



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XI
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The Education Curriculum of the Saints

by – David Buckman

How many of the saints today know that the epistle to the Romans, written by the Apostle Paul, contains the first section of an entire curriculum for the saints of God to complete their basic training and education? It commences with the “*evangel* [gospel] of God” (Romans 1:1-7), and closes with the “*secret of the evangel*” (Romans 16:25-27) to balance the epistle. The whole epistle is the “A-B-C” foundation of the saint’s education. Unless we understand this, we can know nothing of the “WHY,” “HOW” and “WHEN” of God’s revelation to us, “*the nations.*”

The “*evangel of God*” had been promised (Romans 1:1-7) before in the writings of the prophets; yet the ministry of the “*secret of Christ*” and the Body *Ecclesia* (Church – Romans 16:25-27) was not the subject of promise, but was made known only to Paul the Apostle by direct revelation from the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, as set forth in Ephesians (Ephesians 3:1-7).

The Spirit of Truth has placed this epistle given to the *ecclesia* at Rome first in order of the seven epistles, because it contains the foundations on which the entire superstructure of truth was about to be constructed, within five years, “*to complete the word of God*” (Colossians 1:25, CLNT; margin, A.V.). It would be revealed fully in the “*prophetic writings*” (Greek: *graphon propheetikon*) to be sent to all of the nations through the Apostle Paul’s ministry (Ephesians 3:8).

This alone should reveal that the *ecclesia*, which is Christ’s “*joint Body,*” is not the subject of the Synoptic *Evangels* or John’s Gospel as the modern clergy teaches us today. This is made plain in the parable of the wedding feast, spoken by our Lord to the sons

of Jacob (Israel) in Matthew 22:1-7, which gives a condensed history of the ministry of both John the Baptist and our Lord to call those invited by the Old Testament prophets, “*but they would not come*” (Matthew 22:1-3). The epistle to the Romans (written by the Apostle Paul in 58. A.D.) is “*Doctrine*” and “*Instruction*” – the gospel of God never hidden – “*which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures concerning His Son, Who comes of the seed of David according to the flesh, Who is designated Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead*” (Romans 1:2-4).

It unfolds God’s justification of the sons of Jacob (Judah, Israel), and all “the Nations” individually, both “*being justified gratuitously in His grace through the deliverance which is in Christ Jesus, Whom God purposed for a Propitiatory shelter through faith in His blood ...*” (Romans 3:24-25). This revelation, which God revealed to Paul, was that justification is achieved apart from Law. Yet it is attested by Law and the prophets, and it is a righteousness of God through Jesus Christ’s faith for all (eventually) and (already) on all those believing (“*FAITHing*”). There is no distinction between the believer or the unbeliever, for they both have sinned and are wanting of the glory of God (:21-28).

The grand truth is that God’s wrath is being revealed against sin, and the only ground on which the sinner can stand in righteousness before God is the faith of Jesus Christ, which is for all, both the sons of Jacob and all of the nations. No one can stand before God

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This weekly publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

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EDUCATION (continued from page 2389)

unless they are “justified gratuitously through the deliverance which is in Christ Jesus.” Yet, before we can possibly understand this, Paul must first tutor us on the Law of God and why it was given to the sons of Jacob at Sinai.

Almost without exception, all of the modern clergy teach the saints that the Law, as it was revealed in the Old Testament and the four “Gospels,” must be kept, and unless we keep the Law of Moses given at Sinai we will go to an everlasting Hell and burn forever and ever. This doctrine is fictitious and false, based on the faulty translation of the Greek words *aionios* and *kolasis* (Matthew 25:46). The correct translation of *aionios* is “age-lasting,” and of *kolasis* is “pruning” or “correction.” It is like a farmer removing dead limbs to create new shoots from the tree.

Then, with this knowledge, we understand that the “Lake of Fire” (Revelation 19:20) is the “Second Death” (Revelation 20:14), and it is the only death remaining at the consummation of the eons (ages), when death will be abolished and all will be made alive (I Corinthians 15 20-28).

The modern clergy all have their Sabbath days, their feast days, their tithing, their Baptisms, their own added rules of human tradition, their “don’t do this” and “don’t touch that” and “don’t do the other thing,” of which Paul said,

... Why, as living in the world, are you subject to decrees: you should not be touching, nor yet tasting, nor yet coming into contact (which things are for corruption from use), in accord with the directions and teachings of men? Which are having, indeed, an expression of wisdom in a willful ritual and humility and asceticism, not of any value toward the surfeiting of the flesh (Colossians 2:21-23).

