

The Old Testament Doctrines Of The Church

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In Romans 15:4 Paul wrote; ***For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

The things that were written *aforetime* were the *scriptures* and those *scriptures* were the Old Testament scriptures. Paul says the things written aforetime in the Old Testament Scriptures were written, *for our learning*. I think it is interesting to note that the same word translated *learning* in Romans 15:4 is translated *doctrine* in 2 Timothy 3:16. Doctrine is learning and learning is doctrine. The Old Testament Scriptures written aforetime are for our doctrine and learning and according to Romans 15:4 they give us, *comfort and hope*. Keep in mind, the same Apostle who wrote these words, was the Apostle of the Gentiles who preached the Gospel of Grace and the doctrines of grace.

In 2 Timothy 3:16 he wrote: ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.***

Notice all scripture is profitable for doctrine and not just the Pauline Epistles. In the years that I have been saved, I have noticed that very little has been written of how Paul used the Old Testament Scriptures to verify his doctrine, preaching and writing. Yet, Paul based much of his preaching and writing on the Old Testament Scriptures.

Notice the following examples of how Paul based **his preaching** on the Old Testament Scriptures;

In Acts 26:19 Paul said; *Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.*

Acts 17:1-3 says; *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and **three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures**, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.*

In Acts 17:11 it says that after the saints in Berea heard Paul preach ; *They were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.***

In Acts 28:23 it says; *And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom **he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.** And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.*

From the beginning of his ministry in Acts 9 till the end of his ministry in Acts 28, Paul constantly preached out of the Law and the Prophets.

Notice the following verses and see how Paul also based **his writings** on the Old Testament Scriptures.

In Romans 1:17 Paul wrote; *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: **as it is written**, The just shall live by faith.*

In Romans 8:35-36 Paul wrote; *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **As it is written**, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

In Romans 15:21 Paul wrote; *But **as it is written**, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.*

According to these verses in Romans, Paul based his doctrine and writings on what was written in the Old Testament Scriptures. He quotes the Old Testament over **fifty times** in the book of Romans alone. The expression "**as it is written**", referring to the Old Testament, is found thirty three (33) times in Paul's epistles. Both Paul's preaching and writings were based upon the Old Testament scriptures.

This probably comes as a surprise to many Fundamentalists and especially those who call themselves "dispensationalists" who have a false idea that every thing Paul preached and wrote in his epistles was a mystery never committed to writing before him. They say the Church, the doctrines of the Church, and every thing about the Church and this age was a mystery prior to Paul. To them a doctrine is a mystery because it was not written down prior to its revelation. But that is a false theory, for *a mystery is not a mystery because it is not committed to writing before its revelation*. Many truths and doctrines were written down in the Old Testament, but remained a mystery until God chose to reveal them. ***A doctrine can be a mystery even though it is written down in the Old Testament.***

For example; In Luke 18:31-34 Jesus Christ told the Apostles that He would be put to death but rise again, yet, what He said to them was a mystery. It was not a mystery because it was not written down in the Old Testament. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection were all prophesied and written down in the Old Testament Scriptures. Why was it a mystery? Because it was hid from them. Luke 18:34 says; ***And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.***

It was in the Old Testament but they could not see it or understand it because God kept it hidden from them.

A doctrine can be a mystery even though it is written down in the Old Testament. It is a mystery because God for his own reasons chooses to keep it hidden from the understanding of men. It stays a mystery until he chooses the right time, place or man to reveal it. Later in Lk.24:44-46 it says that Christ; ***opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.***

When He opened their understanding they were able to see in Luke 24 what was hidden from them and a mystery to them in Luke 18. The fact of His death and resurrection was foretold in the scriptures of the Prophets, but remained a mystery until God opened their understanding to see it. (It was even a mystery to the Prophets who wrote it down in the scriptures See 1 Peter 1:11)

The same is true of many of the doctrines found in Paul's epistles. Many of the doctrines in Paul's epistles are called mysteries, not because they were

not written down prior to their revelation, but because God chose to keep them a secret prior to revealing them to Paul.

To say that Paul's preaching and writings are based upon the Old Testament scriptures is considered heresy in some religious circles. Some believe it takes away or diminishes the importance of Paul's ministry. Some go as far as to say that the doctrine of the Church cannot be found in the Old Testament Scriptures. An example of this can be seen in the following quotes from prominent dispensational writers and preachers:

"While as the Word of God, prophecy is fully important as any other part of the Scripture, it deals directly with Israel and the nations, not with the body of Christ".

