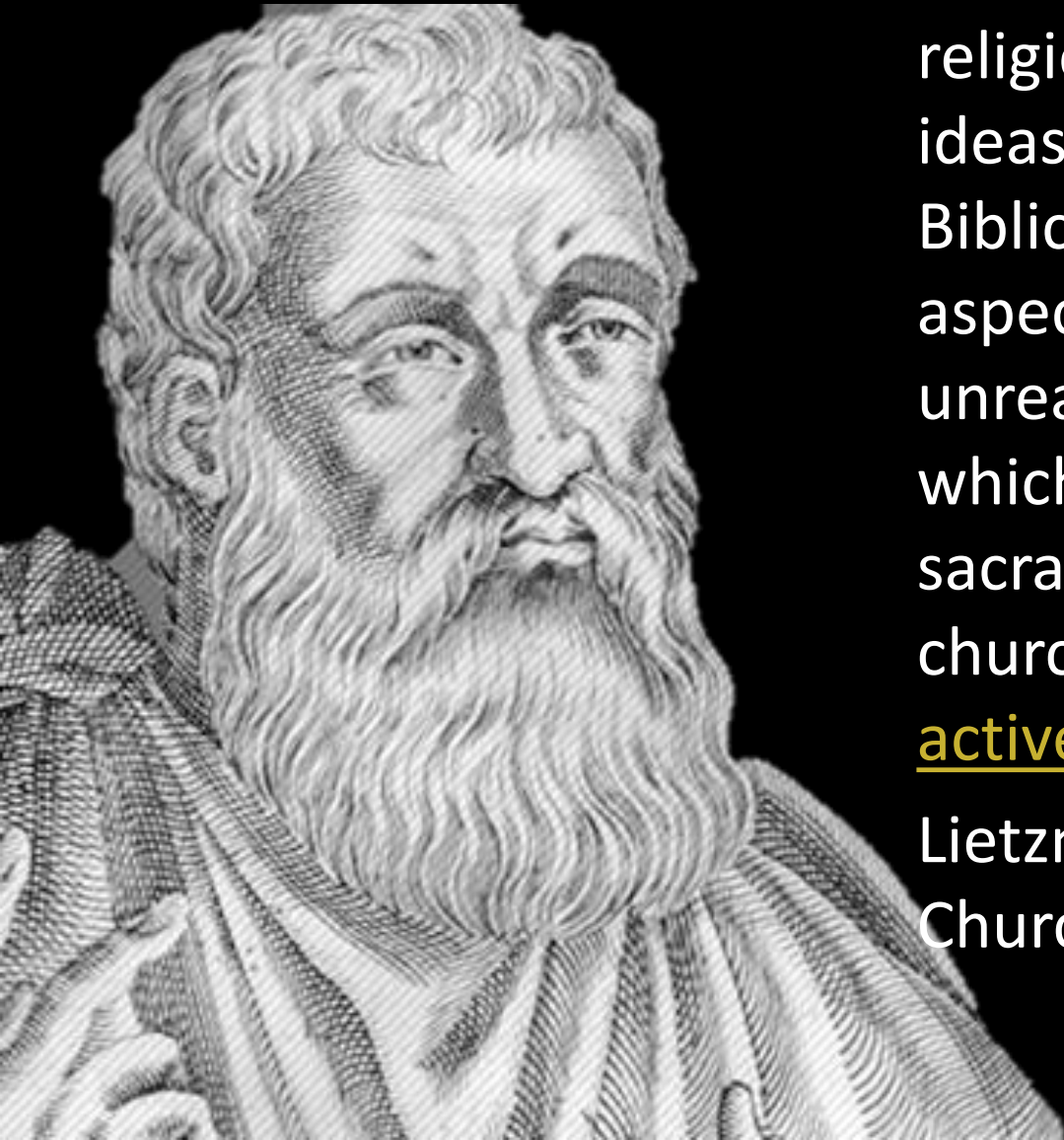
Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.





Justin was converted, but did not understand this to mean the abandonment of his philosophical enquiries, nor even the renunciation of all that he had learnt from (the philosopher Plato).

Chadwick, The Early Church (Vol 1 of the Pelican History of the Church) page 75

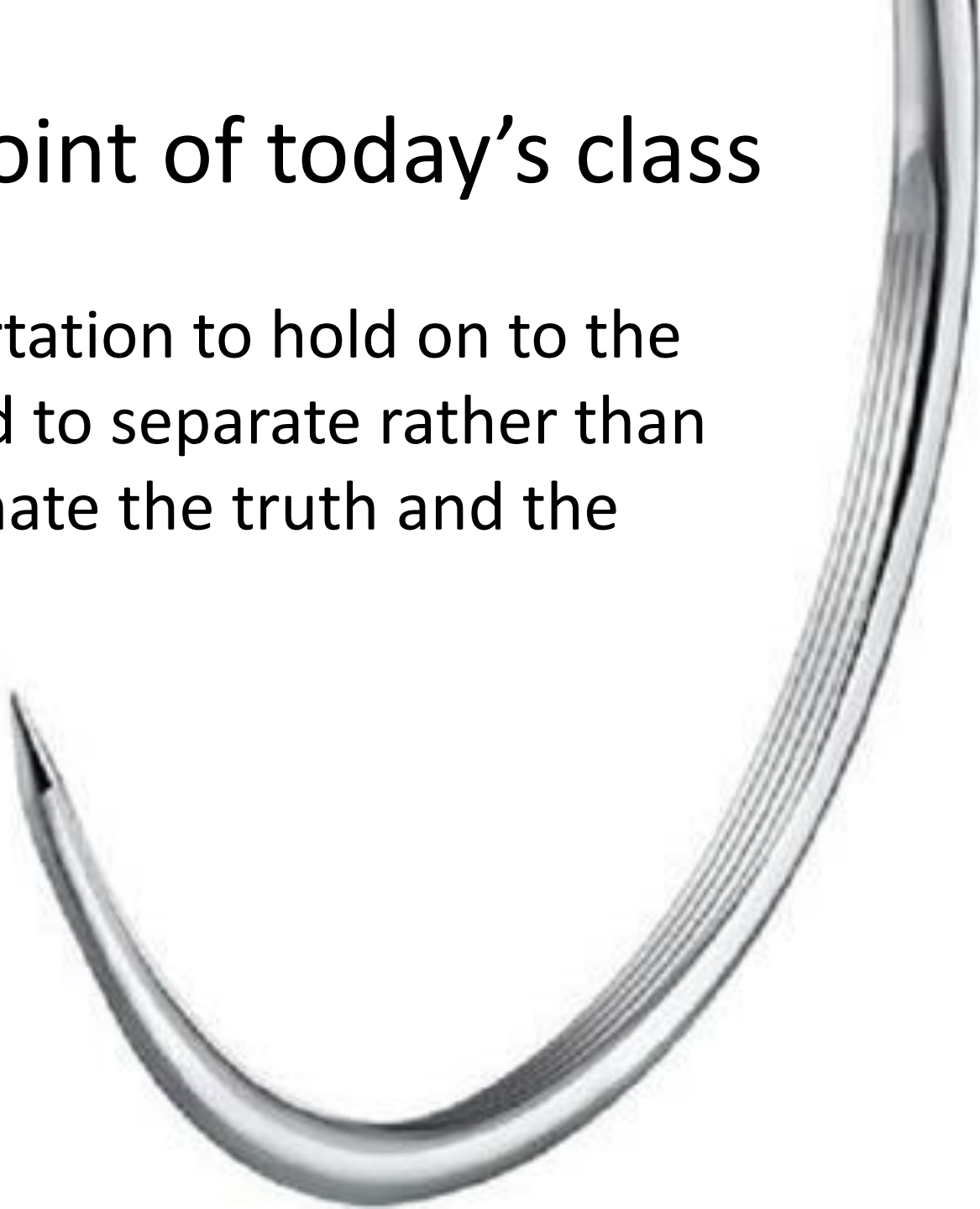


It's obvious that Justin's Christianity is divided into two halves; one is a philosophic religion which clothes Greek ideas and conceptions in a loose Biblical garment... and the second aspect is that the of the unreasoned faith of the Church in which words of Jesus, sacramental mysticism, and church-life combine to form an active unity.

Lietzmann "History of the Early Church", Vol, II page 185

The point of today's class

An exhortation to hold on to the truth and to separate rather than amalgamate the truth and the world.



1 Tim 4:16

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.

Unity in Ephesus

Class 2

1. We have no basis for unity until we also have a basis for separation, and
2. If that basis is the gospel, we understand it to be a matter of life and death.

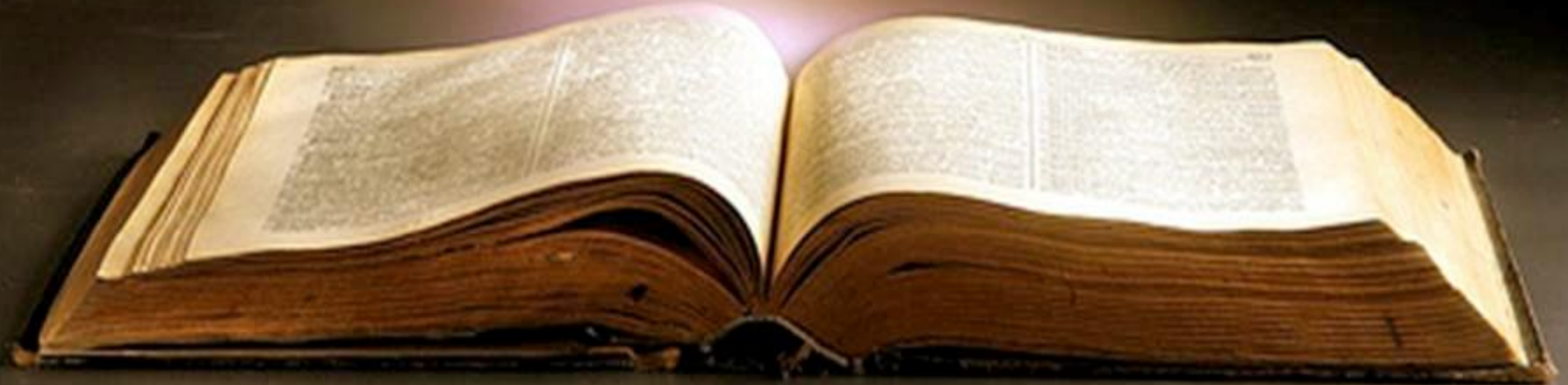
Acts 19 - The gospel basis of unity and separation

1. **The name of Jesus Christ:** To which Apollos and the disciples of John acceded and by which they enjoyed unity with Aquila, Priscilla and Paul.
2. **The Kingdom of God:** For which cause Paul separated the ecclesia from the Jews who upon hearing the doctrine spoke evil of the way.

- 54 Leaves Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, returns to Jerusalem
- 55 3rd missionary journey starts, returns to Ephesus,
- 56 Writes 1st Corinthians
- 57 Ephesian Riots, leaves Ephesus, writes 2nd Corinthians & Romans
- 58 Meets Ephesian elders at Melitus
- 59 Arrested in Jerusalem, jailed 2 years in Caesarea
- 60
- 61 4th missionary journey starts, shipwreck in Malta
- 62 House arrest in Rome 2 years, **writes Ephesians**, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon
- 63 Paul released from Prison
- 64
- 65
- 66 **Paul writes 1st Timothy and Titus**
- 67 Paul arrested again
- 68 Writes 2nd Timothy and is executed

1 Timothy 1:1-3

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

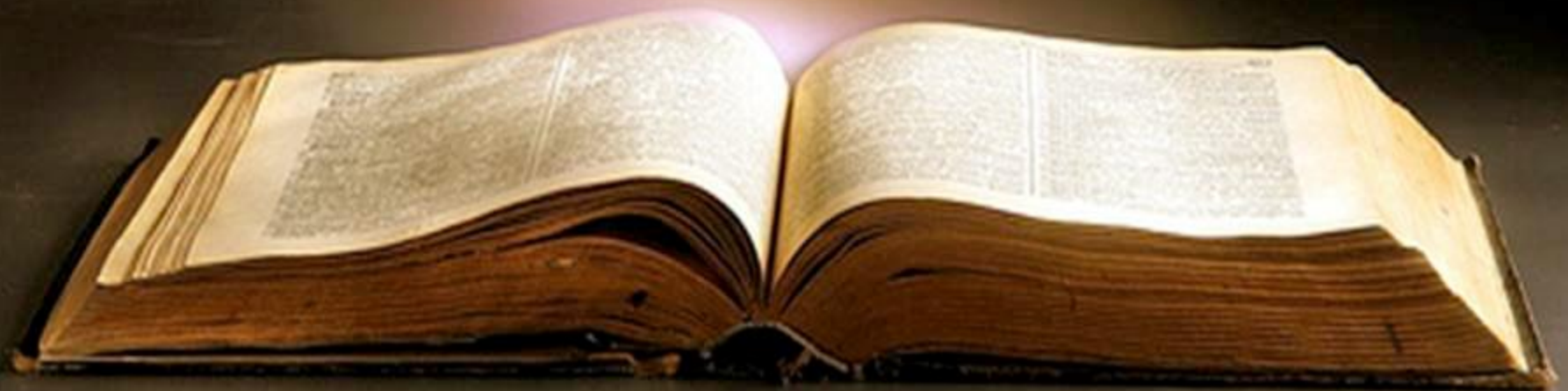


1 Tim 4:16

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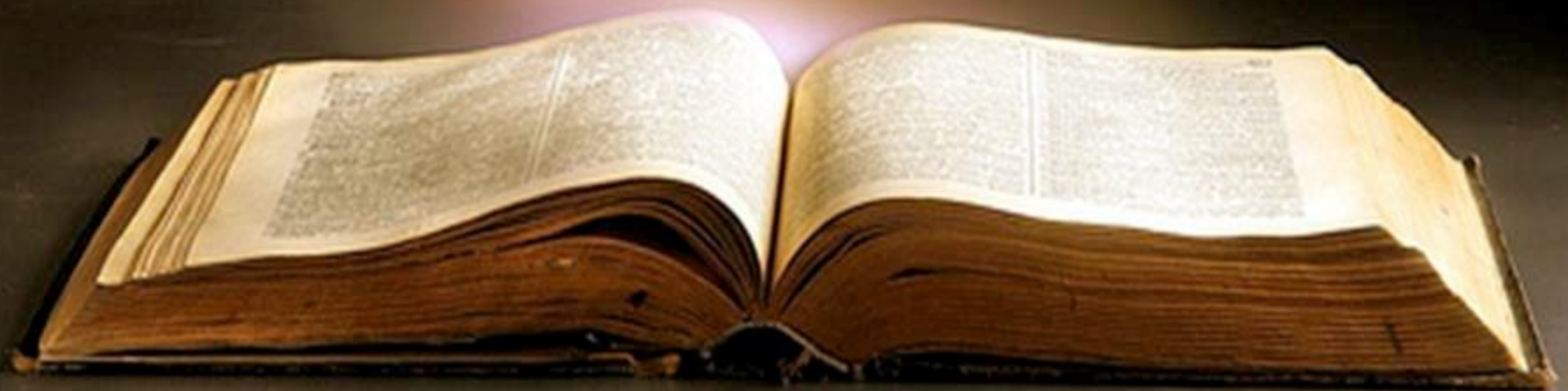
Doctrine in 1st Timothy

1:3; 1:10; 4:6; 4:13;
4:16; 5:17; 6:1; 6:3



Acts 20:28-30

Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the holy spirit hath made you overseers, to lead the ecclesia of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this that after my departing, 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.



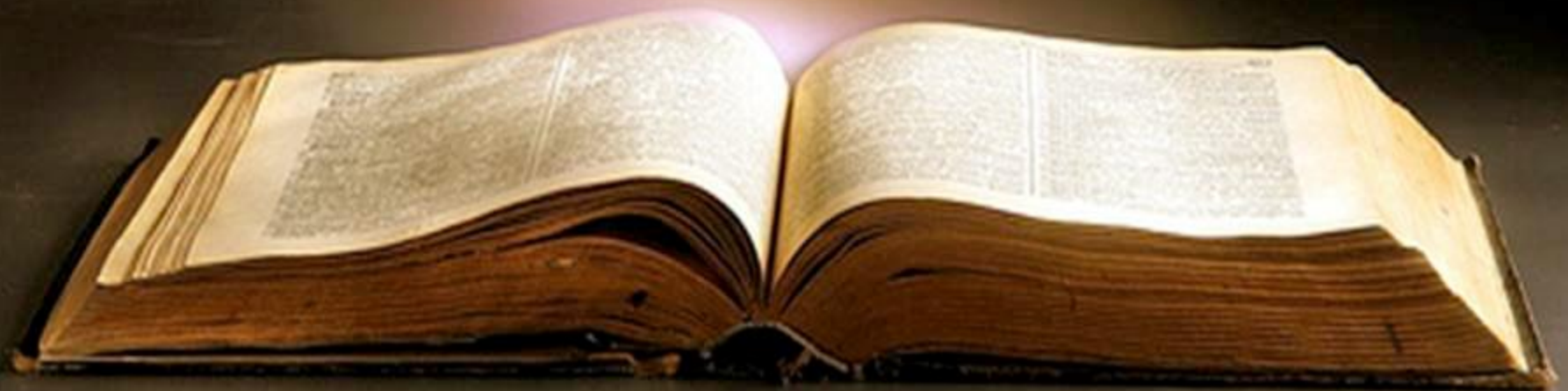
Beware of false prophets, which
come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly are ravening wolves

Matthew 7:15



1 Timothy 1:18-20

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.