This false doctrine of “hell-fire” and torment has placed the saints back under Law (FEAR) and, has removed them from the “grace” (UNMERITED FAVOR) and the “peace” (CESSATION OF AGAINST-NESS) of God and His justification, “gratuitously through the deliverance which is in Christ Jesus, Whom God purposed for a Propitiatory shelter, through faith in His blood” (Romans 3:24-28). The modern clergy do not believe the Word of God that emphatically states,

... Wherefore God highly exalts Him, and graces Him with the name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee [eventually] should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterranean, and every tongue should be acclaiming [Greek: *exomologeō*, “shout with joy”] that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father ... (Philippians 2:9-11)

Paul was horrified when he found the Galatians ecclesia returning to the Law of Moses.

... Tell me, you who want to be under Law, are you not hearing the Law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one out of the maid and one out of the free woman. But the one, indeed out of maid is begotten according to the flesh, yet the one out of the free woman through the promise: which is allegorizing, for these women are two covenants; one, indeed from Mt. Sinai, generating into slavery, which is Hagar. Yet Hagar is Mt. Sinai in Arabia; it is in line with the Jerusalem which now is [57.A.D] for she is in slavery [with James and his associates under Law] with her [Hebrew] children ... (Galatians 4:21-25).

... O foolish Galatians! Who bewitches you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was graphically crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you get the spirit by works of Law or by hearing of faith? So foolish are you? Undertaking in spirit, are you now completed in flesh? So much did you suffer feignedly? Since, surely, it is feignedly ... (Galatians 3:1-4).

Let us carefully examine what the *INTENT* of the Law was, and what the *PURPOSE* of the Law is; for then, and only then, can we know why God raised up Paul under Law to the point where he believed that he was blameless before God (Philippians 3:4-6) – even though he was ignorantly harassing the saints of God to the point of dragging them from their homes and having them beaten and even killed believing he was doing God’s will (like the “hell-fire” clergy today).

Do you remember what was done to Stephen when the witnesses put off their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul (Acts 7:58)? They, “crying with loud voice, pressed their ears,” so they would ►

not hear the truth, and rushed on him with one accord. Then they cast him out of the city and pelted him with stones (according to the Law?). Sound familiar? “It’s the Law, you have to be stoned and burn forever!” Full of love like the modern clergy?

Let Paul explain:

... *What then is the Law? On behalf of transgressions was it added, until the seed should come to Whom He was promised, being prescribed through messengers in the hand of a mediator. Now there is no mediator of one. Yet God is One. Is the Law then against the promises of God? May it not be coming to that! For if a Law were given that is able to vivify [make alive], really, righteousness were out of Law. But the Scripture [or the Law in :21] locks all up together under sin, that the promise out of Jesus Christ’s faith may be given to those who are believing [FAITHING] ... (Galatians 3:21-22).*

... *Are we then nullifying the Law through faith? May it not be coming to that! Nay we are sustaining Law ... (Romans 3:31).*

How do we sustain Law through faith? We sustain the Law by giving Law its rightful place, with both intent and purpose!

Instead of the Law making a way of deliverance, it locked up all under sin. Still, we must distinguish between the *INTENT* of the Law and the *PURPOSE* of the Law. Paul said that Law came in to *increase* the offense, *i.e.*, to deepen the estrangement between man and God (Romans 5:20). The Law is said to be a dispensation of *death* (II Corinthians 3:7) and *condemnation* (II Corinthians 3: 9). Now this was the *INTENT* of the Law.

Why is it that we cannot boast in our own righteousness as Paul did when he thought he was blameless before God in Law? He even assented to what they did to Stephen. He actually thought he was doing God’s will. The reason is given in the very first commandment (Exodus 20:5). God said, “... *I Jehovah Thy God am a jealous God.*” So He locked up all under sin by Law, so that no flesh would have anything of which to boast that would detract from His glory and righteousness.

Yet the true *PURPOSE* of the Law was to escort us to Christ, as we read in Galatians 3:34. Thus we find an enlightened Paul saying,

Now may it not be mine to be boasting, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14).

Paul also writes,

Now before the coming of faith we were garrisoned under Law, being locked up together for the faith about to be revealed. So that Law became our escort to Christ (Galatians 3: 23-24).

So, the *PURPOSE* of the Law was to lock us up to the one way of deliverance from sin, even the cross of Christ. Or, as we read in Romans 3:24,

Being justified gratuitously in His grace, through the deliverance which is in Christ Jesus.

