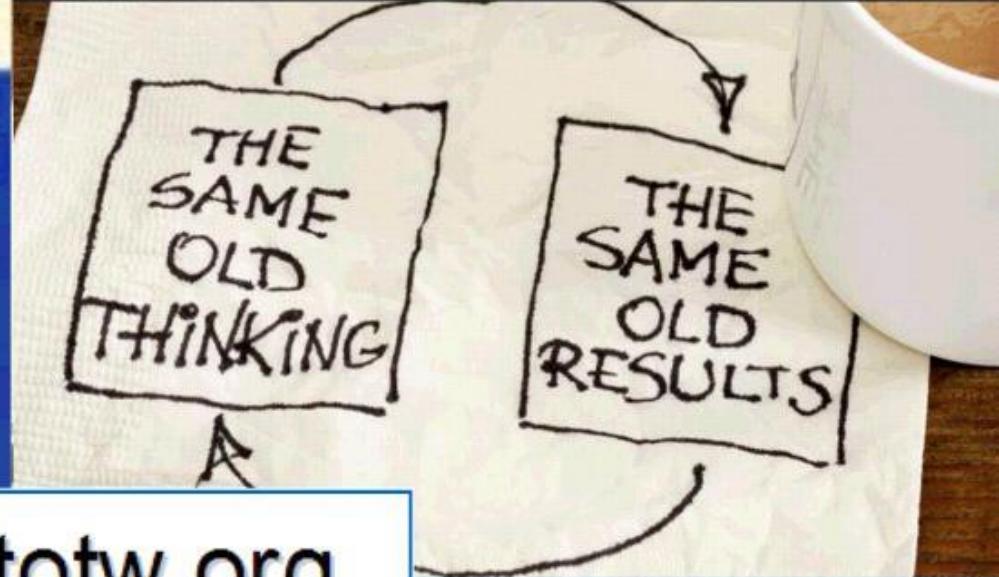


Think BIBLICALLY



RENEW
your mind
Romans 12:2



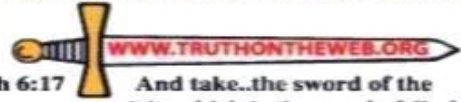
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Church of God at Woodstock



Truth On The Web Ministries



Eph 6:17 And take...the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.



REVIVING YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

A scroll with text on it. The scroll is unrolled and held by two wooden rollers. The text is written in a black, stylized font. The background is a light, textured surface.

The Law & The Covenants

PART 3

QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK

Who was the Old Covenant made with?

Have the Mosaic Laws (i.e., Old Covenant) always existed and been binding upon every person who has ever lived?

Do people need to join Israel to have a relationship with God?

Can people have a relationship with God apart from Torah observance?

Is the Old Covenant still in force?

Is the Church under the Old Covenant?

What covenant are we under?

Is the New Covenant just a "renewed covenant" -- the exact same Laws?

Galatians 3:17 And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, **which was four hundred and thirty years after**, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Leviticus 18:5-6 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I *am* the LORD. None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover *their* nakedness: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 18:9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, *whether she be* born at home, or born abroad, *even* their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

Leviticus 20:17 And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it *is* a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

Deuteronomy 27:22 Cursed *be* he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give *it* in her hand, and send her out of his house.

Matthew 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but **from the beginning it was not so.**

Abrahamic Covenant

Three promises in the Abrahamic Covenant:

1. “I will make you a great nation”
2. “Your seed will inherit the Land”
3. “Your seed will bless all nations”

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And **I will make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Genesis 12:4-6 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land.

Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 17:1-4 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:5-8 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Genesis 22:17-18 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Promises Fulfilled

Joshua 21:43-45 **And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers;** and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that He swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. **There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.**

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that **not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.**

Nehemiah 9:8 Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, **and hast performed Thy words**; for Thou art righteous:

The Token

Genesis 17:10-14 This *is* My covenant, which ye shall keep, between Me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt Me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken My covenant.

Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

5769. ׀ עולם owlam

from 5956; properly, **concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind** (past or future), i.e.

