

Basic Errors in Mid-Acts Doctrine

Basic Division is Between the OLD Testament and the NEW Testament

Mid-Acts doctrine teaches that the main division in the Bible is between two 'programs' they label as 'prophecy' and 'mystery'. But as we read through this passage in 2 Cor. 3:2-18, you can notice two major 'covenants' and their various representations. (We will reference other verses along the way.) Paul described:

The OLD covenant was typified as the letter in ink on tables of hard stone.

The NEW covenant was described as being of the spirit on soft, humble, pliable (contrite) hearts:

2 Cor 3:2-3 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us,
written not with ink,

but with the Spirit of the living God;

not in tables of stone,

but in fleshy tables of the heart.

.... and as Ezekiel wrote the same things:

Ezek 11:19-20 And I will give them one heart,

and I will put a new spirit within you;

and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh,

and will give them an heart of flesh:

20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them:

and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezek 36:25-27 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean:
from all your filthiness,

and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you,

and a new spirit will I put within you:

and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh,

and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes,

and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Not to be overlooked is the ministry to which we are called of God, namely, that of the NEW testament. Mid-Acts-ers make a separation between a testament and a covenant, but the same Greek word <diatheke> is translated both 'covenant' 20 times, and 'testament' 13 times.

Paul contrasted the letter that kills with the spirit that gives life:

2 Cor 3:4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament;

not of the letter, but of the spirit:

for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Paul explained the difference of the governing principles between the OLD testament's penalty of death, which would give way to the NEW testament's promise of eternal life:

2 Cor 3:7-8 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

The ministration of **death** compared to the ministration of the spirit, which giveth life (2 Cor 3:6) of which we read 2 verses earlier in this text:

2 Cor 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

The ministration of **condemnation** is contrasted
with the ministration of **righteousness:**

2 Cor 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory,
much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Again, **OUT with the OLD** and **IN with the NEW:**

2 Cor 3:10-11 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect,
by reason of the glory that excelleth.

11 For if that which is done away was glorious,
much more that which remaineth is glorious.

Anyone who won't let go of "that which is abolished" is hanging on to a veil that prophesied the Saviour, rather than seeing clearly the open manifestation of Him. The NEW testament in Christ's blood removes the OLD testament types and shadows:

2 Cor 3:12-16 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament;
which veil is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

God's Spirit is the Lord, Who brings freedom to the captives
and deliverance from bondage:

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit:
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

We need to see these truths clearly, like looking in a mirror at ourselves,
yet seeing Jesus:

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

At the Last Trump will be the END of a Mystery

Paul taught that "at the last trump" is when the resurrection of the dead will take place.

1 Cor 15:51-54 Behold, I shew you a mystery;

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:

for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption,
and this mortal shall have put on immortality,

then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, (Isa 25:8)

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The 7th angel will sound the last trumpet. That's when the mystery will wrap up. Also notice that this information has been revealed to 'more than just Paul' (Eph 3:4-5):

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel,

when he shall begin to sound,

the mystery of God should be finished,

as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

In the scriptures, Paul equated 'the mystery of God' with 'the mystery of Christ':

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love,

and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,

to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

God continually comforts His saints, even those souls under the altar in heaven, "that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" (Rev 6:9-10), who cry unto Him for vengeance of their murder (Luke 18:7, Psa 94:1-3).

Again, when Paul taught about the timing of the resurrection of the dead it will be when Jesus comes from heaven. Again, it will be at the trumpet's sound:

1 Thess 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,

with the voice of the archangel,

and with the trump of God:

and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (Where He is we will be. Where He goes, we will go. He will not come to earth for 1,000 years and leave us 'alone without Him' in heaven.)

Paul taught the judgment and vengeance and punishment of the wicked **in the same day when Jesus comes from heaven** as when He will be glorified in His saints who have suffered for God's kingdom (2 Thess 1:12, Rom 8:17):

2 Thess 1:4-10 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us,

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire **taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be **punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 **When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.**

When Jesus comes, He will gather His elect:

2 Thess 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,**

These are basically the same elements that Jesus taught His disciples when they asked Him what would be the sign of His coming and of the end of the world (Matt 24:3):