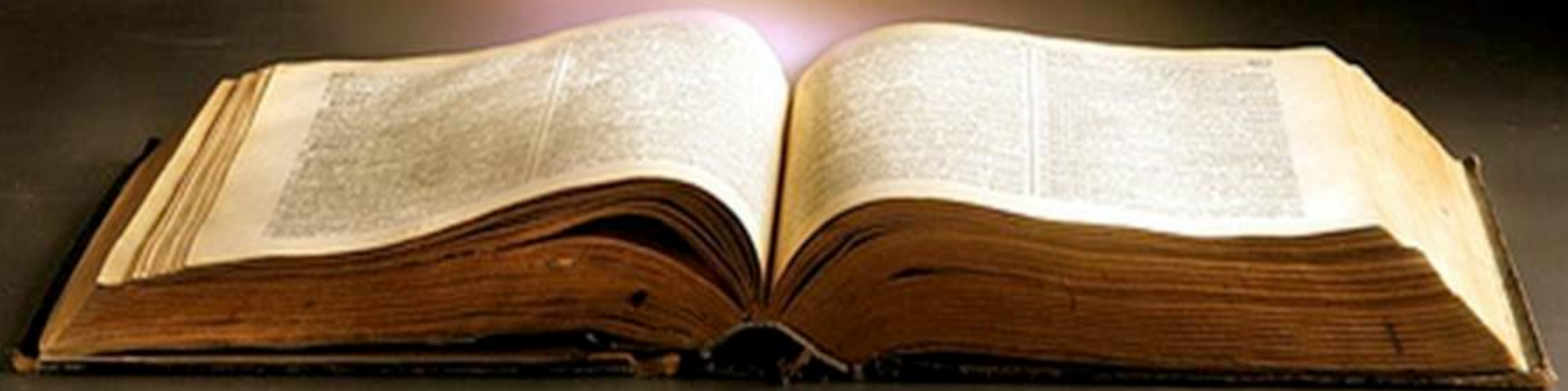
Clues



1. They put away conscience concerning faith
2. They blasphemed

2 Timothy 2:16-18

But shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.



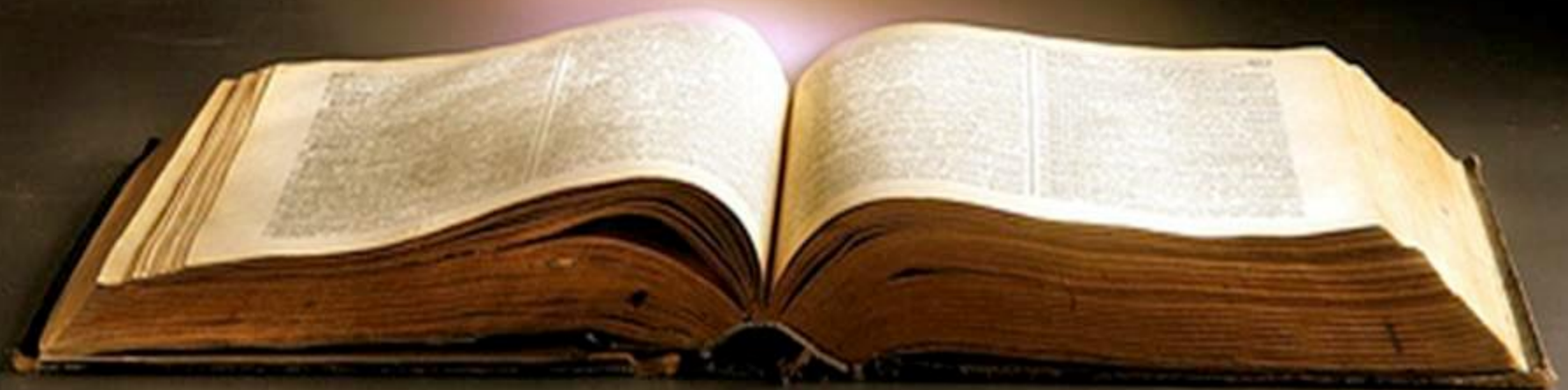
Clues



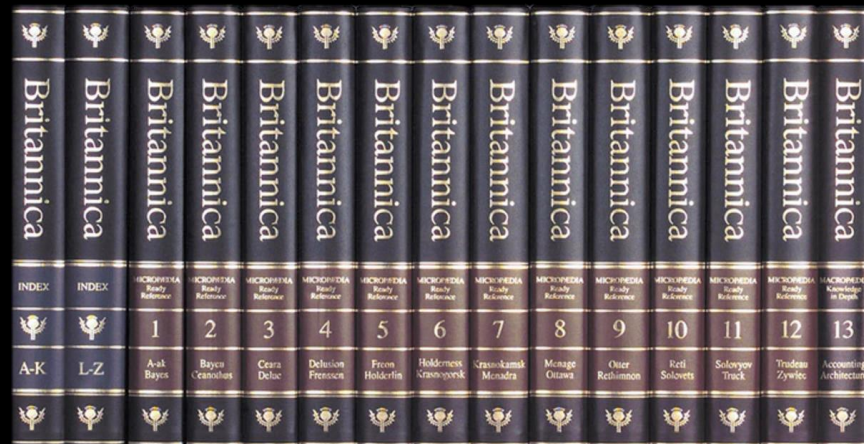
1. They put away conscience concerning faith
2. They blasphemed
3. They taught the resurrection was past already
4. This false doctrine led to ungodliness.
5. Paul calls the false doctrine “vain babblings” or empty talk.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.



Among the majority of the followers of the movement “Gnosis” was understood not as meaning ‘knowledge’ or ‘understanding’, in our sense of the word, but ‘revelation’. These little Gnostic sects and groups all lived in the conviction that they possessed a secret and mysterious knowledge, in no way accessible to those outside, and not based on reflection, on scientific inquiry and proof, but on revelation. It was derived from the times of primitive Christianity; from the Saviour himself and his disciples and friends, with whom they claimed to be connected by a secret tradition, or else from later prophets, of whom many sects boasted.



1. That all matter was evil
2. We have an immaterial and immortal soul, in which a form of divinity dwelt, and which was therefore good.
3. Salvation was essentially about the righteous and immortal soul being awakened with knowledge and delivered from the prison of the wicked and mortal flesh.

1. If the human body is utterly evil, it must be subdued and chastened to the utmost, that the spirit may be freed from the burden of so vile an instrument
2. If the human body is utterly evil, it is a matter of indifference what it does; and so worthless an instrument may be made to commit any act from which the real man might derive additional experience and knowledge

“Gnosticism... was not... the open enemy of Christianity. It professed to give its approval and patronage to the gospel. The gospel was very good as far as it went; but the Gnostics had ‘a more excellent way.’ They understood the gospel better than the apostles themselves. It was a mistake to suppose that the historical facts and mere precepts of the Scriptures were to be taken literally. It was a still greater mistake to suppose that the Scriptures contained all that was necessary for man’s spiritual well-being. There was a higher knowledge, a more profound gnosis; and this the gnostic would attain to and impart. Illumined by this, men would see that everything else was comparatively of unimportance. The philosopher whose mind was enlightened by this esoteric knowledge need not trouble himself much about his conduct. He was steeped in light. Good actions could not seriously detract from it. Indeed, there were many things commonly regarded as bad, which the true Gnostic would not shun, but seek, as a means of enlarging his experience.”

– Dr Alfred Plummer as quoted by HP Mansfield in exposition of 1 John

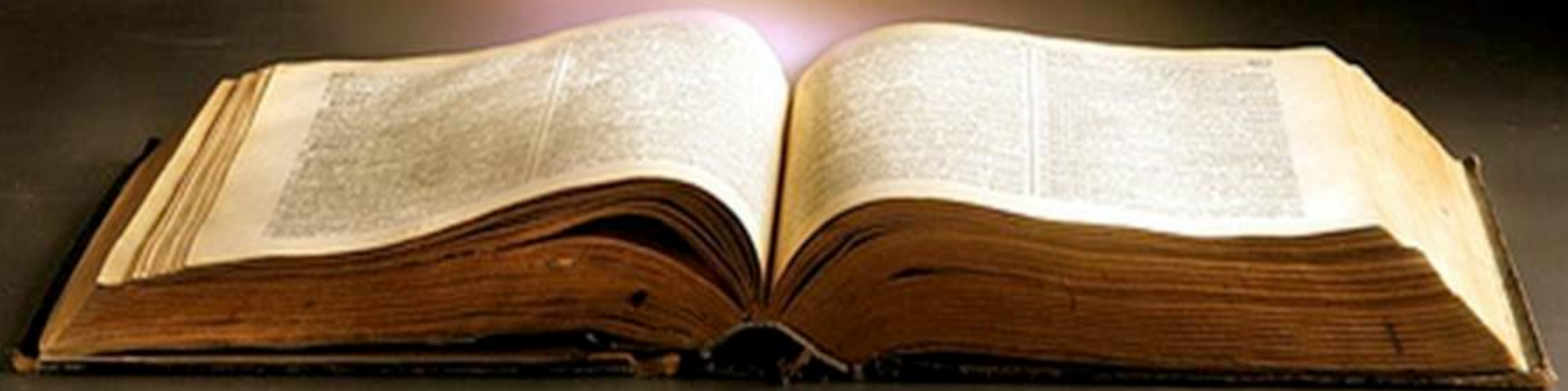
1. **Morality doesn't matter:** Righteousness was of no account in comparison with intellectual illumination.
2. **The God of scripture is no authority:** Scripture was of no account in comparison with a higher knowledge, which partly transmuted and partly superseded it
3. **Salvation can't be lost:** The work of atonement was lessened in significance, for there was no real evil in sin

The earliest origins of Gnosticism are obscure and still disputed...Probable influences include Plato...Gnostics borrow a great deal of ideas and terms from Platonism. They exhibit a keen understanding of Greek philosophical terms and use Greek philosophical concepts throughout their text.”

(Wikipedia Gnosticism)

Rev 2:1,6

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus
write... (verse 6) But this thou hast, that thou
hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I
also hate.



This was composed of the "wolves" referred to in Paul's first letter to Timothy, ch. 6:20, where he says to him, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane, vain babblings, and oppositions of *Gnosis*, or knowledge falsely so called; which some professing have erred concerning the faith." These came to be called *Gnostics* because of their professing what they called *Gnosis*, or knowledge, a false science, whose principles were subversive of the truth.

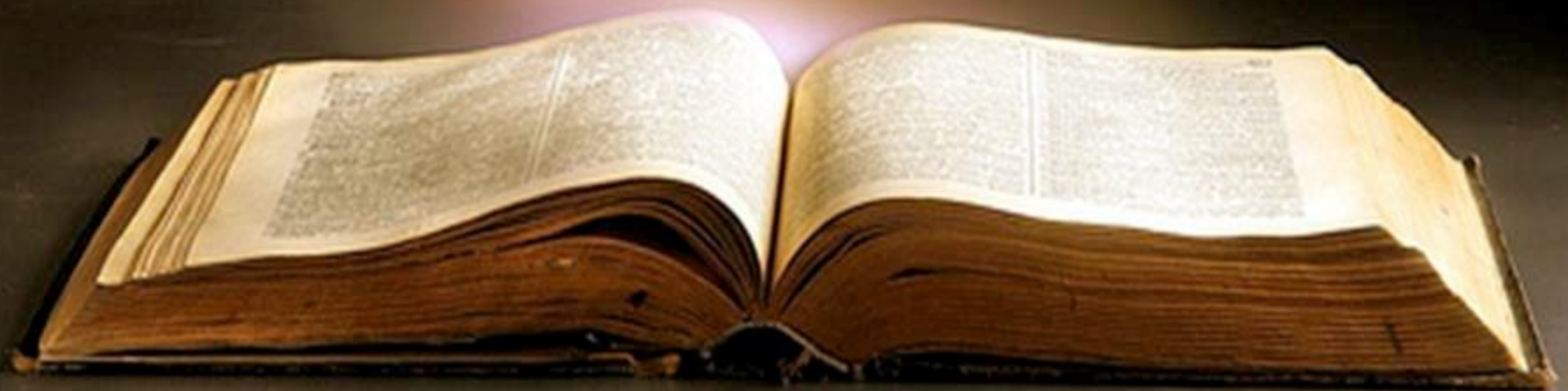
John Thomas - Eureka

These Gnostics were a sort of immersed philosophers—Gentile professors of "the wisdom" then current in the world among the admirers of Plato, and other heathen speculators upon the unknown. They had acquired a smattering in the truth, and had been immersed, and so "brought in unawares." Having still a hankering after their old foolishness, and not relishing the mockery and persecution their new profession brought upon them from their old associates, they conceived the idea of so commingling the speculations, or fables, of heathenism with the doctrine of the apostles, as to make the compound palatable to the respectability and learning of the age.

John Thomas - Eureka

2 Timothy 2:16-18

But shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

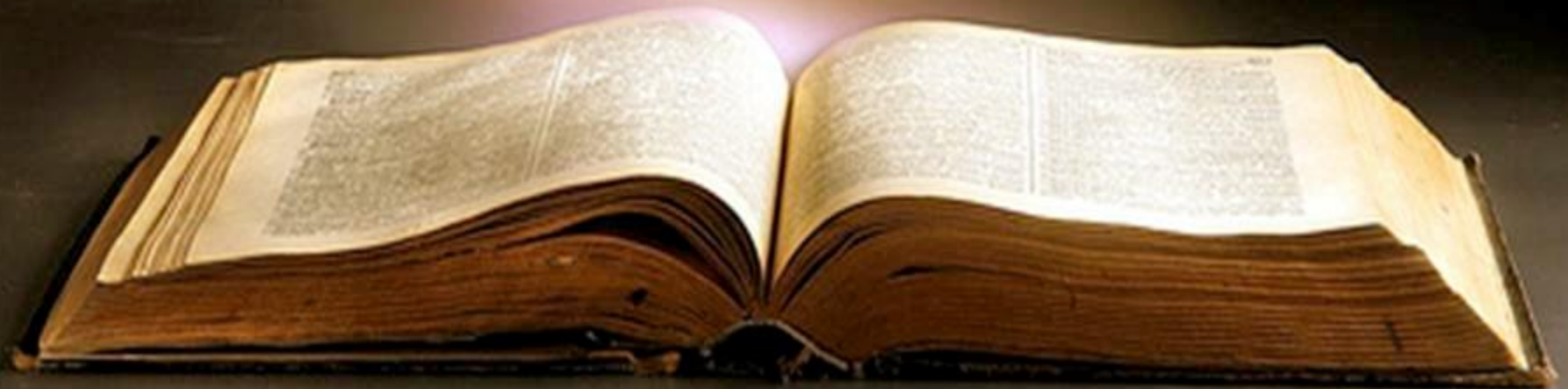




Nicolaitans...
"lead lives of
unrestrained
indulgence"
*Irenaeus Against
Heresies, Book 1,
Chapter 26*

2 Timothy 2:16

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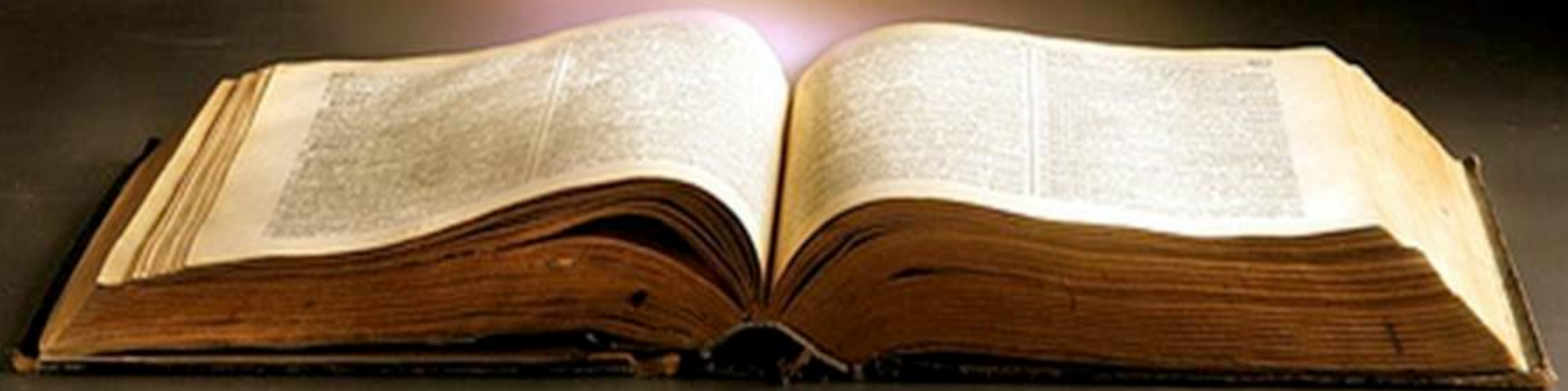


Reference	Verse
1 Tim 1:4	Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do]
1 Tim 2:2	[For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
1 Tim 2:10	But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.
1 Tim 3:16	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 Tim 4:7	But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness .
1 Tim 4:8	For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
1 Tim 6:3	If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness ;
1 Tim 6:5	Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness : from such withdraw thyself.
1 Tim 6:11	But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness , faith, love, patience, meekness.

Reference	Paul's Counter
Immortality of the soul	1 Tim 6:16, Titus 1:2, 3:7
Belief that the soul is good, the devil makes me sin	1 Tim 6:10, 2 Tim 3:2-5
Belief that we are once saved always saved	1 Tim 4:16
Rejection of the Law of Moses, the Old Testament and it's moral authority	in 1 Tim 1:8
Rejection of the Hope of Israel and restoration of the physical Kingdom of God on earth	2 Tim 4:2,8
Rejection of the resurrection in the flesh	2 Tim 2:18

Revelation 2:15 - So thou hast also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Revelation 2:6 - But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.



