

1. This morning we will continue the study of Second Timothy where Paul from prison writes to Timothy about certain “evil men.” We don’t always think of ascetics as “evil men” but perhaps we should. Satan’s ministers are often clothed in the cloth of ministers of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2. Let’s return to 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy and Paul’s instructions to his chief acolyte.

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2Ti 3:13 ... evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

3. For a written and/or audio presentation of this lesson go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and *click-on streaming audio of services*.

4. Before we continue, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

### **Introduction**

1. It is now time to return to a categorical analysis of the asceticism trend.

2. Earlier we noted one of the trends of the Old Sin Nature is “asceticism.” From this trend often emerges the lie: “I deserve heaven because I have done so many good things.”

3. This is a lie, like all lies, straight out of the pit of hell because the Scriptures make clear that we all have sinned and fall short of God’s standards.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Rom 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Rom 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

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Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --

Eph 2:9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

1. Divine good can only be produced by doctrine resident in a believer's soul.
2. Paul makes it clear that even if we could keep the law (which we can't) a "producing unbeliever" would still be sentenced to hell.
3. James in Jam 2:14 and 19 makes clear that deliverance, be it for eternity or time must have an efficacious object and there is only one efficacious object, the One and Only Son of God—Jesus Christ.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jam 2:14 "Now let me ask you this my fellow Jews, where is the benefit if any of you say: I have faith and yet this faith lacks inherent power to produce? Can faith without inherent power save you? The answer is a resounding no!"**

## **Expanded Translation**

**Jam 2:19 "Come now, many of you are self-righteous deist who believe sincerely in One God; Oh, you do well, so you think and yet I tell you even the demons know there is one God and they tremble and shake in absolute terror."**

4. To better understand our position in Christ I chose to review the salvation experience of two biblical heroes: Abram and Rahab.

### **Abram A Friend of God**

1. James uses Abraham and Rahab as paradigms to illustrate how faith and works function together to produce salvation.

2. At point of God consciousness the ball is in God's court. Remember Col. R. B. Thieme Jr.'s example quoted last week. God makes sure every believer does at some point in time have opportunity to become God conscious and if positive at God consciousness God "must" provide gospel hearing, AND HE WILL. Tit 2:11; Joh 1:9

3. Now at this point work is required; the candidate must produce: positive volition. It takes an act on the part of the unbeliever-an act of faith in Christ. *Note how faith and works are acting together.*

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

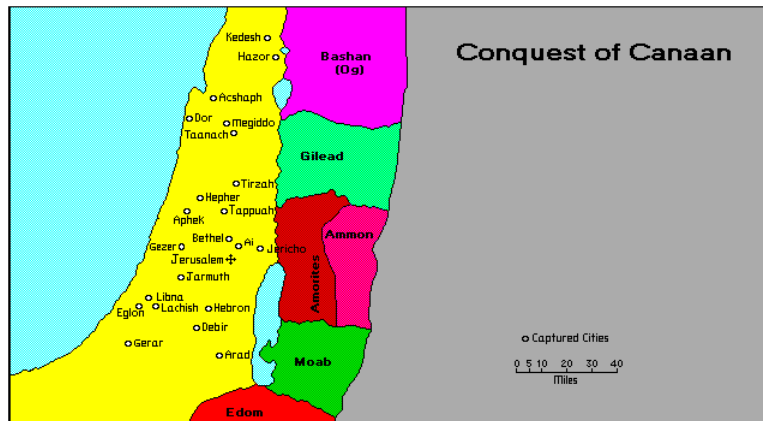
Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

4. So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. Abram heard God, believed God and then got up and left the city of UR for what he thought would be the promised land.

5. Recall last week I showed you how faith and works complimented each other; for you will recall, before the Palestinian Covenant could be given Abram had to gather the sacrifices so God could put him to sleep.