Matt 24:30-31 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:

and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn,

and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

31 And **he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The coming of the Lord will not be a 'secret' snatching away of only Paul's converts, as mid-Acts-ers teach. EVERYBODY will see Him, and those who rejected Him will be sorry then, but it will be too late to repent (Isa 49:8, 2 Cor 6:2, Rev 22:11):

Rev 1:7 Behold, **he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him,**

and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The 7th angel's trump will be the LAST trump. That's when everything will culminate:

Rev 11:15 And **the seventh angel sounded;** and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.** (not just for 1,000 years - followed by rebellion)

In the same context of Rev 11:15 (the last trump), we see the same things prophesied, when Christ comes from heaven to establish His 'visible' kingdom on earth:

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry,
and thy wrath is come,
and the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
and that thou shouldst give reward
unto thy servants the prophets,
and to the saints,
and them that fear thy name, small and great;
and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

After Christ comes it will be the END! There will not be 1,000 years of SIN still on the earth with the lost still in rebellion to Jesus' authority and culminating in world-wide mutiny against the King. After Christ comes the dead will be raised, the alive will be changed, and it will be time for the judgment:

1 Cor 15:23-26 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits;
afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.
26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Mid-Acts-ers Will Call Jesus 'the Lord' But Will NOT Call Him 'the King'

Mid-Acts-ers frown on anyone who refers to Jesus as the King

- even though Jesus is seated on the throne in heaven, ruling NOW,
- and even though the 'risen, glorified Lord' said 'all power is given unto Him in heaven and earth' (Matt 28:18) when He appeared to His disciples,
- and even though PAUL presented Jesus as the King:

1 Tim 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus already IS the King of Kings though when He appears, every eye will see Him (Rev 1:7, 17:14, 19:16) in power and great glory (Mt 24:30, Mk 13:26, Lk 21:27):

1 Tim 6:14-15 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable,
until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

As prophesied, after His work on earth was done, Christ is NOW on the throne:

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (Psa 110:1; Matt 22:44, 26:64; Mark 12:36, 14:61-62, 16:19; Luke 20:42, 22:69; Acts 2:32-35; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20; Heb 1:1-3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2; 1 Pet 3:21-22)

Mid-Acts-ers teach that Paul preached a 'unique' gospel that was 'different' than all the other prophets, including Jesus Himself but according to scripture, that is not true:

Mid-Acts-ers say that 'the gospel OF the circumcision' (Gal 2:7) and 'the gospel of God' (1 Pet 4:17) preached by Peter was not the same gospel that Paul preached. But if it was distinct, then Peter would be accursed:

Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, **If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

By reading the context of the favorite 'salvation' verses used by mid-Acts-ers the scriptures testify many men, including Peter, that preached the same thing.

A second point in this passage, is that the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection that was being preached was **already recorded in the holy writ:**

1 Cor 15:3-11 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

4 And that he was buried,

and that **he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

5 And that he was seen of **Cephas, (that's Peter)**

then of **the twelve:**

6 After that, he was seen of **above five hundred brethren** at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of **James;**

then of **all the apostles.**

8 And last of all he was seen of **me (Paul)** also, as of one born out of due time.

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.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore **whether it were I (Paul) or they, (Peter, the 12, over 500 brothers, James, and all the apostles) so we preach,** and so ye believed.

Peter stated that God picked him out to take the gospel of grace to the Gentiles:

Acts 15:7-11 And when there had been much disputing, **Peter** rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that **the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And **put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.**

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

One Lord Jesus Christ

Mid-Acts-ers teach that Jesus, in His 'earthly' ministry (at His first coming) was 'another Jesus'. They make a difference between Jesus 'on earth' as opposed to Jesus as 'the risen, glorified Lord' that appeared to Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus.

2 Cor 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

In their mid-Acts effort to keep Jesus 'separate' by dividing Him between PAUL and everybody else consider this question: Would they have the 'risen, glorified Lord' that appeared to the disciples (Luke 24:36-40) be the same 'risen, glorified Lord' that appeared to Saul/Paul or would they classify Him as still being 'another Jesus' from His 'earthly' ministry? These mid-Acts doctrines are outrageous:

1 Cor 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Mid-Acts-ers focus on 'one baptism' but they teach 2 Lords (Jesus in His earthly ministry, and Jesus after His resurrection -- starting with His appearance to Paul) and they teach 2 faiths (one for Israel, and a different faith for Paul's converts -- who they identify as 'the body of Christ' to the EXclusion of all other saints):

