

EP75 Revelation 9:20-21 P5

We have been discussing this issue of our **Willingness to Believe**. In our last Podcast, we discovered that so many within the household of God, due to their hard-and-fast commitment to the **work of their hands** (what they do for God), are worshipping demons and simply will not repent, nor will they repent of their idolatry.

Idolatry

Revelation 9:20, "...did not repent of...the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood which now can neither now see nor hear nor walk." This issue of idolatry is as overarching as the truth that **Only God is Good**. Please follow this reasoning. If only God is good, then by its very definition all else is not good; thus, even all our good-hearted attempts to please Him and do right by Him, or by others (the **work of our hands**), do not measure up to His standard of goodness. Such efforts may be helpful and useful in the realm of humanity, but it does not satisfy God, and to Him they are worthless in value.

The formula for pleasing God, if you may, is relatively easy to understand: "**by grace through faith.**" Our lives are to be all about what He does as we are now believing in Him. Our trouble does not arise in our understanding the words, it is just that this formula is extremely hard to accept with the entirety of our being.

Truth be told, the pathway that leads to life is terrible, filled with trouble and pressure, and far too often it does not *feel* that God loves us much less shows up to help us; and for some it seems that their suffering will never end. Hence, many develop this need to find some solution other than this mystical formula of "**by grace through faith.**" Hence, our idolatry.

The Spirit says it this way, "*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who is now choosing to be coming to God must now believe that He now is* (which is a way to say that He is the **I AM**) *and that He now chooses to be a rewarder of those who are now seeking Him.*"¹ This is consistent with Jesus' promises to the 7-churches that His blessings belong to those who are **now** believing or **now** overcoming.

This formula for pleasing God is clean, easy to articulate, and easy to understand. It just fights against everything in us and in this world's system, and all our religious systems that tells us there must be a different way other than simply being willing to now be believing in His name (**Yahweh**), or in effect, to bet our lives upon the fact that He is our **I AM** and that He alone is the source of our reward.

In contrast, it seems that we need something to do, we need to prove ourselves, differentiate our commitment and loyalty from others. We need a way to divide, judge and condemn those who do it wrong, and exalt those who know how to do it right and who deserve to be blessed. Sadly, it all is an attempt to find an easier path to God other than the path of life (which so few find).²

Thus, we create a way to measure those who should be richly rewarded and blessed for their

¹ *Hebrews 11:6*. Note, "come" is rendered in the present middle participle; "must" is rendered in the *present active indicative*; "He is" is rendered in the present active indicative; "rewarder" is rendered in the *present middle indicative*; "seek Him" is rendered in the *present active participle*.

² *Matthew 7:14*

faithfulness and those who do not deserve to partake of such glory and honor. Hence, the “need” for the law, your law, my law, everyone’s law. And it is because of this sick, twisted, and depraved part of our Old Man, that religion and idolatry are so powerful in our lives. In fact, it is so unbelievably powerful that people will refuse to repent of such madness, even when faced with demonic devastation from those locust-like demons and from that army of demonic beings that are even now doing harm and will eventually be loosened to kill one-third of mankind.

Gold, Silver, Brass, Stone, Wood

The Spirit specifically draws our attention to idols made of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. It would be easy to overlook this statement as just putting some colorful flare on the mention of idolatry. But we must never forget that the Spirit is always intentional and precise. Nothing is random when it comes to the Word of God. He is messaging us in every little detail.

Now, this just happens to be a unique list. The **Codex** often speaks of idols of gold and silver, or wood overlaid with gold or silver, and one time it even has this full list, but in that instance, it also incorporates idols of iron.³ Yet, this is the only time in the entire **Codex** that the Spirit utilizes just these 5-elements to describe idolatry. Perhaps there is a reason for this unique list of 5. Perhaps it is a coded message.

First, the Spirit limited the list to 5-elements, and did not include the 6th (iron) as He did in the book of **Daniel**. As we have learned, according to the **Code**, 5 is the number that on-the-one-hand speaks of God’s grace, but on-the-other-hand, mankind’s abject spiritual poverty and total neediness for the grace of God in all things all the time. Thus, nothing demonstrates man’s need in this regard greater than the impotence and worthlessness of idolatry—that which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk.

