

Paul, an apostle

The letter to the Galatians

Chapter 1

By :Dov Avnon

Christ gave Paul the dispensation of Grace. Only in Paul letters Romans till Philemon's we find the doctrines that Christ gave to members of the body of Christ Jews and Gentiles in one body. If we talk about how to read the Bible, I will suggest any one to start reading and studying Paul letter to the Romans but before you study Romans go first and study Paul letters to the Galatians. Why? this is the first letter that Paul wrote. In this letter you will understand what happen in acts 9 when Christ saved Paul and told him:

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9

The Galatians is the first letter to the Church of the dispensation of grace. In this letter Christ is revealing the heart of the mystery that for ages was secret in God.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3: 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Like in Paul days, also in our days many still confusing Grace with Law and neglecting to accept that Paul had different gospel then Peter, James and John.

Why people still want to keep that Law that God gave Moses, if Christ himself said that it is finish. How many people heard or know what does it mean to rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15. Paul explain us in the same chapter how important it is to follow the teaching that Christ gave to him 2 Tim 2:1-4.

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2

If you will ask me, how came that so many saved people do not understand the Gospel of grace that Christ gave to Paul? My answer will be that they did not learn about it from the right teachers and their teacher the same.

The letter to the Galatians was written in the light of:

1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15

Is this truth that salvation depend on whether you circumcised or not? Christ gave Paul the real meaning of that circumcision.

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Col. 2

Paul letter to the Galatians are Christ words for you and me under the dispensation of Grace so we will know the following truth.

1 – Revelation

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12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2 – Paul preached different gospel than Peter, James and John

7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; Gal. 2

3 – You can receive the holy spirit only by faith and not through the law.

. 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Gal. 3

5 – We are all Abraham seed only by Faith

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise

6- Jerusalem which is above is the mother of all of us

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

1 Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;

but by Jesus Christ –

When Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians, his first one it is because at that time Peter, James and John the apostles from Jerusalem were also working around with the gospel to the circumcisions. The letter to the Hebrew – till revelation were written around that time. It might confuse some people and many try to explain it but one thing is certain. Paul write his letters with the purpose that we will follow him and not Peter James and John that had other ministry. (see my study about the apostle from Jerusalem)

1 PETER 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, **Galatia**, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

So Peter the apostle from Jerusalem also is writing to the Galatians. And Paul write about Peter

1 CORINTHIANS 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of **Cephas**; and I of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or **Cephas**, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

GALATIANS 2:9 And when James, **Cephas**, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we [should go] unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

GALATIANS 2:11 But when **Peter** was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

You do not have to be that smart to understand that Paul met Peter . They spoke and they knew about the revelation that Paul received from Christ. It is clear also that in the region of **Galatia in certain time** Paul and Peter were active. Did they get from the Lord the same revelation ? NO! did they preach after Paul was saved the same Cross and blood ? YES !

1 PETER 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the **blood** of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 1:19 But with the precious **blood** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot

1 JOHN 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

So while Peter James and John are writing for the ELECT circumcisions. We members of the body of Christ, Jews and gentiles in one body, should follow Paul and this I am going to do in this study. Following the Gospel of grace that Christ gave to Paul.

not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ

The key statement in the dispensation of Grace is **not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ** Paul received the dispensation of Grace directly from the Lord. When we say that the teaching for the Church is only in Paul letters it is because we are listening to what Christ was saying about him.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9

the churches of Galatia

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

Paul is now the one who is writing to the brethren in Galatia. We are now going to follow Christ words to Paul and not to Peter. Peter James and John ministry is also important (Hebrew till revelation) we can learn many good things from their writing for the future saints but we, members of the body of Christ should follow the gospel that Christ gave to Paul.

ACTS 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

ACTS 18:23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Grace be to you and peace

3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul first step is to tell them about which Christ he is speaking. **Who gave himself for our sins.**

1 PETER 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness

1 PETER 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit

1 JOHN 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins

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Yes after Paul was saved. Peter James and John the apostles from Jerusalem preached also that Christ is **propitiation for our sins.**

But again, we should follow what Christ gave to Paul and this what we are going to do. If we will do it and listen to what Christ want to tell us through Paul in the letter to the Galatians. We will understand how important is the different between the Law that God gave to Moses and the age of grace.

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Bij the time Paul is writing his letter to the Galatians the gospel of Christ is the gospel that members of the churches of the body of Christ should follow. It is our carnal reasoning that want to understand everything around the work of Peter James and John at that time but the answer is only as far as the word of God telling us.

