

## **Message# 139 - 5-16-2021 - The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints**

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Good morning everyone. As always, thank you for tuning in to the message this morning.

I want to let you know that I have posted the latest Michael's Minutes on the website. He's titled this one, "IF." It is another excellent read. So, please go to the website - at [www.godsendusmen.com](http://www.godsendusmen.com) and read what he has posted there.

And as we often do, before we get into today's message - which will continue the theme "the faith once delivered to the saints" - let's talk about a few things concerning what's going on around us. Which again - should not - would not - be affecting us the way they are - if we - those of us who call ourselves God's people - would be doing what we are supposed to be doing. I don't believe we'd be affected the way we are today.

If we had been building Ecclesia - living in Christian communities - according to the faith - the system of belief based on the truths given to those who lives were recorded in the Scripture - if we had been living according to the blueprint given to them - we would not be in the situation we are in today. If we were the nation God clearly defined in the Book - from Genesis to Revelation - if we were the Commonwealth of Israel - we would not be faced with the same things that citizens of every nation in this world today are being faced with.

Really? Wear a mask or else? Take a DNA altering mRNA messenger quote "vaccine" or else? Basically become a pariah to society for refusing to participate in what is clearly something that is diametrically opposed to the teachings of the Bible - because the world around us has rejected the Bible in favor of quote "science."

Now we have a Book. In fact, let's go back again to John 1 this morning before we get fully going again from the book of Jude. Go to John chapter 1 - verse 1. Let's read:

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

From the very beginning of time, from Creation, In the beginning. Why would we read this passage of Scripture and not immediately be mindful of Genesis 1:1?

In the beginning God Created. Why is this not the same exact thing? Well, it IS the exact same thing. Verse 3 of John 1:2-5:

[2] The same was in the beginning with God.

[3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

[4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

[5] And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The writer of the book of John is taking his readers right to Genesis 1:1 - and in the beginning was the Word. I would imagine that most of us would know a little something already about this Word as it appears in John 1. In the Greek, it's logos. Strong's says the following about this Word from John 1:

*something said (including the thought); by implication, a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension, a computation; specially, (with the article in John) the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ):—account, cause, communication, × concerning, doctrine, fame, × have to do, intent, matter, mouth, preaching, question, reason, + reckon, remove, say(-ing), shew, × speaker, speech, talk, thing, + none of these things move me, tidings, treatise, utterance, word, work.*

I wonder sometimes if we have lost sight of how extremely - in fact - there I go with the adverbs again - how extremely - absolutely - positively - some of the same words I use when trying to show how important - but I'm just not sure there is descriptive terms available to us when trying to show the importance of God's Word.

Flip over to Matthew 4. Let's read the first four verses.

[1] Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

[2] And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

[3] And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

[4] But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Certainly Christ was trying to reinforce this aspect of faith to those listening to Him.

Where did it come from? Where did the “It is written come from?” Go back to Deuteronomy chapter 8. There's several things to see from this passage - and things that still apply principally for all generations to see - but not just to see - to apply. Faith is worthless - our system of belief is worthless - if it does not change our life. What difference does it make what a man believes - if that belief does not guide his life. Faith - our system of belief - is supposed to cause us to conform to the lifestyle shown in Scripture. It's supposed to help us conform to the Word of God. That's what our faith is supposed to help us conform to. Deuteronomy 8, verse 1.

[1] All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh sware unto your fathers.

Now this principle - all the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, that you may multiply, you may possess, etc. At the very least, we have to agree that those principles - this teaching - this commandment - these Words of God - were at the very least - still in place when Christ was speaking in the first century - in Matthew 4. Christ's statement in Matthew 4 - is a direct reference to what we are seeing in Deuteronomy 8. We'll see in just a minute, that it's Word for Word. Verse 2.