Second, according to the **Code**, these colors and items have unique meanings. Except for “wood” and “stone,” all these items are listed in **Toolbox 2**, which we covered in the first segment in this **Revelation** study. If you have not yet printed out a copy to help you in your own studies, it might be a good idea. In this section, I have added a few more references, but you will have to go back to **Toolbox 2** to get the full list of **Codex** references. With that said, let’s do a review.

Gold: is an image that speaks of the divine.

Silver: speaks of atonement, redemption, and purification. It is also a connecting piece linking that which is of the heavens with that which is of the earth. It was the metal used to connect all the key pieces of the Tabernacle and to bind the pillars of the Tabernacle.⁴ Thus, it could be argued that silver has a connection with the angelic, that agency that links the heavens with that which is of the earth, and that which supports or binds **Yahweh’s** true Sanctuary on earth—the Chosen of God who, according to the letter to Philadelphia, will be made into the pillars or the stability of **Yahweh’s** house.⁵

Brass (or bronze): speaks of judgment, specifically, the judgment for sin. Hence, the altar of sacrifice and all the accompanying implements were made of brass.

Stone: speaks of the law, the very reason there is a need for judgment. The law was etched in tablets of stone, providing an image of its exacting permanence and inflexibility. Stone was also used as the means

³ **Daniel 5:4, 23**

⁴ **See Exodus 26:16-25, 27:9-17**

⁵ **Revelation 3:12**

for judgment, as violators of the law were stoned to death. Hence, the law engraved on stones is referred to as a minister of death.⁶

Wood: likely has many meanings given its prominent use in the **Codex**, but one that particularly stands out is the way wood is utilized for the salvation of humanity, hence Noah's Ark and the Cross which bore Jesus' human body, all bringing salvation to the world.

In addition, the Ark of the Covenant, which led the Israelites to victory and salvation from their enemies, was also made of acacia wood, and only covered with gold.⁷ In addition, the cleansing purification rituals, and the blood which marked the Israelites for salvation from the destroying death angel, required the sanctifying blood to be administered with a hyssop branch—wood.⁸

Imagery & Idolatry

Now, let's connect this imagery to idolatry. I must note however that what comes next are my ideas and experiences of idolatry within the context of Christianity, some of which I have participated in and some of which I have observed. This is not a definitive declaration of what this imagery means, but just an example of possible ways we might have unwittingly found ourselves worshipping demons through our idolatry. You might have an entirely different list with entirely different experiences. The point is for us to consider how we have taken aspects of our life and spirituality, and in one-way-shape-or-form, twisted them into an idolatrous and abominable thing.

Gold and Silver

Let's start with the things connected to the divine and the angelic, imaged in Gold and Silver. This sort of idolatry connected with gold and silver can be blatant and obvious, but the most grievous and abundant violations are relational, emotional, personal, and things that are endemic in our religious culture.

Veneration of Things

First, whether it is effigies dedicated to God, large cathedrals, churches of magnificence intended to inspire awe and some sort of glorious worship, the statutes of the angelic which litter so many religious structures, or the implements of gold and silver used in ministry, though amazing and beautiful as they may be, they are not holy, they are not sacred, and they are not divine.

They may be gathering places where those who worship God in their heart may collectively worship and honor God, but there is NOTHING magical or even spiritual about those structures or the implements of various sacraments. They are a form of art and a beautiful expression of God's gifting and creativity, but they are still just man-made things that will perish. Covering them in gold or silver and engraving a cross or a dove on them will not preserve them nor transform them into something sacred that demands our veneration.

Veneration of Deeds

Second, the things we do in our relationship with God (collectively and individually), such as take communion, worship, reading our Bible, or prayer, are not in-and-of themselves sacred. They can be if such efforts are a true expression of the Spirit of God. But it is not the act in-and-of-itself that is sacred.

