

Remembers from the Introduction

- Jesus revealed truth to me that I scarcely had the faith to believe, and I felt a great need for faith to believe what I now knew to be true.
- “Don’t get so close to a wrong spirit that if God casts it out, you feel obligated to leave with it.”
- The religious system of Christianity is the nonsense with which this book deals.
- Once an error has taken root in a heart, one may feel threatened when God sends someone to pluck it out.

Remembers from Chapter 1 - Destruction by Redefinition

Redefining the New Birth

- To be born again is to receive Jesus’ baptism of the Spirit.
- The most consequential change believers made after first-century believers rejected Paul’s gospel was to redefine the new birth from receiving Jesus’ baptism with the Spirit to simply believing in Jesus.
- While believing in Jesus is essential to receiving the new birth, believing is not itself the new birth; it only qualifies one to receive it.
- He who comes to Christ Jesus must first believe that he is Lord and that he is a baptizer of those who diligently seek him.
- Demons believe (Jas. 2:19b), but believing does them no good, for Jesus will not baptize them with his Spirit.
- Believing may lead to the new birth if we diligently seek the will of God *after* we believe in Jesus.
- There are only three verses in the Bible which tell us how we get into Christ, and all three say it is by baptism: Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27, and 1Corinthians 12:13.
- Jesus told his followers that those who believe *and* are baptized (with his baptism) would be saved in the end (Mk. 16:16).
- When the new birth is redefined, everything is redefined.
- Believing is where the journey with Jesus begins.
- It is possible to believe in Jesus and not yet have the Spirit.
- Everyone who believes in Jesus should be told that believing is not the experience of new birth; it is the path we must take to receive it!
- Paul was not born again on the road to Damascus; he was convicted on the road to Damascus.
- All true knowledge begins with understanding the new birth.

Terms

- One of the craftiest ways the wicked have found to destroy the foundations of the Faith is to redefine them.
- Truth redefined becomes a lie in disguise.
- Even if we speak the same language, if we have different definitions for the same word, we might as well be speaking different languages.

- Only when we have the same definitions for the same words – and those definitions match what God thinks—do we truly communicate in Christ.
- One of the greatest impediments to believers having fellowship in the light of God is how certain words have been defined for them by men who do not know God.

Christian

- The early believers who were ridiculed as “Christians” had earned that mockery by being so much like Christ that unbelievers gave them that label.
- The contempt for believers which Pagans of the time felt makes it impossible to believe that they understood the term *Christian* to be one of respect.

Calling Themselves Christians

- In the Bible, to be called a Christian meant to be ridiculed for Christ-like holiness, but apostate believers redefined *Christian* to mean anyone who professes to believe in Jesus.

Christianity

- Confusion abounds concerning the beginning of Christianity because it is assumed that Christianity began with Jesus and his apostles. It did not.
- There is no connection at all between the real Jesus and the religion that is called by his name.
- Christianity is glutted with Jesuses and gods foreign to the truth, each of them teaching their own version of the gospel, hoping to attract members to their sect.
- The true Jesus suffered and died so that we might receive God’s Spirit and enjoy fellowship with Him; he did not die to start another religious institution with “new and improved” ceremonies.
- The word *Christianity* is not in the Bible.

Church

- The Greek noun for *church*, *kuriakon*, is not found in the New Testament; therefore, no translation of the New Testament should have the word *church* in it.
- The doctrines found in Christian churches would have struck the apostles of Christ as outlandish, even blasphemous.
- The institution known as “the Church” did not exist before believers blended with Rome in the fourth century.
- The body of Christ was created by the power of God in the second chapter of Acts.

Historical Evidence

- Documents from the post-apostolic era bear strong witness to Christians’ willingness to alter documents, or completely forge them.
- Every history of the Church is unavoidably tainted with the author’s biases.
- Our only real hope of arriving at the truth concerning post-apostolic believers is to receive help from God.

The Tunnel

- After the days of the apostles, believers entered into a long, dark Tunnel, leaving us with unanswered and unanswerable questions.

