

***God holds us accountable, without excuse ---
unless we are blind, deaf or ignorant!***

How do you know if you have an excuse for not obeying everything in the New Testament? No one knows everything in the Bible! And, does being blind, deaf or ignorant really give you an excuse for disobeying?

Read Romans 1:18 – 2:29:

18 “The wrath of God is being revealed from Heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the Truth by their wickedness, 19 SINCE WHAT MAY BE KNOWN ABOUT GOD IS PLAIN TO THEM, BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE IT PLAIN TO THEM. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities --- His eternal power and Divine nature --- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, SO THAT MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Verse 23 is not just talking about primitive idols. Today’s atheists and evolutionists (the wise people of the Earth) all claim that man did not come from God (or a Creator), but we evolved from the lowest form of life (like pond scum), through reptiles, birds and animals.

*24 “Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to **sexual impurity** (number one sin listed in the Bible) for the degrading of their bodies with one another (like the animals they say we evolved from). 25 They exchanged the Truth of God for a lie, and **worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator** --- Who is forever praised. Amen.”*

Verse 25 again is not just talking about idols. Rather than worshipping God through His Truth --- the Bible --- people (such as atheists, evolutionists, or witches who worship Mother Earth rather than God) worship themselves and things they have created (including all the material riches of this world) instead of the Creator (God, Himself).

*26 “Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones (we call them lesbians). 27 In the same way men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another (we call them homosexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, or gay). **Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received IN THEMSELVES the due penalty for their perversion.**”*

Verses 26, 27 tells us that homosexuality is a sin in God’s eyes. And, not only will those who practice this kind of sexual impurity suffer the penalty

for their perversion “in themselves” --- sexually transmitted diseases? AIDS? --- ***1 Corinthians 6:9, 10*** adds that they will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven (unless they REPENT, and stop having sex with the same gender)

28 “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done (In other words, God allowed them the freedom to choose, even though it was a sin). 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness --- WHICH, EVEN THOUGH HOMOSEXUALITY WAS ON TOP OF THE LIST, THE LIST CONTINUES WITH THE FOLLOWING SINS: *evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents, 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 ALTHOUGH THEY KNOW GOD’S RIGHTEOUS DECREE* (what God says about these sins in the Bible) ***THAT THOSE WHO DO SUCH THINGS DESERVE DEATH*** (eternal condemnation in Hell), ***THEY NOT ONLY CONTINUE TO DO THESE VERY THINGS BUT ALSO APPROVE OF THOSE WHO PRACTICE THEM.***”

God’s biggest concern with all these sins (including homosexuality), is that people not only continue to do these sins; but, even after they have read it in His decrees, the Bible --- AS YOU ARE DOING NOW --- they approve of the sins as if they themselves are God, and tell others it is alright to do these sins, even though God and His Word commands that you do not!

2:1 “*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*”

Not only will those who commit such sins as are listed in ***1:29-31*** be condemned; but, those who stand in the judgment seat as if they are God, will also be condemned, because they too continue in the same sin. In other words, just because a false prophet or preacher that is a practicing homosexual themselves, stands in God’s judgment seat and tells you it is alright to be a practicing homosexual --- DOESN’T CHANGE THE TRUTH, THAT GOD SAID IT IS A SIN THAT CAN KEEP YOU OUT OF HEAVEN! In fact, such a false prophet will take you to Hell with them!

2 “*Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on Truth. 3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness (GRACE), tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness (GRACE) leads you towards REPENTANCE?*”

If you are committing one of the sins God listed above in **verses 29-31** (which includes homosexuality as the first), AND REFUSE TO REPENT AND STOP DOING THE SIN --- YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED --- WHICH MEANS GOING TO HELL! But, even if you are guilty of one of these sins (including homosexuality) ---

I Corinthians 6:11 says: “**And that is what some of you were. But you were washed (baptized) you were sanctified (completely cleansed of that sin), you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God.**” NOT ONLY CAN YOU BE FORGIVEN IF YOU **REPENT AND STOP DOING THE SIN**, GOD WILL FORGET THAT YOU EVER COMMITTED THE SIN AND TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN COMPLETELY SANCTIFIED AND JUSTIFIED BEFORE HIM!