[2] And thou shalt remember all the way which Yahweh thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Look at where we are today in our generation. Have we been wondering in a wilderness for most of our existence - being tossed here and tossed there - constantly having our opinions and our viewpoints being cast aside as worthless? Our opinions, the way we believe things should function - our quote “conservative viewpoints” - do they dictate society - or is it the other way around? It's absolutely the other way around. The wicked thinkers - the wicked doers - they are the ones getting their way right now - and we have had the opportunity to show Yahweh whether or not - through it all - we would keep His Commandments or no.

Have we? We are members of a society that can't even protect unborn babies from being slaughtered. We can't even keep men freaks from marrying other men freaks. Woops. There I go again. We can't even prevent masculine hesitant identifiers from marrying other masculine hesitant identifiers. Such basic, simple things - and we have

not the least amount of power to effect change in those things. Such obvious, blatant, abominations of the Will of God - and now - we've even blown past those things - to the point where it is now accepted that regardless of the genatalia someone was born with - they can just say - "I am going to identify with the other side" and it's becoming perfectly acceptable. In some places of our existence - if someone refuses to go along with this - I won't say non-sense - that's too devisive - let's call it common sense hesitancy - in Canada - going on right now - there is a father who had a daughter - well - the headline is:

*Father jailed after referring to biological female child as his daughter*

*The warrant was issued by a judge for the arrest of a father after calling his biological female child his "daughter," and referring to her with the pronouns "she" and "her." He was found to be in contempt of court.*

This has been going on for a while now - and this Canadian quote "judge" put this man in jail because he refused to call his own daughter a boy. Called her she and her - and he was found in contempt of court - thrown in jail.

This week, a good friend of mine asked me where I see things in the next five years. I hate to tell you - but I have to. I believe we saw the agenda of the New World Order good, honest, truthful "hesitants" - we saw their agenda advance a whole generation in my opinion - in just one year. In one year - they moved totalitarianism to a level I never thought I'd see in my lifetime. I believe we are - possibly any minute now - at the point of being required to prove vaccine, prove citizenship, prove loyalty to governments - what have you - to simply go into a store and buy groceries. I believe we might be that close.

Two years ago, if you'll recall, I preached a message - and in that message I talked about being at the Dollar Store and seeing the clerk ask for - and receive - the driver's license from a woman that was clearly over age - no question about it - but in order to buy cigarettes - the lady was required to produce a driver's license which the clerk then took and scanned it. Obviously it came back as quote "approved" and the lady got her cigarettes and left the store.

Now that I think about that again - I've seen that happen more since then - and I've never seen anyone denied after their driver's license was scanned. That's not about making sure the store doesn't sell cigarettes to someone they say is not old enough to

smoke - that's about testing a system whereby people can be denied a purchase - if their papers aren't approved. That's what that was about. Part of the problem - with my reasoning on what was going on in this test - was that I was only thinking in the present. At that time, all the rage was the quote "illegals" in the U.S. So, I thought maybe that program was a precursor to a program designed to prevent quote "illegals" or people without papers - from making purchases. I had no idea regarding this diabolical plan they had regarding the fake corona virus plandemic and now all that's going on associated with that.

If this isn't bad enough - knowing that they obviously have plans for several years and more down the road - what else do they have planned? What else are they preparing to unleash on the people? My mind never dreamed of this phony virus. I guess maybe I should have thought about it - for years Hollywood has been putting out movies concerning world-wide viruses. I don't pay much attention to that - but maybe we should. My mind just never dreamed about the phony virus and all that. I do think about all the wild zombie movies and tv shows they came out with. Is this what is coming for people who have taken the jab? Are they going to turn into zombies that try to kill everyone that's not taken the jab? I'm seeing all sorts of things now related to transhumanism. Where people somehow become part human, part machine. I don't know. Where is this all headed?

Is this where this is all headed? What can stop it? What can keep it from going the way it is? The rapture? Not hardly. The quote "church?" Well, we know there is no rapture. And the quote "church" is clearly part of the plan. Is there any hope?