Can you have unity with a doctrine Jesus hates... a system that excuses and promotes sin?

Reasons for putting away Alexander and Hymenaeus

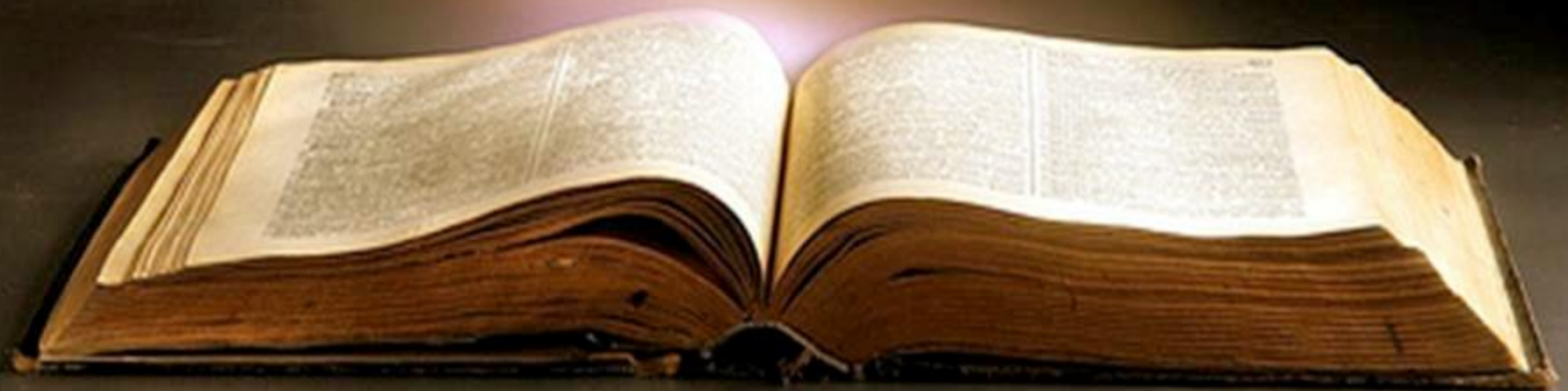
- False Doctrine
- Tearing down ecclesia leadership
- Creating their own disciples and leading others astray
- No conscience regarding sin
- Causing God to be blasphemed and the scriptures dishonored

Unity in Ephesus

Class 3

Rev 2:14-15

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.



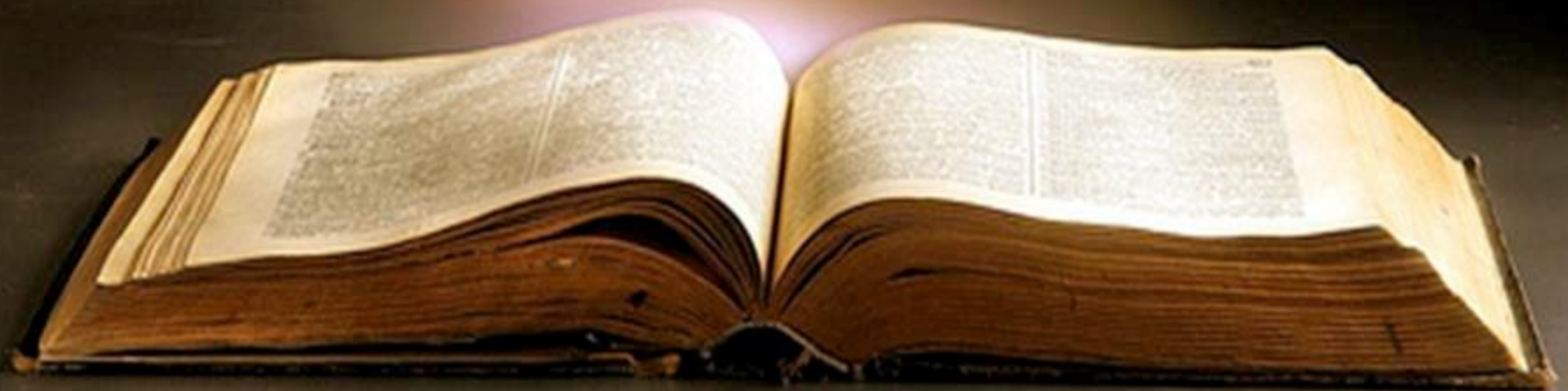
Why Alexander and Hymenaeus were removed from fellowship

- They put away their (moral) conscience
- They blasphemed by holding their special gnostic knowledge was a truer source of God's wisdom than scripture (and)
- They preached resurrection wasn't literal but a spiritual awakening of the mind from the deadness of flesh and thus, for them, it was past already.

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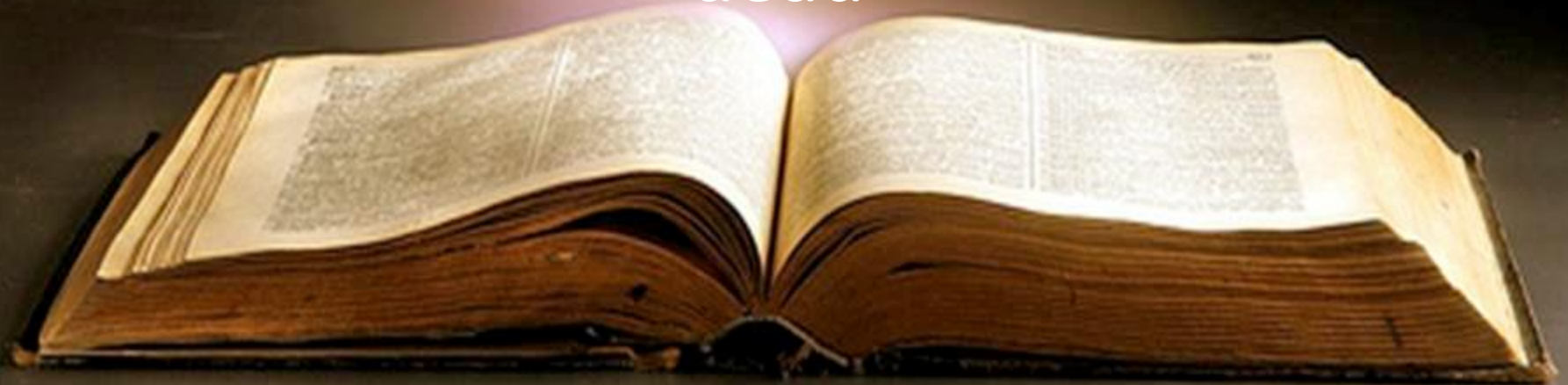
Acts 20:18-19

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews.



2 Corinthians 1:8-9

For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead



Reference	Passage – RSV
Eph 1:10	As a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
Eph 2:14-16	For he is our peace, who has made us both one , and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
Eph 4:3-7	Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.
Eph 4:13	until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Salvation through
Christ via grace
Eph 2:2-9

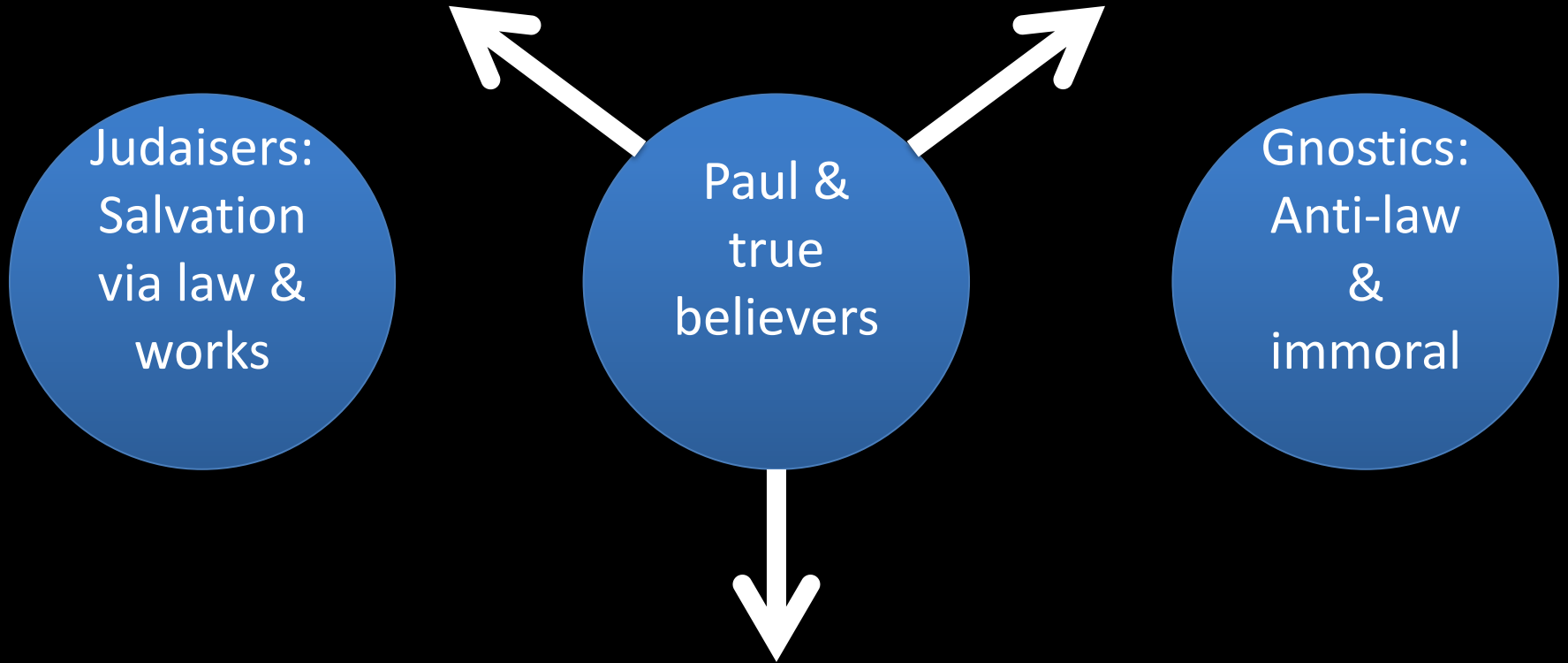
Moral Walk
in Truth
Eph 2:10

Judaisers:
Salvation
via law &
works

Paul &
true
believers

Gnostics:
Anti-law
&
immoral

Unity based on understanding
of salvation and morality

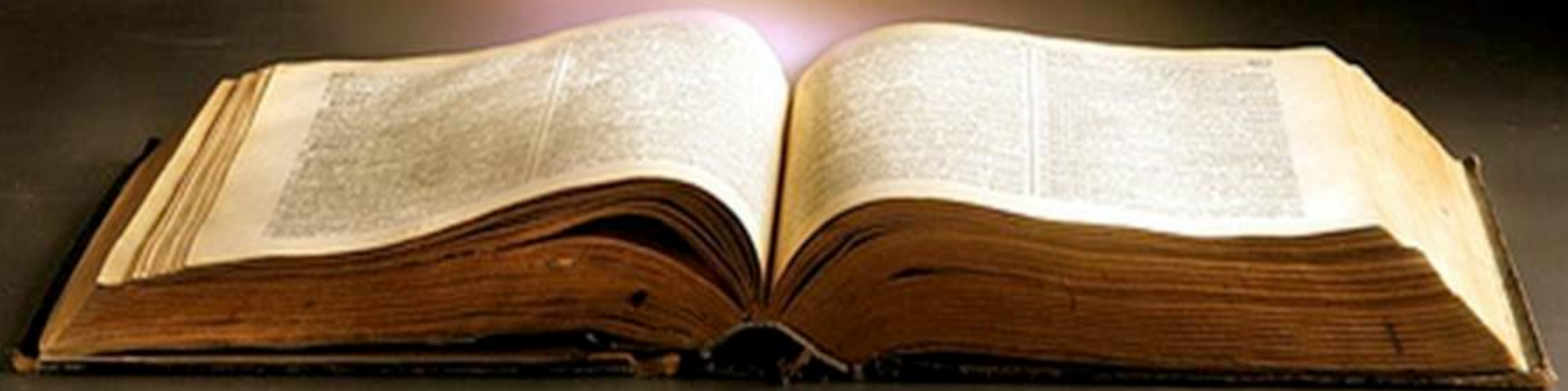


Ephesians 1:3-10 RSV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he **chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that **we** should be holy and blameless before him. He **destined us** in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely **bestowed on us** in the Beloved. In him **we have redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace which he **lavished upon us**. For he has **made known to us** in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to **unite all things** in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 2:3 (RSV)

Among these we all once lived in the
passions of our flesh, following the
desires of body and mind, and so we
were by nature children of wrath like the
rest of mankind.



We all once lived in the passions of our flesh

Jews:

We aren't children of wrath because....

- We've been given the promises handed down from the fathers conveyed through circumcision
- We are following the law.
- We say the Gentiles are children of wrath but they aren't.

Nicolaitans:

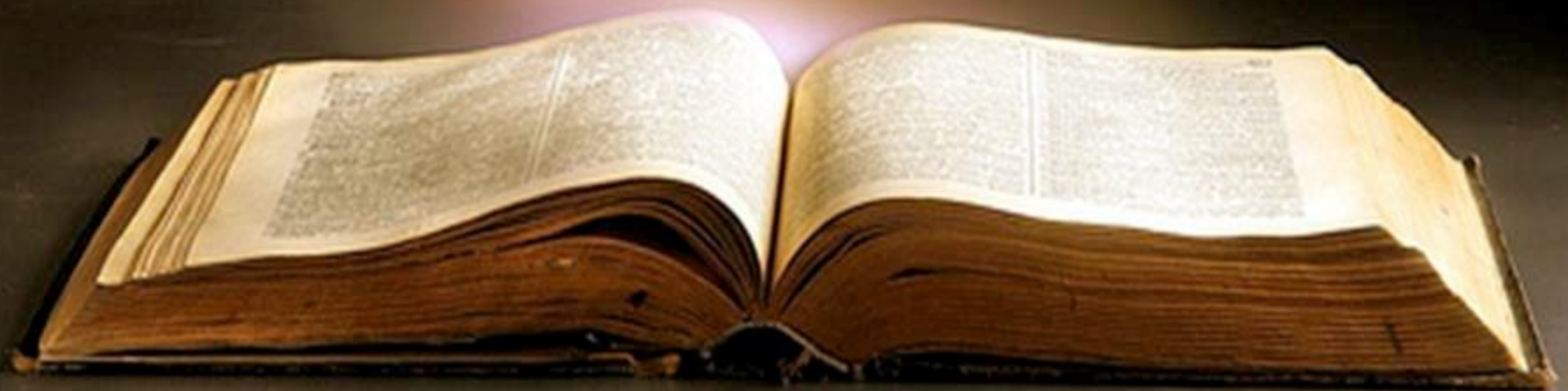
For us God has no wrath because:

- We are enlightened. God dwells within us and approves of all our works.
- There is no real evil in sin so there's nothing to be accountable to.