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

There is only ONE true Jesus and the TRUE Jesus was NEVER 'another' Jesus:

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

The scriptures teach that it was "this SAME Jesus" Who was crucified and risen:

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 2:31-32 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

"Even now are there many antichrists" (1 John 2:18) but NONE were Jesus in the flesh:

Matt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

The Office of a Bishop (Not a Pastor)

Paul NEVER used the term 'the office of a PASTOR'. He was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write 'the office of a BISHOP' yet mid-Acts-ers make excuses to reject this 'KJV word' 'bishop' in favor of The Living Bible's SUBSTITUTE word 'pastor'. They say they prefer 'pastor' because of demographics, prejudice, and false religions. But they refuse to change 'dispensation' to be 'stewardship' (even though the KJV does in Luke 16:2,3,4). They WANT to be called 'dispensationalists' --- but NOT 'bishops':

1 Tim 3:1-7 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:6-9 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

The bishops were the 'overseers' (Acts 20:28), yet mid-Acts-ers disregard the office:

Phil 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Mid-Acts-ers Teach that 'Only ISRAEL' is God's SHEEP

Oddly, mid-Acts-ers (who use the metaphor 'PASTOR' for 'SHEPHERD' for their bishops) insist that Israel is strictly God's sheep:

Psa 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (also Psa 79:13, 95:7)

Jer 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Jer 50:17-a Israel is a scattered sheep; (also 1 Kings 22:17, 2 Chron 18:16)

Matt 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (also Matt 15:24)

Mid-Acts say that the "other sheep" that Jesus has, are the 'scattered sheep' of Israel, meaning those 'not residing' in the land of Israel. Even if you could ever get them to admit that these 'other sheep' were Gentiles coming to Christ because they were 'BEFORE PAUL' they would automatically ASSIGN them to be in what-they-call ISRAEL'S PROPHECY PROGRAM, in Israel's 'KINGDOM CHURCH' which they keep COMPLETELY SEPARATE from what-they-call "the church, the body of Christ", which they say is PAUL'S MYSTERY PROGRAM. Mid-Acts-ers will NOT use Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd" at all, and even snicker at it on funeral memorial cards:

John 10:14-16 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep,

and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father:

and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Mid-Acts-ers DIVIDE "the children of God" into 2 DIFFERENT groups those saved under 'ANYONE's ministry OTHER THAN Paul' and those 'OF' Paul. They will NOT ALLOW "the children of God" to be 'ONE' (Rom 8:16, 9:6-8; Gal 3:26):

John 11:51-52 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

Paul applied the OLD testament PROPHECY of Psa 44:22, to the saints as 'sheep':

Rom 8:36-37 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

In the context of Paul's preaching "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24) and "the kingdom of God" (Acts 20:25), the Ephesian church was called a flock:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, (Greek word <episkopos> translated 'bishop' 6 times, and 'overseers' 1 time) to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (also John 21:14-17)

Mid-Acts-ers refuse Peter's authority, and thus they refuse 'the body of Christ' (who they think to be ONLY Paul's converts) as being 'sheep' and they refuse Jesus as Shepherd and Bishop of their souls:

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (Greek word <episkopeo>) thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Scolded For Dividing

Paul reproved the saints for arguing over 'which minister' brought them the gospel. Mid-Acts-ers teach that you can only be saved today through PAUL's ministry, and that Jesus and Peter and Apollos all taught a 'different' gospel than what Paul preached:

1 Cor 1:11-13 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith,

- I am of Paul;
- and I of Apollos;
- and I of Cephas; (Peter)
- and I of Christ.

13 Is Christ divided?

was Paul crucified for you?

or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Mid-Acts-ers EXCLUDE Apollos from the body of Christ, because he knew only the water baptism of John (Acts 18:25). Yet Paul expressed that he and Apollos are ONE:

1 Cor 3:3-8 For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, • I am of Paul;
and another, • I am of Apollos;

are ye not carnal?

5 • Who then is Paul,
 • and who is Apollos,

but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 • I have planted,
 • Apollos watered;

but God gave the increase.

