

**Message# 197 - 7-10-2022 - Christians Believe that Jesus Fulfilled the Prophets - H2O
Water Baptism Ended with the Old Covenant**

Preached first on 7/10/2022 on www.molibertyradio.us

Good morning everyone. Thank you again for tuning into the message this morning. We continue to receive very positive emails from our continuing study - teaching that - from the Bible - the application of H2O - physical water to the flesh - the only time the Bible provides any details at all as to what it could have possibly been - what they could have possibly been doing - are the scant details from the Law God gave Moses. The application of physical water to the flesh - was an act - a work of the Law God gave Moses for remission of sins in the Old Covenant World - and just like all the other physical acts - physical works required under that Old Covenant Law system - that, too - ended when the Old Covenant World officially ended with the destruction of the temple.

We haven't heard the last song sent in to us by our friend Paul, yet. So, before we get further into today's message - let's hear another Psalm from Paul.

Thank you, Paul. Your songs are always a blessing. Thank God for your talent and your willingness to share it with us.

Speaking of talent. We have another musician that is a part of the ministry - and she is a prolific lyricist. She has a website called Kingdom Songs - I'll see if I can get that link posted on the website - but at the conclusion of last week's message - she sent in lyrics to a new song she is writing. I want to share them with you this morning. It's "The Bible Doesn't Tell Me So," by Renee. She wrote this in reference to this current series:

THE BIBLE DOESN'T TELL ME IT'S SO
by Renee L.

I don't believe in church-style baptizo
Because the Bible doesn't tell me it's so

And when the Bible doesn't tell me it's so
The Bible tells me, the Bible tells me so

'Cuz when the Bible is silent on a matter
The Bible speaks volumes versus church chatter

To continue keeping ceremonial laws
Like keeping Jesus nailed to the cross

I don't believe in church-style baptizo
Because the Bible doesn't tell me it's so

And when the Bible doesn't tell me it's so
The Bible tells me, the Bible tells me so

I have a feeling this was maybe inspired by "Jesus Loves Me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." That's the safest place to be - when the Scriptures tell us what to do - that we will do. And we'll be so careful not to add to the Word - like so many others have done in creating their own religions. She goes on. Listen to the last verse:

Like I don't believe in celebrating Christ-Mass
The Pope's broken cross, I'll have to pass

Nor, do I believe in Easter egg hunts
And Halloween dressing up as nuns

I don't believe in church-style baptizo
Because the Bible doesn't tell me it's so

When the Bible doesn't tell me it's so
The Bible tells me, the Bible tells me so . . .

Awesome, Renee. I love it.

For just a minute this morning, will you turn to a passage of Scripture that we should know like the back of our hands - and - I'm quite certain that those who are a part of this ministry - because you are leaders and not followers - I know you know Romans 13 like the back of your hand. But I want us to turn there for just a minute, please. Now, keep your finger here in chapter 13 and turn to chapter 1. Let's begin in verse 1.

[1] Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the

gospel of God,

[2] (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

[3] Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Everyone, say, above the age of 50, probably, I hope earlier than that, but I can't say for sure. But even those who went to government school for what used to be some basic education - knows that when you compose a letter - typically - the beginning of the letter sets the theme for what will be found in the body of the letter. That's what we see here in the first chapter of the Book to the Romans. The first chapter is setting up the basic theme that will run throughout the entire writing.

We see - Jesus Christ - the fulfillment of the prophets in the Holy Scriptures - concerning the truth that God's Son - Jesus Christ - Christ meaning the Anointed One - that's what was done to the kings in Israel - this Jesus is Lord - meaning One Who is Supreme in Authority. That means no one else has what He and His Father have. In the New Covenant World - they are the ones who are Supreme in Authority. Now, before someone says we are adding to the Word by including God the Father here - we need to remind ourselves of the Words of Christ. He always said that He and His Father were/are one. He said He received all of His Authority from His Father. The two are one. That's what the Bible teaches us. Then, Jesus was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and what is that referencing? That is going right to Acts chapter 2 when Peter was explaining that Jesus was the fulfillment of the covenant made with David - to be Israel's last King. Not only is He/They - Father and Son - King of kings and Lord of lords - but they are the Last of the kings that God has allowed for - not just Israel - but for His entire Creation.