ROMANS 1:16 For I am not ashamed **of the gospel of Christ**

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the **gospel of Christ**

but there be some that trouble you

Who are those who can trouble them?

1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15

You see in the matter MOSES and CIRCUCITION that Galatians and so we , should follow Paul teaching .

pervert the gospel of Christ. - what will it be to **pervert the gospel of Christ ?** remember we are talking now about the revelation that Christ gave to Paul.

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Gal 3

It is about how the members of the body of Christ – Jews and Gentiles received the spirit of promise.

We know today after the word of God is fulfilled that there is one way to receive the spirit of promise and this why we should Follow the gospel of Christ as Paul was preaching

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed **with that holy Spirit of promise,** Eph 1

Preach any other gospel

When Paul wrote his first letter. There were two gospels around – I know that many have hard time first to understand the difference between the Gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of the grace of God and now it begin to be more complicated ! two gospels around after Paul was saved ? two gospel around after the dispensation of Grace already began in acts 9 ?

Yes ! after Paul was saved we are not talking any more about the gospel of the kingdom with the 12 apostles. We are now talking about Peter James and John and the gospel to the circumcision,

7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; Gal 2

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The letters **Hebrews- James -1,2 Peter – Jude – Revelation –** were written in the period that Paul was around with the gospel of Gods grace. John is writing also to the Ephesians and Peter also to the Galatians and yet we are talking here about different preaching, different revelations.

4 **John to the seven churches which are in Asia**: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; rev. 1

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 1 Pet 1

which we have preached

8 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.

When we read vers 8 the question is who are those “**which we have preached**” ? the answer is very simple and Paul give us the answer:

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy **apostles and prophets** by the Spirit; Eph 3

Paul is talking here about the work of the **apostles and prophets** of the **dispensation of grace**. Yes! By the time Paul wrote his letter to the Galatian they should Follow Paul. They should listen only to the gospel that Paul teach them. The gospel of the grace of God as we learn in all his letters Romans till Philemon.

we, or an angel from heaven

When Paul wrote it, he put himself also in the category of those who might fall from the truth. Every flesh and blood has the possibility to fall from the truth. Everyone who say today I understand that Christ gave Paul the dispensation of Grace and I preach only this gospel, might change his mind tomorrow. This is the reality of standing for the truth.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an **angel** of light.

let him be accursed

Church history is full of religion who practiced this be accursed ! Any religion will show people the door out if you are not in agreement with their doctrinal statement. So the question is, what is Paul talking about ?

22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha. 1 Cor 16:22

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. Rom 16

Paul write this letter to the Galatians because of some false brothers:

1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15

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So you see if we want to have after all those years from Paul days till our days a clear gospel and not mix between Law and Grace. We should **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them Rom 16:17** . Did people down to the ages did it? No ! is it easy in our days to stand for the truth of the gospel ? no!

Christ on the one hand gave Paul for us the good instruction how to keep the gospel clear. We on the other side have to chose if we going to follow those instructions or not !

accursed. accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

What is OTHER GOSPEL ? does – Baptist, Pentecostal, Catholic or many other protestants groups are really preaching other gospel? Yes! But we must first understand the meaning of what Paul call gospel. Gospel=good news. Many think that if they just mentioning the name JESUS CHRIST, they are in the right gospel. Other say he believe in the cross or he also preach about the resurrection. The gospel that Christ gave to Paul is about salvation by grace, is about dispensation that called grace. It is about different revelation concerning the body of believers that called the body of Christ. The instruction about this revelation we find only in Paul letter, Romans till Philemon. So now we understand that while many mentioning some truth from Paul letters, they are mixing it with truth from the kingdom gospel. This mix gospel cause that many do not have clear understanding about the age of grace or the dispensation of grace in which we are living. Paul in his letter to the Galatian tell us keep Law separated from grace. Depart from People who teach gospel where Law and Grace are being mixed.

10 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.

It was never easy in any time in the Bible to stand for the truth that God revealed to the People. Paul grew up in the Jewish religion and now he had to stand up against the tradition of his father. Tradition of man might use truth from the Bible but it is NOT the revelation of God. In many stage of our life with Christ we will have to chose whether we going to stand for the truth or are we going to please people. The main truth that we are talking about and we should stand boldly in this dispensation of grace are:

In whom also ye are circumcised

Buried with him in baptism

having forgiven you all trespasses

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us

Col. 2:6-15

I can say one thing. With those truth you will never make many friends **For do I now persuade men, or God?**

but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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The one who going around and preach the Christ was the end of the law must have a good reason to do it. Paul did not made his own story. The truth that we read in the letters of Paul were given Paul directly from Christ by revelation. Paul did not learn it for the 12 apostles. He say it by revelation. We find in the Bible many kind of revelations. There is the book of revelation that Christ gave to John for the 7 churches during the tribulation period. Paul writes also to 7 churches but those churches are made from Jews and gentiles in one body THE CHURCH that was mystery.