Yes, grace defends and delivers us from the condemnation of the Law. Brothers, it was never God’s intention that the Law should be permanent, for this would bring a blot on God’s Own character. God made man for His glory, and the Law and its ministry of condemnation and death (II Corinthians 3:7-11) would only rob God of the glory of His creatures. If God is to be glorified in His creatures, then all of mankind must be delivered from sin and death (I Timothy 4:9-1). An illustration can show what I mean:

If I was a registered builder, and during the course of construction I violated the building code, the building inspector would condemn the building – and rightly so. Now, when he condemns the building he also, by the very nature of the case, condemns the builder also.

God is a Master Builder; He is a Creator, and in the beginning said, “*Let us be making man in our Own image and in our Own likeness*” (Genesis 1:26). To be like God one would need to be righteous intrinsically. Since it is impossible for God to sin (Greek: *hamartia*, “make a mistake”), “sin” then is used as a tool which God is using to make man into His Own image and likeness; but when the job is done He no longer needs the tool. Paul has already told us that

sin was a tool to bring (“escort”) us to Christ. Let us read again Paul’s tutoring of the Corinthians of what the administration of Law really was.

... Now if the dispensation of death chiseled in stone [the Decalogue] came in glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently into the face of Moses, because of the glory of His face, which [the Decalogue] is being nullified, how shall not the dispensation of the spirit be in glory? (II Corinthians 3:7).

Let us pause here for a moment to explain what really happened with the covering of Moses’ face, and its implication for us today.

Modern clergy will tell you that Moses’ face was shining so brightly that the children of Israel could not look at it, so he had to put a cover over it. Well, that is not what Paul said. Paul said he put the covering over his face so that the children of Israel would not see it (the glory of the Decalogue) fade away.

The book of Exodus tells us the very same thing.

... But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spoke to the children of Israel [without the veil on] that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses that the skin of his face shone: and Moses put the veil on again, [when he made an end of speaking] until he went in to speak with Him (Exodus 34:34-35).

It was only while Moses was in the presence of God that his face shone; but it faded when he was out of His presence. While Moses spoke to the children of Israel his face was uncovered, and it shone and they beheld it. When he finished speaking, he covered his face so that the children of Israel never saw the glory of the Decalogue was a fading glory each time he went in and out of the Lord’s presence.

Paul also said “we are not like Moses.” What did Paul mean by this? Paul is saying that “we,” Paul and his associates, are not like Moses who placed a covering over his face when he had finished speaking to the sons of Jacob. Paul is plainly telling the Corinthian *ecclesia* that the glory of the Law is being nullified.

Have you ever read Isaiah 6:9-10?

... And he said, “Go, and tell this people, ‘Hear ye indeed, but understand not; see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this [Hebrew] people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and **convert** and be healed ...’” [this was fulfilled during Paul’s ministry, 30 A.D.-70 A.D.; c.f. Acts 28:25-28].

What did Paul say?

But their apprehensions were calloused, for until **this very day** the same covering is remaining at **the reading of the Old Covenant**, not being uncovered [for them to understand the glory is gone] for only in Christ is it being nullified (II Corinthians 12:16).

Paul went on to say,

... But till **today**, if ever the reading of Moses should be reached, a covering is lying on their heart. Yet if ever it should reach back to the Lord, the covering is taken from about it ...

Then the saints can clearly see that it has been nullified, having served its true *PURPOSE* as a tool of God in escorting us to Christ to be “justified gratuitously through the deliverance that is in Christ Jesus through the Propitiatory shelter of faith in His blood.”

Paul told the Corinthians,

... If our evangel is covered, also, it is covered in those who are perishing, in whom the god of this world has blinded the apprehensions of the unbelieving so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, does not irradiate them ... (II Corinthians 4:1-6).

The real reason why the saints try to keep the Law today (in ignorance) is their lack of faith in Christ Jesus. Most of the saints do not know or believe, and never have been taught, that if they continue to trust God in Christ Jesus (apart from law) and love one another, all of the requirements that the Law demanded, yet could not be achieved through ►

Law because of the flesh, would be achieved in spirit through our faith in Christ Jesus.

May I say to you brothers, do not place yourself voluntarily back under Law, because as Paul said, "*the power of sin is the Law.*" If you place yourself back under Law, sin will regain its power through the Law and make your life a misery of continuous failures on a daily basis.

... Now the sting of **death** is **sin**, yet **the power of sin is the law**. Now thanks be to God, Who is giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ ... (I Corinthians 15:56-57).

After forty-six years of life in Christ Jesus I have personally found out that truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction is what the peddlers of the Word of God (II Corinthians 2:17) are teaching the saints today, tickling their ears – and they love it (II Timothy 4:3.) They are being "*carried about by every wind of teaching by human caprice, by craftiness*" with a view to the systematizing of the deception (Ephesians 4:11-14). This deception has taken hold because of the lack of study and direction of Paul's writings, which are the curriculum for maturity.