7 So then • neither is he that planteth any thing, (Paul)
 • neither he that watereth; (Apollos)

but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one:

and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Paul repeatedly taught that it did NOT MATTER 'WHO' was the minister. Apollos AND Peter were BOTH shown, along with Paul, to be preachers of "THE MYSTERY":

1 Cor 3:21-23 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

22 Whether • Paul,
 • or Apollos,
 • or Cephas, (Peter)

or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

1 Cor 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us (Paul, Apollos, and Cephas-Peter),
as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Paul was NOT the First Member of 'the Church, the Body of Christ'

Mid-Acts-ers teach (without a verse that says so) that Paul was the 1st member of 'the church, the body of Christ'. The only verse they offer for this, does not even mentioning anything about being a 'member' nor being in 'the church' nor being in 'the body of Christ'. The context presents Paul as the 'chief' of sinners to whom Jesus '1st' showed 'all longsuffering' as an example to others who would be saved:

1 Tim 1:15-16 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners; of whom I am chief.**

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that **in me first** Jesus Christ might **shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern** to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Peter also wrote of God's longsuffering in connection with salvation and Paul:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but **is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

2 Peter 3:15 And account that **the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul** also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Paul clearly showed that there were Jewish saints who were 'in Christ' before him:

Rom 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, **my kinsmen,** (they were Jews) and my fellowprisoners, (they were jailed, like Paul, for helping in his ministry) who are of note among the apostles, who also (along with other people) **were in Christ before me.**

Gal 1:22 And (Paul) was unknown by face (they would not know him if they saw him) unto **the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:**

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:

Being 'In Christ' is Being 'In the Body of Christ'

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

1 Cor 12:27 Now **ye are the body of Christ,** and members in particular.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ,** he is a new creature: (also Gal 6:15) old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1 Peter 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. (Peter also wrote to EVERY-ONE who was 'in Christ'): **Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.** Amen.

**'The Circumcision' is No Longer 'Israel' in the 'Physical'
But Now, it is 'Anyone' (including 'us' Gentiles) in 'the Spiritual'**

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Rom 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly;

neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Paul Taught 'NONE OTHER THINGS' Than Moses and the Prophets Said

Mid-Acts-ers teach that Paul had a 'distinctive' ministry - a 'unique' message - a 'mystery' revelation that NO ONE EVER HEARD OF BEFORE. But what saith the scripture?

Acts 26:20-23 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

23 That Christ should suffer, (the death of Christ) and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, (His resurrection) and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. (Gentile salvation)

Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him (Paul) a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

What Peter Taught Before Paul

After Saul's conversion "straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God". All the people that heard him were amazed because he had destroyed them that called on the name of Jesus; **now he was a disciple**. The Jews took counsel to kill him (Acts 9:20-25), but he escaped and was sent to Tarsus:

Acts 9:26-27 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Before Paul went God sent PETER to the Gentiles to tell Cornelius, who was a Gentile centurion in Caesarea of the Italian band (Acts 10:1), and his kinsmen and near friends (Acts 10:24) words whereby they could all be saved (Acts 11:14). Peter recounted to the council at Jerusalem, just exactly what he preached to them:

- the gospel of salvation
- they were baptized by the Holy Spirit
- 'no difference' between the Jews and the Gentiles
- they were not to be put under the law of Moses or circumcision (Acts 15:1,5)
- they were saved by grace also:

Acts 15:7-11 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago **God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And **put no difference between us and them**, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through **the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

Paul Opened Every Epistle with Grace and Peace But so did PETER

Mid-Acts-ers often talk about Paul opening ALL his letters with grace and peace, and they say it's because "that was God's 'official attitude' toward the world now". But they NEVER even mention that ALL of Peter's epistles begin with grace and peace too:

1 Peter 1:1-2 **Peter**, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: **Grace** unto you, **and peace**, be multiplied.

2 Peter 1:1-2 **Simon Peter**, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 **Grace and peace** be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

Neither do they point out that John started 2 of his letters with grace and peace:

2 John 1:3 **Grace** be with you, mercy, **and peace**, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Rev 1:4 **John** to the seven churches which are in Asia: **Grace** be unto you, **and peace**, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

There are NOT 2 Different INHERITANCES

Mid-Acts-ers teach that Israel has the EARTH for their eternal inheritance and that PAUL'S CONVERTS (who-they-call exclusively 'the church, the body of Christ') have the HEAVENS for their eternal inheritance thus making 2 SEPARATE DESTINIES. But when JESUS saved and commissioned Paul, He told him right up front, that the Gentiles, to whom Paul was being sent, would SHARE inheritance AMONG those who were 'AL-READY' sanctified by faith in Him (which would be ALL believers in Christ):