The New Covenant World brought an end to the days where God allowed the nations to walk in their own ways. Men are not allowed to have their own "governments." They are not allowed to create their "laws" - which - when they rebelliously do anyway - those inventions of theirs become "statues" - "idols" - "strange meats" which followers of Christ are to have nothing whatsoever to do with.

Have no fellowship with the works of darkness.

We are called to Light. Not darkness. That's one of the ways we know we belong to Him. Whose voice do we hear? Whose voice do we follow?

The Book of Romans continues with the theme of the rest of the Bible. God wants a people for Himself. He wants a people that will obey His Laws, His Commandments, His Statutes and His eternal principles for living.

And friends, put just as simply as can possibly be, man's "laws", man's "statutes", man's "rules and regulations" are not God's. And not only that - but nearly every single one of man's inventions - are diametrically opposed to God's.

Where the rubber meets the road - ok?

Citizenship? Can you be a citizen of men's "governments" and a Citizen of the Kingdom of God at the same time?

Almost every single thing citizenship in the world demands - is against the clear teachings of Jesus Christ.

The "governments" of the world try to demand that babies are registered with them. They call it "birth certificates." These oppose the Law of God. They are against the eternal principles of God found in Scripture. The "birth certificate" creates a citizenship. It creates obligations to the state. I have shown this - very clearly - from their own documents.

Licenses. They are contracts with the state. What fellowship - what contract - hath Christ with Belial?

Labor taxes. From the Bible - Isaiah 58 is one place - we can see that God despises - hates with a passion - taxes on men's labor. It violates the Laws of God established right from the very day God created man. A man is required to labor - to earn by the sweat of his brow - and when the man obeys God in this manner - he is to be rewarded for his labor - not taxed.

And of course, I could go on and on and on with the many differences between the way God has said things are supposed to be and the way man has determined they are supposed to be.

And, in the Old Covenant World - because of man's wicked heart and wicked desires - God allowed men to create to themselves their own "governments." But it was allowed so that men coming after those generations could look back at what they did - and see

the awful things that happened as a result of their demanding “a king like all the other nations” and they would simply say, “No, we see where that leads, we'll just stick with God as our King.”

But someone, something, has perverted this so simple understanding of the way things should be - and they have convinced nearly every single person alive - that no - Jesus and His Father are not Kings now - maybe - maybe in a future time - but not now - and instead - God Himself has commanded His entire Creation to submit to and obey the definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, as determined by mere men.

That is possibly the craziest conclusion from supposedly reading the Bible - I have ever heard in my entire life. The entire theme of the Bible is obey God and not man. I cannot imagine how that is so difficult.

But somehow, this so simple, easy to understand concept that flows seamlessly from cover to cover in our Bibles - has been completely perverted - completely turned to be the total opposite of what the Bible teaches. How did this happen?

Go back to Romans chapter 13, please, verse 1.

[1] Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 1:1-3

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

[2] (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

[3] Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

How could we possibly get from the beginning of the book which clearly shows Jesus as King?...how do we get from there - to

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

And then conclude that Romans 13:1 is now talking about those that oppose Jesus

Christ our Lord, the Son of God, promised afore by the prophets in the Holy Scriptures made according to the seed of David - in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant?

Friends, you know it, I know it, we all know it. This perversion of the Bible - the book that teaches that men are to exclusively obey God - not men - especially - and this should be as simple as can possibly be - when men clearly set themselves up in the place of God - making their own definitions of good and evil - then trying to force other men - with threats of jail, threats against their lives, threats against their families and their property - we have people commanding men to blindly submit to and obey these types of people. It's staggering. It's breathtaking. That people could have the completed Word of God - in English - for hundreds of years - and they conclude that men are commanded by God Himself to live their lives in 100% direct opposition to the teachings of the Bible - and obey Godless people. That's incredible. It's beyond words of description. Then, they further twist verse 2 - which says:

[2] Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

If you do not obey the “governments of men” - you are resisting God Himself and by resisting God - you receive to yourselves damnation. They get part of it right. Indeed, resisting God brings damnation. Resisting God brings damnation. Resisting the Ordained Power of God - which is the Kingdom of God. It is the Government of God. It is Jesus Christ, the Son, God the Father, His Ways, His Laws, His Commandments. How anyone can read the Bible and conclude otherwise is simply beyond belief.

But this thing, this monster, this beast called “church” is exactly what has deceived men into believing that Romans chapter 13 is teaching the exact opposite of what it actually - clearly says.

