

How We Got Into the ERROR of Mid-Acts Doctrine

Now that we are out of 'mid-Acts' doctrine we can clearly see how outrageous it is and we have wondered HOW we were snookered.

Before we became 'mid-Acts-ers', we were members of a mainline, traditional, fundamental, denominational church. For many years we served the Lord ignorantly, without knowing very much of His word.

We claimed promises that we read in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, only to be disappointed when they did not come to pass. We knew a woman who was sick with cancer. She called for the elders of the church to annoint her with oil and pray for her. Instead of getting well, she died. None of the clergy had a good excuse. We did not understand the holy scriptures. We were ripe and ready to hear a preacher to explain them.

Enter the **C**unning **R**oyal **J**ester who impressed us to trust his paradigm, and we were off and running. He was an effective communicator that trained us well. We learned verses, and became puffed up, thinking that we had the only handle on the Bible, and the entire rest of Christendom was wrong. 'Mid-Acts-ers' also identify themselves as 'right-dividers' by using 2 Tim 2:15 as their **spring-board to divide God's word** into **2 basic sections**, namely 'PAUL' and 'everything OUTSIDE of Paul'.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

They begin like this, Since PAUL told us to 'rightly-divide' let's look to PAUL to show us how to 'rightly-divide'. They derived 'Time Past', and 'But Now' from Eph 2:11-13, but then they have **reverse direction** and go **backward**, rather than continuing **forward**, where one would expect the 'future' to be) to find the 'Ages to Come' in Eph 2:7. The verses are out of natural order, but, "Who cares?" it makes their paradigm work out:

Eph 2:11-12 Wherefore remember, that ye being in **time past** Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at **that time** (what time? **time past**) ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Paul's 13 epistles ALONE were pulled out as '**unique**' for the 'But Now':

Eph 2:13 **But now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:7 That in **the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Now that they have established these '**Past, Present, and Future**' **divisions**, they showed us that **God began the Bible by DIVIDING** in its very first verse:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the **heaven** and the **earth**.

They started with enough verses to hook us, and we followed their lead. They teach that, since God created **2 separate places**,

He must have **2 different purposes** for them

which requires **2 distinct groups** to inhabit them.

These self-called 'mid-Acts, right-dividers' **single out PAUL** and **DIVIDE his writings** away from all the rest of the apostles and prophets.

They advertise about the '**DISTINCTIVE ministry of the apostle Paul**' in printed literature, brochures, conference invitations, and messages:

Rom 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles,** I magnify mine office:

They also distinguish themselves as '**DISPENSATIONALISTS**' and build many of their **2 program doctrines** from Eph 3, where they establish their all-time favorite subject, the '**MYSTERY**' given to Paul. They focus on **setting up 'one body'** that, they say, consists of **ONLY** people who have believed the gospel through PAUL's ministry, thus excluding all other saints:

Eph 3:1-9 For this cause **I Paul,**
 the prisoner of Jesus Christ **for you Gentiles,**
 2 If ye have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God**
 which is **given me (Paul) to you-ward: (to you Gentiles)**
 3 How that by revelation **he made known unto me (Paul) the mystery;**
 (as I wrote afore in few words,
 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge
 in the **mystery** of Christ)
 5 Which in **other ages (that would be 'time past')** was not made known
 unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and
 prophets by the Spirit;
 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,
 and of the **same body,**
 and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:
 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the **grace** of God
 given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this **grace** given,
 that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;
 9 And to **make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,**
 which **from the beginning of the world (that would be 'time past')**
hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Once they led us by the nose through Eph 3, and we stayed with them we were well on our way to being completely engulfed in their false doctrine. They **extract verses out of context, contrast them, and separate them**, even using the analogy of a mailman, distributing letters.

They boldly proclaim, "All the Bible is FOR us, but it is not all TO us, nor ABOUT us," as they **discard everything 'outside of Paul' as not being applicable** to them. They promote **things that differ, as they constantly DIVIDE**. They use a basic **CHART** that displays their policy of **separation**. It categorizes the books of the Bible, like:

- Genesis to Acts in Time Past,
 - Romans through Philemon in But Now,
- and • Hebrews to Revelation for the Ages to Come.

