



BOLD TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY

Volume 2 Issue 3

March, 2020

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

The most important question a believer can ask is: “How am I supposed to understand the whole Bible?” For it is only by correctly understanding the Bible that a sinner gets saved, and that a saved person can walk in a way that pleases God. And it is here, at this critical juncture of Christian living, that historic Christianity has left believers in complete ruin. Instead of teaching them how to use the Bible the way God intended, historic Christianity, for the most part, has kept His Word from believers, hiding it away like the Pharisees of old, who buried the Word of God under the traditions of men (Mk. 7:12-13), or like the birds of Satan, who took away the seed of the Word of God before it took root (Mk. 4:14).

This rejection of the Bible is the necessary consequence of rebelling against God by rejecting His distinct apostle for today, the Apostle Paul. Rather than embracing Paul, they embraced their “church fathers,” who had turned from God in the very days of Paul himself. They are the church leaders in Corinth,

Galatia and Colossae, not to mention **all they which are in Asia who turned away from me** (Paul) (2 Tim. 1:15). So much for the most ancient church fathers. No, if we are to handle God’s Word correctly, we must

return to God by embracing Paul and his divinely given distinct apostleship.

While within historic Christianity there has always been a small fraction of believers who have remained faithful to God and His appointed Apostle for today, the vast majority has rebelled against God and continues to reject the distinct apostleship of Paul. It is no surprise then that in rejecting God’s plan for today, they had to reject God’s Word for today, as well and keep the Bible away from believers as well to maintain control over them.

For hundreds of years, this mostly apostate historic Christianity did everything they could to keep the Bible away from people. But then something happened that even it couldn’t control, and that was the arrival of the printing press. Realizing they could no longer keep the physical Bible away from believers literally, they proceeded to take it away from them figuratively by telling them that they cannot understand the Bible that they have. They insisted that when God wrote something in the Bible, He didn’t write what He *really* meant, and He didn’t mean what He *really* wrote. They nullified the Bible with a kind of 1-2 punch. First, they hit it with a left lead, “spiritualizing” God’s meaning out of a passage, and followed that with quick right cross, “trivializing” the passage by filling it back in with whatever they want-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

How To Handle The Whole Bible	1-8
Paul’s Distinct Apostleship and the Coronavirus Crisis	9-11
Church News	12

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

ed, knocking it down for the count, “nullifying” God’s Word.

THE WRONG WAY TO HANDLE THE BIBLE:

SPIRITUALIZE/TRIVIALIZE/NULLIFY GOD’S WORD

They accomplish this with great sleight of hand. First, they tell the believer that the Bible doesn’t *really* mean what it says. For instance, when God spoke about the Nation of Israel, He wasn’t *really* talking about a literal Nation of Israel. He was *really* talking about a spiritual nation, the church, the Body of Christ! And when He promised Abraham the Land of Canaan, He wasn’t *really* promising a literal land that covered a geographic area in the Middle East! He was *really* referring to a spiritual land, Heaven. And when He made all those prophecies in the Old Testament regarding momentous events in Israel’s future, He wasn’t *really* going to fulfill them literally! They were *really* just poetic exaggerations of lesser events that had already occurred in Israel’s past. And when Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on earth, He wasn’t *really* talking about a literal, physical, visible kingdom on the earth! He was talking about a spiritual kingdom in our hearts.

With such sleight of hand, Historic Christianity was able to “spiritualize” God’s meaning out of the Bible, and then “trivialize” it by filling it in with whatever meaning they wanted. Then they congratulated themselves on how spiritual they were. When in fact they were carnal and fleshly bringing God’s Word to nothing, “nullifying” it.

For example, they take the momentous events in Israel’s wilderness wander-

ings and trivialize them into little more than character lessons for believers today. Or they take the momentous events described in the Book of Job, which will be especially applicable to the believing remnant of Israel going through the Tribulation Period, suffering under Satan’s Policy of Evil against them, and trivialize them into little more than the everyday problems and difficulties of present day life. Or they take the super-momentous event of the arrival of Israel’s long-promised Messiah, who came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and those amazing Beatitudes associated with that, and trivialize them into little more than pious virtues for self-centered Christians. In treating the Bible in this way, they threw away God’s divinely originated meaning and replaced it with their own humanely originated meaning, making God’s Word of no effect.