[3] For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

How much more simple could Paul have made this? It's talking about obeying God. It's talking about obeying Christ. It's talking about obeying the Apostles. It's talking about obeying the God's definitions of good and evil.

Do that which is good.

According to who? Who is defining good? There is only One Who has defined good. Only One that has defined evil - and that is God. The Creator. The One Who sits in the Heavens. To conclude that this is giving mere men the power to define good and evil and then force others to obey them - is preposterous.

But that is exactly what the “church” and the “churchmen” have done. Why? Because the “church” and the “churchmen” are in bed with men's little g “governments” - they are the religious arm of the state. They receive tax-exempt status, tax-deductible gifts - why? Because they teach that men, women, boys and girls are to submit to whatever little g “government” that is nearest to them - they are to do what they are told - even when it goes against Scripture - and to do so because God commanded it - and if they don't - they are damned.

Friends, Romans 13 is black and white. There is nothing gray here. It can be viewed only one of two ways. Either Paul is telling people to obey God - or he is telling people to obey men. Whichever side you happen to be on - one side is right - one side is wrong. And - whoever gets it wrong - is damned. It's really really simple.

The Bible is not a difficult book. Obey God - obey man. Pick a side. Make a choice. But, be careful of your choice - because only one is the right one. Get it wrong - receive to yourselves damnation.

Every single person listening to my voice this morning - at least by far the great majority I think I can safely say - knows - beyond any shadow of a doubt - that Romans 13 is a command to obey God and resist evil men.

Drive by any “church” in the U.S. right now - and 99.999% of them will be waving the u.s. flag out front over their buildings. Of course I do not recommend going inside those Godless places - for any reason - but we all know what goes on inside. Commands to obey men's little g “governments.” CONstitution worship goes on inside. “Founding fathers” worship goes on inside.

“Founding fathers.....” Really? How many times have we heard that phrase in our lives. And how many times have we heard people basically worship those men they call their “founding fathers” of the u.s.? Go back to Matthew 23 for a minute. Did Jesus have anything to say about this? Verse 1:

[1] Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to His disciples,

[2] Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Does that have any significance today? Is that an eternal principle that we should find place for in our lives today? Absolutely. It's the seat of "law." It's the "lawmakers" and "legislators" and it absolutely has relevance for today and we absolutely should learn from this and make sure we are not guilty of the same thing that Christ preached against when He was here. Verse 3:

[3] All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

[4] For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

[5] But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Strong's defines phylacteries as:

a fortified place provided with a garrison, a station for a guard or garrison

a preservative or safeguard, an amulet. The Jews used this word to describe small strips of parchment on which were written the following passages of the law of Moses, Ex. 13:1-10, 11-16; Dt. 6:4-9, 11:13-21, and which, enclosed in small cases, they were accustomed when engaged in prayer to wear fastened by a leather strap to the forehead and to the left arm over against the heart, in order that they might thus be solemnly reminded of the duty of keeping the commands of God in the head and in the heart, according to the directions given in Ex. 13:16, Dt. 6:8, 11:18; These scrolls were thought to have the power, like amulets, to avert various evils and to drive away demons. The Pharisees were accustomed to widen, make broad, their phylacteries, that they might render them more conspicuous and show themselves to be more eager than the majority to be reminded of the law of God.

Verse 6:

[6] And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

[7] And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

Now watch what Christ tells His followers. Are their principles here that can be applied

today?

[8] But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

[9] And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Keep this in mind as we go a little further.

[10] Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

[11] But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

[12] And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

This is Jesus telling His followers - and those others that were listening - men and not to set themselves up over each other like the “governments” of the world do. You don't have other men as your “fathers.” What do fathers do? They tell their children what to do. They control their children's lives. Not so in the Kingdom of God. You have One Father and that is your Father in heaven.

But that's not how men's little g “governments” work. In the U.S., for instance, they have their “founding fathers.” And what did their “founding fathers” do? They created a CONstitution. And that CONstitution did what? Established a system for creating “laws and statues and treaties” which shall be what? The “supreme law of the land.”