They say God has **2 agencies**, namely, Israel and the body of Christ. After they got us that far, we were lost in their endless maze, searching for at least **2 of everything** to dissect into

- **2 agencies** namely, Israel and the body of Christ
 - **2 programs** prophecy and mystery
 - **2 operating systems** law and Grace
 - **2 destinies and inheritances** earthly and heavenly
- even • **2 Jesus'** earthly and heavenly.

So called 'mid-Acts, right-dividers' teach that anyone who does not agree with them has fallen prey to 'the world's most dangerous doctrine' of being 'biblical' and 'scriptural' but not what-they-call 'dispensational'.

We were swept away and deceived by 'mid-Acts' unsound doctrine because we had been confused by Bible verses that we couldn't reconcile:

Matt 6:14-15 For **if** ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
15 But **if** ye forgive **not** men their trespasses, **neither** will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matt 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and **healed all that were sick:**

Matt 21:22 And **all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

Mark 16:16 He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved;** but he that believeth not shall be damned.

James 2:24 Ye see then how that **by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

We had problems with verses like that, and we let so-called 'mid-Acts rightly-dividers' answer them for us. But they gave us **WRONG** answers, and after nearly 30 years of believing their heresy, we finally realized it and jumped off their bus. We are so thankful to be out!

They **disect foundational principles of faith** and teach men **NOT** to repent, by saying that Jesus taught repentance in Israel's program:

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but **sinner to repentance.**

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent,**
ye shall all likewise perish.

It is recorded in Acts that **PAUL,**

the very apostle 'mid-Acts-ers' **claim** to follow (but really **don't** follow),
also said (that GOD said) **for EVERYBODY to repent.**

PAUL also said 'to repent' in the 'But Now' (which they claim to be in):

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at;
but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Paul repeatedly taught for everyone to repent, regardless of nationality:

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks,
repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Before king Agrippa, Paul also testified for the Gentiles to repent:

Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem,
and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then **to the Gentiles, that**
they should repent and turn to God, **and do works meet for repen-**
tance.

Paul taught repentance to the beloved saints of God at Rome:

Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance
and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee**
to repentance?

To the church of God at Corinth, with all the saints in Achaia,

by inspiration of God, Paul wrote to them also of **repentance to salvation:**

2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh **repentance to salvation** not to be
repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Yet, in spite of God's word, they still say repentance is not necessary now.

That is just one example, on one subject. We could give many more.

Let's re-visit Eph 3, to notice some key information 'mid-Acts dividers' omit. Clearly, Paul was specifically given the dispensation of the grace of God **for the Gentiles:**

Eph 3:1-6 For this cause **I Paul,**
the prisoner of Jesus Christ **for you Gentiles,**
2 If ye have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God**
which is **given me (Paul) to you-ward:** (to you Gentiles)

Clearly, Paul learned the 'mystery of Christ' directly from Christ, not man just like he got the 'gospel' he preached (Gal 1:11-12):

(Eph 3): 3 How that by revelation **he made known unto me (Paul)**
the **mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words,
4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge
in the **mystery of Christ**)

The 'mystery of Christ' was **NOT ENTIRELY unknown** in Time Past;
it was just not **publicized in the same way that it is now disclosed:**

(Eph 3:) 5 Which in **other ages** (that would be 'time past')
was **not made known** unto the sons of men,
as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Here is exactly what the 'mystery of Christ' is: 3 points spelled out plainly.

1) • Gentiles will have a **JOINT-INHERITANCE** with **ALL** of God's heirs:

(Eph 3:) 6-a That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,**

That is the very same thing Paul said verbally to the Ephesian elders:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God,
and to the word of his **grace,** which is able to build you up,
and to **give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**

Notice our inheritance is **AMONG** those who were **already believers**.