This would be bad enough, but it even gets worse! This wrong way of handling God’s Word has not only been embraced by the larger apostate element in Historic Christianity, it has also been embraced by most of the smaller believing element within Christianity as well. While true believers have at least embraced Paul’s distinct Gospel, the Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Christ (and for this we are eternally thankful!), for the most part they continue to follow the lead of apostate Christianity in rejecting the rest of Paul’s distinct apostleship.

There is only one way to correct this situation, and we find that way explained in Romans 15.

THE CORRECT WAY TO HANDLE THE BIBLE:

RIGHTLY-DIVIDE/MAXIMIZE/REVIVE GOD’S WORD

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

FIRST
HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY
ALWAYS RESULTS IN BUILDING
UP OTHERS IN LOVE!

At the time Paul wrote Romans, God's Programs of the Ages were transitioning away from His Prophetic Program for the Nation of Israel and to His Mystery Program for the Body of Christ. During this transition period, God made a special provision for those local assemblies who had significant Jewish background, like the churches in Rome and Corinth. This provision called on "strong" believers to minister on behalf of "weak" believers by establishing them in Paul's teachings. "Strong" believers were those who appreciated what God was doing through Paul's distinct apostleship and understood the transition God was making at that time away from Israel's Prophetic Program and to the Body of Christ's Mystery Program as revealed to and through the Apostle Paul.

For those who had been affiliated with Judaism in one way or another, this 20-30-year long Transition Period away from Israel and her Law would have proved difficult to understand and accept. They would have been taught, perhaps since infancy, that they were under the Mosaic Law, and that it required them to abstain from eating certain foods. But then the Apostle Paul comes along and explains that God is now operating apart from Israel and her Law, and that the food regulations were no longer in effect. Those who understood and accepted this were identified as "strong" believers. Those who had uncertainty in understanding and accepting this because of Jewish influence were identified as "weak" believers.

For these "weak" believers, there would

have been much uncertainty and confusion about how they were to walk in a way that pleased God. Were they supposed to walk in accord with Israel's Prophetic Program with its Mosaic Law? Or were they supposed to walk in accord with the Body of Christ's Mystery Program with its Pauline Grace? It is for this reason that during this Transition Period, God provided for a ministry of "strong" believers on behalf of "weak" believers. The "strong" believers were not to ridicule, despise, judge or separate from "weak" believers (Rom. 14). Rather, out of Love, they were to bring "weak" believers under their arm and establish them in God's Word by teaching them how to rightly divide the Bible! In doing this, the "weak" believer would become a "strong" believer so that once this Transition Period was over, he or she would be fully established in God's Mystery Truth for today.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, the reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever *things* were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (15:1-4).

These verses highlight several important points:

1. The purpose of rightly dividing the Bible is not to make ourselves smarter than others, or to enable us to one-up others in debates, or to gain glory for ourselves, or anything like that. It is to edify, build up and establish others in love, Agape Love (God's unselfish, unending, unchanging, uncondi-

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

tional love, which He gives believers when saved – Romans 5:5 and in the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22).

2. In Agape Love the believer does not consider his or her own things, but the things of others. Paul puts it this way in Phil. 2:3-4: **Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not everyone on his own things, but everyone also on the things of others.**

3. This accommodation for “weak” believers was a temporary provision that ceased at the end of the Transition Period after Acts 28. Once Israel’s Prophetic Program had been completely set aside and the full revelation of the Body of Christ’s Mystery Program had been fully revealed and recorded in Paul’s Epistles, there was no more excuse for being a “weak” believer.