5 “*But because of your stubbornness and your UNREPENTANT HEART, you are storing up WRATH AGAINST YOURSELF for the day of God’s wrath, when His righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God will give to each person according to what he has DONE (or, as the Greek says: “WORKS”). 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life (Heaven). 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the Truth (Bible) and follow evil (as is listed above), there will be wrath and anger (Hell). 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (everyone who is not a Jew); 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.*”

READ JAMES 2:14-26, which tells you in **verse 24**: “*You see a person is justified by what he does (or by his works), and NOT BY FAITH ALONE!*” **REVELATION 20:12,13 AGREES**: “*And I saw the dead, great and small standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to what they had done (or by their works) as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades (grave or place of the dead) gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done (or according to their works).*”

12 “*All who sin apart from the Law (as the Gentiles who did not have the Old Testament) will also perish apart from the Law, and all who sin **under the Law (as the Jews, who had it) will be judged by the Law. 13 For it is not those who hear the Law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who OBEY the Law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles (all non-Jews), who do not have the Law, do by nature things required by the Law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the Law, 15 since they show that the requirements of the Law are written on their HEARTS, their CONSCIENCE also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my GOSPEL (New Testament Law) declares.***”

Verse 15 points out that a man's conscience will judge him on the Judgment Day if he does not have, nor know the **Law**. The Jews were under the Old Testament Law (the first 5 Books in particular, which was called the Pentateuch or Torah). According to **James 1:25 and 2:12**, the Gentile, and Jewish **Christians**, are judged by the "**perfect Law that gives freedom**" (or Gospels, or New Testament). To become a Christian, we must "**repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**" according to **Acts 2:38**. When a Christian was baptized in such a way, **I Peter 3:21** says: "**and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also --- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good CONSCIENCE toward God.**"

We're not judged according to how much of the Law or Bible we know (whether it be Old or New Testament), but according to what we understand in our "**hearts**" about what is right and wrong.

For, according to **Hebrews 10:26,27**: "**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses (Old Testament) died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant (New Testament or Gospel of Jesus Christ) that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace (which he received when he pledged a good conscience before God at his baptism)? 30 For we know Him who said, 'It is mine to avenge, I will repay,' and again, 'The Lord will judge His people'. 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**"

"DREADFUL" IF YOU ARE DELIBERATELY SINNING --- FOR YOU WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU CONTINUE TO SIN ONCE YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH (OR ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT THE TRUTH IS --- WHETHER IT BE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT, OR NO BIBLE AT ALL) --- FOR ONLY GOD AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST CAN JUDGE A MAN'S CONSCIENCE -- - AS IN LUKE 23:39-43, JESUS DID WHEN HE SAVED ONE THIEF WHO HUNG WITH HIM ON THE CROSS.

WHAT IF I NEVER HEARD ANYONE EXPLAIN THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST?

Again, Jesus answers in **John 15:22**: "**If I had not come and SPOKEN to them, they would NOT BE GUILTY OF SIN. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin (because they did hear Jesus)**"

WHAT IF YOU NEVER SAW A BIBLE BEFORE, and therefore, never read with your own eyes what God's Law (the Bible) says? Jesus answered this question in *John 9:41*: "**Jesus said, 'If you were *BLIND*, you would NOT BE GUILTY OF SIN; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains'.**"

WHAT DID JESUS MEAN, WHEN HE SAID THAT "*BLIND*" PEOPLE CAN'T SIN? LET'S READ THE APOSTLE PAUL'S STORY IN ACTS 22:4-16:

4 *"I persecuted the followers of this Way (Christians) to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as also the high priest and all the Council can testify (they hired him to find and arrest Christians). I even obtained letters from them to their brothers (Jews) in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished (a lot of them were given to the Romans to be fight lions in the arenas).*

About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from Heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

'Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

*'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had **BLINDED** me.*

A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the Law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul (Paul's name before he became a Christian), receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

*Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One (Christ) and to hear words from His mouth. You will be His witness to all men of what you **HAVE SEEN and HEARD** (and now he has both **SEEN and HEARD** and no longer has any excuse for obeying the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ). And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized (as the first 3,000 Christians were in Acts 2:38) and wash your sins away, calling on His name'."*

SO, IS IGNORANCE AN EXCUSE? In *I Timothy 1:12-16* the Apostle Paul told Timothy: "*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to His service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man (Paul killed Christians), I was shown mercy **BECAUSE I ACTED IN IGNORANCE and unbelief.** 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ*

Jesus came into the world to SAVE SINNERS --- of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown MERCY, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.”

HOW COULD THE APOSTLE PAUL SAY “IGNORANCE” GAVE HIM AN EXCUSE FOR THE TERRIBLE THINGS HE DID? WHY DID HE MAKE A POINT TO TELL THE ROMAN GENTILE CHRISTIANS, THAT IF THEY NEVER SAW OR HEARD THE WORD’S OF GOD (OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT), HE WOULD JUDGE THEM ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY DID KNOW --- IN THEIR “HEARTS” AND “CONSCIENCE?”