Acts 26:15-18 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, **to make thee a minister and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people,
and from **the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

18 To open **their** (Gentiles) eyes,
and to turn **them** (Gentiles) from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan unto God,

that **they** (Gentiles) may receive forgiveness of sins,
and **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

Paul told the elders at Ephesus that their inheritance was AMONG 'ALL' the sanctified:

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.**

That's the same thing Paul wrote in the epistle to the Ephesian and Colossian saints and to the faithful brethren in Christ Jesus (Eph 1:1, Col 1:1):

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,** (inheritors with the fellow believing Israelites that had faith in Jesus)

and of the **same body,** ("the church of God, them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with **all** that **in**

every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" - 1 Cor 1:2)

and **partakers of his promise in Christ** by the gospel: ('the Gentiles have been made partakers of Israel's spiritual things' - Rom 15:27)

We are equipped to be partakers with all other saints who are also in God's kingdom. Mid-Acts-ers don't like to be associated with 'the kingdom of God' because that was 'the gospel' that Jesus (Mark 1:14) and His 12 disciples (Luke 9:1-2) preached. Jesus also taught many parables about 'the kingdom of God':

Col 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet** (fit, able) **to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and **hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

Paul repeatedly included the Gentiles WITH the SAME inheritance God promised Israel:

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise:
but God gave it (the inheritance) to Abraham by promise.

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Abraham KNEW the promised land on earth was but a prelude to the eternal land:

Heb 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations,
whose builder and maker is God.

Even the saints under the OLD testament understood their eternal inheritance was heavenly not earthly:

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Where is that city? It is Mount Zion, but NOT the earthly one!

Heb 12:22-24 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Who will inherit it?

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn (Col 1:18), which are written in heaven, (Luke 10:20, Phil 4:3, Rev 20:15) and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

How is the inheritance provided? By Jesus' blood of the new testament, of which WE are able ministers (2 Cor 3:6):

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The city God prepared is the NEW, HEAVENLY Jerusalem:

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

That city of God new Jerusalem is OUR MOTHER. PAUL wrote that:

Gal 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

We just read where PAUL wrote that **new Jerusalem is our mother** (Gal 4:26).

Abraham Is Our Father

Rom 4:11-12 And he (Abraham - Rom 4:9) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that **he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised;** that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And **the father of circumcision to them** who are not of the circumcision only, but **who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.**

Rom 4:16 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,**

WE are Children of Abraham

Gal 3:7 Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

We are Abraham's Seed

In a conversation between the Jews and Jesus, they said they were Abraham's seed, and He recognized their 'physical' descent:

John 8:33 They answered him, **We be Abraham's seed,** and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

John 8:37 **I know that ye are Abraham's seed;** but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

But Jesus rejected them as true children of Abraham, because they did not love Him:

John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham is our father.** Jesus saith unto them, **If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me;** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil,** and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The 'true' seed of Abraham is those who belong to Christ. We are the 'true' heirs:

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

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

... which brings us back to the issue of our INHERITANCE:

Paul taught that WE are the called of God (1 Cor 1:2,9,23-24; Col 3:15; 1 Thess 2:12) ... thus we have the promise of everlasting life because of Jesus' blood:

Heb 9:15 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.**

Mid-Acts-ers WRONGLY-DIVIDE by saying that PAUL taught 'a heavenly inheritance for the body of Christ' ... and that Israel's inheritance is 'earthly'. They believe that PETER is Israel's apostle. But PETER confirms the same thing as Paul. The 'true', PERMANENT inheritance is not on EARTH, but in HEAVEN, although in the day of God, it will come to earth (Rev 3:12, 21:2-3; Isa 65:17, 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13):

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our eternal life and blessed hope (Titus 2:13) are stored (2 Cor 5:1) in heaven:

Col 1:5 For **the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,** whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

That is the same promise that we will receive when Jesus comes (Heb 10:37):

Heb 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that **ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.**

Jesus told His disciples the same truth. The inheritance is waiting in heaven, until He appears and brings the kingdom of God to earth (visibly), until the times of restitution of all things (Acts 3:18-21, 1 Cor 15:23-28), in the dispensation of the fulness of times (Eph 1:10):

Matt 6:19-20 **Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,** where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,** where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matt 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

Psa 37:18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and **their inheritance shall be for ever.**

What To PRAY For

Mid-Acts-ers teach that praying for anything other than 'knowledge and understanding' is wasting time. They insist that we should only pray for 'spiritual' things (Phil 1:9-10, Col 1:9-12, 2 Thess 1:11-12). They say things like, "God isn't a realtor, so don't ask Him about selling your house. God isn't an employment agency, so don't bother talking to Him about needing a job." However, mid-Acts-ers do NOT follow their own advice because Paul prayed prayers they would NEVER pray.