The saints are struggling in sin, not knowing the difference between "*SIN*" (the old tree) and "*SINS*" (the fruit of the tree), and are unable to enjoy the knowledge of their gratuitous freedom from "*SIN*" and their *STANDING* through the deliverance, which is in Christ Jesus, as the sons of God (Ephesians 1:3-12).

It is a fact today that, in every area of life, unless you have studied and are trained in the particular area of your profession you cannot participate in the instruction of others, or carry on such a profession without being asked how much you knew of its duties and responsibilities.

Yet in the area of Christian profession anybody can pick up the Bible and start a group, even though they are ignorant of these church epistles. The Creed, the Lord's Prayer or the Ten Commandments are considered sufficient for position and profession. Just hire a hall and call yourself a Pastor and you're in business. Whip the saints with "hell-fire" and torment, and make them tithe, and you're on your way to a successful commercial business enterprise.

Brothers, as a young man forty years ago I was personally part of a group who did this very thing. The elders laid hands on me, ordained me and gave me a set of written credentials (I have three separate ministerial credentials). I was excited, but ignorant of the real truth recorded by the Spirit of Truth in Paul's writings. We rented a hall, started the recruitment process, and began preaching the doctrines of the modern clergy (all I knew at the time). Then one day the Lord opened my mind and delivered me from the "peddling business," and placed a *Concordant Literal Translation of the Scriptures* into my possession, which sent me down the lonely road of the true curriculum for the saints. I discovered the "A-B-C's" of Paul's book of Romans, and the forty-year journey of education commenced.

During those forty years I progressed from the epistle to the Romans to the epistle to the Corinthians, and then to the epistle to the Galatians. Once I understood the first three I was able to move on to the three "prophetic writings" of Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians that the Apostle Paul sent to all of the nations for faith obedience. It was at this time that I was ready to enter the final stage of the curriculum: *THESSALONIANS, Doctrine and Instruction*. Not only "*dead and risen with Christ*" (Romans), not only seated in the heavenlies with Christ (Ephesians), but caught up to meet the Lord in the air, ever to be with the Lord.

Brothers, if I have offended you because I tell you the truth, or if I have become your enemy because you were challenged by the truth, before you respond, try reading again in context (in a good literal Greek translation) all the Scripture quoted and you will find out what I have said is truth. Once you begin to see what Paul is teaching in Romans, *then* you can advance to the next epistles.

The *CORINTHIAN* epistles are *REPROOF* concerning the practical failure to exhibit the teaching of Romans through not standing as having died and risen with Christ. It concerns "*leaven*" in practice (I Corinthians 5:6).

Once you have mastered these epistles, then you can move on to *GALATIANS*, which is *CORRECTION* concerning doctrinal failure as to the teaching of Romans. Beginning with the truth of the new nature ("*spirit*"), they were soon removed (Galatians 1:6) and sought

to be made mature in the old nature ("flesh," Galatians 3:3). This concerns "leaven" in doctrine (:9).

ROMANS: "Doctrine and Instruction." The evangel of God.

CORINTHIANS: "Reproof." Practical failure to exhibit the teaching of Romans.

GALATIANS: "Correction." Doctrinal failure as to the teaching of Romans.

Once having understood the first three epistles of the basic, foundational curriculum, you then can advance to the next three epistles.

EPHESIANS: "Doctrine and Instruction." The secret of God always hidden, never before revealed.

PHILIPPIANS: "Reproof." Practical failure to exhibit the teaching of Ephesians.

COLOSSIANS: "Correction." Doctrinal failure to exhibit the teaching of Ephesians.

Then we come to the final epistles, Thessalonians, written first but placed last by the spirit of God.

THESSALONIANS: "Doctrine and Instruction." Not only dead and roused with Christ (Romans), not only seated with Christ (Ephesians), but caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

ROMANS: Justified in Christ.

EPHESIANS: Sanctified in Christ.

THESSALONIANS: Glorified with Christ.

Having attained maturity, all who reach this level have graduated and have the ability to train the saints until they all reach the maturity in Christ. No "reproof," no "correction" – all praise and thanksgiving, an enlightened *Ecclesia*, graduating with the diploma from the Spirit of Truth (not human caprice). There are no epistles addressed to the *ecclesia* beyond this because there is no higher truth to be taught.¹ All who reach this level in graduation have attained the highest level in the school of grace

1. Paul's epistles beyond those of Thessalonians are addressed to individuals.

where the spirit of truth is the teacher. This is the point where the "all truth" which the Lord spoke of in John 16:12-15 has arrived.