Sure, there's hope. Without a doubt, there's hope. It's called the Ecclesia - and Christ said that when His people gather themselves together, assemble in Ecclesia - that's Government, that's a Nation, that's a called out Christian community of believers - then the gates of hell will not prevail against His Ecclesia. That is the ONLY thing that will stop the evil going on today. And whatever else they have planned in the years to come.

Is God waiting to see whether His people will obey His Commandments or no? The first step towards obedience is belief. Do we believe His Word? Deuteronomy 3, verse 3.

[3] And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh doth man live.

We have His Word. We have His Word - more than any other man, woman boy or girl - that was living from Adam to Christ. We have, at our use, at any given time, a Book that is on the shelves in every single one of our homes - a written Book - containing the Words that have proceeded out of Yahweh's mouth - and most men - from Adam until probably the 16th or 17th century - did not have us much of an advantage as we have - yet we still are making the same mistakes they did. We, I believe, just don't have an excuse for not doing what God wants us to do.

I have to tell you, I don't understand why men and women are not running to the safety of - I don't know why they aren't running to the New Covenant World's Ark - Noah's ark - look - whether you believe there was a world-wide flood - or whether it was a regional flood - or whether the whole story is allegory - it's a story about when the world had gone crazy - God will make a way of escape. And the ark is the type and shadow of the Ecclesia. And sadly, as I've talked about this so many times before, most people living in the world today - people that think they are quote "Christians" have never even heard of Ecclesia before. They've heard of quote "church" - which has NEVER - not for one single second has it been ordained of God - God has never been there - He's never been associated with it - it's not something where He once was then left - He was never there. The only redeeming value of quote "church" is that at least His books were there - and people there could find Him through His Book - if they were able to free themselves from the ones that take His Book and twist it into things it does not say.

Every single thing the Bible says - all truth - the quote "church" has taken it and has tried to make people think the exact opposite of what the book is intended to say and mean. Example:

Possibly the biggest of all. Luke 20. "Render unto Caesar." The "church" and the "churchmen" - look - if a preacher has not figured out the word quote "church" should not be in our Bibles - then 99 and a half out of a hundred of those guys - will teach that Jesus said "Pay taxes to the government" and twist Luke 20 into support of that abominable doctrine - teaching for doctrine the commandments of men - full well they reject the Commandments of God that they may keep their own traditions - which have made the Word of God of NO EFFECT in their lives.

The reality is that Jesus was FORBIDDING to give tribute to Caesar and EVERYONE THERE knew it. Every single person listening to Jesus teach that day knew that Jesus was absolutely telling people they were NOT to pay taxes to Caesar. Yet, here we are 2,000 years later and by far - not even close - no comparison - 5 million quote preachers

FOR CAESAR - to 1 or 2 saying the opposite - and yet the truth is that Jesus was saying the exact opposite of what the quote "preachers" in the world have deceived people into believing.

They'll go on and use other passages like carrying Roman soldiers backpack an extra mile - and twist that into something it did not mean. Christ was telling His brethren of that day to do whatever they had to do to not put themselves in a situation where they were anywhere near a Roman soldier - and - if they got caught by one of them - here's the way to overcome that situation. By Christ telling His listeners to carry the backpack an extra mile - He was putting the Roman soldier in a situation where he would want nothing whatsoever to do with trying to compel someone to carry his backpack.

I came across this a couple weeks ago and I simply could not tell it any better. I want to read this to you. It is another instance where if you have allowed the quote "church" to be the basis of your faith - your system of belief - I don't care what it is - you had better go back and reevaluate every single thing you've ever heard from them - because what they teach is the exact opposite of what we are supposed to have added to our faith. In regards to carrying the Roman soldier's backpack - listen to this - this is the faith - the system of belief once delivered to the saints.