We are **ALL** (opposing Jews)
children of **WRATH**
(opposing Nicolaitans)

Ephesians 2:4,

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead though our trespasses made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

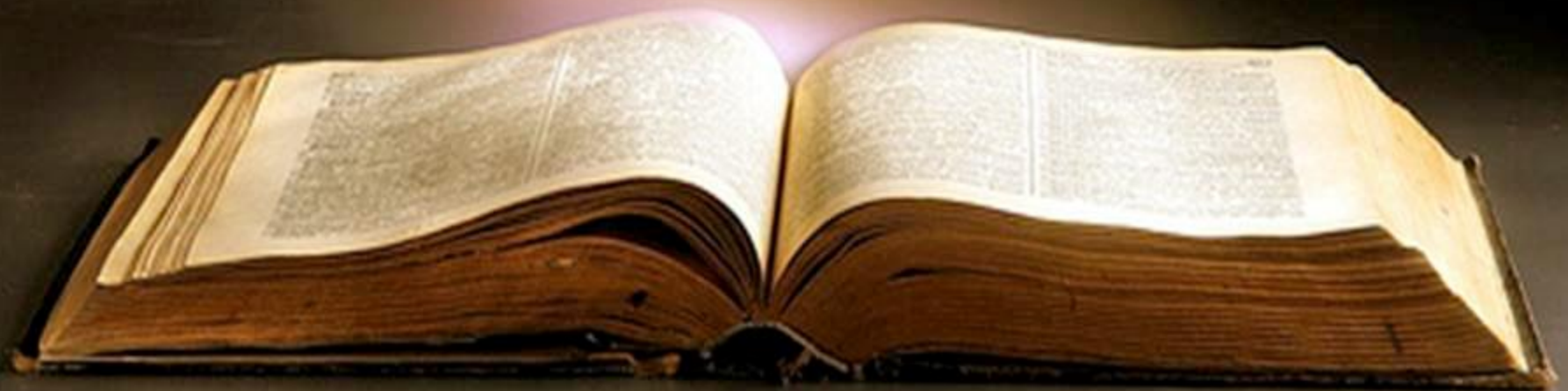


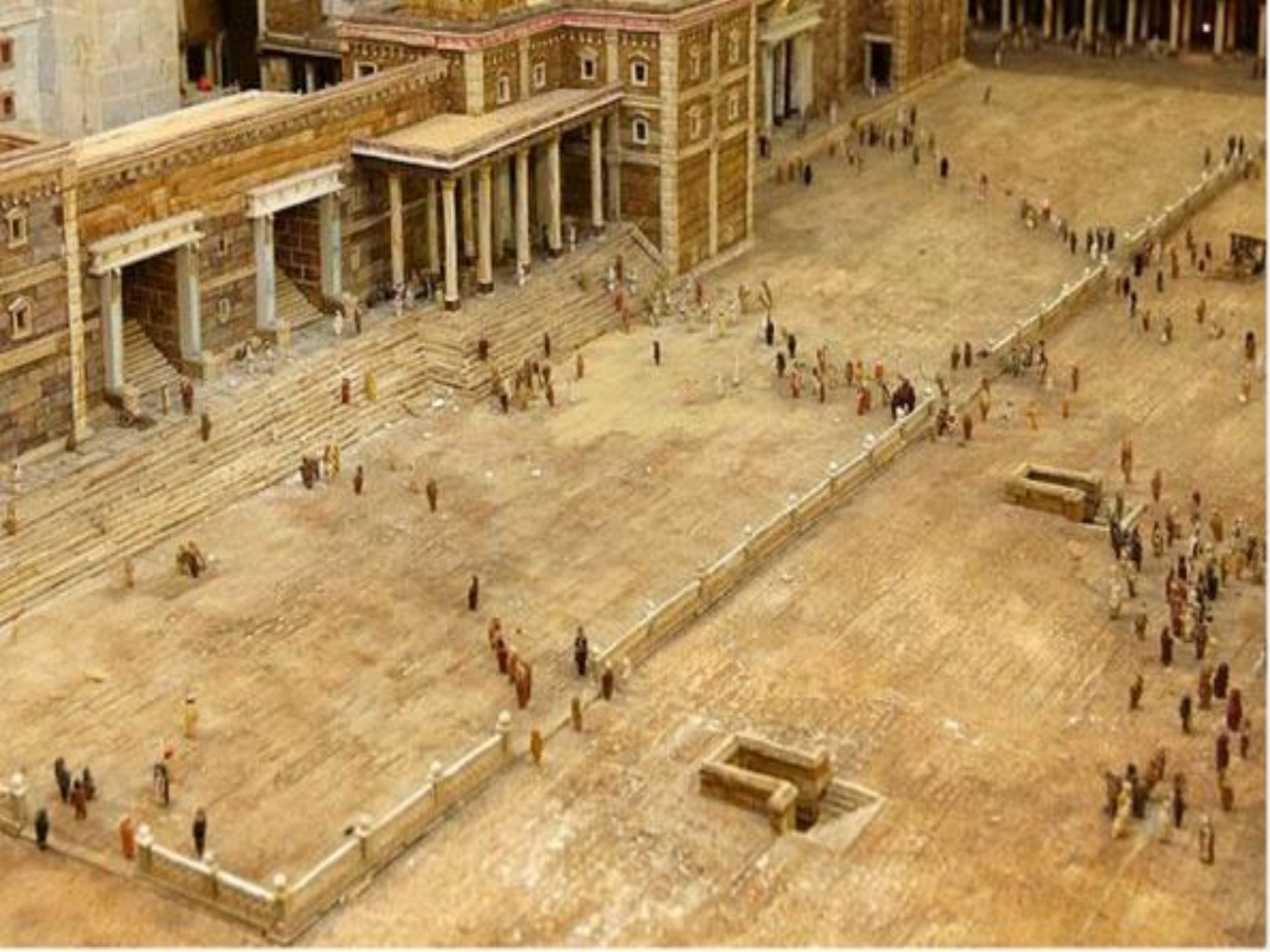
Can you follow Paul's logic

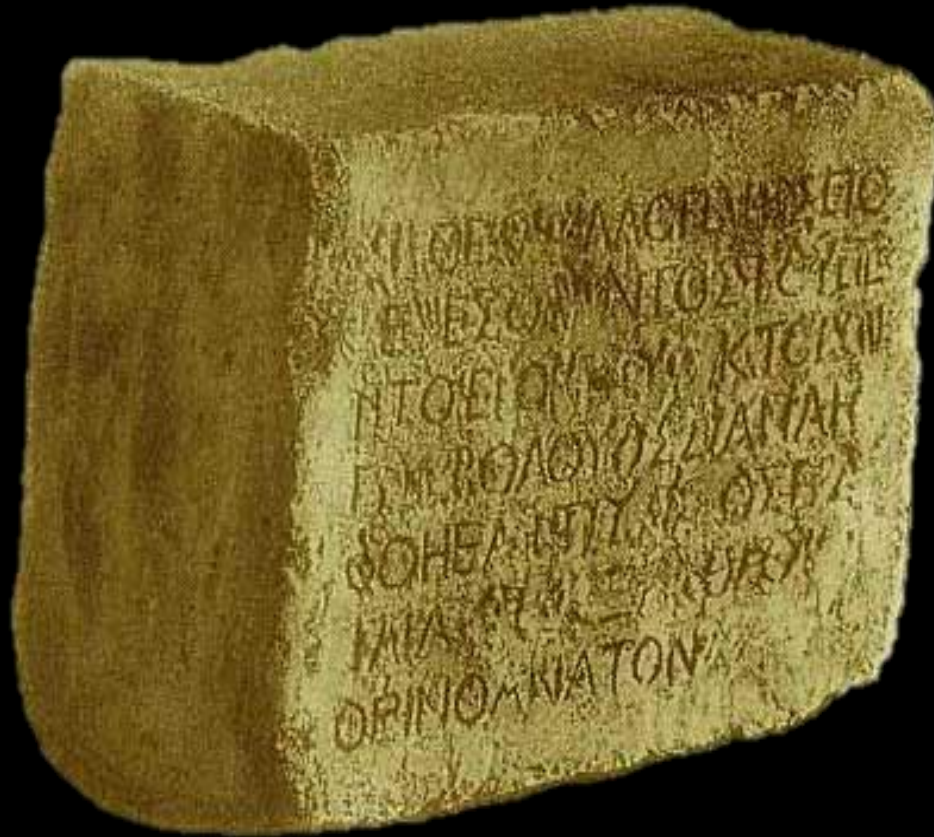
1. Paul hits at the basis on which each of us must be alike... our sinfulness and common need for a savior.
2. This strategy exposed the Nicolaitans who believed that there is no real evil in their sin.
3. It likewise exposed the Jews who thought that salvation could be earned.
4. Both sides were wrong.
5. We are all sinners – and therefore we all need Christ.

Eph 2:14-16 (KJV)

For he (Christ) is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:



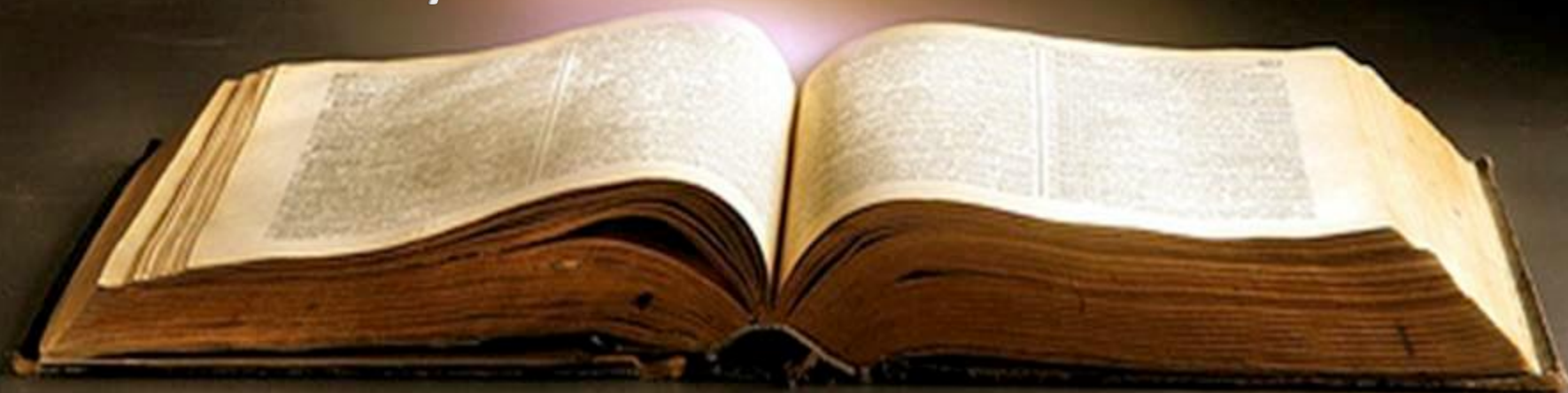


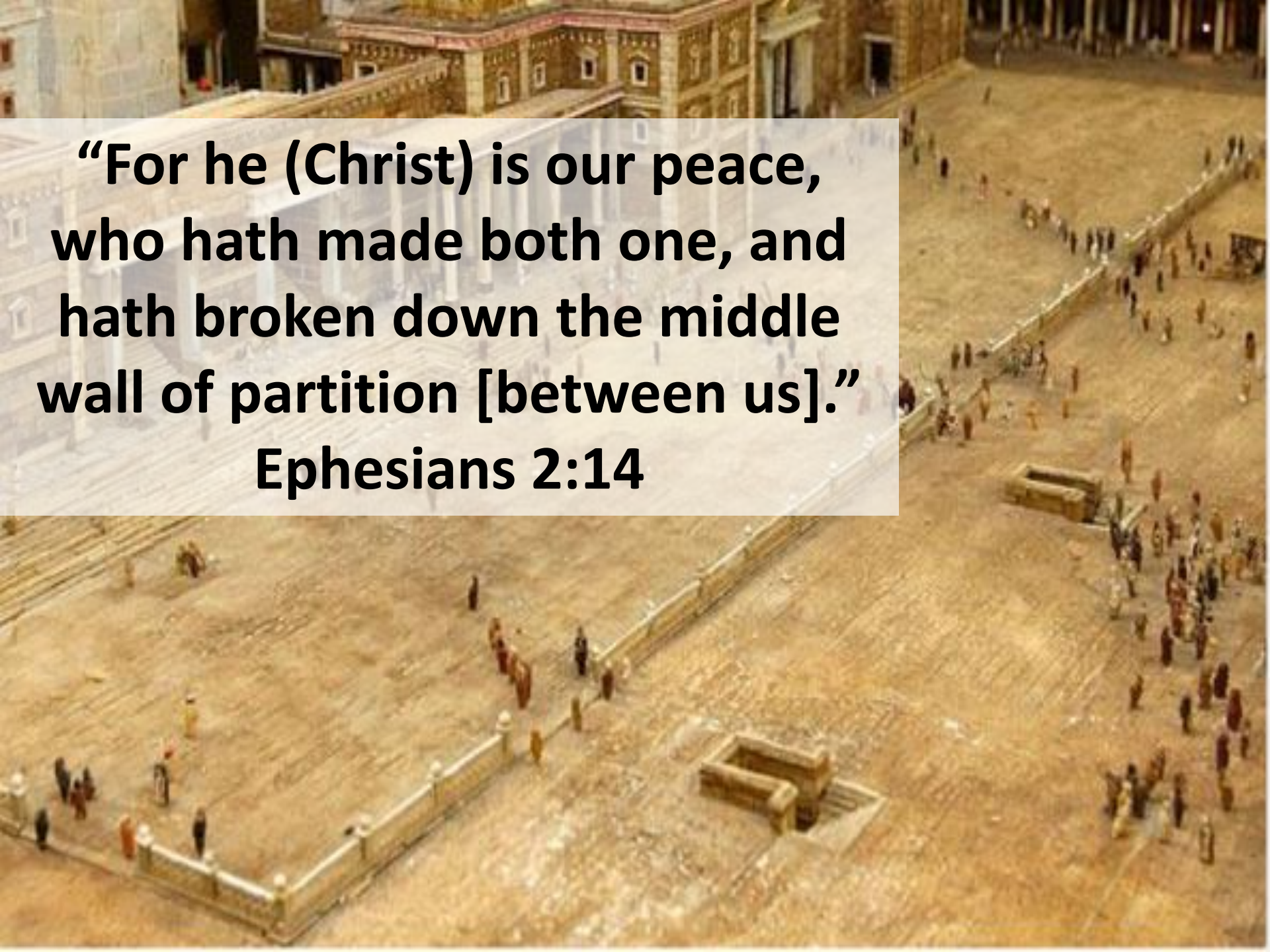


“NO FOREIGNER IS TO GO BEYOND THE BALUSTRADE AND THE
PLAZA OF THE TEMPLE ZONE WHOEVER IS CAUGHT DOING SO
WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME FOR HIS DEATH WHICH WILL
FOLLOW”

Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

(For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. Acts 21:27-30



An aerial photograph of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, showing the large, flat, paved area and the surrounding walls. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the quote and the Bible verse. The background shows the Temple Mount's walls and the surrounding city of Jerusalem.

**“For he (Christ) is our peace,
who hath made both one, and
hath broken down the middle
wall of partition [between us].”
Ephesians 2:14**



Both Jew and Gentile shared that same body with Christ and that body represented human nature put to death. Because Jew and Gentile have the same problem, and are saved in the same way through the same declaration of God's righteousness, they are bound together as one.

Unity in Ephesus

Class 4



Alternatives to unity based on mercy

Perhaps we should
have unity on the basis
that there is no real evil
in this sin and in fact it
simply doesn't matter
what we've done?

There's no need for
mercy here because we
haven't done anything
wrong.

Alternatives to unity based on mercy



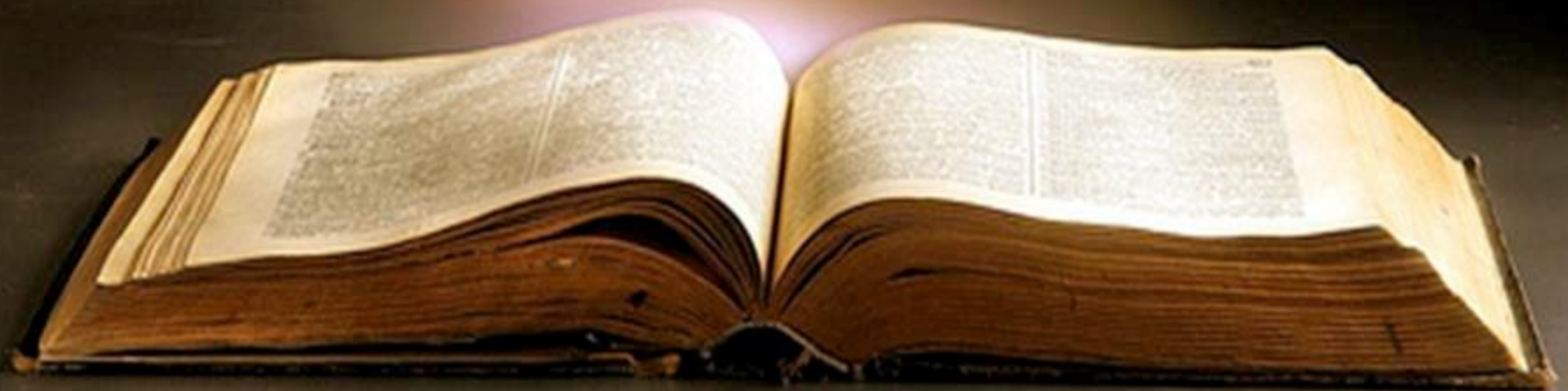
Or perhaps we should
press for unity on the
basis that the we
prescriptively follow a
legal remedy, perhaps
wrecking more havoc as
we do so. There's no
need for mercy here
because by keeping the
law we've made
ourselves right.

The way forward

1. That all sin is understood, accepted and confessed.
2. That everyone appreciates that we are all in need of mercy, each one of us.
3. That we appreciate a formulaic keeping of any law will not reconcile us to God nor necessarily effect our hearts and minds.
4. We seek God's forgiveness on the basis that he is right in this and in all things and ask for his mercy granted through Jesus Christ.
5. The sinner turns and repents

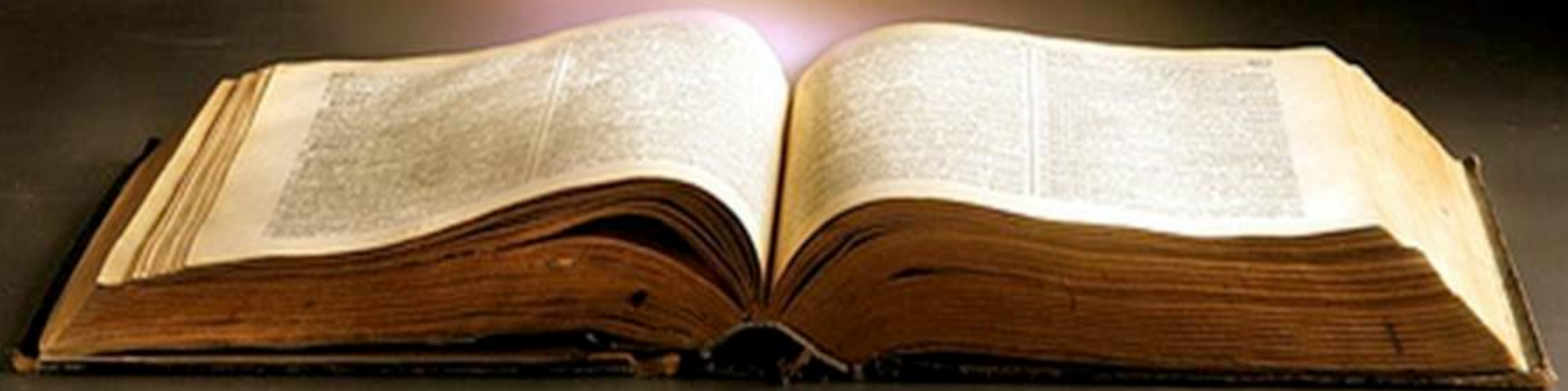
Luke 6:32

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.