First, we must understand why and to whom the Apostle Paul wrote the Book of Romans. Obviously, **he wrote to the people in Rome (1:7)**. But, which people? Jews, or Gentiles (which would be everyone who is not a Jew)? According to **1:5**, Paul told these people he was an **Apostle to the Gentiles**. The reason he was writing, was to acknowledge the fact that he had not yet been to Rome, but was planning to come (**1:10-13**). Some say he wrote the Book of Romans to the Jews who had converted to Christianity and were now living in Rome; but Paul said in **1:14**, that he hoped to “*have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the OTHER GENTILES.” So, the “you” mentioned here in **Romans 1:14**, had to be referring to the **GENTILES** --- not the Jews.*

However, at this time, most of the Jews who became Christians (which included all of the first 3,000 Christians, according **Acts 2:22-42**), felt that only JEWS could be called God’s chosen people. Even Peter, himself, believed that the Gentiles could never be part of God’s Kingdom. **Acts 10:9-48** tells the story of how Christ had to convince Peter through a vision that the **Gentiles were not “unclean,” but were also to be included in His Kingdom** along with the Jewish Christians. He commanded him to go to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius, and preach the Gospel to him and his household --- to give Gentiles the opportunity to be included in His Kingdom as God’s children. And, according to **Acts 10:48**, Peter “*...ordered that they (Cornelius and his entire household --- ALL GENTILES) be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*”

Ever since that day, the Jewish Christians tried to convince Gentile Christians that they would have to convert to Judaism (which included being circumcised, promising to obey the Law, or first 5 books of the Old Testament, or Pentateuch, or Torah) in order to truly become part of God’s Kingdom. In fact, the Apostle Paul’s biggest problem in the Gentile churches he started, was trying to convince these new Christians that they did not need to be circumcised (pledging to obey the Old Law) in order to be one of God’s children and part of His Kingdom. **Christ’s Law (New Testament or Gospels) superceded the Old Law.**

Listen to what Paul told the Gentile Christians in **Galatians 3:26-29**: “*You*

are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek (or Gentile), slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all ONE in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then YOU (GENTILES) ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE --- NOT JUST THE JEWS!

Paul even went as far as to say in **5:2-21**: *“Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves (as Gentiles) be circumcised (which was the pledge that they would obey the Old Law, Pentateuch, Torah), Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole Law (Old Testament). You who were trying to be justified by Law (Old Testament) have been alienated from Christ; YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE”...7 “You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the Truth?”*

Paul baptized and converted these Gentiles into Christ, and they were members of churches that he started in the province of Galatia. **The Jewish Christians (WHO STILL THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD BECOME PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM AND A CHILD OF GOD, WAS TO BE CIRCUMCISED, AS A PROMISE TO OBEY THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW), tried to keep these Christians from “obeying the “Truth” or the NEW TESTAMENT LAW.**

Paul continued with **verse 13** *“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature.”*

The Jews thought you could indulge in any sin you wanted to as long as you kept up with all the sacrifices and rituals of the first 5 Books of the Old Testament (Pentateuch or Torah). They believed that being a Jew or God's chosen people meant that they were saved regardless of what they did. And, they told the Gentiles in Paul's Churches that if they became Jewish converts, they too could continue to live in sin and not have to actually repent or change their ways.

But Paul went on to warn in **verses 19-21**: *“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like (things the Jewish Christians still continued doing). I WARN YOU, AS I DID BEFORE, THAT THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD!”*

ARE YOU TRULY DEAF, BLIND AND IGNORANT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE, OR TRULY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT? Remember what Jesus told the Jews in **John 15:22** and **John 9:41**: **If you truly haven't SEEN nor HEARD the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (New Testament), then you are truly IGNORANT, and have an**

EXCUSE as to why you are not obeying Christ's Law. BUT, if you have SEEN CHRIST'S COMMANDS, AND YOU HAVE HEARD THE TRUTH, AND YOU NOW HAVE A "KNOWLEDGE (OR UNDERSTANDING) OF THAT TRUTH" --- THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER IGNORANT; AND, AS HEBREWS 10:26-27 SAYS --- YOU NO LONGER HAVE AN EXCUSE!

The Jews who tried to convert Paul's Gentile churches to Judaism (telling them they must be circumcised, promising to obey the Old Law) WERE NEITHER DEAF, BLIND, OR IGNORANT OF THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. THEY HAD NO EXCUSE! **This is why Paul continued to warn these Jews who were leading Gentile Christians astray in Romans 2:17:**

17 "Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the Law and brag about your relationship to God; 18 if you know His will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the Law; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the BLIND (as the Gentiles indeed were blind to the Old Testament Law), a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the Law the embodiment of KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH --- 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? 24 As it is written (Isaiah 52:5 and Ezekiel 36:22): 'God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'."