I'm not even sure the writer of this document is a true believer in the sense we would believe - but the insight is fantastic. In fact, I don't think this writer is a believer and it stinks that an unbeliever has more truth about the teachings of Christ than many of us have had. It's called Changing Perspectives: Go the Extra Mile, quote:

*The third directive Jesus delivers has become common in our modern lexicon. It is an idiom that has taken a motivational form. "If someone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two miles." We have shortened it to the phrase: go the extra mile.*

*With our modern perspectives, we take this to mean we should go above and beyond expectations. Do more than required. Put in the extra effort. After all, in America, we don't reward people for doing the basic duties of their jobs, we want them to exceed bare minimums. We don't want good experiences, we want greatness – such an impressive experience is only achievable if we go the proverbial extra mile.*

*Of course, this isn't what Jesus was talking about. It is a nice notion and I won't dispute that contributing greater effort is a worthy cause. But Jesus wasn't talking about working hard.*

Or I might add, submitting to the government, or submitting to soldiers.

*He was talking about the law.*

*During his life, Jesus ministered to people under Roman rule. The Empire used military might to expand their territory. To maintain control and order in the far-flung territories away from the heart of Rome, Caesar used the practice of impressment to coerce locals into joining the military, serving in loyalty to the emperor. Along with this method of conscription, impressment afforded soldiers special rights and privileges under the law. (Under Roman law). One of those legal allowances is that a Roman soldier could compel a Jewish native to carry their gear for one mile.*

*The packs these soldiers had to carry were heavy and could weigh up to 100 pounds. Roman soldiers were human just like the rest of us; it is understandable if they grew weary lugging their burdens around in the deserts of ancient Israel. To motivate them, and provide occasional relief, the (Roman) law granted them the ability to force a Jew to carry their pack for one Roman mile – equal to 1000 paces.*

I've done some research on this, it wasn't just “jews” - they could force anyone to carry their bags.

*If you were a Jewish citizen, you were not allowed to resist. To do so would be an act of rebellion and the Roman empire delivered harsh punishments to anyone who defied them.*

[The church people say that Jesus was talking about obeying Caesar, rendering unto Caesar. But I'm telling you it's the exact opposite.]

*This is why Jesus chose the language he used. The word ἀγγαρεύσει (angareusei) is only used once in the New Testament, when Jesus talks about going one Roman Mile. Angareusei means “compelled to go” or “forced to go.” If anyone angareusei you one mile, go two. There is another word Jesus used in the original language that adds context lost in English translations: ὑπάγε (pronounced hupagey) which means to be led away under someone else’s authority. Jesus is describing a situation where one of his listeners could be compelled or forced to walk a mile by their authority according to Roman law of impressment.*

*If I lived with these laws dictating my life, I would do everything I could to avoid Roman soldiers. If I saw them coming my direction, I would turn around and walk the other way, ducking into random alleys or stranger’s homes. If they caught up with me and*



*decided I needed to carry their packs, I would not be given a choice. Their orders were not requests. I would be, like Jesus said, forced to go.*

*To be asked to carry the pack for a soldier was demeaning. It was forced hard labor for no other reason than your heritage and ethnicity. They knew their status was above you and their demands reinforced the notion that the Jews were a conquered people. This was the definition of oppression. Which makes the second half of Jesus' statement confusing. If going one mile was so brutal and humiliating, why would he tell us to go two miles?*

*Just as refusing to carry a soldier's pack for a mile when ordered to do so was a crime punishable by imprisonment, that same law dictated that the soldier could only force a Jewish citizen to go one mile at the most. There were limits. The Roman Empire had to balance their desire to subjugate the citizenry with the need to discourage insurrection.*

*Jesus knew that Roman soldiers could force you to go one mile, but they could not make you go two. And just as a Jewish citizen would be jailed for refusing to carry a pack for a mile, the soldier could face consequences if the citizen were to carry that pack for more than a mile. Carrying a pack for the second mile is generous, but it is also challenging. The Roman soldier would be faced with a decision: demand you stop or risk the possibility of punishment. Regardless of what option the soldier takes, he would be more hesitant to order another Jewish citizen to carry his gear.*