At that point, there are only obedient believers who had embraced Paul’s distinct apostleship and were walking in accord with that, or disobedient believers who had rejected Paul’s distinct apostleship and were walking in rebellion against God and His Word (Rom. 1:5; 16:25). Once God had provided the full revelation of Mystery Truth for today and had recorded and preserved it in the prophetic Scriptures of Paul, there was then and is now no more excuse for anyone continuing in the ignorance and confusion that comes from mixing up God’s two Programs for the Ages.

Using “weak” and “strong” believer terminology today is nothing more than a cop-out. It is usually used by those who consider themselves to be the “strong” believer as they look down their noses at those they consider to be “weak” believers. Instead of putting in the hard work of ministering to the one they call weak, building him up in God’s Truth out of

love, the self-proclaimed “strong” believer instead labels him as “weak” and then writes him off as a bad investment out of pride.

God’s definition of the strong believer today, is the believer who has been built up, established and strengthened by God’s Mystery Truth through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3; Col. 1). There is no longer any leeway for believers to confuse the Body of Christ’s Mystery Program with Israel’s Prophetic Program. To do so no longer indicates the possibility of a sincere believer who is weak in the faith or conscience. It only indicates a hypocritical believer (whether ignorantly or knowingly) who is in rebellion against God.

Even when Paul wrote the Epistle to the Galatians, which was a Transition Period book, he did not allow for—not even for one instant!—any thought whatsoever of beginning to observe the Law with its food regulations. He withstood no less a person than the Apostle Peter, withstanding him TO THE FACE for doing just this (Gal.2:11)! Now, why was Paul sensitive to legal food restrictions in Rome and Corinth but not at all in Galatia?

Because both Rome and Corinth had a strong Jewish background that would have influenced not only the Jews but Gentiles in their assemblies as well. So, God provided some leeway for those assemblies with members who, so to speak, had a foot in each of His divine programs. He instructed “strong” believers, those who understood and appreciated Paul’s distinct apostleship, to help such people (“weak” believers) move completely out of Israel’s Prophetic Program and completely into the Body of Christ’s Mystery Program. The “strong” believer did this by lovingly showing the “weak” believer how to rightly divide the whole Bible (Rom. 15:1-13).

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

The Galatians, however, were not in this predicament. They did not have a strong Jewish background. They had believed, understood and embraced Paul's distinct apostleship without any confusion from Judaism. And once that happened there was no more leeway for going back to the Law with its food regulations (Gal. 4:9-11). After receiving Paul's ministry, going back to the Law would not indicate a sincere believer who is weak in the faith or conscience. It would only indicate a hypocritical believer who is in rebellion against God. That this was going on among the Galatians meant that they were in the process of rejecting God's Apostle Paul and the Mystery Truth he proclaimed.

We see this in the example of Peter. Like the Galatians, Peter knew better than to go back to the Law with regard to the Gentiles! Like the Galatians, Peter had believed, understood and embraced Paul's distinct apostleship (Acts 15, Gal. 2). And like the Galatians, when Peter began to relate with others on the basis of the Law and its food regulations, he was not a candidate for the ministry on behalf of "weak" believers by the "strong" believer. Rather he was a candidate for the strong reproof from Paul, who withstood **him (Peter) to the face, for he was to be blamed** for his disobedience (Gal. 2:11)!

Further, Paul, in his later Epistles, which were written after the Transition Period ended, refused to make any allowances for those who began following the food regulations associated with the Law. After explaining in Col. 1 that at that time God had given the full Revelation of the Mystery, thereby completing His Word (Col. 1:24-29), which meant that Law observances of any kind, including those with regard to food and drink, had been done away with (Col. 2:14-17), he wrote this: **Let no man subject you to ordinances**

(touch not, taste not, handle not); after the commandments and doctrines of men (Col. 2:16-23).

Today, there are no "weak" and "strong" believers. Now that God's Mystery Truth has been fully revealed and recorded in Paul's Epistles, there are only mature and immature believers. Spiritual and carnal believers. Obedient and disobedient believers. Believers who appreciate, embrace and walk according to God's Truth for today as revealed to and through the Apostle Paul, and those who don't.