The 'Pauline pattern' for prayer **in the scripture** (not in mid-Acts doctrine) is to talk to God about EVERYTHING on your heart. What a comfort:

Phil 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

Many mid-Acts-ers don't publicly thank God for their food. They don't think God provides meals, because, after all, He is not in the grocery or restaurant business. But Paul thanked God for his meal of meat (Acts 27:34,36) and bread:

Acts 27:35 And when he (Paul) had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

According to Paul God sanctifies 'food from animals' by His word and prayer:

1 Tim 4:4-5 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:
5 For **it is sanctified by** the word of God and **prayer.**

Paul prayed for the saints to refuse evil and be truthful:

2 Cor 13:7 Now **I pray to God that ye do no evil;** not that we should appear approved, **but that ye should do that which is honest,** though we be as reprobates.

Paul prayed for the spiritual **AND the physical:**

1 Thess 5:22-23 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;
and **I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless** **unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Paul prayed all the time, to be able to get together with other saints 'in person':

1 Thess 3:10 **Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face,** and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Paul told men to lift up pure hands to God in prayer. Mid-Acts-ers don't follow that:

1 Tim 2:8 **I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands,** without wrath and doubting.

Paul prayed for 'God to open a door':

Col 4:2-4 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance,
 to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
 4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Paul prayed for deliverance from evil, as Jesus instructed His disciples (Matt 6:13):

2 Thess 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
 2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men:
 for all men have not faith.

Prayer is so important that we are to pray constantly and never stop:

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Thess 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Do You Claim to be a 'CHRISTIAN' ?

Mid-Acts-ers don't want to be labeled as a Christian because PAUL didn't use the word. Neither will they identify themselves as being 'disciples' since John the Baptist and Jesus had 'disciples' plus 'disciples' became known as 'Christians':

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Mid-Acts-ers also avoid being called a Christian because they avoid PETER:

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

ALL Scripture is Profitable for DOCTRINE

A famous (actually, infamous) statement of mid-Acts preachers is, "You can't get DOCTRINE out of the book of Acts." That is in DIRECT CONTRAST to what GOD says:

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
 and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction in righteousness:

Furthermore, ALL scripture is good for conviction, improvement of life or character, nurture, and CHASTENING. But mid-Acts-ers don't believe God chastens His children.

The Lord CHASTENS His Children

Mid-Acts-ers teach that God does NOT chasten in the dispensation of grace. They want NO correction from the Lord for anything. They believe they're 'free under grace' to live however they want, including participate in sin. But it has NEVER been so:

Heb 12:5-11 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord,
nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,
and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons;
for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers,
then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure;

but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Deut 8:5-6 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that,

as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God,
to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Job 5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth:

therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Prov 3:11-12 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;
neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;

even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Paul, the only apostle mid-Acts-ers claim to follow, proves their mid-Acts doctrine to be WRONG. Even he indicates that God chastens His children today:

1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord,
that we should not be condemned with the world.

Mid-Acts-ers' attitude is, since sin is paid for, why worry about it? Paul says different:

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:
and these are contrary the one to the other:

so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

A Spiritual Body in the Resurrection

The children of God will be raised. Jesus said it, and Paul said it:

Luke 20:34-36 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Rom 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Gal 3:26, 1 John 3:10)

There is ONE resurrection of the dead. Jesus said it Paul said it:

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming,

in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow,

that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Even long ago, Job understood he would see God and have 'new flesh' (Job 19:26):

1 Cor 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Our bodies will be changed (1 Cor 15:51-52) like Jesus. Paul wrote it ... John wrote it:

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven;

from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

What kind of 'resurrected body' did Jesus have? It was a body of flesh and bones:

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Paul described our union with Christ in the same way of flesh and bones:

Our Beloved Brother Paul Spoke of 'These Things' in ALL His Epistles

In EVERY ONE of Paul's epistles you can read where he talked about the very SAME things that Peter wrote about in this passage:

- the last days
- scoffers / mockers
- the promise of the Lord's coming
- the Lord's coming
- the day of the Lord / the day of God / the day of Christ, etc.