*Being forced to carry a heavy pack for a mile was humiliating. The generous offer to carry it for a second mile shifts the humiliation to the soldier. Going the first mile robbed the Jewish citizen of their dignity. By going the second mile, they reclaimed their dignity. By going another mile, the Jewish citizen was demonstrating their humanity to a soldier who viewed them as a lower class of people. If a Roman soldier didn't want me to carry their pack a second mile, they shouldn't have asked me to carry it for the first mile.*

*In this verse, Jesus wasn't telling his audience to work harder, put in more effort, or be more generous. He was giving them a way to say, "I exist and I deserve better."*

End quote. Actually, He was giving them a way to say, "I will obey My God and not yours." And, do it in the face of a Roman soldier - a killing machine. You and I - at least this month - do not come face to face with killing machine soldiers - at least not this month. Hopefully, in next week's message I don't have to change that to - You and I - at least this week - do not come face to face with killing machine soldiers - at least not this week.

The first century saints were constantly faced with the possibility of immediate death, persecutions, jailings, and here was Christ sent to them - and He was showing them

ways to remain faithful to the Commandments of God even in the face of death. We aren't facing death - at least not today. Is that what it's going to take before we decide to obey His Commandments?

Jesus never said His followers are to obey men's little g governments. Jesus never said His followers are to submit to the edicts and whims of men when those edicts and whims contradict the Law of God. God's Word was from the beginning. God's Word has been written down and preserved for every generation - and we have it - and we are supposed to obey it.

Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone - but by the Word that proceeded out of the mouth of God." And that Word is very simple. Obey His Law.

I have told you before, I believe all this is very simplistic. What is His Law? It's all that's written in the Word and what we also see in nature - minus the things pertaining to the sacrificial system of the Old World. If it involves a sacrifice - it's not for the New World. If it involves a ritual from the temple - it's not for the New World. There are types and shadows of the New World shown in the Old World - we find what those things meant - and we walk in them in the New World.

I believe I can articulate what Laws of God are for the New World and what ones aren't - but sometimes it's easier to tell someone what's NOT for today. And I can absolutely tell you that what men call law - is not law. There is nothing - there is nothing in the Word of God - the Word from the beginning - through the Old World - and into the New World - there is nothing in that Word that compels men to obey anything other than God's Word - period.

We are deceived if we think we can be right with God while submitting to ungodly men and their ways. Nearly every single command and quote "law" that has come down from men's little g governments - is in defiance of the Word of God and we have failed and failed miserably the test as to whether we would stay faithful to the Law of God or no.

From taxes, to licenses, to numbers, and everything in between - we have chosen a system of living - a way of life - that conforms to the Romans and the Egyptians - instead of the way of life God wants for Israelites. And as a result, this is where we find ourselves today. We are ruled - not measured according to the Word of God - but ruled - as in oppressed, beaten down by godless tyrants and deviants. Have we become complacent with our status? Have we learned to cope in our existence?

There is a way out. It's the Ecclesia. It's the plan of God from before the foundation of the world. I have no explanation at all as to why people - our people - are not running as fast as they can to an Ecclesia.

Do you think the people in Noah's day - if they had a copy of the Book telling them the end of the story - would they have beat the doors down to get inside Noah's ark? Or would they have just continued in their current existence?

I know that our people see the things going on around us. I talk to many of you. Do we really think all this is just going to go away? Are the quote "conservative politicians" going to save the day?

When I read that Ron DeSantis down there in Florida said that he is going to pardon any Floridian who was charged with a Covid-related violation - am I glad for that? Sure. Except for the fact that no one was quote "charged" with a Covid- violation. The non-maskers? They weren't quote "charged" with not wearing a mask. They were charged with trespassing. When they went into a business without a mask, and the business owner called the cops - the people were arrested for trespassing - not for not wearing a mask. Is DeSantis going to pardon those people? I hope so. I won't hold my breath. But I hope so.