The apostle Paul said,

*... Now I am aware that, after I am out of reach, burdensome wolves will be entering among you not sparing the flock. And from among you will arise men speaking perverse things to pull away disciples to themselves [the peddlers]. Wherefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I ceased not admonishing each one with tears. And now I am committing you to God and to **the Word of His Grace**, which is able to edify and give you that enjoyment of an allotment [c.f. Ephesians 1:15-23] among all who have been hallowed ... (Acts.20:29-32).*

The four Gospels and the Sermon on the Mount – spoken to the children of Jacob (Israel) – which was Law, are taken today as the qualifications for ministry INSTEAD of Paul's epistles specially designed as the curriculum, and sent to the *ecclesia* among "all Nations for faith obedience to the only and wise God through Jesus Christ" (Romans16:25-27).

Is there any wonder why Paul penned the following words in the Ephesians epistle?

... And the same One gives these, indeed as evangelists, yet these as pastors and teachers toward the adjusting of the saints [from Law to Grace] for the work of dispensing, for the upbuilding of the body of Christ, unto the end that we should all attain the unity of the faith and the realization of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ, that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of teaching by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception (Ephesians 4:11-14).

The sad truth today is that almost all of the clergy teach the gospel of the circumcision sent to Israel as recorded in the four "gospels," and as seen in the re-offering of the kingdom to Israel in the book of Acts (Acts 3:17-21). Instead of educating the saints ►

with the curriculum revealed by the Spirit of Truth through Paul the Apostle, they teach the gospel sent to the sons of Jacob (Judah-Israel), which was the testimony for them (Acts 2:34-36) during the forty-year duration (from the close of John the Baptist's ministry and the beginning of the Lord's personal ministry as a minister of the circumcision, until it is officially rejected for the final time at the meeting of the chiefs of the nation with Paul at Rome, Acts 28:17-28).

It was then that Paul turned his full attention to all of the Nations with his "my evangel" together with the "secret of the evangel." All of the truth for the administration of grace and the dispensation of the secret is fully preached publicly by Paul and his associates by the commandment of the eonian God (Romans 16:25-27).

It may be a shock to realize that the nations rejected Paul's revelation gospel (II Timothy 1:15) and turned back to the gospel sent to Israel. Today almost all of Christendom has been trained by the modern clergy in the gospel sent to the Hebrews (Israel), which was exhausted and postponed until the future Kingdom of God on earth is established.

I can say with certainty that almost no one is trained with the gospel which Paul called "my evangel" and the "secret of the evangel" which was sent to "All the nations for faith obedience" during the administration of grace and the dispensation of the secret economy which is our exclusive possession as the joint-Body of Christ. Is there any wonder why Paul said,

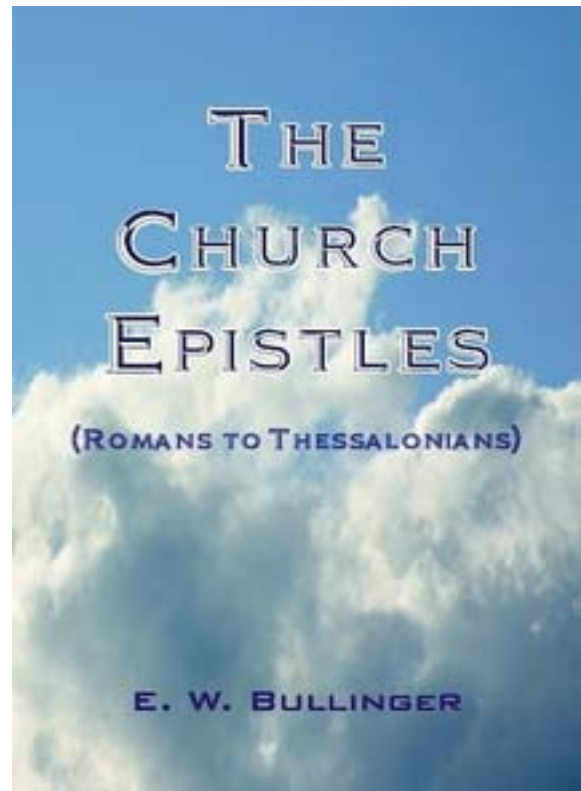
... *Herald the word. Stand by it, opportunely, inopportunely, expose, rebuke, entreat, with all patience and teaching. For the era will be when they will not tolerate sound teaching, but, their hearing being tickled, they will heap up for themselves teachers in accord with their own desires, and, indeed they will be turning their hearing away from the truth, yet will be turned aside to myths [fictitious doctrines] ...* (II Timothy 4:1-4).

David Buckman is from down-under in the land of OZ, Australia

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