Paul said it **again** when he testified to King Agrippa (Acts 26:2) and recounted Jesus' words to him on the road to Damascus. Jesus sent him to the Gentiles, that they may be 'fellowheirs' 'among' the saints who had trusted Christ **BEFORE** he was even saved:

Acts 26:17-18 Delivering thee from the people,
and from **the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**
18 To open their eyes,
and to turn them from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan unto God,
that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and
inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Go back in Eph 3:6, for the 2nd point of definition in the mystery of Christ:

2) • Gentiles will be JOINED in ONE body with **ALL** of God's church:

(Eph 3:) 6-b and of the **same body,**

The body of Christ is the church, not a different church, nor a different body

Col 1:18 And he is the head of **the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. (also see Col 1:24)

Since the body is the church, and Paul persecuted the church before he was saved then Paul persecuted the body of Christ, who was **BEFORE him:**

1 Cor 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because **I persecuted the church of God.**

There is only one body, the same body which is the church of God in Christ:

Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are **one body in Christ,**
and every one members one of another.

The body of Christ are those **in Christ**. Paul named some of his

Jewish relatives, who were **in Christ BEFORE he was:**

Rom 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, **my kinsmen**, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, **who also were in Christ before me.**

The body of Christ is the church of God. The churches of Judaea were churches of God, and were in Christ (before Paul) thus, they were the body of Christ (before Paul):

Gal 1:22-23 And was unknown by face unto **the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:**

23 But they had heard only, That **he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.**

1 Thess 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of **the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus:** for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

So, for the Gentiles to be 'of the same body' means the body of Christ was already in existence (before Paul), and now the Gentiles are included in the church of God, which is in Christ, which is His same body. Go back in Eph 3:6, for the 3rd point of definition in the mystery of Christ:

3) • Gentiles who believe the gospel of Christ, are in Christ, and they now get to take part in the promise God initially gave to Israel:

(Eph 3:) 6-c and **partakers of his promise in Christ** by the gospel:

That is the same principle Paul explained to the churches of Galatia:

Gal 3:14 That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise** of the Spirit through faith.

In 'Time Past' we were strangers from the covenants of promise (Eph 2:12)
 'But Now' we are partakers of the covenants of promise (Eph 3:6)
 because, now, we belong to Christ and we are in Christ and we are
 Abraham's seed. That's why we share his blessing, as fellow-(joint)-heirs:

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,
 and heirs according to the promise.

We Gentiles are partakers of His promise WITH Israel. What was His
 promise to them? Eternal life! We will share eternal life AMONG Israel:

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us,
 even eternal life.

That's the same promise of eternal life that Paul wrote about to Timothy

2 Tim 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according
 to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

The mystery is, we get God's blessing, originally promised to Abraham
 because by faith in Christ, now we, too, are Abraham's seed:

Rom 4:13-17 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world,
 was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righ-
 teousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the
 promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no trans-
 gression.

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace;
 to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;
 not to that only which is of the law,
 but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham;
 who is the father of us all,

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before
 him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth
 those things which be not as though they were.

In conclusion about how we got into 'mid-Acts' ERROR we were tithing, walking aisles during altar calls, praying for miracles, and struggling with 'red-writing' verses, under which Jesus lived when He was under the law of the OLD testament. We did not know that the NEW testament, of which we are able ministers (2 Cor 3:6), began AFTER Christ died:

Heb 9:15-17 And for this cause **he is the mediator of the new testament**, that **by means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, **they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**

16 For **where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.**

17 For **a testament is of force after men are dead:**

otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

We were fascinated by a story-teller that we let influence us. We were taught that if anyone claimed to be following Jesus they were following the 'earthly Jesus' who was 'another Jesus' not the 'risen, glorified Lord' who called Paul. Now we see that we followed a **Cunning Royal Jester** as he followed Paul instead of us following Paul, as he followed Christ:

1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me (Paul), even as I also am of Christ.

No more will we deny the ONE body, the SAME body, in Christ:

Eph 4:14-16 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and **cunning craftiness**, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom **the whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.