SECOND

**HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY
ALWAYS RESULTS IN PATIENCE,
COMFORT AND HOPE**

Finally, when believers today handle "the things written before" in Israel's Prophetic Scriptures correctly, it will always result in strengthened patience, enlarged comfort, and enhanced hope, never in uncertainty, fear and despair. If reading the non-Pauline Scriptures causes you to question your eternal security or to question God's Grace or to question His nature, or if it makes you think works are needed for salvation or anything like this, then you are not handling God's Word correctly. When the non-Pauline Scriptures are understood in the light of God's Mystery Program, they will always result in patience, comfort and hope because when we see how faithful God is in Israel's Prophetic Program, we can rest assured in total confidence that He will be just as faithful to us in the Body of Christ's Mystery Program.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one towards

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us, to the glory of God (15:5-7).

THIRD

HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL UNITY

God's desire is that all believers in the Body of Christ might be unified in their praise and worship of Him. But if there is one thing missing from historic Christianity, it is unity. There are tens of so called "Christian" religions, hundreds of denominations, thousands of sects and a church on every street corner, and each one of them is saying something different.

Historic Christianity has tried to conceal this great embarrassment by turning the tables on God. Instead of agreeing with God, they insist that disunity, discord and strife are really good things. They are really God's will! It allows for people to choose a church not based on its fidelity to God and His Word but based on their fleshly inclinations. If their flesh tends toward the emotional, they can choose a church that encourages emotionalism, dressing it up with Bible verses. Likewise, those who like music and theatricals, they can go to a church that has a lot of "Christian" music and plays. If their flesh tends toward the ritualistic, they can go to a church that engages in rituals. If their flesh tends toward the scholarly, well, they can pick a church that encourages that. In this way, Christianity can appeal to the greatest number of people possible, and that is good, or so they say.

What nonsense! Contrary to the foolishness of historic Christianity, God's explicit desire is that all believers be likeminded, glorifying God with one mind and one mouth. And the only way to do that is if all believers handle the Bible in the same way, and Paul tells us exactly what that way is.

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto

FOURTH

HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT CHRIST'S EARTHLY MINISTRY HAD TO DO WITH THE PROMISES GOD MADE TO ISRAEL.

the fathers. (15:8)

The first thing to appreciate about the Bible is that the Scriptures having to do with Christ's earthly ministry—the Gospel Accounts, the ministry of the 12 in Acts and Hebrews through Revelation—are not about the Body of Christ. It is about the confirming and ultimate fulfillment of God's promises to the Nation of Israel. In Christ's earthly ministry, God assured Israel that He had not changed His mind about the promises He gave to her fathers. He confirmed Israel's promises in truth at that time and prepared the readers of these Scriptures for the fulfillment of those promises in the future.

FIFTH

HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OLD TESTAMENT PROVIDED FOR GENTILE BLESSINGS WITH ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER RISE!

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written: For this cause I (David/Israel) will confess to thee among the Gentiles and sing unto thy name. And again *he* saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people (Israel). And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people (Israel). And again Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse (a son of Israel's King David) and he that *shall* rise to reign (in Israel's long-promised earthly Kingdom) over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. (15:9-12)

When God fulfills His promises to re-establish His glory on the earth through Israel's Prophetic Program as revealed in the Old Testament, Israel will confess and praise His Name **among** the Gentiles (Ps. 18:48-49; Deut. 32:43). In response to that, the Gentile nations will praise the Lord **with** His people Israel (Ps. 117). When Israel is re-gathered, established in the land and made a great nation—the head of the Nations rather than the tail—at that time, the Gentile nations will come to Christ **through** the Nation of Israel (Is. 11:10). In short, the promises that Jesus Christ came to confirm in His earthly ministry, had to do with God BLESSING THE GENTILES WITH ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER RISE!

But this presents a TREMENDOUS problem for historical Christianity. In Romans 15:8-12, Paul tells us that everything revealed before, everything spoken about since the world began—the Old Testament, Gospel Accounts and the ministry of Peter and 12 in Acts—had to do with Gentiles being blessed with Israel and through her RISE.