There is different between revelation and enlightened. Many from the time of Paul till our days claim to receive revelation from God. Islam, Mormons and many others like charismatic's group talking about REVELATION FROM GOD. Paul make it clear that he is the last who received revelation from God.

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: Col 1:25-26

13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

ye have heard of my conversation in time past

ACTS 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

ACTS 9:21 But all that heard [him] were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

Can you imagine that any extreme religion leader that first was killing people and put them in jails now believe in the same Christ that first he so hated?

Paul grew in the Jews religion. It was developing in what God first gave to Moses for Israel but after Nebuchadnezzar took Judas to Babylon they started to develop their own tradition partly based on the written law that God gave to Moses and partly on the tradition of the fathers.

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. Dan 1

It is this tradition that inspired Paul to prosecute the church of God. According to the Law of Moses

DEUTERONOMY 13:6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which [is] as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

Paul, tradition and the callings of God

By: Dov Avnon

Galatians 1:14

14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

As we are studying Paul letter to the Galatians. We are getting now the most important information about how Paul received is calling to preach the Lord Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery. So let's start first to talk about Paul.

And profited in the Jews' religion -

Paul grew in the Jews religion. It was developing in what God first gave to Moses for Israel but after Nebuchadnezzar took Judas to Babylon they started to develop their own tradition partly based on the written law that God gave to Moses and partly on the tradition of the fathers.

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ACTS 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our **religion** I lived a Pharisee.

exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers – traditions= paradosis gr. = a giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing, i.e. tradition by instruction, etc.

If you are a saved person and knows that Christ gave Paul the dispensation of grace. You know that there today many traditions / giving over which are manmade. This mean that the basic might be Bible but they build on it their own interpretations and add on rules. If we take Paul words, his father's receive from God through mosses the law. Moses say that he wrote everything down.

DEUTERONOMY 31:24 And it came to pass, when **Moses** had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,

The present Jews religion add many others books and rules to the finish words of God, But they are not the only one. Catholicism, reform theology and many others giving much more value to their own traditions than to what Christ gave to Paul for this dispensation of Grace.

When Christ was on earth talking to His people, the nation Israel already develop tradition that was not based only on the law that God gave to mosses. This why we read:

MATTHEW 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the **tradition** of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. **MATTHEW 15:3** But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your **tradition**?

MARK 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, [as] the washing of pots and cups **MARK 7:13** Making the word of God of none effect through your **tradition**, which ye have delivered

So as you can see if you follow tradition of man you make "word of God of none effect t" A good sample is the doctrine of BAPTISM. Christ trough Paul let us know that the only baptism that can put us in unity with God is the baptism of the Spirit into one body as Paul teach us in : Romans 6:1-11 1 Cor. 12:13.

Now try to tell any other bible teacher that teaches "baby water baptism " or "adult water baptism" that there is no place for any water ritual under this dispensation of grace. You will find very soon how strong can be a tradition of man in all religions. Satan plan is all the time to make **the word of God of none effect**

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1cor 1

Paul, Tradition and the dispensation of Grace,

There are traditions of man. It is a system that Satan develop in order that we will not see and follow the traditions that Christ gave to Paul. **COLOSSIANS 2:8** 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.

You see tradition of man is in order to SPOIL YOU / to make things of NONE EFFECT. This is why it is most important to listen to what Christ told Paul and to follow the traditions that Christ gave to the Church which is His body.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the **traditions** which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the **tradition** which he received of us.

God separated Paul.

15 But when it pleased God, who seprated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

You will not find many people in the history of the Bible that can say: "God **seprated me from my mother's womb** " as Paul say it to members of the body of Christ. We know what the angel said to Mary **LUKE 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy **womb**, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Those words are about the birth of

Christ God in the flesh and we are talking now about Paul the apostle for this dispensation of grace, a sinner like you and me.