I've told you before, I am glad for any resistance - from almost any source - but the true source of liberty - the true source of freedom - comes exclusively from God - which comes exclusively from obeying His Word. Anything else is temporal. It's fleeting - here today - gone tomorrow.

Turn with me please back to the book of Jude. I believe we have lost the faith once delivered to the saints. And until we get it back - our generation - and each one subsequently - will continue to fall further and further. Freedom will become a total after-thought. Totalitarianism, slavery, transhumanism, you name it - will be the new norm. Our children's children - I'm not going to include our children - because many of us have warned our children - we have given them the proper Biblical truths and teachings to know better than to follow the generation that was before them - so they are without excuse - but our children's children may rise one day to despise our generation for failing to put a stop to the evil or even stand against the evil that has accelerated to where it is today.

What has happened is not God's fault. I refuse to believe that God has planned it this way - that there is nothing we could have done to turn our generation around. It's happened because we chose the world - we chose the Egyptian way of life, the Roman way of life, the Babylonian way of life - we had a choice to make. We could have chosen

the Israelite way - but we thought the United States way was a better choice. We have done everything in our lives - but the thing we were supposed to do.

I still believe - and will do so until this body takes its final breath - if we would do exactly what those who had the faith - the common saving faith - delivered to them - in that - "These all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus" - had we lived that way - not one man here - not one man there - as a called out community of believers living in the same general proximity - as those Christians living near Ephesus, those Christians living near Rome, those Christians living near Galatia - had we been living according to their model - the faith once delivered to the saints - we could have turned the world upside down - and it could have been done in a very short period of time.

And, I will, until my eyes close for the final time in this body - I will believe that the same can be done - right now - if we - as a people would simply obey and join ourselves together and build Ecclesia.

"But I don't want to move." I get that. I don't particularly want to move either. I didn't enjoy moving as a young man - now that I'm older - I like it even less. But there are so few of us out there - I don't believe we have any choice but to find a place and move there and begin building Ecclesia.

I also believe that if we did so - because of the fact that information travels so fast today - we would be an inspiration to others all over the world - to begin to build Christian communities all over.

The enemies of Christ know how to defeat quote "church." They've done it just fine. Pay them off. Take over their seminaries - goodness - seminary? Bible college? Find either one of those in the Bible. They aren't there. But again, the quote "church" is a made up, evolved - constantly evolving - manmade religion that not only does not resemble the Bible - but it's in place to make sure people believe the opposite of what the Bible teaches. The enemies of Christ have perfected their religious arm - but they know NOTHING on how to defeat the Ecclesia of God - because it has not even existed in our generation - therefore they don't know what to do with it.

Realize this, brethren. If they want to fight with the Ecclesia - their battle will be with God. He is the One Who said the gates of hell would not prevail against His Ecclesia. It's His Ecclesia. We're just the sheep trying to follow the Shepherd. There is no enemy that our Shepherd cannot overcome.

All the stories from the Old World - whether it was David taking out Goliath - Goliath the giant - whether it was David killing lions and bears - whether it was Daniel being

spared from the lions or Ananiah, Hazariah and Mishrael overcoming the fiery furnace - all those stories are for us to look back to and have trust - trust in the faith - the system of belief that should have been developed from reading those stories - that the same God that delivered those obedient men - will deliver all those - in all generations that came after them - that He is the Great Deliverer for those that obey Him and choose to keep His Ways - no matter the immediate consequence.

None of those men knew what would be their outcome - but we do. We have the Book. We have the written Word with the end of the stories.

Alright, Jude verse 1.

[1] Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

[2] Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

[3] Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

As I read this, I look at the Word Once - once delivered unto the saints. If you meditate on this Word - and try to think about what it might mean before you actually go and study the Word - it's kind of interesting.