- Believers entered the Tunnel as a charismatic community with some ceremonial aspects, but they emerged from the Tunnel as a ceremonial community with some charismatic aspects.
- None of the leaders of second- and third-century believers seemed to think that the great first-century apostasy of the body of Christ was relevant to them.
- Believers of the second century onward were the spiritual progeny of the first-century Apostates, and their religion was only a continuation of the first-century apostasy.
- Pre-Tunnel believers would have cringed at the contempt for Moses' law exhibited by post-Tunnel believers

Post-Tunnel Believers' Attitude toward the Jews

- Few if any Pagans ever hated the Jews with the viciousness expressed by early Christian leaders.
- The few Apostates who exited the Tunnel still keeping the law were considered old-fashioned by other Apostates.

Rome's Attitude toward the Jews

- The Roman senate granted the Jews special privileges because Romans honored ancient religions, and the religion of the Jews was very ancient.
- When Romans made war against the Jews, their wars had nothing whatsoever to do with religion; they were fighting only to quash Jewish rebellion against Rome's authority.
- When Christians blended with the empire in the fourth century, their anti-Semitism began to change official Roman policy.

Paul's Attitude toward the Jews

- Paul loved his fellow Jews even if they did not believe in Christ, or in him, and in doing so, he was following Jesus' lead.
- The law became a prison for the Jews.

Remembers from Chapter 2 - The Synthesis

Daniel's Iron Kingdom

- God revealed to Daniel that there would be four great kingdoms which would shape the history of mankind, which would conclude with a fifth, eternal one.

Where Is the Iron Kingdom?

- Daniel saw that the fourth kingdom would still be in power when Jesus returns to set up his everlasting kingdom on earth.

The Council of Nicea

- Regardless of what the Synthesis is called, every student of Roman or Church history acknowledges that the Synthesis took place.
- The Synthesis which took place at the Council of Nicea transformed the Roman Empire into the mysterious kingdom which the prophet Daniel saw.

Opinions

- It is beyond question that early believers perverted the Faith.

- The Synthesis was a combination of Pagan and Christian elements in which everyone could participate.
- The original Faith of Christ and Christianity are far too different to be the same religion.
- The Faith of Christ is the only religion that has not and never will evolve, and it does not evolve because it had no earthly origin, but was revealed from heaven.

Paul's Gospel

- The body of Christ was created by and is sustained by the power of the Spirit of God.
- The revelation given to Paul was that believers are baptized, clothed, fed, sanctified, and sustained by the Spirit alone, just as they will be raised from the dead by the Spirit alone.
- In this covenant, earthly elements have nothing to do with the worship of God, or with anything else in His kingdom.
- After Jesus' sacrifice of himself, God crowned Jesus with so much glory that there was no glory left for the once-glorious law of Moses.
- Israel's religion and the religions of the Gentiles, which all employ earthly elements, are now equally useless for salvation.

Misguided Euphoria

- When first-century Gentile believers forsook Paul, they did not know that by doing so, they were also forsaking Jesus.
- In adding earthly materials to the kind of worship Christ purchased with his blood, they had made themselves adversaries of the God they claimed to be serving.
- It was apostasy from Christ to turn from worship "in spirit and in truth" to worship with dead earthly materials.
- In turning to elements of the world, believers had to "mind earthly things" in order to please the men who led them to do it.
- Jesus kept the law in order to fulfill it and bring it to its intended end.
- By the time of the Synthesis, the believers who "minded earthly things" were so dull of heart that they rejoiced in it as the fulfillment of God's ancient promises.

Rome Was Defeated?

- The Synthesis reshaped Rome's ancient cult into a more acceptable form, a form that both Christians and Pagans could accept.
- The Synthesis adjusted Rome's Paganism and adorned Pagan thought with Christian dogma, and immersed Pagan cult in the waters of Christian baptism.
- The institution of the Church was produced by the Synthesis; before then, it did not exist.
- Rather than defeating Roman Paganism, Christianity was, and is the preserver of the Paganism of Classical culture.