Seprated – separation is not salvation. Paul was not save from the moment that he born. Paul was a sinner like you and me and as such he never received automatically the gift of eternal life.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

God called Paul like each one of us trough the gospel. Many people are asking how come that some do not believe. Is it because God choose some to believe and some not? No ! Paul telling us very clear how God call people:

2 THESSALONIANS 2:14 Whereunto he **called** you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9 Who hath saved us, and **called** us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

The gospel of God's grace that Christ gave to Paul called people. **14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10**

Paul and the apostles

It is important to know that Paul was NOT one of the 12 apostles and he did not receive the gospel of grace from them. Those verses are Paul declaration for what he already say:

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

in order to emphasis that Paul gospel is part of a new revelation. Paul write the brethren what he did after he was saved.

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

This is an important declaration. It is talking about the relation that Paul as apostle of the dispensation of Grace had with the apostles and prophets in Jerusalem.

When Paul wrote his first letter to the Churches of the mystery. We are not talking any more about the 12 apostles but about PETER,JAMES and John the apostles from Jerusalem.

As we know Paul wrote about Peter while Peter wrote in his letters about Paul. They lived and work in the same time and yet preach different gospels. Peter was part of the apostles from Jerusalem with the gospel to the circumcision. It is most important to understand that while Peter, James and John were apostles like Paul was. They were not those apostles and prophets that Paul was writing about in:

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; Efeze 2:20

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Efeze 3:5

I lie not.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

ROMANS 9:1 I say the truth In Christ, **I lie not.** my conscience also bearing me witness In the Holy Ghost, 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 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 TIMOTHY 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, **I speak the truth in Christ, and I lie not.** a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

You and me today have the written word of God. We believe that the Bible is the word of God and therefore accept that Paul's letters are part of God's word. We know of course that most so-called Christians do not care much about Paul's letters or even heard about the dispensations of Grace. However, the letters are there and people can read it or not.

When Paul came in those places, he was preaching a different gospel. His letter to the Galatians is a good evidence that the preaching of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery is much different from what Christ was teaching when He was on earth. This is the reason that He used those terms few times **I lie not - , I speak the truth in Christ, and I lie not - or but as it is in truth, the word of God,** are very important.

Till today you will find people who will tell you that Paul was wrong when he was teaching the Jews not to obey the Law of Moses. But again we as members of the church, the body of Christ to whom Paul is writing the letter, should believe to Paul when he was saying: **I lie not.**

When Paul wrote : **21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse 3:10 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law 3:13**

You see all those verses and many other verses that we will read in this letter, are not the words of Christ when He was on earth. What Paul is writing here is even not mentioned in the law of Moses. This is why till today Paul says to each one of us **I lie not.** Following Paul is like you following Christ only that now Christ is NOT on earth but in heaven.

The churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

Not the synagogue of the Jews

21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

After Paul was visiting Jerusalem he came to the region where he was born. In Jerusalem he met only the apostles and James the Lord's brother. From this account we know that the churches of Judaea did not see Paul.

ACTS 15:23 and they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles **and** elders **and** brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch **and Syria and Cilicia ACTS 15:41** and he went through **Syria and Cilicia**, confirming the churches.

By the time Paul was saved we are finding part of the churches of Judea also in the region of **Syria and Cilicia**.

The churches in Judaea are not synagogue- they established during the preaching of the 12 apostles.**44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:44**

The word Church might confuse many people because there is in the Bible differences between the churches of the dispensation of grace or the churches in Judaea. Like that there is different between the kingdom gospel and the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul wrote to 7 churches. John in the book revelation wrote also to 7 churches. There is a line that go back to Jerusalem and there is a line that go back to the apostle Paul. It look like some time that both lines are the same but if you follow the scriptures you will know that the churches of Judaea with Peter, James and John as apostles had different gospel then the churches to whom Paul wrote .

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

The Lord is talking here about the gospel of the kingdom and the direction is North **Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria** – The 11 apostle received those instruction and soon they will be again 12 because the gospel is still first to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Judaea is the region where the city of Jerusalem is located. It is there where our Lord said to the disciples : shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Witnesses ! of what? The gospel of the kingdom. They are going to tell the world what Christ was teaching them when He was on earth.

ACTS 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. Acts 5

This is the situation in Jerusalem and Judaea when we read acts chapters 1-7 . most important is to note that the **many signs and wonders wrought among the people** is the fulfilling of what the Lord already tell them in Mark. 16:16-17

What we see today is that the charismatic movement try to imitate those **signs and wonders** . they are also the one who proclaiming the idea that if your church is not growing and there is no **signs and wonders** then God is probably is not working there. But this is not more than just mixing between the working of God in the period around the day of Pentecost and how God is working under the dispensation of Grace.