Does it mean "once upon a time?" As in a fairy tale, long long ago, in a far away place - or does it mean once - as in one time? It means once, as in one time.

This faith, this common saving faith - was delivered one time. This is a pretty staggering thought if you really think about it hard. You get one chance to get this right. This faith - this common saving faith - this system of belief - is based on one truth - one time.

When you consider the fact that most of us were raised to a system of belief that was based on the teachings of something called "church" - then we come to this passage of Scripture which tells us that the common saving faith - must be based on the faith - the system of belief that was delivered ONE TIME to those characters in the Old World - then to those at the beginning of the New World - that is a sobering concept.

Why have most people lived the way they live? Why do they pay taxes on labor? Why do they allow themselves to be numbered? To be licensed? To be injected with all manner of evil substances? Why do they allow their movements to be regulated as if just living and breathing requires permission from men? Where did this come from?

I'll tell you right now - it did not come from the Word of God. It was not part of the system of belief - the faith - that was one time - once and for all - is what Strong's

definition is - the way of life dictated by being a faithful citizen of the United States - did not come from the faith once delivered to the saints.

And again, here's what I'm saying. Our lifestyle reflects our faith - our system of belief. The concept of quote "paying tribute" to earthly governments, where did that come from?

"These all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus."

That is the faith - that is the system of belief - once delivered to the saints. If we have not implemented that element of truth into our lives - and then conforming our lives - which is simply trusting in that faith - we believe - then trust that belief - if that has not changed our lives - then friends - as hard as it may be to hear - we do not have the same faith - the once and for all faith - that was delivered to the saints.

When it was said of those men in Acts 17 - they didn't know the end of the story. They probably didn't know that what was being said about them was being recorded so that the lives of everyone born after them - for generations and generations would read the things said about them - then make sure they believed and lived the same way. Those men lived that way because they had been with Christ.

To some extent, a large extent, they had a distinct advantage over us in one very important way. They were alive when Christ was alive. They saw the miracles, they saw the execution and they saw the Resurrection. Maybe it could be said they absolutely should have done what they did. And that's fine. But from where we sit - that type of statement could only be said about those men from the first century.

David didn't physically see Christ. Abraham didn't. Daniel didn't. The 3 Hebrew boys did - but not until they were in the fire. But I think this is what might make us special - or at least as special as any of them.

Turn back to John chapter 20. Let's see if there is any validity to what I'm saying about the possibility of people like us having anything special when we believe - then obey. I believe there is.

I don't know about you - but I really like the idea of someday meeting the people recorded in the Bible and being able to share stories about the earthly adventures that being an obedient follower of Christ has brought us through. That's pretty exciting.

"Yeah, Daniel, tell me what it was about in that lions den. And I'll tell you about being held at gunpoint, or thrown in the jail. Daniel, I'll tell you my story and you tell me yours."

I told Chris in a recent jailhouse phone call - if you are being persecuted for the cause of Christ - then you are in rare company. No, it isn't fun to be in jail. But you have to remind yourself that you are now in the same company as Peter and James and John and Paul - many great saints who have gone before have spent many an uncomfortable night in a stinking, filthy jail for trying to live according to the Word of God. It's physically not fun - but it is a thing that's incomparable - when you realize that you are in rare company with the saints.

“Yeah, Paul what was that jail like when you were in over there in the book Acts? Wow, the jail I was in was like a hotel compared to that one.” What a joy to be able to compare stories with people like Paul and Barnabas.

John chapter 20, verse 1:

[1] The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

[2] Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

[3] Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

[4] So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

[5] And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

[6] Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

[7] And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

[8] Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

[9] For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

Did you catch that? Look at that again. I'm telling you that was put in there for people just like you and me.

For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

Today - we DO know the Scripture. We DO know what happened. They didn't know their exact end - but they still believed.