This is exactly what Jesus said His followers were not supposed to do. It's exactly the same today as it was in Christ's day. It's exactly the same thing in 1787 as it was in Christ's day. It's the same thing. Call no man your earthly “father.” It means men are not to rule over other men. That's what fathers do to their earthly children and among the followers of Christ - who are supposed to be light to this dark world. As leaders - not masters - and not followers - which again is what Christ is saying here - we should be living our lives in obedience to the teachings of Christ - which means - we do not call mere men “fathers.” We do not have mere men ruling over us. We do not have mere men establishing “laws and statues” that dictate the way we live.

Friends, this is what it means to be a follower of Christ.

We don't just tell people what Christ said - we live it.

“Well, that might get us into trouble with these people?”

It might? You think it might get us into trouble with these people? When we find ourselves in a Godless generation - such as we are in today - you can rest assured that when we live according to the teachings of Christ - yes - we very well will be getting into “trouble” with those who are determined to live in opposition to the clear teachings of Christ. But since when did we become better than Christ? How is it that we think we should not be above any suffering for His Name - His Authority.

In generations like we find ourselves in -

Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution.

Doesn't have to be that way. We could be doing what Christ also told His followers to do. We could be living in our own Nation - the Commonwealth of Israel. We could be separate from the world - those that hate Christ and His ways. For the life of me, I don't understand why so many people who call themselves Christians think that is such an insurmountable thing to do. It's going to happen. Someday, there will be enough true believers who - either through a determination to obey - or out of great persecution - will obey Christ and build His Government. He is going to have His people - one way or another.

So, what is standing in the way? The same thing that has stood in the way from the first century until now. The scribes and the Pharisees - who have managed to steal away the key of knowledge and hide the Kingdom of God from those who would otherwise find it. Today - it's called “church.”

And friends, I said all that to once again say this. If we think there is any truth, any redeeming quality to an institution that is designed to keep people from finding the Kingdom of God - we are the most deceived people to have ever lived.

The “church” and their “churchmen” - by their despicable twisting of Romans 13 into a lie - have intentionally or not - doesn't matter - and I'll assure you that most have done it intentionally - they are the ones who have caused the most damage to our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren - than any other institution on earth.

The “jews” - it's the horrible jews that are destroying the world. Friends, that is a joke. The “jews” are nothing compared to the “churches.” It is the “churches” that have

enabled the “jews.” Without the “churches” the “jews” would have been exposed and no thinking person alive would fall for their deceptions. Get to the root of the issue. And the root of the issue is it is the Godless “churches” - a word and a concept that should not be in our Bibles - in fact - in the first completed English Bible - the word was not there - with the exception of reference to the pagan temple of Diana - “church” is the biggest fraud going on in the world today - it is the root of the problem.

And - with all that said - to suggest that someone seeking “salvation” go to those places and the people running them - for anything - let alone “salvation” is beyond words of description for me. The best way to make sure someone does not enter or even see the Kingdom of God - is to send them to one of those Godless places and the men who run them.

So again - call me a heretic all you want for these teachings and any others that accompany them. It's okay. But it's truth and I am not backing down.

Last week, we were once again in the Book of Acts. We have been reading about the conflict between the true followers of Jesus Christ who were keeping the Law God gave Moses in the Name of Jesus Christ - in the Authority of Jesus Christ - and those who were refusing to keep the Law God gave Moses in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. Remember how important this. All of this - everything we see in Acts chapter 2 - was taking place in Jerusalem. That's the setting for everything taking place.

While the temple was still standing. In the Book of Acts, in Jerusalem, the followers of Christ, led by Peter and James, Phillip and the others who were true believers in Christ - no one with any Bible knowledge at all - could argue against that - were keeping the Law God gave Moses - but they were doing so - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. This is why we continue to see the Old Covenant washings in the Book of Acts.

Whenever we see the application of physical water to the flesh - in the Bible - not just in Leviticus and Numbers and elsewhere in the first 39 books, but when we see what looks like the application of physical water to the flesh - in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Book of Acts - we are seeing men and women keeping the Law God gave Moses - but doing so - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

As we progress through the Book of Acts - we continue to see them applying physical water to their flesh. And when we do - again - it's as clear as can be - we are told they

are keeping the Law God gave Moses. Then, Paul comes onto the scene. And, immediately, there is a controversy. Not just between Paul and those of the synagogues - but we see a controversy between Paul and James, Paul and Phillip and Paul and Peter. And what was the controversy? It was whether or not followers of Christ were still obligated to keep the Law God gave Moses - even doing so - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

And, they agreed, that for those still living in Jerusalem - where the temple was - they were obligated to keep the Law God gave Moses - while those who had become followers away from Jerusalem - were not bound to the Laws God gave Moses.