Eph 4:2-3

With all lowliness and meekness,
with longsuffering, forbearing one
another in love; Endeavouring to
keep the unity of the Spirit in the
bond of peace.



Forbearance vs Tolerance



Forbearance



Tolerance

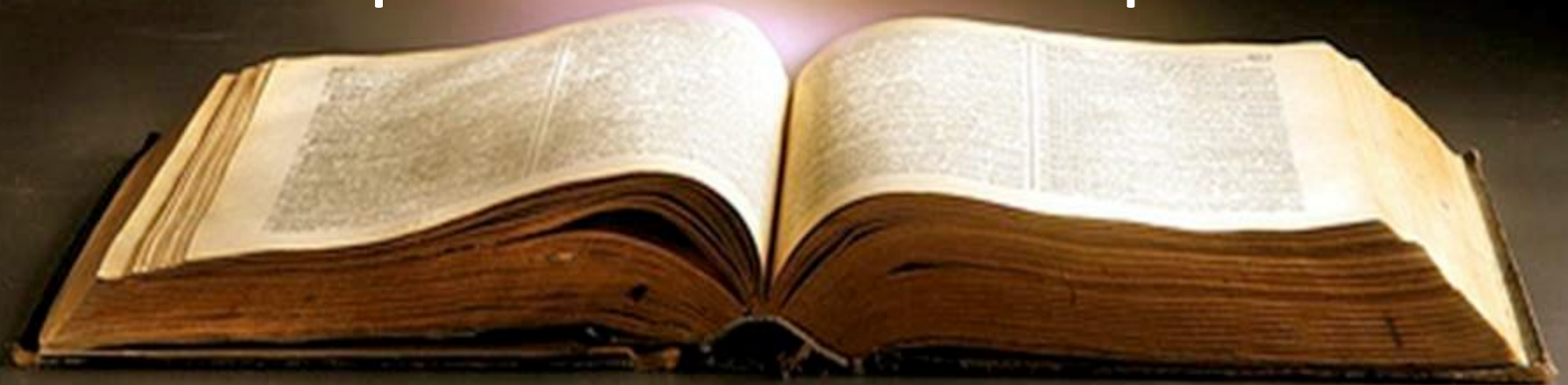
Romans 2:4 (NASB)

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance.



Ephesians 4:1-3,

I therefore, the prisoner for the Lord,
beseech you that ye walk worthy of the
vocation wherewith ye are called, with
all lowliness and meekness, with
longsuffering, forbearing one another in
love; endeavoring to keep the unity of
the spirit in the bond of peace.



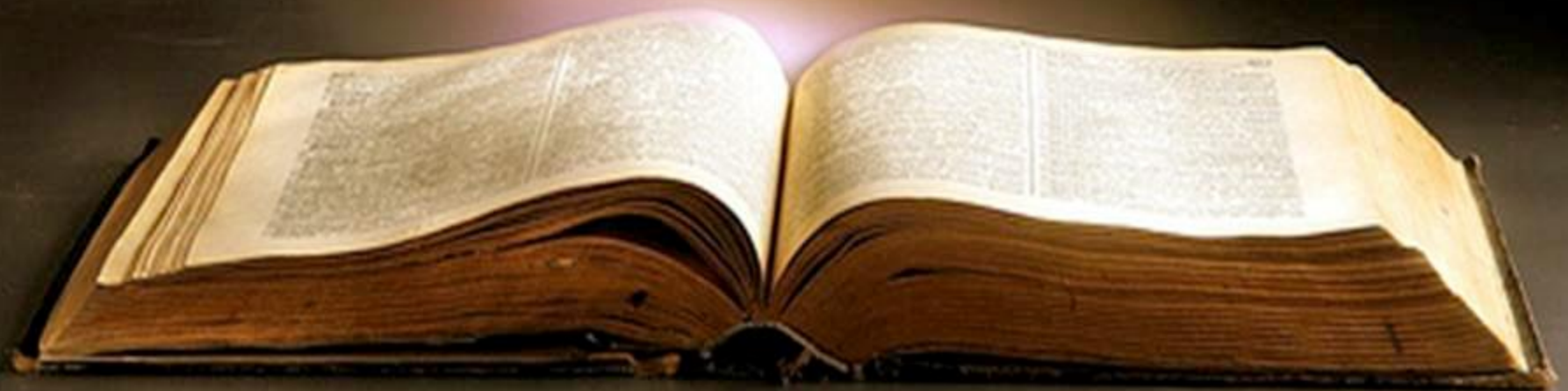
Unity is not found by whittling down the ecclesia,
removing all who dare disagree, so that you're simply left
with a small group of very scared or very weird people.



Ephesians 1:15-18

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 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,



(1) If you who have Gnostic ideas believe that knowledge is so important and...



**(2) if you think that this
knowledge makes you better
than the unenlightened and
ignorant and blind and...**



**(3) you observe that the
ignorant and blind greedily give
themselves over to unbridled
lust and excess in every impure
thing as if they can't get enough
then...**



**(4) doesn't it stand to reason
that through your
enlightenment you'll stop acting
like the unenlightened?**

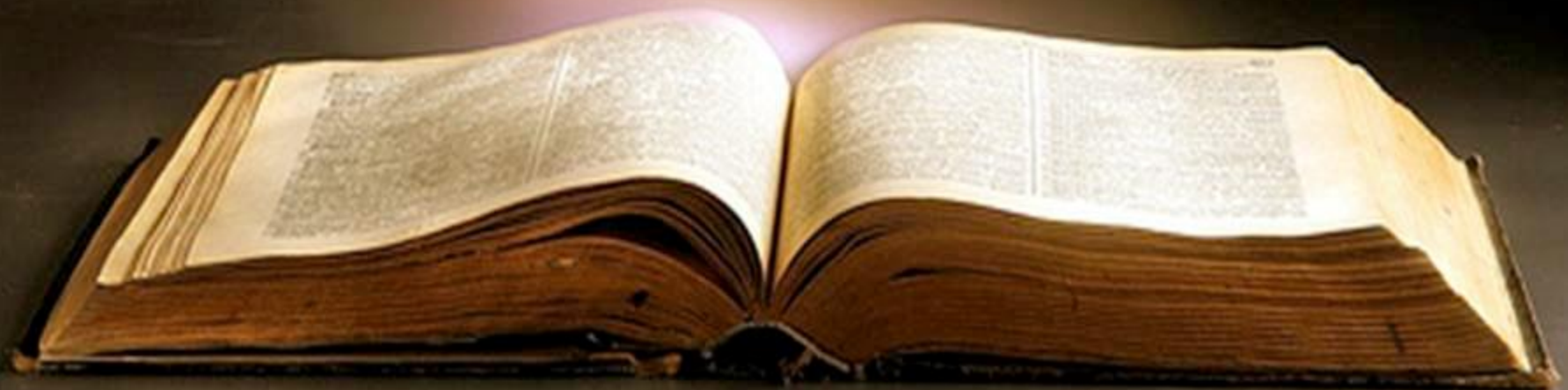


**(5) wouldn't you put to death
the ignorant life and lead an
enlightened life based
righteousness and holiness.**



Ephesians 4:17-24

"(1) 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 (2) ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (3) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (4) But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: (5) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

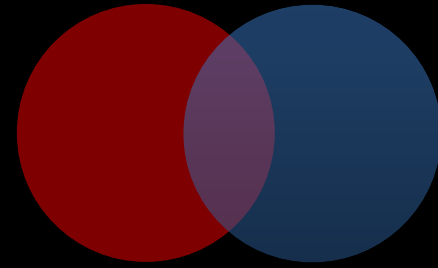


An exhortation to the 'enlightened'

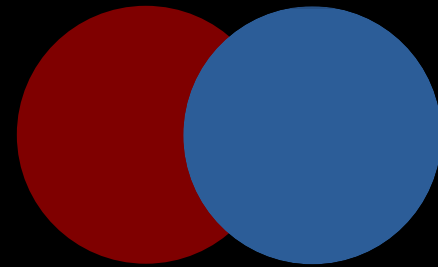
Eph 5:6-8 KJV

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

To emphasize the common ground



To use the common ground as a launching point to show the rightness and consistency of the truth.

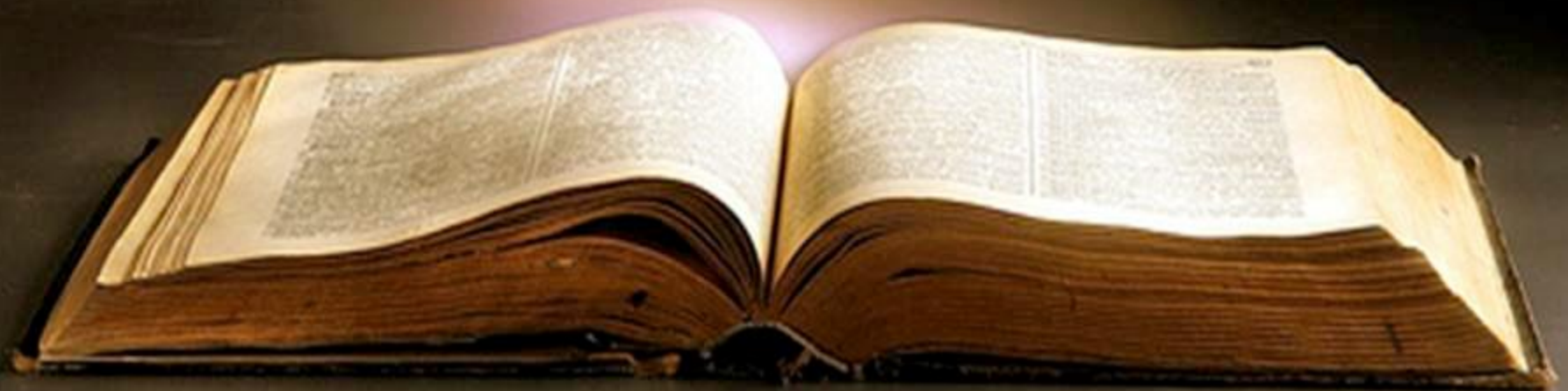


Forbear as long as possible. Only take the drastic action of severing relations when views are hardened and teaching of others is occurring



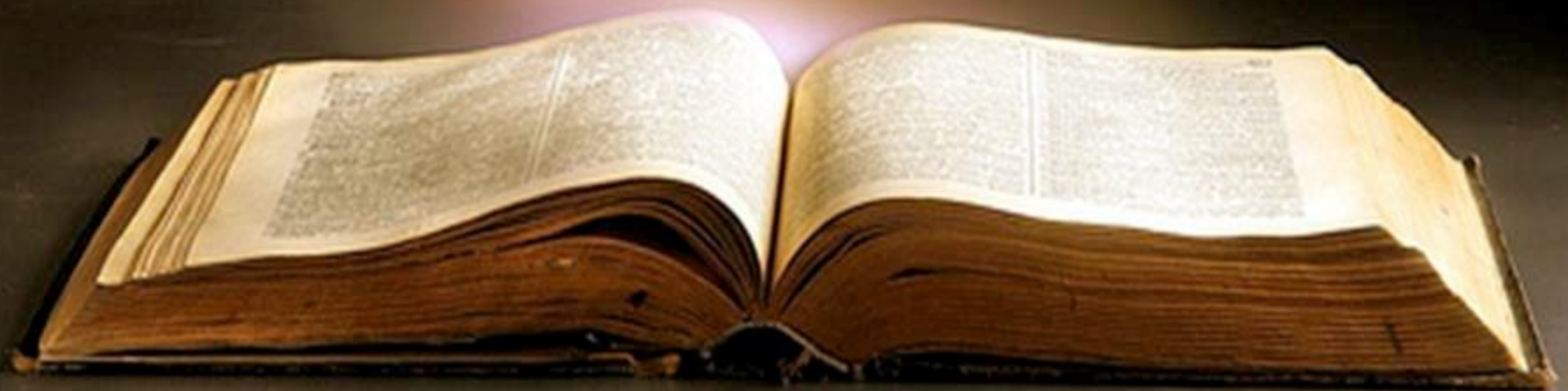
Ephesians 4:4-6

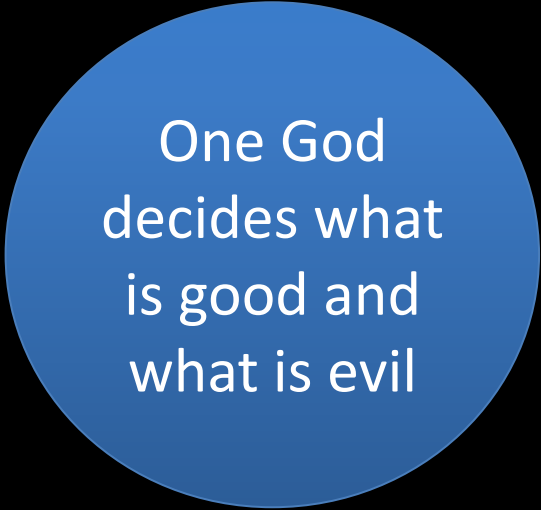
There is one body, and one Spirit, even as
ye are called in one hope of your calling;
One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God
and Father of all, who is above all, and
through all, and in you all.



Gen 3:4-5

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 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.