We don't know the exact end of our obedience to Ecclesia if we ever get there - because we've never done it - but I believe we can get a real good idea of what will happen if we believe - then obey. Verse 10.

[10] Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

[11] But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

[12] And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

[13] And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

[14] And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

[15] Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

[16] Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

[17] Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

[18] Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

[19] Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

[20] And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

[21] Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

[22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

[23] Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

[24] But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

[25] The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he



said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

[26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

[27] Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

[28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

[29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Those men and women that day - of course - have a distinct advantage over all other generations that have ever lived - in that they saw the Christ - right in front of them. But Christ is talking about us - and all other generations after the first one. He probably includes the generations before Him, too. But this is us - in verse 20. We have not seen Christ. But blessed are those who have not seen - but still believe.

We can know what the faith was - that faith that was delivered as the "once for all time" faith - we can know what it was - and believe it ourselves - then trust to live accordingly and we can have the full benefits of that faith - that common salvation faith - and we can have it today. Verse 30.

[30] And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

[31] But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Wow, I just noticed that. Believe - then you can have life. Believe - then have life through the Authority of His name.

Once again, verse 31 is for all subsequent generations after the first one. This is the written Word - the Word from John 1 - that was from the beginning - and it was written down as a blueprint - a guidebook for us. This is the faith once delivered to the saints.

Even for Thomas - which apparently was the only one who had to stick his finger in Christ's side - in order to believe - but even for Thomas - after seeing Christ - can there be any doubt as to why those men were accused of

These all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus.

Christ's ministry was all about a Kingship. It was all about a Kingdom. Finally, after seeing their King executed - but then risen from the dead - there was no doubt that truly,

“We have found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, thou art the Christ, thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of Israel.”

Knowing that the Book is all about Israel - and the people of God being that nation - knowing that the King had come in the first century - this faith - this system of belief is what every single one of them had concerning Christ - concerning His Kingship and His Kingdom.

Do we have this faith? Do we have this system of belief? Do we have a Kingdom? Do we have a King? Or are we still living one way and talking another? Do we read in the page of the recorded Word where these men were preaching in some quote “church building” on Sunday - “Jesus is King” - but then on every other day of the week obeying earthly kings? Is that what the faith once delivered to the saints really is?

It's something called “church” one day a week where people can fantasize about some future king - then go back into the quote “real world” where someone or something else is quote “king” and it's their quote “laws and statues” that really govern life. Except for that one or two hours when people are inside their church buildings - where they try to convince themselves that they have a king - then as soon as the final amen takes place and they go outside of the false world they've created for themselves when they are inside that building - then they go out into a world where God's Laws are not allowed.

Christ is King - right now. It is the responsibility of every single one of us - to live exclusively according to His Kingship. Which means exactly the same thing today as it did when it was first recorded in Deuteronomy 8, then reaffirmed by Christ in Matthew 4. Men are to live according to the Laws of God.

Outside of Noah's ark is a world that is filled with evil. Today - just like it was in Noah's day. The ark is a type and shadow of the Commonwealth of Israel. We are supposed to be living as the Nation of God, according to our King and His Laws. It's not His Laws and their “laws.” It's impossible. Their quote “laws” are designed to force people into making a choice - theirs or God's. Can't be both. No man can serve two masters. That's what Christ said - because it's ALWAYS been that way. It's ALWAYS been God's Law or man's law.

Getting inside the ark is the easiest way to obey God. And today - it's the same way. The easiest way to obey God is to get into the ark. The ark is the Ecclesia. It is way way past time for those who call themselves followers of Christ to get busy building Ecclesia.

We are trying. We are trying to get some land to get started. If you are not currently building Ecclesia where you are now - you need to come and join us. I believe we have a limited time before the rains come. It's been raining for a while. But it's coming down harder and harder each day. The Ecclesia of God is the plan of God before the foundation of the world. This is the faith - the system of belief - once and for all time - delivered to the saints.