Again, this is why we see Paul going into the temple and obeying Numbers chapter 6 to a tee. He wasn't going in there to try to win the lost "jews" to Jesus by keeping a sacrifice and performing a ritual washing. He was in Jerusalem. The temple was still there. The Old Covenant was still in effect - and he was keeping the Law God gave Moses - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

Now. We left off with verse 41 of Acts 2 last week. So, let's pick up with verse 42 this week. Of the true believers in Christ, this was said:

[42] And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

[43] And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

[44] And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

[45] And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

[46] And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple,

The master of eisogesis will simply just ask the following question. What were they doing in the temple - continuing daily with one accord. Were they at the temple daily with one accord for coffee and donuts? Were they there for their daily time of canasta with the girls?

They were there because the Law of God concerning the daily sacrifice was still going on and they were there encouraging people to keep those things pertaining to the temple - but do so in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
[47] Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the Ecclesia daily such as should be saved.

In Acts chapter 2, those that had repented and had believed on the Authority of Jesus Christ as the King, the Lord, the Saviour of Israel, the Messiah, those that had been fully immersed into all things Jesus - they were showing their zealousness and devoutness to the Law - but they were doing so in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The Judahites believed. And some of the jews had converted to become Judahites, followers of Jesus Christ. But, some did not. Now, Acts 3, verse 1.

[1] Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Friends, again. Why did Peter and John go up together into the temple at the ninth hour? What was taking place at the temple? The daily sacrifice and the daily prayers - all found in the Law God gave Moses. They were there because the Law God gave Moses had commanded it. They were keeping the Law. Keep going. Verse 2.

[2] And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

[3] Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Friends, it isn't a mistake that we keep seeing the temple, the temple, the temple in these early passages of the Book of Acts. The temple was not a bad thing. This was the dwelling place of God at that time. This what God had commanded Moses to do. These people were all trying to obey the Law God gave Moses in respect of the temple. Even what we might call "the bad guys." They were all keeping the Law regarding the temple.

What we would think of us "the bad guys" were they themselves - also zealous of the Law - the Law God gave Moses - and when they began persecuting the true believers - they - even though it was most certainly misinterpreted - they were also keeping the Law God gave Moses concerning those who were - what the Law called - profaning the temple.

By teaching that fulfilling the Law in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ - in the eyes of those non-believing Law keepers - they were doing what was required by

the Law. Persecuting and even killing those who were thought to be profaning the Law God gave Moses.

What was going on in the early parts of the Book of Acts - was a conflict between two factions - both of which were attempting to keep the Law God gave Moses. One group wanted to keep the Law in the Name of Jesus. The other group did not accept Jesus and they were attempting to keep the Law according to the traditions before Christ. It is not difficult to see this. Certainly should not be. Verse 4 - as Peter was getting ready to enter into the temple with John.

[4] And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

[5] And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

[6] Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And once again. What does in the Name of mean? It's in the Authority of. And, as we have seen many times before already - was this a healing? Was this a forgiving of sins? Was it both? It was both. But Peter and John - did this - in the Name of Jesus Christ. Big no-no. Verse 7:

[7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

[8] And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Again. And again. And again. They went into the temple. From the times we have seen over and over, Jesus healing people - forgiving their sins - what was the first thing those people did? Verse 8 of Acts 2 is not new to the Bible.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

That's pretty much the same thing we saw happen every time Christ did what the apostles did. They went into the temple and performed the works of the Law - just like those people did when Christ touched them - but this time - they were doing what they did - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. They went into the temple where an animal sacrifice was taking place. They went into the temple where ritual washings were taking place. That's what they were doing.

[9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

[10] And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate

Here it comes again....

of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

Matthew 24 - the Lord Jesus tells His disciples, the end of the world, the end of the Old Covenant age - will occur when the temple is destroyed. When not one stone will be left standing that will not be thrown down. That's when the end officially comes.

We are seeing Peter and James and John in the early parts of the Book of Acts keeping the Law God gave Moses whenever we see them entering into the temple - every single day. They were among the thousands of believers who were ZEALOUS of the Law.