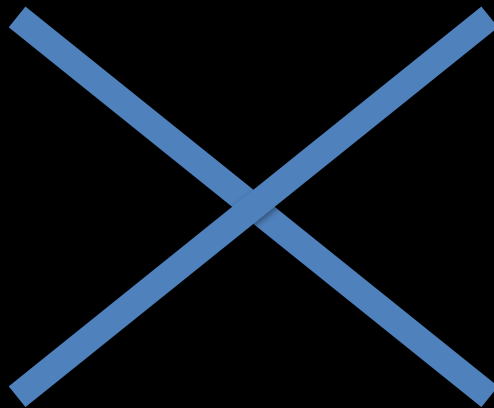




One God
decides what
is good and
what is evil

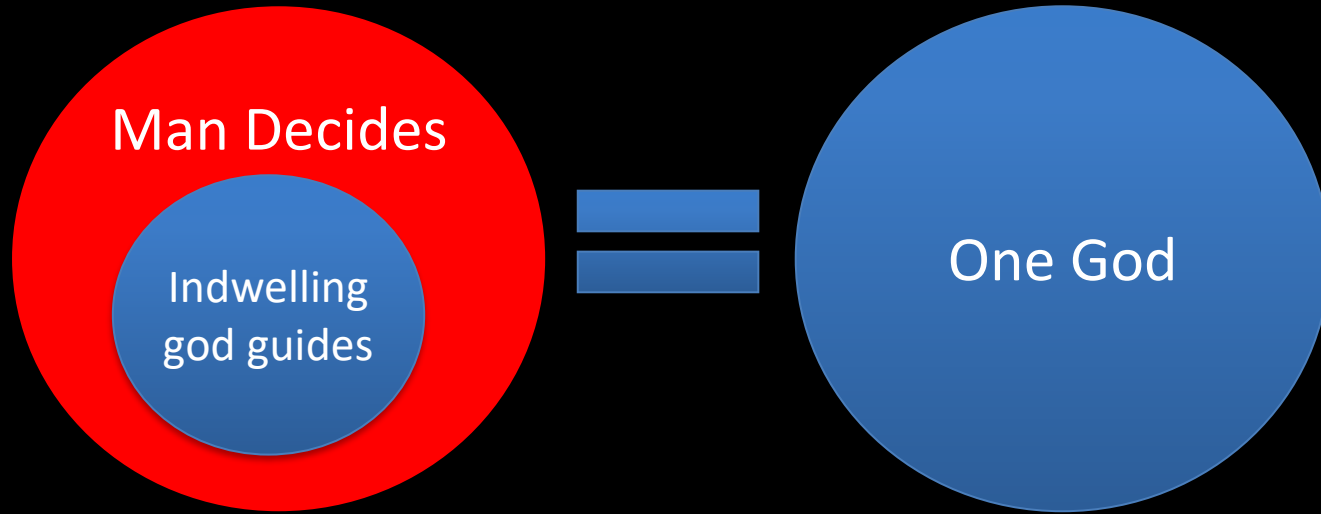


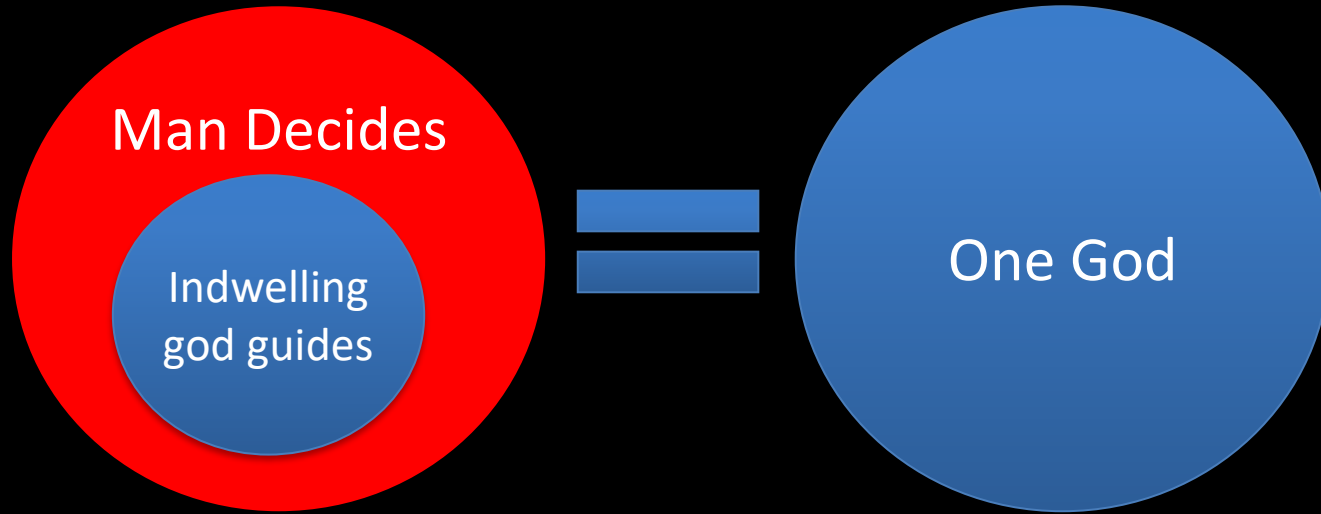
Man
commanded
to obey



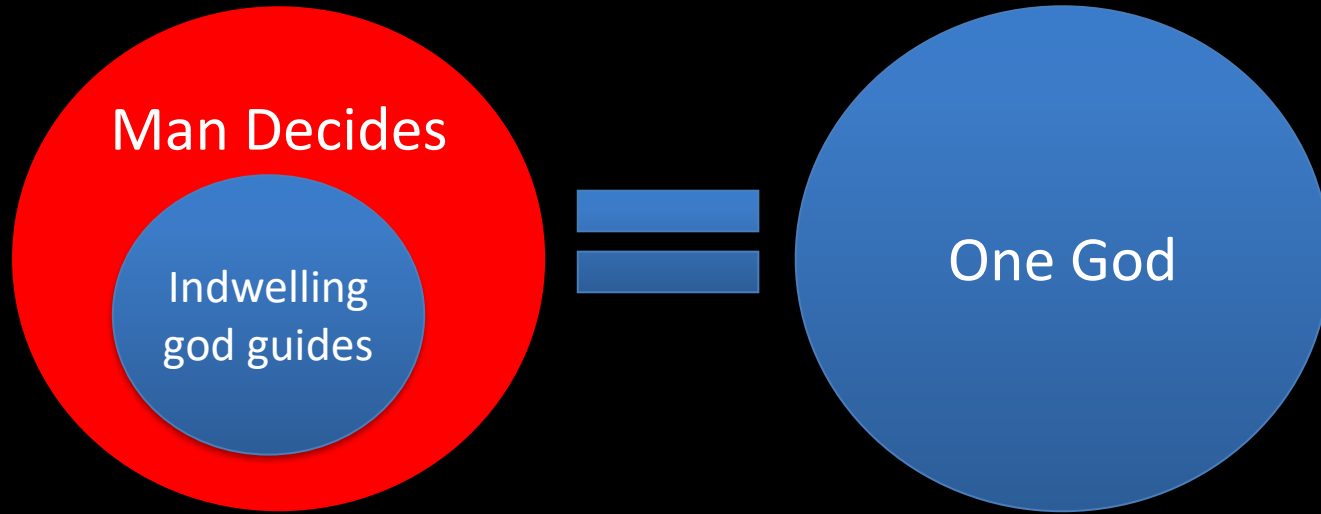
One God
decides what
is good and
what is evil

Man decides
what is good
and what is
evil

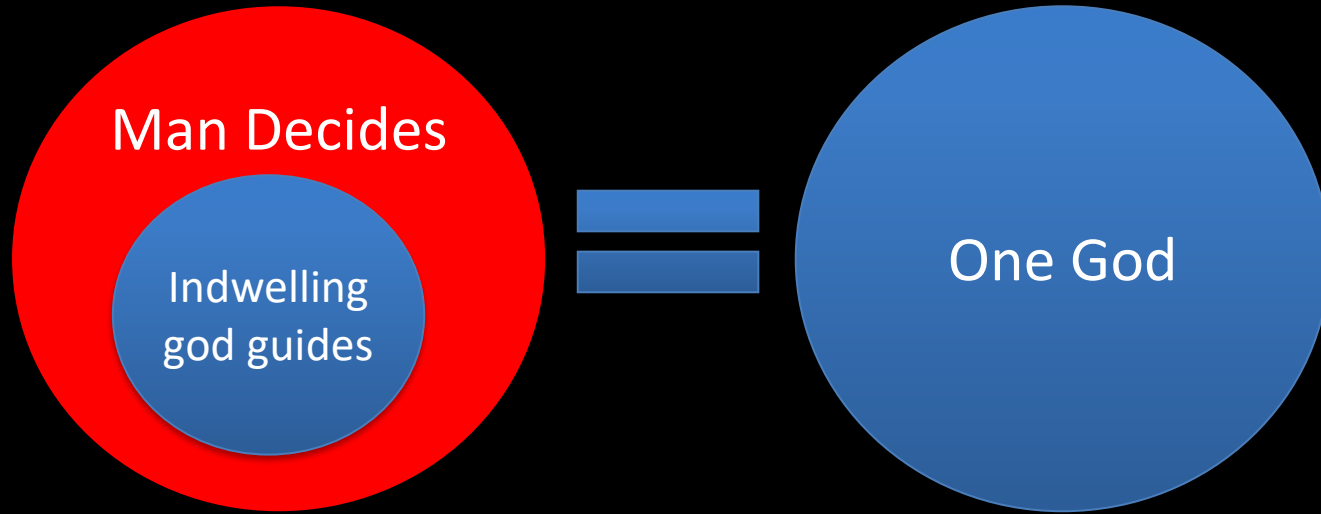




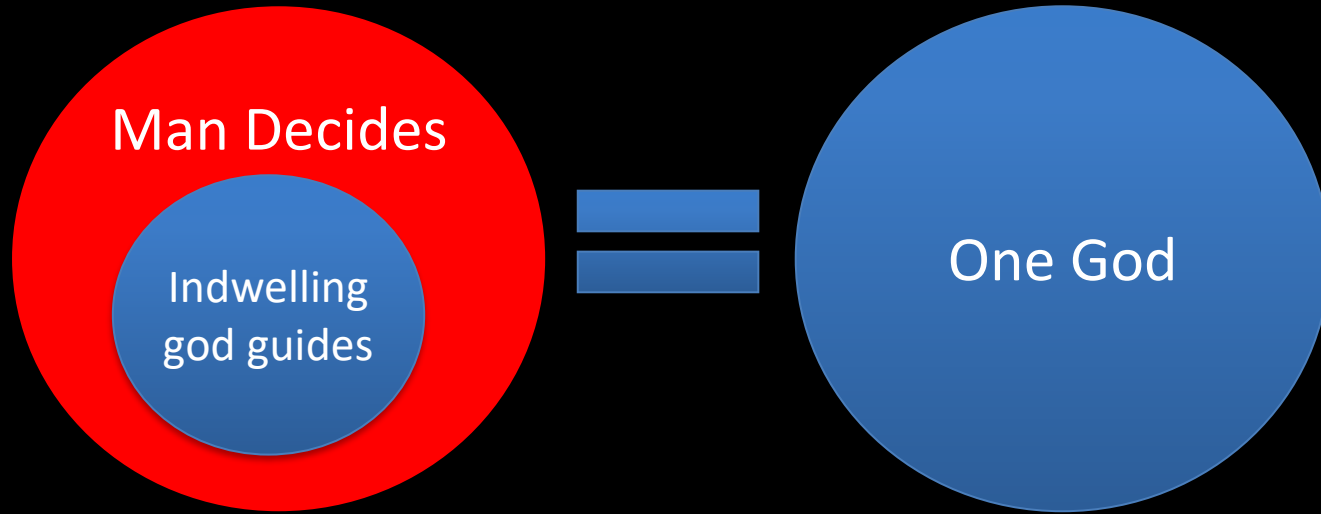
Does the indwelling god sanction my unique version of good and evil?



What if that version of good and evil is different to God's good and evil in scripture? Is the scripture an authority?

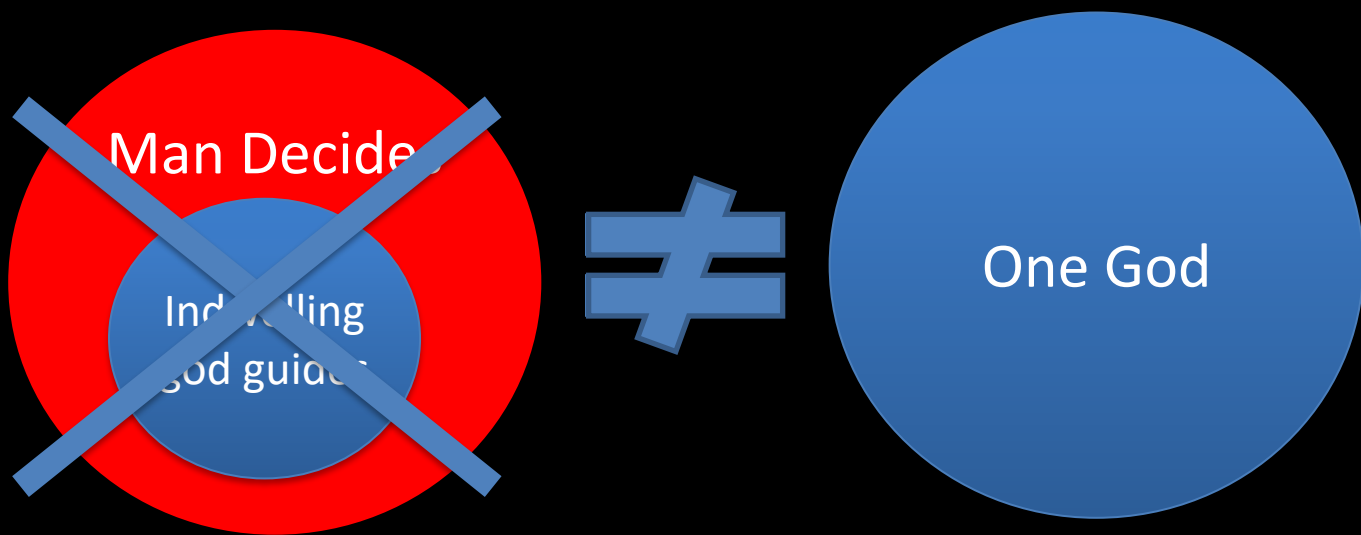


Does my indwelling god sanction adultery? Are a husband and wife really one flesh that God has joined together?



Does having an immortal soul mean that I “shall not surely die?”


Gnostic beliefs basically
contradict nearly every part
of God's word in the Garden
of Eden.



One God and Father of
all, who is above all, and
through all, and in you
all. - Ephesians 4:6

A solid red circle containing white text.

You: I'm right
and you're
wrong

A solid red circle containing white text.

Me: I'm right
and youre
wrong



You: I'm
wrong God's
right

Me: I'm
wrong God's
right

One God

Unity in God's
oneness

And in making it “mine” rather than
“God’s” a scripturally right position
becomes attitudinally wrong.





One God

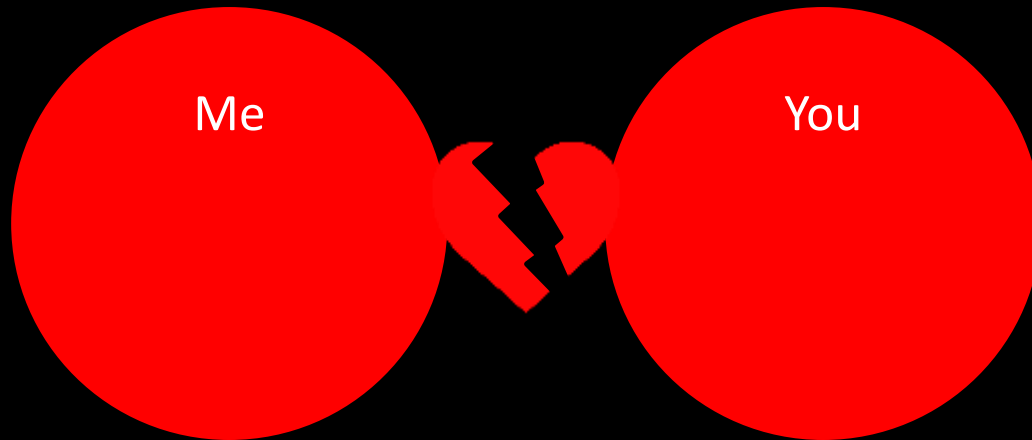
**God commands:
Thou shalt love
thy neighbour as
thyself**

Me: God
decides what
is good and
evil

You

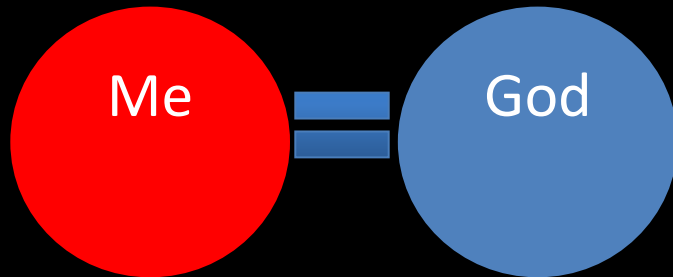
**Me: Because God
is right I'm not
going to love you**

I contradict God's
righteousness in the very act
of defending it



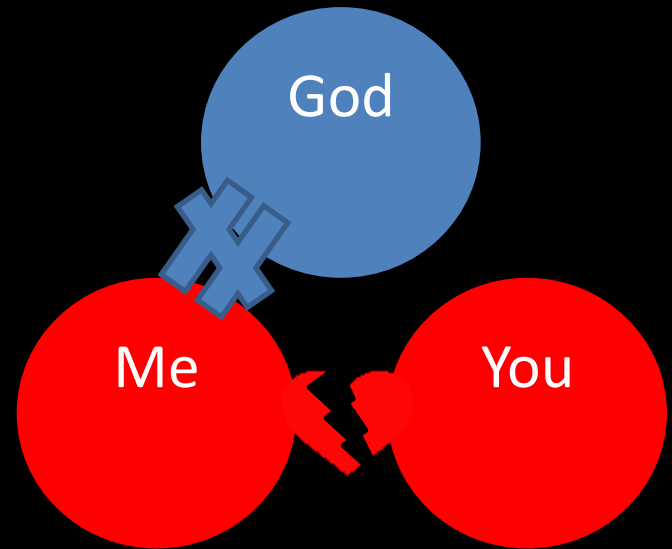
Withholding love...

Because of my
righteousness



I'm wrong because God is one and
I'm not right He is

Because of God's
righteousness



I'm wrong because he's told me
that in response to His
righteousness I must follow His
command to love my neighbor as
myself.

One God
decides what
is good and
what is evil

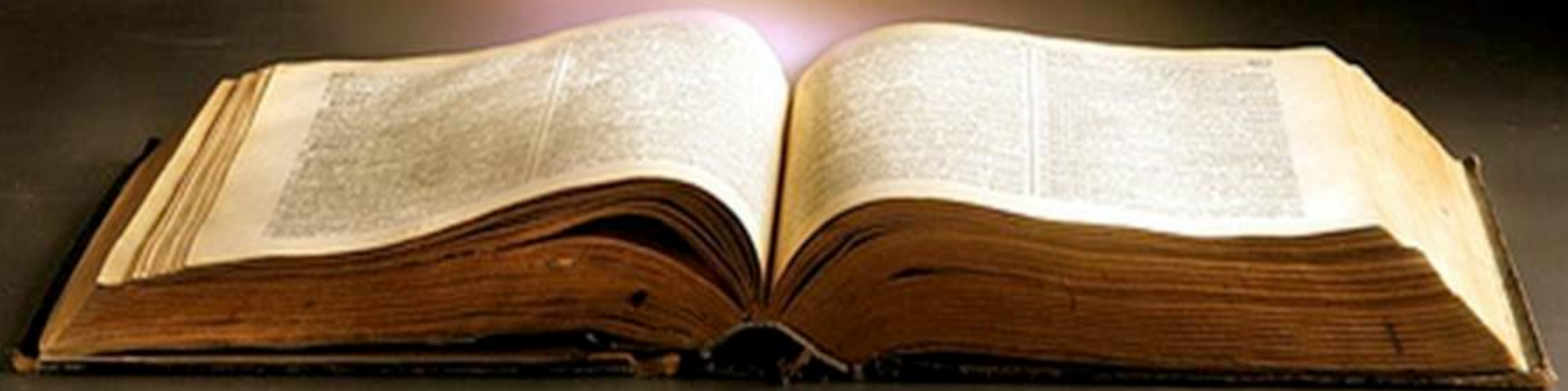
Me: God
decides what
is good and
evil. I must
love you

You

I must simultaneously love you and
hold that God alone is right as
expressed in his word.

Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.