In the mean time if we going through acts chapter 1-7 we will find that in the end Israel as a nation did not receive the witness of the 12 apostles. One of the important turning point that we should look at are :

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Acts 7:53-60

ACTS 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the **church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Those are the **churches in Judaea** under the leading of the apostles that Paul was persecuted. Paul said later **22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:**

ACTS 15:23 and they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles **and** elders **and** brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch **and Syria and Cilicia** **ACTS 15:41** and he went through **Syria and Cilicia**, confirming the churches.

But let's keep moving with the line of those churches but now after Paul was saved. The fact that Paul was saved in acts chapter 9, does not say that those Churches in Judaea stop to exist or in one day turn over to follow Paul the apostle of the new dispensation of grace.

It is most important to go by the scriptures in order to understand this issue about the churches of Judea and not by any carnal reasoning's or manmade own questions and answers doctrines. The Word of God is about what God is doing and not to give answers to all our manmade questions.

ACTS 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Edified walking in the fear of the Lord in the comfort of the Holy Ghost

The churches in Judea follow the teaching of the 12 apostles with the kingdom gospel and later with the gospel of the circumcision as Peter, James and John the apostles from Jerusalem were teaching.

The churches of Judea and the Gentiles

ACTS 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; **ACTS 11:1** And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*, Acts 11

In order to understand that the Churches of Judea had a different gospel and different apostles then the churches of the mystery I suggest any one first to read acts chapters 10-11

The Gentiles here who receive the word of God are receiving it according to the gospel of the circumcisions. The Gentiles have a place also in the earthly kingdom only that it is through the nation Israel. That Peter go to a gentile according to Gods earthly purpose is very clear from Peter own words:

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.**16** Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.**17** Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? Acts 11

Acts 10-11 describe one situation that has nothing to do with the dispensation of grace. Peter did not go to Cornelius as part of the revelation of the mystery that Christ gave to Paul. In contrary we read that further they did not go to any Gentiles but only to the Jews.

19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. Acts 11

The churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

As we already see there is a difference between the churches in Judea with the 12 apostles and later with Peter, James and John and the Churches to whom Paul was writing under the dispensation of grace.

So what about the term "were in Christ" ? . Does it mean that where ever we read "in Christ" it means "in the body of Christ" ? No !

Does the term "were in Christ" means part of the church the body of Christ? Or that they were baptized into one body? 1 Corinthians 12:13 No ! When

The churches in Judea were in Christ because they believed Christ and follow Christ teaching according to what the 12 apostles were teaching them and later Peter, James and John. "In Christ" in connection to the churches in Judea in not about the baptism in one body as we learn from Paul.

Paul about IN CHRIST

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:13

When Paul is using the term "in Christ" is referring to members of the church the body of Christ Jews and Gentiles in one body.

ROMANS 8:1 ...no condemnation to them which are in christ Jesus...

ROMANS 12:5 Soare one body in christ...

1 CORINTHIANS 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep **in christ** are perished.

EPHESIANS 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted **in christ**.

EPHESIANS 1:10 That **in** the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together **in one** all things **in christ**, both which are **in** heaven, and which are on earth; [even] **in** him

EPHESIANS 2:13 But now **in christ** Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of **christ**.

EPHESIANS 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise **in christ** by the gospel

helpers in christ - were in christ before me.

ROMANS 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers **in christ** Jesus

ROMANS 16:9 Salute Urbane, our helper **in christ**, and Stachys my beloved.

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ROMANS 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in christ before me.

As we can see how Paul use “in Christ” because they helped him . Andronicus and Junia believed “in Christ” already before Paul was save like the churches in Judea were “in Christ” before Paul was saved. It is about believing in Christ and not being baptized into the body of Christ which could NOT happen before Paul.

all that are **in christ** Jesus.

1PETER 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are **in christ** Jesus. Amen. Here again we can see how “in Christ” can be used to those who believe in Christ. Peter wrote to the circumcision and not to member of the body of Christ. Yes also believers from the circumcision believing “in Christ”

now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. 24 And they glorified God in me.

The churches in Judea heard that Paul preach the same FAITH. Does this verse suggest that Paul, Peter , James and John preach gospel ? No! reading Galatians chapter 2:7-9 will make it clear that they had different gospels. So what is the same faith that they were preaching. Does the different gospels mean different faith? No!