So, those who had just seen the healing - the forgiving of sins - were filled with wonder and amazement. And listen to what Peter said:

[11] And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

Once again. The details.

the porch that is called Solomon's

We are being constantly reminded that the Old World was still in existence. It was the final days of the Old World. It was the final days where King Jesus was ruling over the end times. And, He was making sure that it was known that He was King over all - including - at that time for sure - most importantly - He was King over the Law God gave Moses. He was making sure that the Law was being kept in Jerusalem - in His Name - in His Authority. That's not something to be ashamed of. It's something to be amazed over. It is a spectacular display of His Authority, Power and Might. Verse 12:

[12] And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Watch now. Peter is getting ready to preach nearly the same message as he preached on the day of Pentecost. And now, he's standing inside the temple, preaching the following message:

[13] The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

[14] But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

[15] And killed the Prince of life, Whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

[16] And His name through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

[17] And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

[18] But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

I sure hope you saw this again. We've seen it so many times before. Jesus fulfilled the prophets. From the same liars that brought us their fraudulent teachings on Romans 13 - for those who also tell us that Jesus did not fulfill all the prophecies - what do those groups have in common? If I were a betting man - and you know I'm not - but I don't know how else to say this - for those who say the prophecies are not fulfilled - I would bet everything I have in life that when you examine the rest of their teachings - you'll also find the teaching of "church." It all goes hand in hand. They deny the prophets. They teach that the powers that be of Romans 13 are men's "governments." It all goes hand in hand.

A man, woman, boy or girl, who truly wants to find the Will of God, who truly wants to find the Kingdom of God - must believe that Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophets - all of them - and it goes without saying - He fulfilled their prophecies - that's what that means. Verse 19:

[19] Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

[20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

[21] Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

[22] For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

[23] And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

[24] Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Verse 24 has got to be embedded into our minds. Solidly fixed. The prophets - from Samuel and those that followed after him - as many as have spoken - they foretold of those days. They didn't prophesy of days thousands of years after the first century - it was those days that were foretold. The first century is what the prophets were prophesying. It was the time of Jesus Christ in the first century when all the prophecies - everything concerning Christ - was fulfilled.

And again. Who will fight against this? Of course. When you find "church" - you will find those that oppose the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the first century and you will find those that command people obey earthly "fathers." Verse 25:

[25] Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

[26] Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Who is Peter trying to reach here? He's trying to reach "jews" who were keeping the Law God gave Moses - but not in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. The believing Judahites were already keeping the Law in Jesus' name. They kept the feast of Pentecost. They kept the washings required before entering the temple. They had been reached already. Peter was trying to reach those keeping the Law - but not doing so in the Name of Christ. Now, the next chapter. Verse 1.

[1] And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

[2] Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

[3] And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

[4] Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

[5] And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

[6] And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

[7] And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Here it is. This is what it is all about. They were in an official “court setting” now and the lawyers, cops, judges, etc., it's all the same - same today as back then - nothing new under the sun - where do you get the authority to do what you are doing? By what power, by what name - whose authority. Verse 8:

[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

[9] If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

[10] Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole.

[11] This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

That's a direct reference to Bible prophecy. Peter is telling them that the prophecies were being fulfilled on them.

[12] Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

[13] Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

[14] And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

[15] But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

[16] Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

[17] But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

[18] And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

When all of this started, where was Peter and John? At the outside of the temple, getting ready to go inside the temple. Peter was preaching and teaching in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. There's no record of Peter telling them to close down the temple. There's no record of Peter telling them to stop the sacrifices. There's no record of Peter telling them to end the priesthood. And not only is there no record of Peter telling them to stop the Old Covenant washings - the record is that they were gladly, zealously, by the thousands, keeping the Old Covenant washings that were required prior to entrance into the temple.

All the requirements of the temple were being done by Peter and those Christians in the early days of the Book of Acts. The only difference is - those acts - those works of the Law - were being performed by Peter and the Christians - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. Or, at the very least - they were telling everyone in Jerusalem that would listen to them - that everything in the Law God gave Moses was supposed to now be done - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

Again, I simply do not understand why this is so hard for some people to see.

Where's the record of Christ providing the details to His disciples concerning the ending of the sacrifices in the temple from the time of His death, burial and resurrection and the day of Pentecost? It isn't there. There's no record. Why is it that the most detailed book explaining the ending of the Old and the establishing of the New - is not until we get to the book of Hebrews? Why is that we find Peter, James, John, Phillip - boasting of the thousands of Judahites who believe and are zealous of the Law - why is that in the Book of Acts - they have not yet figured out that animal sacrifices were supposedly no more. Why are they continuing with Old Covenant water washings?