But this is a great problem because Paul just told us in Romans 11 that Israel had stumbled and FALLEN, and that God

set His Prophetic Program with her aside (temporarily)! This is a TREMENDOUS problem for those who reject Paul's distinct apostleship. If the only provision God had made for Gentile blessings was with Israel and through her RISE, how would the Gentiles be blessed now that Israel had fallen, and her Prophetic Program set aside?

This is the million dollar question of historic Christianity. If this passage in Romans 15 ended at v. 12, the whole world, especially the Gentiles, would be utterly and completely HOPELESS. If historic Christianity is right, and God revealed only one purpose throughout the whole Bible—man's redemption—and that what God is doing today with Paul is just a continuation of that and not something new, then the whole world, especially the Gentiles, is utterly and completely HOPELESS! If God didn't reveal a new way for Gentile blessings, a way that provided Gentile blessings **not** WITH ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER RISE **but** APART FROM ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL, then we are all completely and utterly hopeless. While the Gentiles never had a hope of their own (Eph. 2), they could participate in the hope of Israel. But once Israel fell, they could no longer participate even in that. They would be hopeless, doubly hopeless, utterly and completely hopeless!

So, how can Paul say this in Rom. 15:13?

Now the God of hope fill you (Gentiles) with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:13)

Out of an utterly hopeless situation, God provided a new revelation of ABUNDANT HOPE and gave it to and through the Apostle Paul. This new revelation opened a new way for Gentile blessings. A way that

HOW TO HANDLE THE WHOLE BIBLE

He had kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3), a way that is **APART FROM ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL** (Rom. 11)!

Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:15-16)

SIXTH:

HANDLING THE BIBLE RIGHTLY BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT GOD GAVE A NEW REVELATION TO THE APOSTLE PAUL THAT PROVIDES ABOUNDING HOPE!

God raised up the Apostle Paul, gave him a ministry on behalf of Christ, and sent him out to preach the Gospel of Grace, especially for the Gentiles, and it was through his apostleship that the offering up of the Gentiles would be made acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, united to Christ as members of His Body in accord with the Mystery Program. What an amazing, awe-inspiring thing it is that God did! At the very moment Peter expected God to return in His Wrath and Judgment to destroy His enemies, especially the Gentiles, God instead returned in His Grace and Peace to save His enemies, especially the Gentiles, through Paul.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath

known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him *again*? For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.
(Rom. 11:33-36)

Do you hear Paul's awe? His wonder? His amazement? That should be our response as well.

CONCLUSION

How are we to handle the Bible correctly? The starting point is recognizing that on the one hand, the Non-Pauline Scriptures (Old Testament, Gospel Accounts, ministry of the 12 and Hebrews through Revelation) have to do with God's Prophetic Program for the Nation of Israel whereby the **GENTILES ARE BLESSED WITH ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER RISE**. And on the other hand, the Pauline Scriptures (Romans through Philemon) have to do with God's Mystery Program for the Body of Christ whereby **THE WHOLE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE GENTILES, ARE BLESSED APART FROM ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL**.

Once you believe, understand and appreciate this, God's meaning in His Word will open up for you. You can be assured that God meant what He said and said what He meant. You don't have to follow the error of historic Christianity. You don't need to spiritualize, trivialize, or nullify God's Word. Instead, you can **RIGHTLY DIVIDE, MAXIMIZE and REVIVE** God's Word in your lives and ministry!

To learn more, click below:

[How To Handle The Whole Bible](#)

PAUL'S DISTINCT APOSTLESHIP AND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused much uncertainty, fear and despair for believers and unbelievers alike. It is distressing to see this among unbelievers but it is an understandable response from those who have turned away from God. What is more alarming is the uncertainty, fear and despair among Christians. They hear things from the world, and they hear things from their Christian leaders, and both are causing confusion and fear.