"The unsearchable riches of Christ cannot be searched out in Israel's Scriptures. The Greek word unsearchable means not traceable. You cannot trace the truth, concerning the members of Christ's body, seated with him in the Heavenlies, through the Old Testament Scriptures, for there is not a word to be found in those books concerning this heavenly truth".

"Church doctrine is found only in the Pauline Epistles".

"In Paul's writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church". (Scofield)

"The doctrines of Grace taught by Paul are untraceable in the Prophetic Scriptures (Genesis - Acts 9 and James -Revelation)".

As you can see from their quotes, these dispensationalists and fundamentalists do not believe that Paul based his preaching, doctrine and writings on the Old Testament Scriptures, even though the Holy Spirit says he did many times.

As mentioned before, the expression *"as it is written"* appears thirty three (33) times in Paul's epistles. But that is only half the story. **In the Pauline Epistles there are least sixty one (61) Church doctrines that are based upon the Old Testament Scriptures!**

The following is a list of fifty five (55) Church doctrines that are based upon the Old Testament scriptures. Please read each one and see for yourself that Paul based church or grace doctrine" on the Old Testament.

(1) Gentile Salvation In This Age

Galatians 3:8 with Gen.22:17-18

(2) The Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 1:1-4, Acts 26:22-23

(3) The Second Coming and Resurrection of the Church

See 1 Thess.4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:54-55

Notice in verses 54-55 that when the dead are raised and those alive are changed when Jesus comes, that Old Testament scriptures will be brought to pass. He said; Then (when this event takes place) shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. This is what Paul was referring to in 1 Thess.4 when he said; ***For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord.*** Paul quotes the word of the Lord in verses 54-55;

In verse 54 when he said death is swallowed up in victory he is quoting Isa.25:8-9

In verse 55 when he said; O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory he is quoting Hosea 13:14.

(4) The Blindness And Fall Of Israel In This Age

Romans 11:7-11, Isa. 29:10, Isa. 6:8-12, Psa. 69:21-28

(5) Jews Being Provoked To Jealousy By The Salvation Of The Gentiles

Romans 11:11, Duet. 32:15-21

(6) The Righteousness of God By Faith

Rom.3:21-22, Romans 4:1-7

(7) Paul's Ministry

Isaiah 49:6 with Acts 13:46-48

Isaiah 52:13-15 with Romans 15:18-21

(8) The Inheritance Of The Church in the Kingdom of God

Daniel 2:44, Isaiah 9:6-7, Psa.145:10-13 with 1 Cor.4:20, 6:9, 15:24,50, Gal.5:21, Eph.5:5, Col.1:13, 4:11, 1 Thess.2:12, 2 Thess.1:5.

(9) Justification By Faith

Romans 1:17 with Habakkuk 2:4

Romans 4:1-5 with Genesis 15:5-6

(10) Abolition Of The Law

2 Corinthians 3:6-11 with Jeremiah 31:31-34 and the whole book of Hebrews

(11) Freedom From Condemnation

Romans 8:1 with John 5:24

(12) The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 with Matthew 26:26-27

(13) Baptism Into Christ's Death

Matthew 20:18 with Romans 6:1-7

(14) Spiritual Circumcision

Colossians 2:11 with Duet.30:6

(15) The Promise Of The Spirit

Ephesians 1:13, Galatians 3:14 with Joel 2:28, Pro. 1:23, Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26-27, 37:14

(16) The Gospel Of God

Romans 1:1-2

(17) The Guilt Of Man

Rom.3:10-18 with Psalms 14:1-3, 5:9, 140:3, 10:7, Isa.59:7-8

(18) Imputed Righteousness

Romans 4:6-8 with Psa.32:2

(19) Treatment Of Our Enemies

Rom.12:19-20 with Pro.25:21-22, Duet.32:35

(20) Blessings God Has Prepared For The Church

1 Cor.2:9 with Isaiah 64:4

(21) The Gospel Of Peace

Romans 10:15, with Isaiah 52:7

(22) Christ The Chief Corner Stone Of The Church

Ephesians 2:20 with Isaiah 28:16

(23) The Gifts Of The Church

Ephesians 4:8-12 with Psalms 68:18

(24) Old Testament Commandments To Keep In This Age

Romans 13:8-10

(25) Marriage

Compare Ephesians 5:31 with Gen.2:24

(26) The Promise To Children Who Obey Their Parents

Compare Ephesians 6:2 with Exd.20:12

(27) Financial Support Of Pastors And Ministers

1 Corinthians 9:8-9 with Duet.25:4

1 Cor.9:13 with Lev.6:16, 26, 7:6, 31, 32

(28) Women's Obedience To Men

1 Corinthians 14:34 with Gen.3:16

(29) Our View Of The World's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 with Job 5:13, Psa.94:11

(30) Our Call To Separation

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 with Isa.52:11, Lev.26:12

(31) Warning Against Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:7 with Exd.32:6

Warning Against Fornication

1 Cor.10:8 with Num.25:1,9

Warning Against Tempting Christ

1 Cor.10:9 with Num.21:6

Warning Against Murmuring

1 Cor.10:10 with Num.14:2, 29, Num.26:63-65

Paul takes these examples out of the Old Testament as warnings to us under grace.