Why is not until Paul comes onto the scene some time after Christ has ascended into heaven - before we hear of the first instruction that the Law God gave Moses was not for everyone at that time?

Friends - it's easy. The Law God gave Moses did not completely, officially end until the temple came down. Not until Jerusalem was destroyed. That's what the Bible says. That's not God being silent on the issue. That's not the silence of God being there so we can make up our own rules and come to our conclusions. The details are there. But - there are some requirements for understanding.

1) Luke 24:44-45

And He said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Friends, I've been mocked - not just me - you have been, too - for saying for years and years and years now - if a man doesn't understand that all the prophecies were fulfilled in Christ, in the first century, he will not understand the Scriptures. That's the first thing that needs to happen to understand. That's what Jesus said.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

If a man has been taught all his life that the Kingdom is future - based on the deception that Bible prophecy is yet to be fulfilled - well - how can he know anything about the Bible if he thinks - what is supposed to be first - the Kingdom of God - if he thinks that is yet in the future?

So what happens - spiritually - is this. It's called "church." That's what happens. And Bible knowledge and understanding - which is more important than the knowledge part - understanding is in the "church" is superficial at best. It's Jonah and a whale - it's veggie tales - it's a form of godliness but denying the power thereof - it's ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of truth.

We're hear in Acts 4 verses 18 - 19:

[18] And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

[19] But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

Then church people reading this and saying that by the time Paul gets to Romans 13 - what Peter said in Acts 4:19 is not just an after thought - but it's as if it was never recorded in the book. Acts 4:19 is a summed up principle of the Bible that is found in every single book of the Bible - and it pretty much sums up the purpose of man.

If a man can't figure out that the "church" teachings on Romans 13 are completely contrary to what Peter said in Acts 4:19 - what hope is there? Well, I'm telling you that while men are in the muck and mire of that thing called "church" which is futurism and statism at its fullest - there's no possible way they can understand what the Christian life is supposed to be about. Verse 20, Peter continues:

[20] For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

[21] So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified

God for that which was done.

[22] For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

[23] And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

[24] And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

[25] Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

[26] The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

[27] For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

[28] For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

[29] And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

[30] By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Alright. I want to move quickly now. I've been trying to get through this part of this series for several weeks now and I keep getting sidetracked. And that's fine - we needn't be in a hurry anyway.

Here is where we are headed. I'm trying to show that the Book of Acts - clearly stated by Peter in Acts 2 - was the last days of the Old Covenant. The believers in Jerusalem who had ready access to the temple - were obligated to continue keeping the services of the temple - the Law God gave Moses - but - they were to do so - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

They were in the last days. They were in the days of the vanishing of the Old and the establishing of the New. This is why they were keeping the Old Covenant washings - washings that were - for reasons that we can only hope God will someday reveal to us - the washings - wash the clothes - bathe the skin - in the first 39 books of the Bible - they were called washings. Then, as we continue through the writings of the Old Covenant, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts - for some reason - (I have my suspicions and I'm sure you do, too) but the washings were now called "baptisms." Weird. Was this purposeful deception? Was this on purpose to make it hard for people

to find the Kingdom of God? I don't know. Why was the word "church" added? We don't know for sure - obviously - we weren't there. I can say this - thanks to our Father in Heaven - who - in spite of the efforts of men and their little "churches" and their little "governments" - who have tried to keep people from finding the Kingdom and finding truth - well - they failed.

God has preserved His Word among those who are seeking His Kingdom. We are grateful for this and will continue to try to help others find these truths.

The washings seen in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the book of Acts have been erroneously renamed as "baptisms." Whenever we see the application of physical water to the flesh anywhere in the Bible - it is Old Covenant works of the Law.

As we progress through the book of Acts - we actually begin to see it a little less. We also see a little less mention of the temple. Why? Because virtually everytime we see the early Christians in the book of Acts going to the temple - what happens to them? They get beaten. They get thrown in jail. They get mocked and ridiculed, threatened - and even killed.

We see the temple less and less and less as we progress through the book of Acts. Then, when the book of Acts concludes - we start to enter a distinctly different approach. The letters of Paul are distinctly different from what we find in the book of Acts. This is what I plan to get into beginning next week.