1. A doctor on national news, noting that young people are less affected by this disease than their elders, concluded that at least God is being merciful to the young. Of course, the implication is that He is being unmerciful to everyone else.
2. An evangelical pastor told his congregation that this disease is a judgment against the nations of the world because they have broken the Mosaic Law and quoted Ex. 15:26.
3. A Bible teacher told his listeners that this is God's judgment on a carnal Christianity. God is withdrawing His blessings and love from it and quoted from Lev. 26.
4. Some Bible teachers are saying this is fulfillment of prophecy and quoted Rev. 11:6.
5. A pastor in Louisiana defied the government restrictions on group size, handing out "healing handkerchiefs" instead and quoted Acts 19:12.
6. A pastor on national news said that if the nations returned to the Lord, this disease would be stopped dead in its tracks and quoted Deut. 7:12-15.
7. A Bible teacher said that if you were a true believer and remained in pure fellowship with the Lord, you would be immune from this disease and quoted Ps. 91:5-6.
8. A minister told his people to rely on the Lord if they get this disease and not on physicians and quoted 2 Chron. 16:12.

The list could go on and on, but I think you get the point. If this is the instruction Christians are getting from the world and their own leaders, than it is no wonder so many of them are experiencing the same if not more uncertainty, fear and despair than even their unsaved friends and relatives. Is this disease due to God being merciful to some but not to others? Is this disease God dispensing His wrath and judgment on a rebellious world in general or breakers of His Law in specific? Is it God withdrawing His blessings from believers for disobedience? Is it the fulfillment of prophecies and should we be expecting additional plagues and the waters to be turned into blood? Should we defy government and medical regulations and rely instead on healing handkerchiefs and healing ministries?

Such is the foolish state of Christianity. Thomas Paine's phrase, "these are the times that try men's souls" can be applied to this crisis. Times like these try men's souls because they expose the inadequacy of all the idols fallen humanity has put their faith and hope in because of their rejection of God. Things like governments, institutions, political, economic and religious systems, to name just a few. Unfortunately, most Christians continue to rely on these idols as

PAUL'S DISTINCT APOSTLESHIP AND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

well. Times like these show that the world's idols cannot provide what only the true God can supply, the answers to life's most basic problems of sin and death. All other answers and solutions fall short.

But the good news is that at times like these some might recognize the inherent fallenness of creation, and that they are a part of it. This might open a door for hearing and receiving the truth of God.

While we cannot discuss each item in the list above, we can focus on one question that underlies them all. Is this disease (or other terrible things that happen in the world) the result of God's Judgment and Wrath against the sinful nations of the world? A pastor from a large evangelical church went on national news and said: "Yes, it is." But is this the correct answer?

This question is important because it leads to an even more fundamental question: What is God really doing today? Paul explains that God put His Prophetic Program with Israel on hold, and has now implemented His new Mystery Program with the Body of Christ. And in doing so, Paul says this:

For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel's) unbelief: *even* so have these also (Jews) now not believed, that through your (Gentiles) mercy they (Jews) also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded *them* all (Jew and Gentile alike) in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon ALL. (Rom. 11:30-32)

God proclaims through the apostleship of Paul that for the time being, God, out of His Mercy, is not giving the world what it deserves. Rather, out of His Grace, He is giving the world what it doesn't deserve. Today,

God is dispensing Mercy on ALL! At the very moment when even His own people, the Nation of Israel, had joined arms with the Gentile nations of the world in rebellion against God and rejection of His Word; when the whole world—Jew and Gentile alike—declared themselves to be enemies of God and deserved to be recipients of His Wrath and Judgment, beginning with the house of Israel, and especially upon the Gentiles, as Peter preached in early Acts ... **AT THAT VERY MOMENT** ... God did something surprising. He returned to offer His enemies, the Jews first and especially the Gentiles, His Grace and Peace in accord with the preaching of Paul!

In Ephesians 2, Paul puts it this way"

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened *us* together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness towards us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: not of works, lest any *man* should boast (Eph. 2:4-8) .