⁶ See *Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:15; Leviticus 20:2, 24:13-16; Numbers 14:10, 15:35-36; John 10:31-33; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 7*

⁷ *Exodus 25:10-16*

⁸ See *Exodus 12:22; Leviticus 14:3-6, 49-52*. See also *Numbers 19:6, 18; Psalm 51:7; Hebrews 9:19-22*

Remember, **the source matters, the source is everything!**

For instance, communion is to be a celebration of our **unrestrained freedom**, not a time of remorse over how much we sinned in the past week, month, or year. That is a blasphemous understanding and has led people to become sick, and some to even die. To take communion bearing, in any amount, the burden or shame for our sin is taking communion in an unworthy manner, for Jesus bore that burden. He became sin and thereby bore our shame. In fact, every accusation that could ever be named against us has already been nailed to the cross.⁹ He did it, thereby leaving us nothing left over for which we need to be ashamed.

Therefore, to take our sin back upon ourselves in some emotional penance, is to substitute ourselves for Christ, believing that somehow or in some way, we should be the one to carry that burden because we could have and should have done whatever it is differently, and not have sinned. The one who does this eats and drinks judgment to himself and does not judge the body rightly.¹⁰ The body itself is corrupt through-and-through, so of course we sin; and it is only the New Creation, indwelt by the Spirit of God, that brings life, redemption, and purity to our being. We must judge the body correctly.

Veneration of the Angelic

Third, there are those who exalt and magnify the angelic to such an extent that they even worship angels and pray to them believing they are a source from which we can call on for help, protection, care, provision, and so on. They wear amulets bearing angelic images, and they reach out to the angelic through various means including prayer, meditation, various sounds, crystals (which work as a medium that vibrationally crosses over into the angelic realm), through learning an angelic language, though singing the name of angels, through different frequencies, through intentionality, through invitation into their dreams, and so on.

This is blasphemous given that **Yahweh** is our **I AM**. He is the principal (the source), and the angels (both good and bad) are simply the agents which He sends to minister on behalf of those who are now being heirs of salvation.¹¹ Their job is to minister or care for us; in effect, they are our servants (but under **Yahweh's** direction). Nowhere in the **Codex** are we ever instructed to call on the angelic for help, as if we were calling on God. In fact, the Spirit warns us from being defrauded of our prize by delighting in the worship of angels.¹²

In that regard, it might seem to the average run-of-the-mill evangelical that those who worship angels are obviously apostate or seriously deceived, but we will find that twice John fell at the feet of an angel to worship him.¹³ Both times he received a serious rebuke and told to worship only God.

You would think that after the first rebuke he would have learned his lesson, but no, this temptation to venerate angels is a big deal. In fact, that is the context of the first chapter of the book of **Hebrews**. During the first century, the Jews were obsessed with the angelic, and so the Spirit made sure everyone understood that Jesus has inherited a more excellent name than the angels and that they are just servants

⁹ **Colossians 2:8-15**

¹⁰ **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

¹¹ **Hebrews 1:7, 14**

¹² **Colossians 2:18**

¹³ **Revelation 19:10, 22:9**

of those who are now being heirs of salvation—and clearly servants are not to be objects of worship.¹⁴

Veneration of “Holiness”

Fourth, there are those who deem it to be sacred, holy, and worthy to indulge in various forms of self-abasement, all in the attempt to not sin and to not indulge the *flesh* and its desires, as if that is a worthy endeavor. Little do they know that such an act in-and-of-itself is an indulgence of the *flesh* (their religious *flesh*) and is sin. Yet, across Christianity such practices and instructions are lifted-up as something that are from God—from the divine—and therefore are to be obeyed.

The Spirit however is clear on this matter: *“If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were now living in the world, do you now submit yourself to decrees, such as, “Do not handle, do not choose to taste, do not choose to touch!” (Which all refer to things destined to now perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which are now having, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”*¹⁵

Yet, time after time, we are told to fight our *flesh* and discipline our *flesh*, and by no means are we to indulge our *flesh*, or else we will bring shame on the gospel and disqualify ourselves from ministry. And while it all sounds right to our religious ears, it is **error**, a twisting of the truth, a **fiction**, for it places the responsibility on our backs to conform ourselves into the image of that which is divine. In so doing, we make idols of gold and silver in our own images.

Only God can do the work of transforming us into His character and nature, and He does it when He has prepared us, and He is good and ready to take us through the fire and dispossess us of various elements of our *flesh*.