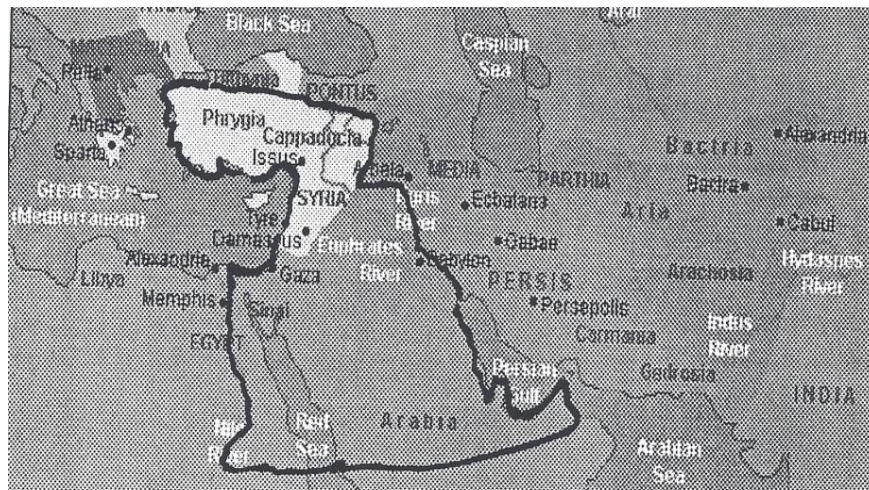
Gen 15:6 And he believed (Hiphil perfect of the Hebrew **Aman**) in the LORD; and he counted (Qal perfect of **Chesham**) it to him for righteousness. *Note how faith and works are acting together.*

Gen 12:6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.



Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So, he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Gen 12:8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.



## **Rahab A Jericho Believer to Be**

1. Rahab believed in what for salvation? God is with the armies of Israel and they are invincible (an act of faith). She is now a believer and ready to demonstrate her faith.
2. Let's read about her heroes; who are her heroes? The two spies who brought her the gospel.
3. Rahab was saved by believing God had blessed Israel's armies and would defeat the King of Jericho.
4. Let's rejoice with the two spies: One of which would marry Rahab and the two of them would be especially blessed by being in the line of Christ.
5. Let's read about Rahab a former prostitute.

Jos 2:1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So, they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

Jos 2:2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land."

Jos 2:3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

Jos 2:4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from."

Jos 2:5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them."

Jos 2:6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)

Jos 2:7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Jos 2:8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof

Jos 2:9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you."

Jos 2:10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.

Jos 2:11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Jos 2:12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign

Jos 2:13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

Jos 2:14 "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land."

6. We should take heart from Paul's commentary on the war raging in his soul. At the same time that Paul was delighting in the Law of Liberty he saw a different law in his members.

6.1 His true self, the born-again man, agreed with the law of God. But another law (the law of sin) brought him into captivity, making him a prisoner.

6.2 He thought things and did things that he immediately knew were wrong. Don't you just hate it when that happens in your own life? But in the process of making Paul a prisoner to the law of sin he saw this as a battle for the control of his mind and body.

6.3 With the Indwelling of God, the Holy Spirit came hope, not only for the Apostle but for each of us as believers.

6.4 Who will control is the issue and only the volition of the believer can answer the dilemma? Paul says that he was being brought into captivity to the law of sin.

6.5 If Paul had stopped here, he would have been at variance with his statement in Romans chapter six verse fourteen.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

6.6 But he did not stop there. He asserts that sin in the members is a powerful force (and no one should try to deny that fact). It is a fact the Old Sin Nature indwells every cell of the body.

6.7. The thought that sin could make him captive causes him to cry out: Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free? The body is the scene of this contest.

6.8 Sin living in every cell of the body brings spiritual death to the body, and Paul becomes aware that he needs outside help. So, he cries out for deliverance: “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

6.9 Filled with emotion, the apostle does not write out a full reply to his question but simply says “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

7. Know your enemy – **The Old Sin Nature!**

8. Now let’s see what we can learn from 2Ti 3:14-15.

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2Ti 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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2Ti 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,  
2Ti 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

1. Paul urges Timothy to continue learning not only what he learned but from whom he learned. It is clear he learned from his mother Lois and his grandmother Eunice.