John Carter, page 95

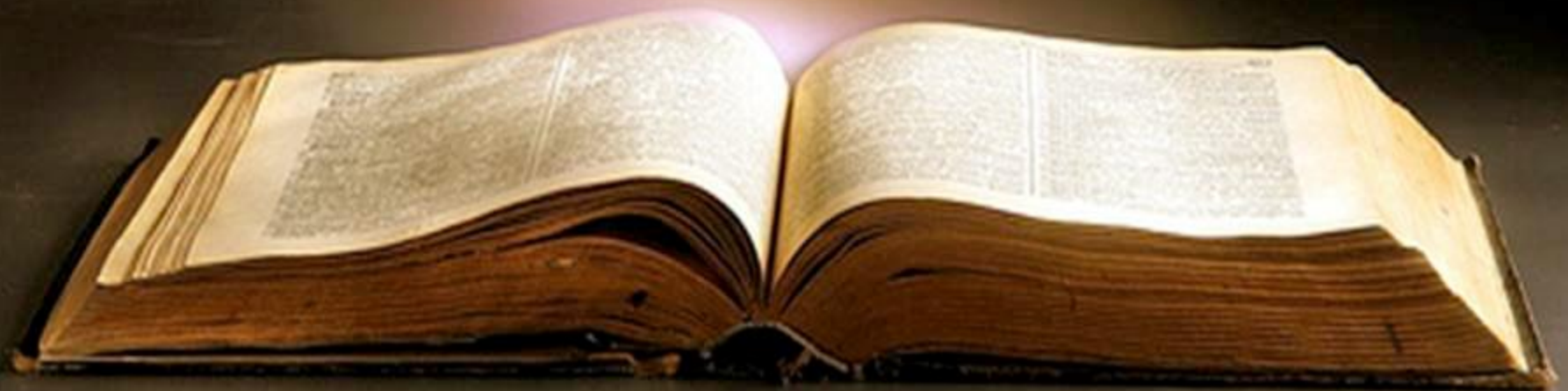
The Epistle to the Ephesians

It is not a cause for dismay, though it may be for sadness, that the career of the one body from apostolic times has not been one of uninterrupted progress as viewed by the world. Even from the days of the apostles there were difficulties, for Paul writes to the Corinthians: "There must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (1 Cor 11:19). The apostles insisted upon an unqualified acceptance of their teaching. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor 1:10).

But some spoke other things, saying that the resurrection was past already, that Christ has not come in the flesh, and many other doctrines as the apostasy developed. **The epistles for the most part are illustrations of apostolic endeavor to keep the unity by instructing in truth and combating error. But when error was persistently maintained then fellowship was withheld** (2 John 8-10; 1 Tim 6:3-5; Titus 3:10, etc.).

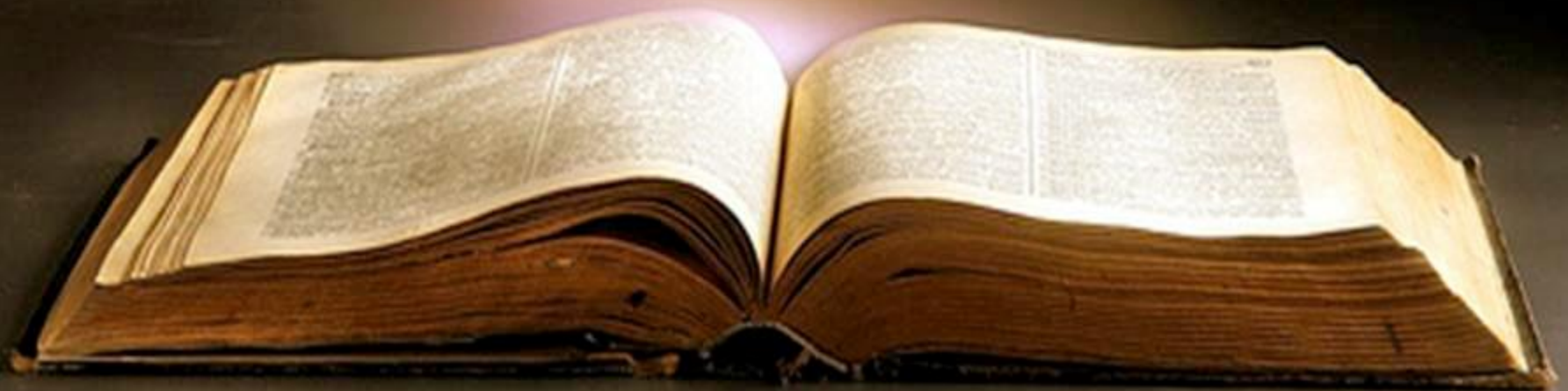
Revelation 2:1-2

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear evil men...'



Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the ecclesias. To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'



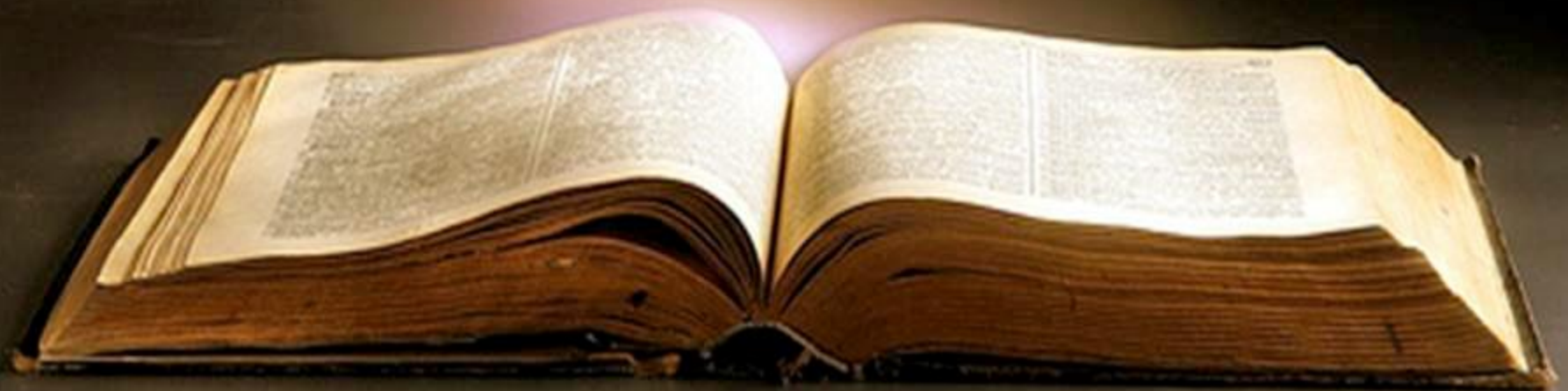
Unity in Ephesus

Class 5

- 54 Leaves Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, returns to Jerusalem
- 55 3rd missionary journey starts, returns to Ephesus,
- 56 Writes 1st Corinthians
- 57 Ephesian Riots, **leaves Ephesus**, writes 2nd Corinthians & Romans
- 58 Meets Ephesian elders at Melitus
- 59 Arrested in Jerusalem, jailed 2 years in Caesarea
- 60
- 61 4th missionary journey starts, shipwreck in Malta
- 62 House arrest in Rome 2 years, **writes Ephesians**, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon
- 63 Paul released from Prison
- 64
- 65
- 66 **Paul writes 1st Timothy and Titus**
- 67 Paul arrested again
- 68 **Writes 2nd Timothy** and is executed

2 Timothy 2:15-19:

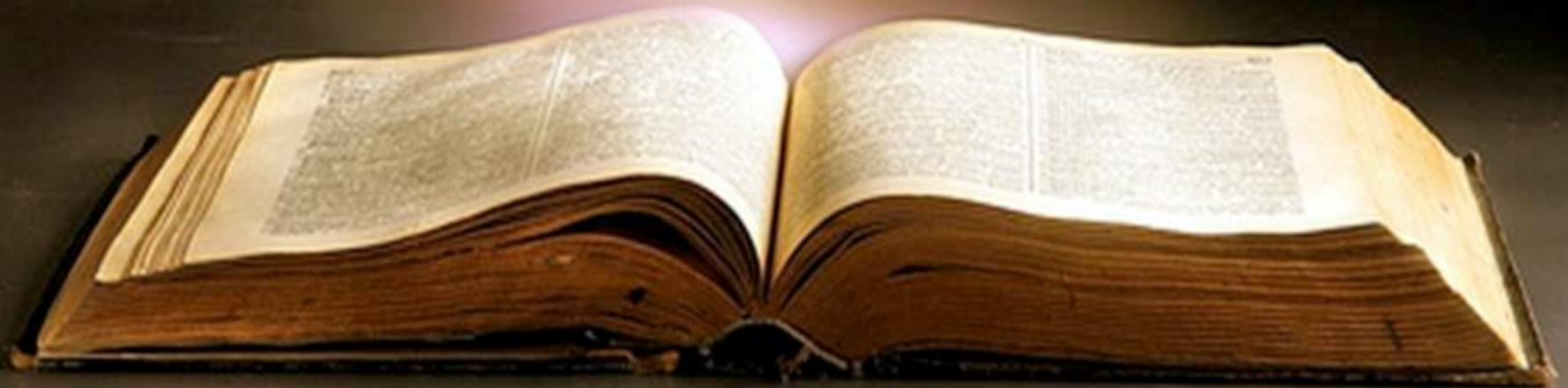
Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.



2 Timothy 3:17

...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction
in righteousness

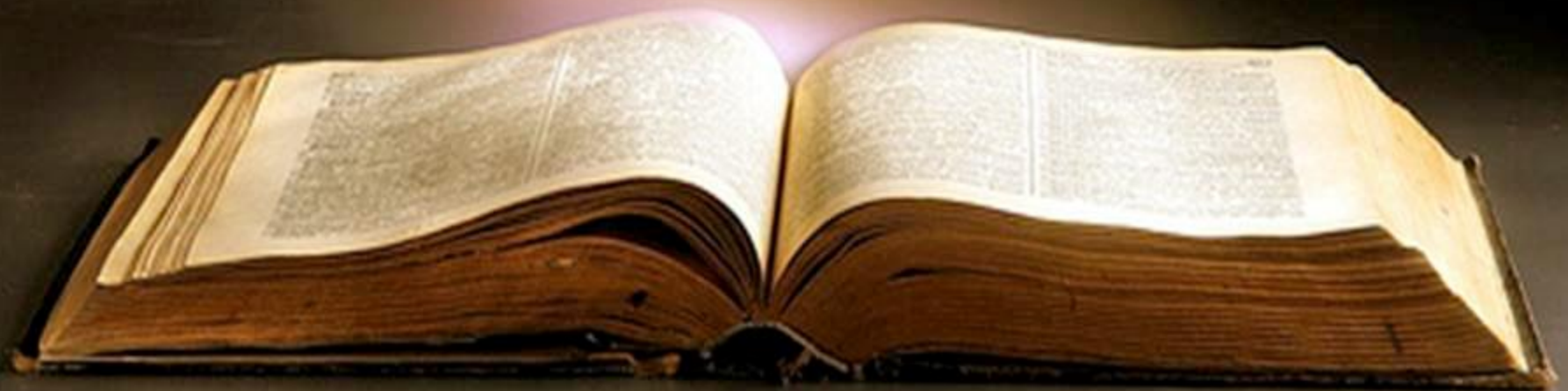
2Ti 3:16-17 KJV



The outcome of God's
inspiration is
righteousness

Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.





THRACE

The Seven Churches
of Revelation

ASIA

AEGEAN
SEA

Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Laodicea
Smyrna
Ephesus

Athens

PATMOS

RHODES

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

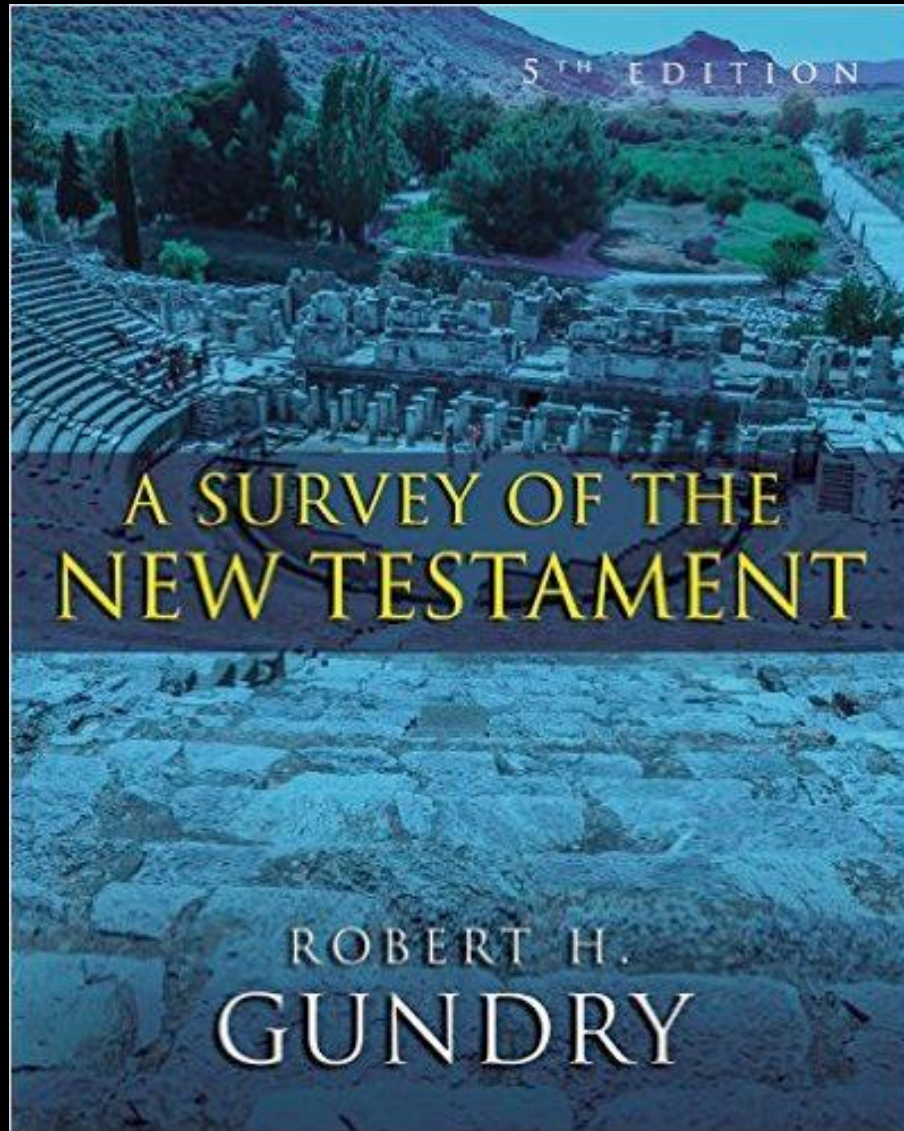
GALATIA

BibleStudy.org



There are also those who heard from him [Polycarp] that John, the disciple of the Lord, going to bathe at Ephesus, and perceiving Cerinthus within, rushed out of the bath-house without bathing, exclaiming, “Let us fly, lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within.”

*Irenaeus Against Heresies,
book 3, chapter 3, section 4*

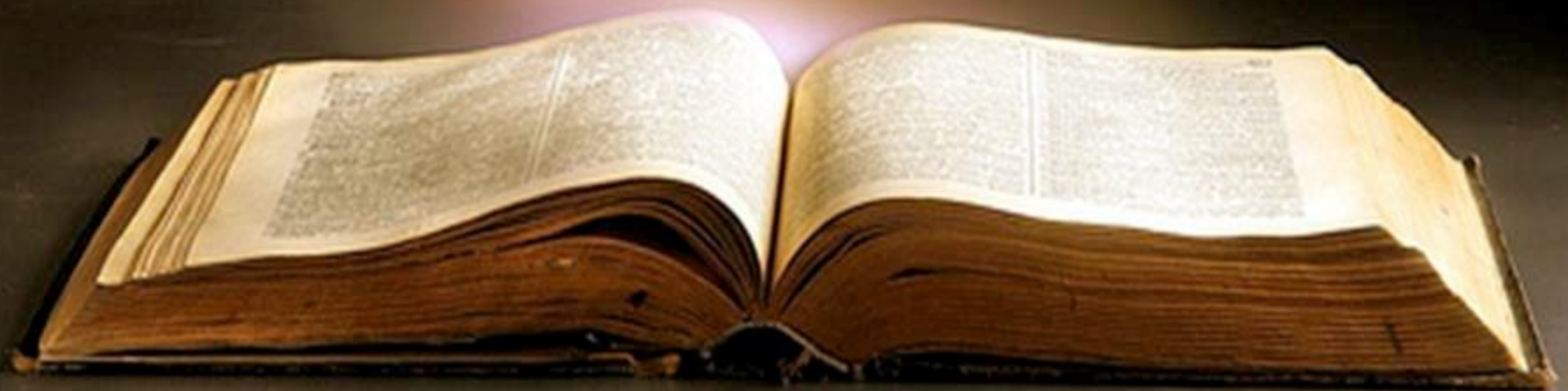


“Cerinthus was a gnostic and to some, an early Christian, who was prominent as a heresiarch in the view of the early Church Fathers. He denied that the Supreme God made the physical world. In Cerinthus' interpretation, the Christ came to Jesus (a man born of Joseph and Mary) at baptism, guided him in his ministry, but left him at the crucifixion.”