Christians Were Defeated?

- Christianity did not exist before the Synthesis.

Mutual Adaptation

- Christians absorbed Rome as much as Rome absorbed Christians; the Synthesis was both a conquest and a victory.

- The Synthesis was a mutually beneficial agreement between spiritual equals.
- Fellowship in spiritual darkness is what made the Synthesis possible.
- After Montanus, matters dramatically worsened for believers as their status in society was improving.
- Both Romans and Christians had shared a hatred of the true gospel for centuries before the Synthesis.
- The Synthesis was the *result* of apostasy, not the cause of it.
- When early Christians began shaping their apostate gospel, their apostate gospel began shaping them.

A Public Culture

- The Synthesis was the crowning achievement of both Christians and Rome along the dark paths each had chosen.
- Over the centuries, many Churchmen have acknowledged and even gloried in Rome's continued existence through the Church.
- Rome and the Apostates united in the Synthesis in order to accomplish a wicked end: complete mastery over all mankind.
- The institution formed by the blending of the apostate body of Christ and Pagan Rome was far greater than either had been before.

God's Plan?

- The change in believers from Paul's day to the second century is remarkable.
- Paul's gospel liberated believers from all ceremonial works.
- Christianity has always been without Christ.
- Christianity has indeed adapted to man's ways, and it still does, but that is because Christianity is not of God.

A Religion the World Can Accept

- The formulating of religious rites and rules is the human substitute for being led by God's Spirit.
- Believers remain free from religious rites and rules only as they remain in the Spirit.
- The Christians' alteration of the gospel in order to win the world is all the evidence a reasonable person needs in order to see that the world had won the Christians.
- The world cannot receive the Spirit; therefore, the world requires a religion it can practice without it.
- The Synthesis produced a religion that accommodated Spirit-less men.
- Paul warned the saints in Corinth to reject ministers who wanted to adjust the gospel of Christ.
- The Son of God did not die for a chameleonic gospel.
- Paul threatened with damnation anyone who would dare to alter the gospel that Christ had revealed to him.
- It is impossible for the Faith of Christ to mesh with human wisdom and ways and yet remain the Faith; any change to the gospel wrought by man perverts and transforms it into something else.
- Christian congregations increase their numbers by accommodating worldly sentiments and traditions, but by the Spirit, the body of Christ "increases with the increase of God".

- As the true gospel of Christ came to man by the Spirit, so it is kept pure by the Spirit.
- Jesus never *asked* for worship in spirit; he demanded it.
- Worship in spirit is God's eternally sufficient substitute for all Pagan religion.
- Acceptable worship of God is as impossible for men without the Spirit as is resurrection from the dead.
- Worship "in spirit and in truth" is a fundamental part of the Faith of Christ, and it will never change.
- Any worship that is not in spirit and in truth is altogether worthless for salvation.

The Revealed Gospel is Eternal

- The Faith can never perish, for it is in the Spirit, and the Spirit is life itself.
- The gospel that Jesus revealed to Paul is an eternal gospel, and it is the standard by which all men will be judged.
- Ritualization of worship was the natural result of rejecting Paul's gospel, for it is the only alternative to worship in spirit and truth.
- With every new doctrine or ceremony, however, early Christians were introducing another Jesus, another spirit, and another gospel.
- Every Christian sect has its own Jesus, its own traditions, its own doctrines, and its own rituals.
- The gospel that Paul preached is entirely of the Spirit, and it exposes as false every Jesus, every doctrine, and every ceremony that Christians have ever invented.
- The original gospel is the only true one.

"They Will Turn Away"

- When false teachers arose, many believers followed them, and the apostles saw it happening before they died.

The Straw Man

- The way of Christ is simple.
- Through the ages, God has spoken to many people who only later perceived His meaning.
- The Father is telling His children to come out of Christianity, the product of the Synthesis.