As for our part, He simply asks us to be willing to cooperate with Him and let Him go to war against the enemies in our soul believing just 3 things. 1) That He is **GOOD** (and though it will hurt and much of it might be absolutely terrible, it will accomplish His beautiful purposes), 2) that He is the **LORD** (and nothing is happening to us that is outside of His control, direction, and oversight), and 3) that we are **ALIENS & STRANGERS** who do not belong to this world, for we are citizens of heaven; thus, it is good that He separates us from all that would tempt us to abide in this world and cling to the elemental principals of this world.

And when He does this work, then and only then can that which has been created in the likeness of God, righteous, holy, and true (the New Creation), occupy that space in our lives that was once dominated, controlled, and ruled by our *flesh* and its desires. When that occurs, those areas that once bound us to sin as part of our very nature, no longer have power, and we find that we are free to live in the light of God’s *agape* love having gained victory over those areas of sin and flesh.

Veneration of Spiritual Gifts & the Gifted

Fifth, there is a huge issue of idolatry connected to spiritual gifts and the talents given by God. There is a strange aspect to our *flesh* that seems to always want to idolize someone. The **Codex** shows us this through the way the Israelites always wanted a King, and they did not want to be ruled by **Yahweh** alone.

Hence, it is not uncommon for those who are extremely gifted and talented, for example, an amazing

¹⁴ See **Hebrews 1:4-14**

¹⁵ **Colossians 2:20-23**

teacher, an author, an expert in apologetics, or an incredible worship leader, to be lifted-up above others and considered to be godly, just because they are utilizing the gifts that God gave to them.

Yet, a man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.¹⁶ In fact, the Spirit once challenged the Corinthians and said: *“What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”*¹⁷ In that vein, we could also ask, “if so and so is just doing what they have received, then why do we exalt them to this place of godliness simply because of what they have been gifted to do?”

Spiritual gifts are not about the gifted, they are always about the giver and His reasons for giving certain people various gifts and talents in different measures, all for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.¹⁸

Yet, time-and-time again we tend to exalt pastors, teachers, elders, worship leaders, authors, musicians, artists (or whoever) believing they are godly people (and those objects of our adulation take on the very mantle of godliness), when all they are doing is exercising the gifts and talents they have been given. Their gifts have nothing to do, and absolutely no correlation, with their transformation. In fact, given the story of Samson, we can be confident that one does not have to be godly to exercise the gifts they have been given and to know and experience great victories in God.

However, because of our tendency to idolize greatness and talent, when these very people whom we have lifted-up as icons of godliness, do something wrong, inappropriate, or sinful, we are shocked and dismayed and most definitely disappointed. We demote them, fire them, publicly out them, and cancel them, or put them under some sort of disciplinary accountability process to make sure they do not fail us in the future. Yeah, that really works! {spoken with sarcasm}

And once publicly humiliated, it is a long road of redemption for them before the public eye. As a result, many just do not make that trip, and instead choose to fade away because the pain, embarrassment, and shame is just too much to bear. As a result, their gift which God gave to them, not because they were so godly, but because He wanted it to be expressed through them amongst the brethren, is in effect snuffed out and nullified. Another defeat for the brethren.

This tendency toward the idolatry of man and God’s gifting of man is terrible. It’s as if we believe that gifting, talent, and godliness come together in one package. Similarly, we assume that just because a person chose a profession of ministry and went to Bible College that they must be goldy, and those who went to seminary are most definitely godly, and those with their PHD are whew, simply amazing. That is another level of godliness altogether. The title of “Dr” brings with it a presumption of great godliness.

We also tend to assume that our religious institutions have somehow vetted all their key players for godliness, and that our spiritual leaders have all passed some sort of examination before they enter the ministry, as if there is a box that they can check on their ministry application to indicate that they have indeed traveled through the valley of the shadow of death, and they have been certified as transformed.

The truth is that a person can be gifted beyond our imagination and super-talented (another gift of God), and may be educated to the nines, but God may have barely begun to transform them, and they

¹⁶ **John 3:27**

¹⁷ **1 Corinthians 4:7**

¹⁸ **Ephesians 4:11-16**

might barely have cracked the door open on their willingness to be transformed. Their wounds might be so deep and the trauma they incurred when they were young might have been so intense, for instance with the wounding of abandonment and abuse, that they are scared to death to let anyone, much less God, into those places.

