

*'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'*

**Leviticus 10:3**

## Store In My Heart

### 2Thessalonians 1:7-8

*and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

As I review this passage I am reminded of many 'oracles' we have studied in Isaiah. God's message has been consistent from the beginning. Those who follow Him and obey His law will receive the promised rest and reward. Those who refuse to acknowledge Him and those who refuse to obey Him will receive punishment for their sin. Reward for the faithful and punishment for the wicked. Failure to believe is in the same category as failure to obey.

Atheists, those who follow manmade gods, and those who refuse Jesus will all suffer the same fate. Only the obedient believer can expect reward.



# Establishing Authority - 2

**Max Dawson**

We continue to work our way through Acts chapter fifteen. In that chapter, the church was confronted with a claim that circumcision (as well as the other commands of the Law of Moses) must be kept by Gentiles, else they could not be saved (**Acts 15:1-35**).

This doctrine was held by former Pharisees who had become believers in Jesus. Even though those men believed in Christ, their false doctrine threatened to overthrow the gospel. In **Acts chapter 15**, this matter was settled once and for all!

Last week, we learned this important gospel truth: Gentiles are not required to keep the law of Moses! But how did the apostles and elders in Jerusalem come to that conclusion? Was there some secret, mystical way that they decided on this matter--something that is unknowable and unknown to us? Absolutely not!

Peter made his case for the matter by recalling the example of what God had done at the house of the Gentile, Cornelius. God had received Cornelius on the basis of his faith in Jesus and did not require him to be circumcised! The implication is that all Gentiles can be saved in the same way (**Acts 15:6-11**).

Paul and Barnabas also made an argument from example from their work among Gentiles (**Acts 15:12**). God validated their work by many miracles as they preached a gospel that did not require circumcision. Conclusion: God does not require circumcision of Gentile converts!

Lastly, James quoted **Amos 9:11-12**. That text proved that it was God's plan from long ago to include Gentiles. Conclusion: This direct statement from Scripture made it clear that Jesus

would accept Gentiles as Gentiles--without their being circumcised (**Acts 15:13-21**).

Think about the logic found in this chapter as they reasoned from example, implication, and direct statement. Was this some kind of new way of thinking? Was this some form of strange reasoning that was used to come to their conclusions? It was not.

The apostles and elders used the same kind of reasoning that all of us use in our ordinary interactions with one another! Think about how we communicate. A simple illustration will suffice: You and your daughter go to your car and find it has a flat tire. You say to her, "We have to change the tire!" (You made a direct statement that she clearly understands). You get out the jack and the spare tire, and show her how to change the tire. (You taught her by example; she now knows how it is done). Since she now knows how, the implication is that any of the four tires may be changed in the same way.

While you may think this to be a somewhat banal illustration, it shows the three ways that we exchange information with one another every day! (BTW, it is a good thing when we teach our daughters some basic automotive skills.) I challenge you to find another way to communicate beyond these three methods. We tell (direct statement), we show (example), and we imply by our language in such a way that the hearer infers what he is to do. These three ways of communicating are common to all human interactions. These methods are not something that someone made up for understanding the Bible, rather they are basic rules of communication that all people use every day.

The God who gave us the Bible, is the same God who made our minds. The Bible and our minds are perfectly capable of working together in order for us to know what God wants of us. It is only when men reject these common ways of communication that we get into trouble and begin to imagine things that God never directed us to believe or practice.

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Deberah Brooks** is doing physical therapy for her knee surgery.

**JoBeth Henderson** has her next-to-last chemo this Tuesday.

**Tommy Robinson** has about three weeks of 5 radiation treatments a week for the tumor in his right lung.

**Bill Venable** is in Virginia for a couple of weeks to visit with Tina and her family.

**Hudson Wright** is wearing a walking boot as his ankle heals.

**Leta Rivera** is having difficulty breathing.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 55** Wednesday @ 7 - **Revelation 18**