Robert Gundry *A Survey of the New Testament*

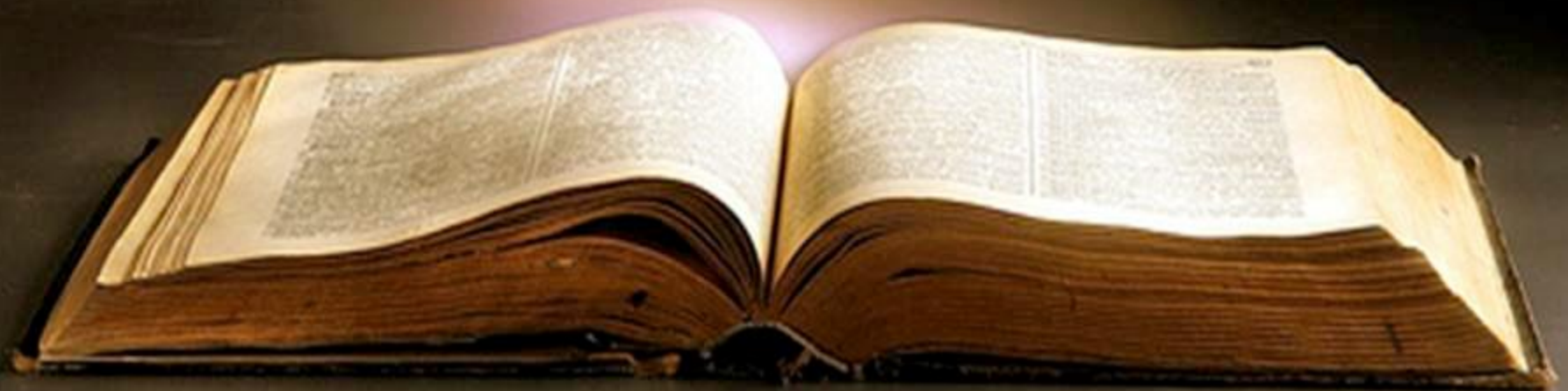
Revelation 2:2

I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.



1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try
the spirits whether they are of God:
because many false prophets are gone out
into the world.



Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

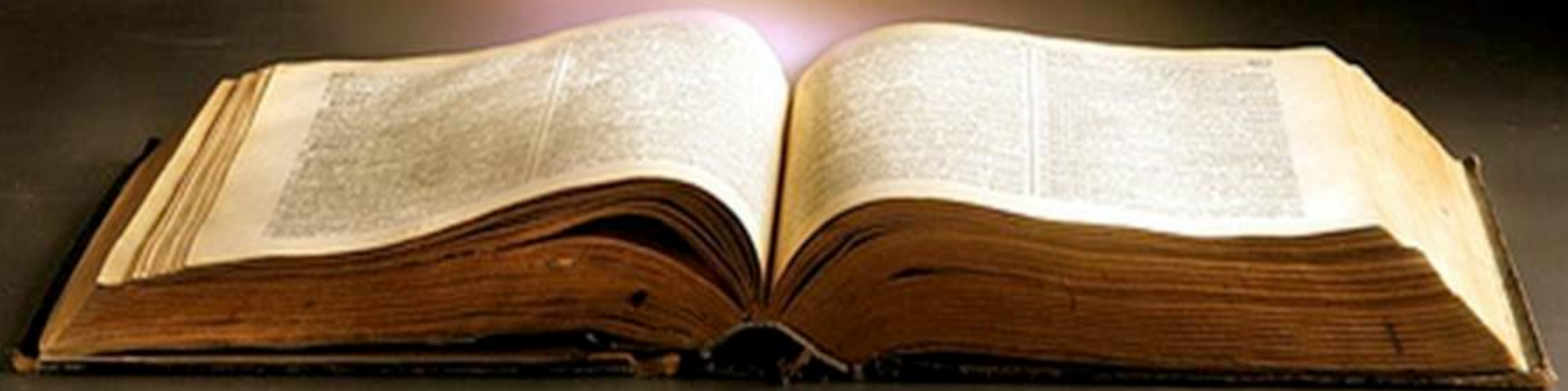
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Revelation 2:2

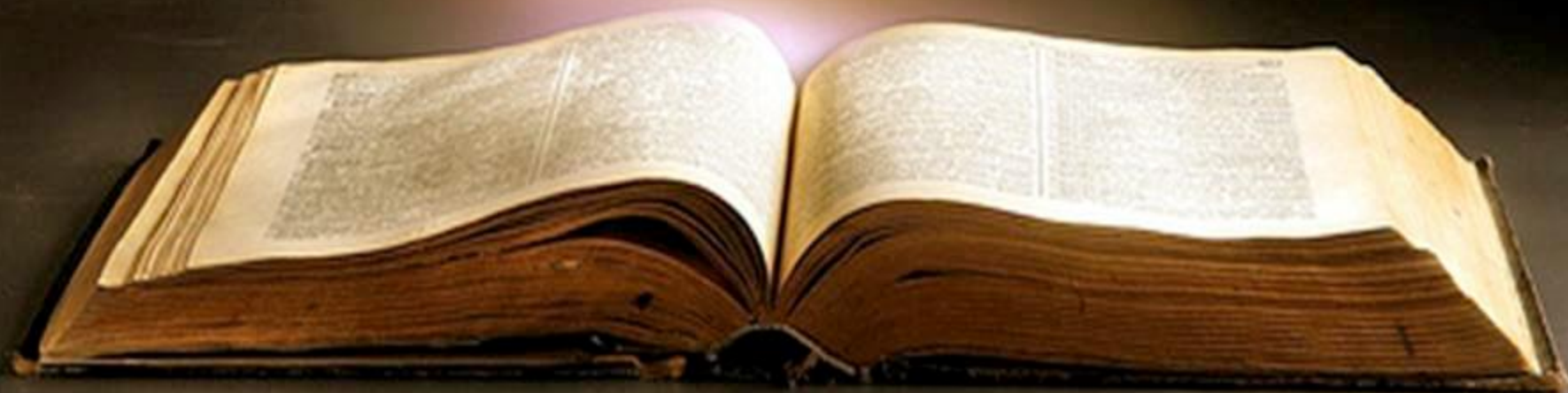
1 John 4:3-4

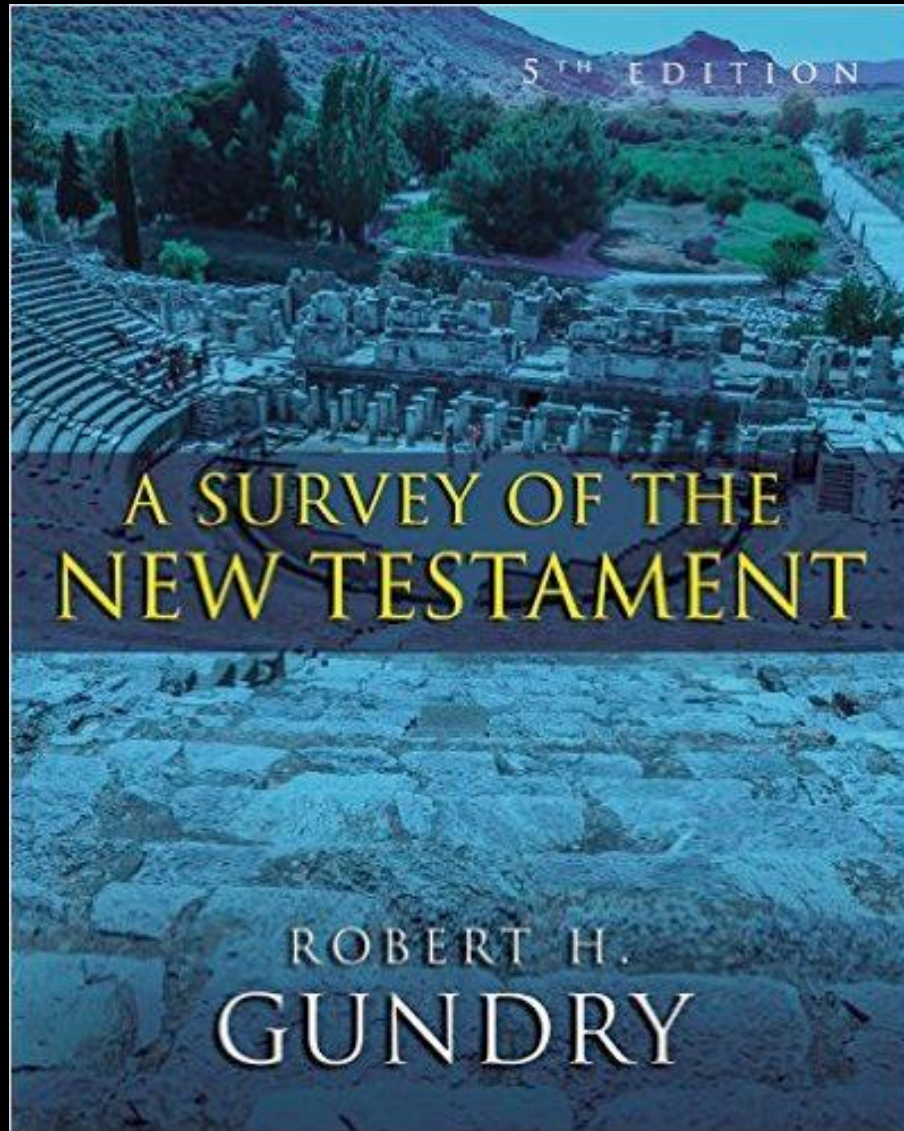
Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.



1 John 4:15

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus
is the Son of God, God dwelleth in
him, and he in God.





“Cerinthus was a gnostic and to some, an early Christian, who was prominent as a heresiarch in the view of the early Church Fathers. He denied that the Supreme God made the physical world. In Cerinthus' interpretation, the Christ came to Jesus (a man born of Joseph and Mary) at baptism, guided him in his ministry, but left him at the crucifixion.”

Robert Gundry *A Survey of the New Testament*

How you know God really dwells in you...

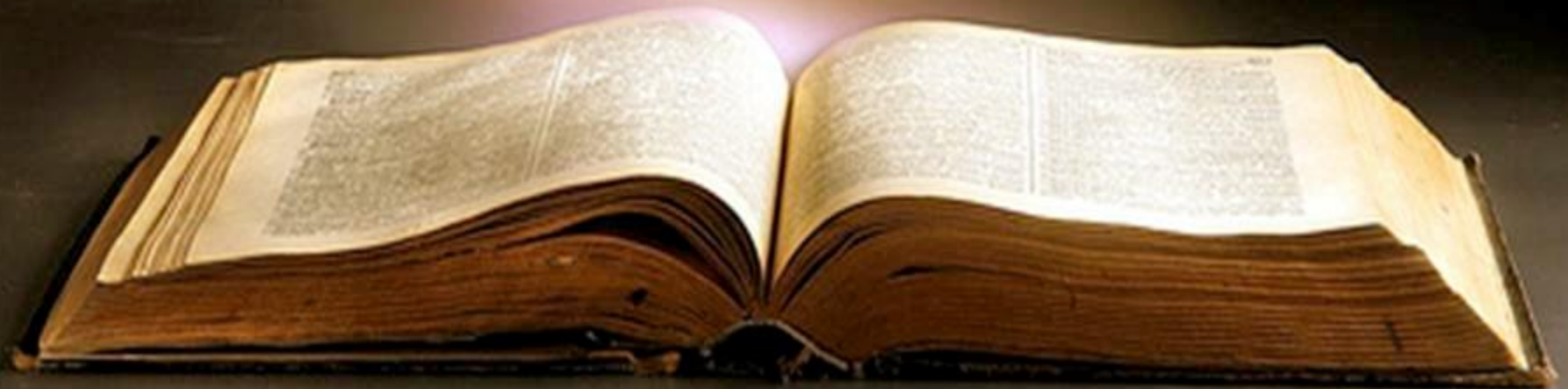
1. You love others – 1 John 4:12
2. God's words & doctrine live and have power in you – 1 John 4:13
3. You have correct doctrine – 1 John 4:15
4. You dwell in love – 1 John 4:16b

Why Love?

Love stands as a
contrast to
enlightenment as the
object for a believer.

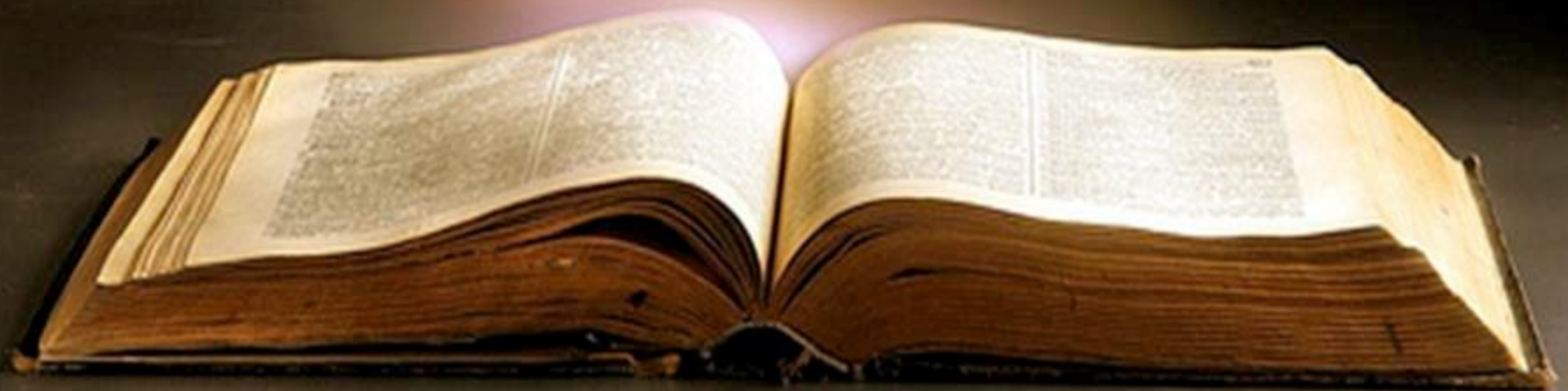
1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we
keep his commandments: and his
commandments are not grievous.



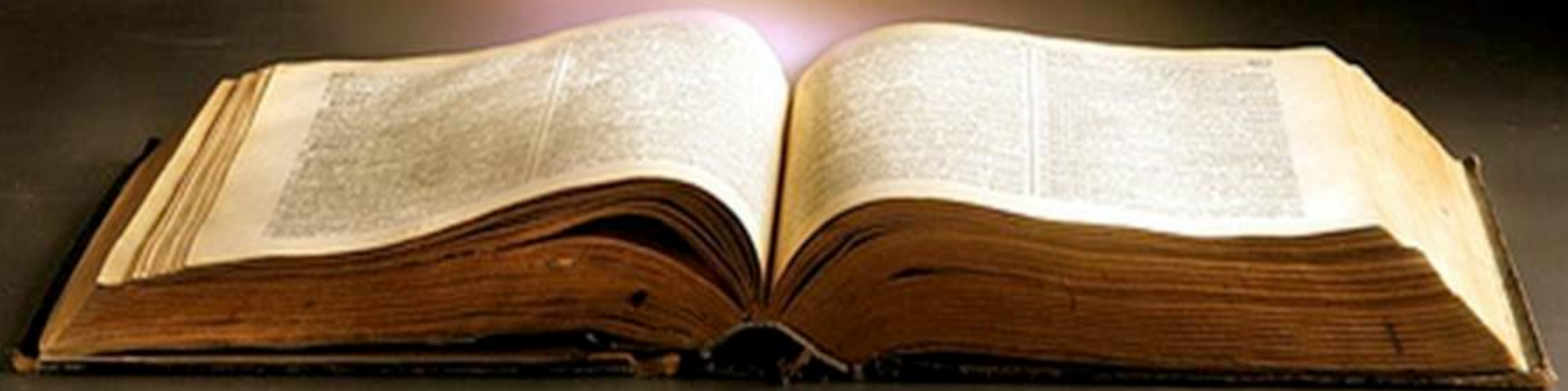
Ephesians 3:17-18

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge (gnosis), that ye might be filled with all fullness of God.



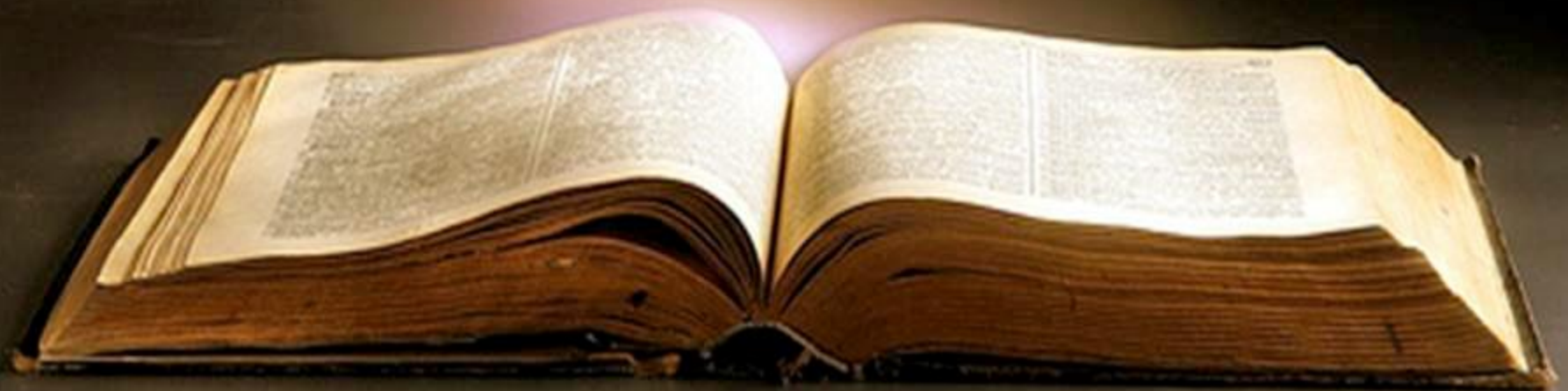
Revelation 2:4

Nevertheless I have somewhat
against thee, because thou hast
left thy first love.



1 John 4:19-21

We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.





Missing Love

Gnostics:

Missing love by
aiming wrongly for
special knowledge

True Brethren:

Missing love by
proudly believing
that they were
better and deserving
because they held
the right doctrines.

God is One, Love God

Obey His Truth

Follow His Commands

Love the Brethren