But our religious institutions love those with talent and amazing giftedness, and so they thrust people with amazing giftedness out into the public eye because they know that people love to idolize. In effect, they use these people because they really want to grow their church, grow their ministry, grow their reputation amongst the churches of God, just like those in Sardis. The leaders of our religious institutions want to use these people to attract other people, and to attract more fame and more money, and so on in order to create a bigger ministry and to serve God more.

Thus, there is this underline expectation that all those who are in ministry will conform to a standard of acceptable goodness, and all will be fine so long as they are not caught in any sort of “bad” sin. Normal sin is just part of our humanity and that is ok, we can forgive that or turn a blind eye, but if they do any “bad” sin, the game is over.

This whole hypocritical and ludicrous dynamic has crushed the effectiveness of Christianity in our society, and it has given room for all manner of accusations, practices, and philosophies for life that defy the living God.

Unfortunately, those in Christianity at large, still do not believe that transformation is up to God and is subject to His timing, they just kind of believe that. Thus, they believe that transformation should be handled by our personal discipline and fight against sin, and if that does not work by our accountability partners, and if that does not work, by the disciplinary committee, the board of elders, or whatever mechanism we have in place to ensure our cup looks good on the outside.

And that is why many people in ministry, sadly to say, are forced to become professional liars and concealers. They must, or else they would not be allowed to be in ministry in any sort of public role. And they are required to give the impression that God has largely completed His work, and they are there to help those less godly than they.

There is scarce comprehension across Christianity that if a person is serious about transformation and is willing to let God do what He needs to do to transform them into His image, it will be ugly, messy, and full of sin, “bad” sin even. After all, war is a bloody mess and fire brings up all the impurities in the metal that it is refining.

The truth is that the blood, the impurities, the mess, the sin (even the “bad” sin), however we want to picture the results of the process, are all expressions or outcomes for which we should be thankful, because it means things are finally getting to a place where a person can choose to let God change them for real, as Jesus pops their bubbles of delusion, destroys their self-power, dismantles their self-protection, exposes their worthless religion, busts apart their law of stone, and positions them to dispossess them of the reasons for their sinful behavior (their wrong belief and unbelief).

Yahweh intends for all this sinful behavior to come to the surface so they finally can comprehend **WHY** they need to no longer rely on themselves, but instead, like that little child, look to Jesus to be their **I AM**. He also shows them **HOW** to choose to become like that little child, dependent upon Him for all things, all the time. Besides, He already sees the extent of their wickedness and darkness, He just needs to get

them to see it and to agree with Him that it needs to be killed.

And if they are willing, He will show them how to let go of the lies which the trauma and pain in their life has been telling them. It is still going to be their choice to let Jesus complete this work (and they might, or they might not), but Christianity makes it so difficult to make that choice because those willing to go through this process are far too often shamed, humiliated, expelled, and cancelled for what is exposed as they pass through the fire and let God go to war against the enemies in their soul. And it is this response to the cross that leads people to quit and get out of the fire altogether.

Ironically, the Spirit is clear that the one who conceals a transgression, as opposed to exposing it, seeks love, but the one who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.¹⁹ Oh the friendships that have been separated and destroyed because of our idolatry.

That is why **Galatians 6:1-5** is so important. If one is caught or entrapped in any trespass, those who are spiritual are to walk along side of them carrying their burden. The idea is that they are not ousted or cancelled, but comforted and encouraged, in the gentleness of love, to keep going and to keep pursuing all that God has for them no matter what needs to be revealed and burned off. The burden that is to be carried by others is that of their shame, humiliation, guilt, and duty. The one going through the fire is not to be carrying such weights.

The fire burns, it is terrible, yet we tend to leave people suffering through it instead of walking side-by-side with them, fulfilling the law of Christ, which is *agape* love. God's *agape* love refuses to deal with one another based on their sinful behavior, but it chooses to deal with each other based on the New Creation. Remember, the Spirit said that we are to no longer recognize others or deal with them according to who they are in the flesh.²⁰

Thus, *agape* love is a love that washes those who have grimy, dirty, soiled, blistered, and disgusting feet, and covers their feet so that they, and no one else, can see that they have walked a messy and hard road.²¹ It is a love that covers a multitude of sins.²² It is a love that is patient and kind, is not provoked, and does not take into account a wrong, and it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.²³

After all God was in Christ reconciling the world to Him, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us this ministry of reconciliation, not counting the sins of others against them.²⁴ How is that for a radical approach to the issue of sin. Not counting the sins of others against them would crush our idolatry. Let me repeat that:

NOT COUNTING THE SINS OF OTHERS AGAINST THEM WOULD CRUSH OUR IDOLATRY.