2. Timothy learned from Paul as he traveled on his several missionary journeys.

3. Paul thought enough of Timothy to leave him in charge of the various churches in and around Ephesus.
  4. Paul clearly makes reference to Timothy's having been taught the holy scriptures even from his youth.
  5. Paul's comments must be understood in the light of Paul's predicament: he is in prison and all of Asia has turned against him.
  6. Now let's see what we can learn from verses sixteen and seventeen; clearly these two passages are often used in this church to introduce our Bible studies.
- 2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,  
 2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
7. I think the best way to teach 2Ti 3:14-15 is to review the *Doctrine of the Importance of Doctrine*.

### **The Importance of Doctrine**

1. Definition: As used in this categorical study, Doctrine is the content of Scripture exegeted and taught categorically by a pastor-teacher in a local church.

1.1 Col. R. B. Thieme Jr. developed an acrostic to communicate the way Doctrine should be taught in the local church—ICE: Isagogics, Categories and Exegesis. I have amplified it somewhat.

#### **ICED**

**I** The I stands for Introduction, meaning those facts which introduce historical nuances and background information about the book, the author and the historical setting.

**C** The C stands for Categories meaning that study of a subject found throughout the Bible as opposed to an eclectic approach.

**E** The E stands for Exegesis, meaning a critical analysis of the Bible performed from a study of the original language using the best manuscripts available.



**D** The D stands for Dispensation, meaning that analysis of the biblical passage or passages given the epoch to which the Scripture relates.

2. In 2Ti 3:16-17 we find that Doctrine is stressed as the means for performing the Christian life.

2Ti 3:16: All scripture is God breathed and is profitable for Doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

1Ti 3:17: In order that the man of God might be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2.1 Scripture, however, must be interpreted based on a complete and thorough exegesis.

3. 2Pe 1:2-8 summarizes the process for acquiring Doctrine. In an earlier study of Peter's second epistle, I exegeted and analyzed verses 2 through 8. I want to simply present an expanded translation.

### **Expanded Translation**

**2Pe 1:2 God's wonderful plan for your life and the peace and stability that comes from that plan, I want it for each of you; however, you must realize it can only come from Bible Doctrine metabolized in your soul, where the full knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ becomes more real than reality.**

**2Pe 1:3 For you see, God's divine power has provided everything that pertains to your life in time. Your spiritual life is a product of the Doctrine you have in your soul. God called you for the solitary purpose of glorifying Him.**

**2Pe 1:4 To facilitate our progress in the Christian life, God has provided in Scripture many great and precious promises; by the inculcation of these marvelous promises, you might become partakers of a divine nature, having escaped the control and domination of your old sin nature.**

**2Pe 1:5 And because of God's grace, there are several protocols which must be added to your faith in Christ; for example, to your faith you must add the consistent intake of the Word of God. The transforming of the mind is a never-ending task.**

**2Pe 1:6 And to your newly acquired Doctrine you must add self-control, organized thinking and patience as you continue metabolizing the Word of God, even when it is inconvenient, consistently making application of that which you have learned.**

**2Pe 1:7 And to that application you must learn to appreciate your very own spiritual life, even while living right smack in the middle of the devil's world. And to this appreciation you must acquire a thorough understanding of God's protocols, some of which are very difficult and illogical. For example, you are to pray for your enemies; you are to do good to those who abuse you; you are to give thanks in all things and you are to pray regularly. You are to use your freedom in Christ as a liberty, not a license.**

**2Pe 1:8 Now if the protocols listed in verses two through seven are resident in your soul, you will not be devoid of divine good; for these precious promises will make you a living testimony of Him who called you, as His ambassador for time.**

4. Now let's study 2Pe 1:9 where the plight of the negative believer is set forth. In verse nine, we find a description of the poor Christian who has not added to his faith the cast of characters demanded in the first eight verses of 2nd Peter chapter one.

2Pe 1:9 but he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

4.1 This verse suffers from a translation problem.

4.1.1 "But" is actually a poor translation of **Gar**. **Gar** is better translated "for you see."

4.1.2 The phrase "he that lacketh these things" is better translated "to whom these things are not present." Instead of speaking of the "assembled characters" belonging to the Christian, the verse indicates they may be present, but not his or her settled possession.

4.1.3 Because many believers have not followed the protocol plan of God, they wake up in a new world each morning, unaware of their very own spiritual life and oblivious to the fact they have a spiritual sense of destiny.