

Foundational Doctrines

Gospel of Grace - There is only one gospel by which we are saved today and that is the "gospel of grace" that Christ revealed and committed unto the Apostle Paul. The gospel of grace is how that Christ died for our sins (shedding his blood as the atonement for sin), was buried, and rose again on the third day for our justification. The moment we believe this gospel we are saved and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption. We are saved by grace through faith, it is the gift of God, and not of works lest any man should boast. This "gospel of grace" (to the uncircumcision) is distinct and different from the "gospel of the kingdom" (to the circumcision) which was preached by Peter and the other disciples in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and early-Acts.

Reference verses: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Galatians 1:6-12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:7, Ephesians 3:1-6

- Study lesson: [Have You Believed the Gospel of Your Salvation?](#)

Eternal Security - Scripture teaches that in this dispensation once we believe the gospel of grace we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption. The moment we believe the gospel of grace we are baptized into the body of Christ and receive a new identity. Once saved, we are complete in Christ and have been made the righteousness of God in him. Understanding our identity in Christ will help with the doctrinal understanding of eternal security. We cannot out sin the grace of God once we are saved. One of the main reasons for the confusion around eternal security has to do with confusing Israel's conditional covenant standing with our complete standing in Christ as a member of the body of Christ.

Reference verses: Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30, Colossians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Study lessons:
 - [Eternal Security](#)
 - [Why Salvation Can't Be Lost](#)

One Baptism - There are many different baptisms in scripture, and they are not all water baptisms. For this reason, it is important to understand the baptism for believers today in this dispensation. Believer's baptism today is spiritual. The moment we believed the gospel of grace we were baptized by the Holy Spirit (not water) into the body of Christ (into his death, burial, and resurrection). The word baptism has to do with "identification" (i.e., to be identified with, planted together with, in the likeness of, etc.), Therefore, the moment we believed the gospel we were "identified" with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is the Holy Spirit that baptizes and seals believers into the body of Christ.

Reference verses: Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:13, 1 Corinthians 1:17, Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 1:13

- Study Lesson: [Believers Baptism](#)

Walk in the Spirit - Once we are saved, how are we to walk? Are we to follow the law after being saved? Does grace teach us that we can live in sin? No. Once saved, we are instructed to stand fast in our liberty in Christ and walk in the Spirit by faith. In Christ, we have become "dead to the law" by the body of Christ. Scripture says, "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law", and that "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Those who try to keep the law after being saved put themselves back under the curse and make themselves a transgressor again. Saved believers have been crucified with Christ and, therefore, by the law have become dead to law that we might live unto God. And, scripture is clear that the grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and the live righteously and soberly in this present world.

Reference verses: Galatians 5:18, Galatians 5:25, Romans 7:4, Galatians 2:16-21, Romans 6:14-15, Titus 2:12

- Study lessons:
 - [Withstanding Peter](#)
 - [Christ Liveth In Me](#)
 - [Liberty In Christ](#)

Rightly Dividing the Word - It is not enough to just read the word of God. We need to study and understand the proper context of what we are reading. In 2 Timothy 2:15, we are commanded to "**rightly divide the word of truth**" (i.e., understanding scripture in its proper context). Doing so will prevent us from misunderstandings, confusion, and false doctrines (i.e., the doctrines of devils). Part of understanding scripture in context means first understanding the three different time periods that the Bible is broken into (i.e., time past, but now, and ages to come). It also includes understanding the different identities between the nation of Israel and the body of Christ, as well as, the differences between prophecy and mystery. Rightly dividing scripture will help to clear up the contradictions you will find as you study scripture.

Reference verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

- Study Tool: [Chart Graphic](#)
- Study lessons:
 - [A Dispensational Chart](#)
 - [Right Division Overview](#)
 - [Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth](#)
 - [Chart Lesson: Mystery Made Clear](#)
 - [Rightly Dividing Mystery and Prophecy](#)
 - [Why Do We Acknowledge Paul as Our Apostle](#)