¹⁹ **Proverbs 17:9**

²⁰ **2 Corinthians 5:16**

²¹ **John 13:12-15**

²² **1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12**

²³ **See 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

²⁴ **See 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

Veneration of “Godliness”

By the way, we have also taken standards of God and idolatrously twisted them and applied them to man. For instance, most translations of the **Codex** says that His elders and deacons are to be “*above reproach*,” which by the way is also spoken about single women, young men, and believers at large.²⁵ Thus, this standard is not just for our “godly” leaders.

But the Greek does not say “above reproach”! It literally says “*blameless*.” But if the text in most Bibles were to be translated the way the Spirit spoke it, there would be no one in ministry, for no man or woman could meet this standard. So instead of comprehending that the Spirit is communicating that we must all come to be possessed by the New Creation, which is righteous, holy, and true, so that the only one who is holy and blameless can live in-and-through their lives (remember, **the source matters, the source is everything**), they change the text to be “above reproach.”

Then armed with this distortion of the truth, each group and denomination determine their own law, or their rules, for meeting this standard. In so doing, from the translators to those setting and applying the standards in our religious institutions, they have all idolatrously exalted themselves to the role of the Holy Spirit. In fact, they have supplanted Him altogether as they use these standards to control, judge, divide, and cancel.

Yet, according to the **Codex**, we are deemed to be **blameless** when we are **now** believing that **Yahweh Tsidkenu** is our righteousness, having been being filled with the fruits of righteousness which is by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.²⁶ Ours is the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.²⁷

We are also told in the **Codex** that Christ has reconciled us in His fleshly body through His death, in order to present us before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach. Yet, this is **NOT** rendered in the *future* tense. This is not speaking of our eternity, rather, it is rendered in the *aorist active infinitive* and therefore is to be understood as a statement about our overall lives. Those who are **now** believing that **Yahweh Tsidkenu** is their righteousness, stand before Him holy and blameless.

With that said, there is a condition. The passage continues, “*if indeed you now continue in the faith having been being firmly established and steadfast, and NOT now being caused to be moving away from the **hope of the gospel** that you have heard, which was being proclaimed in all creation under heaven...*”²⁸

And what is the “**hope of the gospel**”: “*“For by **grace** you are having been being saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may choose to boast.*”²⁹

As we covered earlier, but it is worth repeating, the phrase commonly translated “you have been saved” in the Greek is “**you are**” (*present active indicative*) and “**having been being saved**” (rendered in the *perfect passive participle*), indicating that this work of salvation begins in the past (when we were converted, hence, the use of the *perfect* tense), it is done by God (the *passive* voice), and it is an ongoing

²⁵ **Philippians 2:15; 1 Titus 3:2, 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:7; Titus 1:5-9, 2:8**

²⁶ **Philippians 1:9-11**

²⁷ **Philippians 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 3:4-7**

²⁸ **Colossians 1:22-23**

²⁹ **Ephesians 2:8-9**

work, hence, hence, the *participle*.

In addition, the follow-on verse says, “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.*”³⁰ However, “*created in Christ Jesus*” is rendered in the *aorist passive participle*. Thus, it should also **NOT** be rendered as a past event but “***being created***,” something that God is doing and continuing to do throughout our life.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is 100% about what He does and is doing, and 0% about what we do other than to now be believing—or better said, our willingness to let Him cause us to now be believing. The gospel declares that all things must be **by grace through faith**. And we must never forget, **faith is a now thing**, not something of the past nor of the future. We are deemed therefore to be blameless as we continue in the faith (to now be believing) and **NOT** now being caused to be moving away from the grace of God by exalting the **work of our hands**, by exalting humanity, by exalting His giftings, and His callings.

*“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the **simplicity** and purity of devotion to Christ.”*³¹

³⁰ *Ephesians 2:10*

³¹ *2 Corinthians 11:3*