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the Law, but if you break the Law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 If those who are not circumcised (Gentiles) keep the Law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically (Gentile Christian) and yet obeys the Law (in his "heart" and "conscience" as Paul already said in 2:14,15) will condemn you (Jews) who, even though you have the written code (Old Law, Pentateuch or Torah) and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code (Old Testament)."

What did Paul mean in *verse 28,29*, when he said: "*nor is circumcision merely outward and physical...circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit...*"?

Read Paul's own explanation in *Colossians 2:11-14*: "***In Him (Christ) you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men (as the Jews practiced by the "written code") but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross.***"

Paul explains to the Gentiles in Colosse that **BAPTISM is “circumcision done by Christ.”** In the Old Testament, God commanded that all of Israel must be circumcised in the flesh as a promise that they would obey the written code that Moses provided in the first 5 Books of the Old Testament. When they did not obey God’s Law, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth to become the sacrifice for our sins, and set up a New Testament which tells us what we must do to inherit eternal life in Heaven. **In this new Law, Christ commands His followers or disciples to be baptized (Matthew 28:18-20).** As the “*circumcision done by the hands of men*” pledges to obey the Old Testament Law, **BAPTISM is a “circumcision done by Christ” that pledges to obey the New Testament Law given to us by God’s Son, Jesus Christ.** **SINCE PAUL TOLD US THAT BAPTISM IS THE “CIRCUMCISION DONE BY CHRIST” --- WE KNOW THAT BAPTISM IS (AS HE TOLD THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS IN ROMANS 2:29: THE “CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART, BY THE SPIRIT, NOT BY THE WRITTEN CODE” (OR OLD TESTAMENT).**

WE KNOW (IN BOTH ROMANS AND COLOSSIANS) PAUL WAS TALKING ABOUT JEWS THAT WERE TRYING TO GET GENTILE CHRISTIANS TO BE CIRCUMCISED AND GO BACK TO THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW. **So, let’s go back to Romans 2:17-29 and change the word “Jew” to “Christian;” the word “circumcision” to “baptism;” and the word “Law” or “written code” to “New Testament” or the “Gospel of Jesus Christ”:**

17 “Now you, if you call yourself a CHRISTIAN; if you rely on the NEW TESTAMENT and brag about your relationship to CHRIST; 18 if you know His will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the NEW TESTAMENT; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the NEW TESTAMENT the embodiment of knowledge and truth --- 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? **(Remember, in the New Testament, Jesus said in Matthew 5:27: “You have heard that it was said (in the Old Testament), ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”)** You who abhor idols, do you rob CHURCHES? 23 You who brag about the NEW TESTAMENT, do you dishonor CHRIST by breaking the law OF CHRIST? 24 As it is written: ‘CHRIST’S name is blasphemed among the Gentiles (AND JEWS) because of you.’ (EVER HEAR ANYONE USE THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST IN VAIN?)

25 BAPTISM has value if you observe the NEW TESTAMENT Law, but if you break the NEW TESTAMENT law, you have become as though you had not been BAPTIZED. 26 If those who are not BAPTIZED keep the NEW TESTAMENT Law’s requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were BAPTIZED? 27 The one who is not BAPTIZED physically and yet obeys the

NEW TESTAMENT *Law, will condemn you who, even though you have the NEW TESTAMENT AND BAPTISM, are a lawbreaker.*

28 A man is not a CHRISTIAN if he is only one outwardly, nor is BAPTISM merely outward and physical. No, a man is a CHRISTIAN if he is one inwardly; and BAPTISM IS BAPTISM of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code."

Remember ***I Peter 3:21***: "*and this water symbolizes BAPTISM that now saves you also --- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good CONSCIENCE ("HEART" ACCORDING TO ROMANS 2:15) toward God.*"

Now, before you judge me for changing words in the Scriptures. Remember, that I used Paul's words in *Colossians* to interpret Paul's words in *Romans*. And, in case you don't think Paul was thinking the same thing about BAPTISM here in *Romans* --- KEEP READING UNTIL YOU GET TO ***ROMANS 6:3-5***:

"Or, don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. 4 We were therefore buried with Him through BAPTISM into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH HIM LIKE THIS (BAPTISM) IN HIS DEATH, WE WILL CERTAINLY ALSO BE UNITED WITH HIM IN HIS RESURRECTION!"

If you have not yet REPENTED of the sins you read about in this study, or still haven't been BAPTIZED as Christ commanded you in *Matthew 28:18-20* --- *Hebrews 10:26,27* gives you a stern warning:

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." Now that you have read these Scriptures, can you claim that you are DEAF or BLIND --- or IGNORANT of the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do you have an EXCUSE for not obeying? If not, then it is time to make things right between you and God!