(32) Election

Romans 9:20-21 with Jeremiah 18:1-10

(33) Salvation Of A Remnant Of Jews In This Age

Romans 11:5-7 with Isa.10:22

(34) Treatment Of Our Enemies

Romans 12:19-20 with Pro.25:21-22, Duet.32:35

(35) The Judgment Seat Of Christ

Romans 14:10-12 with Isa.45:23

(36) Our Command To Give Glory To God

1 Corinthians 1:31 with Jer.9:24

(37) Laws Of Marriage And Remarriage

1 Corinthians 7:10-11,39 with Matt.19:6

(37) The Sign Gifts

1 Corinthians 12,13,14 with Joel 2

(38) Purpose Of Tongues In The Church

1 Corinthians 14:21 with Isa.28:11-12

(39) Purpose Of Christ's Millennium Reign

1 Cor.15:25 with Psa.110:1

(40) The Urgency of Salvation

2 Corinthians 6:2 with Isa.49:8

(41) Our Bodies The Temple Of God

2 Corinthians 6:16 with Lev.26:11-12

(42) The Principal Of Equal Giving

2 Corinthians 8:14-15 with Exd.16:18

(43) The Reward Of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:8-10 with Psa.112:9

(44) Our Relationship To Abraham

Romans 4:11, Galatians 3:29

(45) Christ Cursed For Us

Galatians 3:13 with Duet.21:23

(46) The Blessing Of Abraham To The Gentiles

Galatians 3:14 with Gen.22:18

(47) Christ Our Seed

Galatians 3:16 with Gen.22:18

(48) The Allegories Of The Old And New Testament

Galatians 4:24 with Genesis

(49) The Promise And Promises Of Abraham

Galatians 3:29, 3:16 (The promise and the promises of Abraham are all found in the Old Testament)

(50) Our Call To Walk In The Light

Ephesians 5:13 with Isa.60:1-2

(51) The Church The Bride And Wife Of Christ

Ephesians 5:31-32 with Gen.2:24

(52) The Revelation Of The Man Of Sin

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 with Ezk.28:1-19

(53) Last Day Examples Of Apostates

2 Timothy 3:8 with Exd.7:11-12

(54) The Oneness Of The Believer In Christ

John 17:17-23

(55) The Church

Compare Hebrews 2:11-12 with Psa.22:22

(The Church is not the mystery in Eph.3:6. The mystery is how Gentiles like us got into it. Write for my booklet on the Sacred Secret of Eph.3:6)

After reading these Old Testament scriptures that Paul based the doctrines of grace on, should we have a lower estimation of Paul's writings and preaching? Of course not. The fact that he used the Old Testament to prove his doctrines were true should not diminish the importance of his

doctrine or preaching. It should enhance and add more force to his doctrine and preaching for 2 Timothy 3:16 says that; ***ALL SCRIPTURE is profitable for doctrine.*** We not only have the witness of the Spirit and the witness of the Apostles, but we have the witness of the whole Old Testament to verify the doctrines of grace. If any one doubts Paul's doctrine and preaching, we can tell them to do what Christ told the doubters in his day; Christ commanded the religious system to search the Old Testament scriptures to see if He was preaching the truth or not. Paul challenged the religious system of his day to search the Old Testament scriptures to see if what he was preaching was true or not. And many like the Bereans did according to Acts 17:11. Those who rejected Christ had to reject the Old Testament scriptures for they testified of Christ. (See John 5:39-47) Any one today who denies the doctrines of grace must also reject the Old Testament scriptures, for they testify and prove the doctrines of grace.

If you preach the gospel of grace and the doctrines of grace you must preach the Scriptures of the Prophets. If you refuse to preach the Scriptures of the Prophets, or if you say they are not for today, you are not preaching the true message of grace, for the Scriptures of the Prophets are a part of the message of grace that Paul preached.

A word in closing; Paul converted the Jews in his day out of the Scriptures of the Prophets. He took their Old Testament and proved the gospel and doctrines of grace that he preached. So, if you have any Jewish friends give them a copy of this article and show them that what you believe is based upon their Old Testament and see how they respond. It might surprise you and them.

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