2 Peter 3:15-18 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (Notice that Paul wrote to the same people Peter wrote to.)

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

This means that you can actually FIND in EVERY ONE of PAUL's epistles the VERY SAME information that PETER wrote about here. I challenge you to search diligently for it. You may be surprised at what all you find!

2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

2 Peter 3:7-13 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Paul Preached REPENTANCE

Contrary to what mid-Acts-ers teach no one can be saved except they REPENT. Part of the problem is they don't believe Jesus' words have any bearing on them:

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

Mid-Acts-ers constantly focus on Paul's "but now" phrases and yet they DISREGARD this "but now" from Paul because they don't want to REPENT of their sins:

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at;

but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Paul taught REPENTANCE before faith. When you are sorry for your sins, then you want the Saviour, Christ the Lord. Otherwise, you see no need for Him:

Acts 20:20-21 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks,

repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since mid-Acts-ers reject getting 'doctrine' from Acts, repentance is directly from Paul:

Rom 2:3-4 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

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

Paul again taught that repentance precedes salvation. It leads to it:

2 Cor 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry,

but that ye sorrowed to repentance:

for ye were made sorry after a godly manner,

that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation

not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Paul taught that anyone who is deceived or enslaved by anything ... needs to REPENT:

2 Tim 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive;

but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;

if God peradventure will give them repentance

to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

ADOPTION

Paul wrote that 'ADOPTION' belonged to Israel, initially 'according to the flesh'. But then, he explains that the 'true' Israel is NOT the PHYSICAL seed of Abraham, but the SPIRITUAL seed which includes ALL who are Christ's (Gal 3:29):

Rom 9:3-8 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen **according to the flesh:**

- 4 Who are **Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption,** and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;
- 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
- 6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.
For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:
- 7 **Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children:**
but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.
- 8 That is, **They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**

God classified Israel as a child (Hos 11:1) under the OLD testament, but after Christ came, and brought the NEW testament they were to "be no more CHILDREN, tossed to and fro" (Eph 4:14-15), but they (and we) are to GROW UP into Christ no longer under the law (Rom 6:14, Heb 8:13), but under grace:

Gal 4:1-7 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

- 2 But is under tutors and governors **until the time appointed of the father.**
- 3 Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage** under the elements of the world:
- 4 **But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,**
- 5 **To redeem them that were under the law,**
that we might receive the adoption of sons.
- 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
- 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son;
and if a son, **then an heir of God through Christ.**

Here again, the basic DIVISION is between the OLD and the NEW. The law (2 Cor 3:11) is done away in Christ (Rom 10:4), that the ministration of the Spirit remains:

John 1:17 For the **law** was given by Moses,
but **grace** and truth came by Jesus Christ.

This was the same principle as Jesus taught His disciples from servants to friends:

John 15:15 **Henceforth I call you not servants;**
for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends;
for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Paul taught that God's children, God sons are adopted and live to please Him:

Rom 8:12-16 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;

but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Paul included all saints in this adoption, as the children of God:

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

RIGHTLY-DIVIDING

Mid-Acts-ers use ONE verse as their SPRINGBOARD to DIVIDE everything into TWO:

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.

Mid-Acts-ers miss the CONTEXT of resurrection both BEFORE and AFTER verse 15:

2 Tim 2:8-12 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

If we understand the RIGHT division of God's word, we will not be CONFUSED about the future events, especially concerning the resurrection of the dead:

2 Tim 2:16-18 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Right division of the word of truth is certainly not LIMITED to the issue of the resurrection. But mid-Acts-ers have wrested it to create 2 separate people of God, 2 different churches of God, 2 programs, 2 destinies, 2 inheritances, more than 2 comings of Christ, more than 2 resurrections of the dead, even 2 Jesus'!

These issues are some of the many that could be presented, showing the errors of mid-Acts doctrine. They are organized by subject, although some overlap. From time to time, I will be adding other topics and verses. But this present list provides sufficient warning of the dangers of their hyper-dispensational teachings (Rev 18:4).

Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, **let God be true, but every man a liar;** as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"

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