When Israel joined together with the Gentiles in rebellion against God as manifested at the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7, the whole world declared itself to be His enemies. So, God gathered them together all into one place under sin, in unbelief, on enemy status before Him. According to Israel's Prophetic Scriptures all anyone could expect God to do with this rebellious group was to return and manifest His Righteousness in destroying His enemies in His Wrath and

Judgment. And that is exactly what Peter preached in early Acts.

But instead of doing that, God did something surprising, amazing, wonderful, glorious. He instead returned to manifest His Righteousness in SAVING HIS ENEMIES in His Grace and Peace according to the Body of Christ's Mystery Program. Today, God is not dispensing the Wrath and Judgment we deserve unto destruction (that is the Riches of His Mercy) and is instead dispensing the Grace and Peace we don't deserve unto salvation (and that is the Riches of His Grace!).

Once we understand this fundamental fact, the answer to our question is obvious: "No, this disease is not the result of God's judgment against sinners." God will in the future come back to give His enemies a Day of Wrath. But before that occurs, God is now giving His enemies a Day of Salvation, through the ministry of Paul.

To be sure, the Wrath of God is now being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men (Rom. 1:18). To be sure, fallen humanity knows they are worthy of God's Wrath and Death (Rom. 1:32). To be sure, God handed fallen humanity over to the foolish idols they desired (Rom. 1:18-26). And to be sure, sinners now suffer the consequences of their own sin and the sin of others.

But for all that, God has not yet brought down to the earth His Wrath and Judgment that will ultimately fix the world's problems. One day He will return to completely and permanently cleanse the world of sin and death, thereby re-establishing His Glory on earth through Israel's Prophetic Program. But that is yet future.

Now, out of the super-abounding riches of His infinite Grace, Mercy, Longsuffering,

Forbearance, Goodness, Kindness and Glory, God has brought His Grace and Peace down to the earth and is now offering a Day of Salvation so that as many ungodly sinners on enemy status before Him as possible might be saved by Grace through Faith BEFORE He returns to destroy them in His Wrath and Judgment (Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Tim. 2:3).

Today, God is not sending tsunamis to Indonesia, or earthquakes to San Francisco, or terrorist attacks to New York, or hurricanes to New Orleans in His Wrath and Judgment. Today, He is sending His Grace and Peace to Indonesia, the United States and the whole world! And He has left believers here as His ambassadors, perfectly equipping us to carry out this ministry on enemy territory, under adverse conditions on this sin-cursed world.

When all of fallen humanity's idols are tried and found lacking. When all the answers given by the world's systems, including the world's religious systems, fall short. When all the explanations given by our leaders prove empty. When "these times that try men's souls" show that everything apart from God is "vanity of vanities," we believers who have been established, built-up and strengthened in God's Mystery Truth will be the ones left standing on the battlefield and there, out of Love, we can hold up those who are swooning, stabilize those who are stumbling, and help up those who have fallen. And when we do that, we are operating in accord with what God is doing today, and that always results in a walk that is well-pleasing to God.

**For More Words of Encouragement,
click below:**

**[PAUL'S DISTINCT APOSTLESHIP
AND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS](#)**



If you have questions about the Newsletter, please email us at:
biblestudygberm@gmail.com

We preach **Christ Crucified**¹; we worship **Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery**²; and we study the Bible using the principle of **Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth**³.

1. 1 Cor. 1:23 2. Rom. 16:25 3. 2 Tim. 2:15

We meet every Sunday morning at the **Rolling Meadows Community Center** located at **3705 Pheasant Dr.**

www.gberm.org

Fellowship and Refreshments: 9:30 - 9:55

Morning Service: 9:55 - 11:15

We have Sunday School for all children

Please visit our website for Directions: [Directions](#)

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF ROLLING MEADOWS

P.O. Box 1926
 ROLLING MEADOWS COMMUNITY CENTER
 3705 Pheasant Dr.
 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Phone: 847-894-2893
 Radio: WYLL 1160 AM - M-F: 8:30-9:00 PM
 KCRO (Omaha) M-F: 11:30 AM