(**practically**) eternity; frequently, adverbial (especially with prepositional prefix) always

Exodus 21:6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and **he shall serve him for ever [*olam*]**.

Deuteronomy 15:16-17 And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee; Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust *it* through his ear unto the door, and **he shall be thy servant for ever [*olam*]**. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

Genesis 17:10-14 This *is* My covenant, which ye shall keep, between Me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt Me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken My covenant.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Circumcision Decision

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

*“Certain men which came down from Judaea
taught the **brethren...**”*

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.** When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Leviticus 12:1-3 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Exodus 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, **ye cannot be saved**. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

If Abraham, in Genesis 17, had refused God's command and not become physically circumcised (or his household) would he still be the father of the faith? Or would his act of disobedience disqualified him from such (assuming that he did not repent)?

So, while Abraham did have righteousness imputed to him because of his belief in God's promise (Gen 15), it was followed by works. Faith without works is dead.

So, to be saved, Abraham had to be circumcised.

So, if God requires the Gentiles to keep the Law of Moses including circumcision, then their disobedience to it would make them reprobate, thus not saved.

In other words, if God requires circumcision for Gentiles, then it is a salvational issue.

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. **When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them**, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

IF it was the long-held doctrine and practice of the apostles to teach the gentile disciples to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses, then why were they now opposing this view?

Recall that the Apostles had been making disciples of uncircumcised gentiles since Cornelius and friends confessed Christ in Acts 10. It has been *years*. What had Peter required of them? What had Paul and Barnabas been teaching the gentile Christians?

Acts 15:3-4 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring **the conversion of the Gentiles**: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That **it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**

“Law of Moses”

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye **the law of Moses** my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with* the statutes and judgments.

“Law of Moses”

Joshua 8:31-32 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, **as it is written in the book of the law of Moses**, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up *any* iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. And **he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses**, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

“Law of Moses”

Joshua 23:6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to **do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses**, that ye turn not aside therefrom *to the right hand or to the left*;

“Law of Moses”

1 Kings 2:3 And **keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses**, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

“Law of Moses”

2 Kings 14:6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is **written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded**, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

Deuteronomy 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

“Law of Moses”

2 Kings 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according **to all the law of Moses**; neither after him arose there *any* like him.

“Law of Moses”

2 Chronicles 23:18 Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, **as it is written in the law of Moses**, with rejoicing and with singing, *as it was ordained* by David.

2 Chronicles 30:16 And they stood in their place after their manner, **according to the law of Moses** the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites.

“Law of Moses”

Ezra 3:2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, **as it is written in the law of Moses** the man of God.

Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he *was* **a ready scribe in the law of Moses**, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

“Law of Moses”

Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring **the book of the law of Moses**, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

“Law of Moses”

Luke 2:22-23 And when the days of her purification according to **the law of Moses** were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord; (As it is written in **the law of the Lord**, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

“Law of Moses”

Luke 24:44 And He said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in **the law of Moses**, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning Me.

Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into *his* lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of **the law of Moses**, and *out of* the prophets, from morning till evening.

1 Corinthians 9:9 For it is **written in the law of Moses**, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

Acts 15:6-9 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And **God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.**

Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

What Was The Argument?

Now, some argue that this debate centered on what *MAKES* one a Christian -- essentially, they argue that these Judaizers were wrongly teaching that one needs to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses to *BECOME* a Christian....but the apostles were teaching that one comes to salvation (i.e., becomes a Christian) only through the grace of the Lord Jesus, and then, after this, they must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses

This is NOT the argument of Acts 15.

- * They are referred to as "the brethren" in Acts 15:1
- * Their "conversion" was declared in Acts 15:3
- * God had given them the Spirit already, as Peter declared in Acts 15:8
- * Their hearts were declared "purified" (by faith) in Acts 15:9
- * They are referred to as "the disciples" in Acts 15:10
- * They are referred to "the brethren" in Acts 15:23

Acts 15:12-18 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And after they [Paul and Barnabas] had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.

Acts 15:19-21 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For [Greek = "*gar*"] Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day.



1063. γαρ *gar* a primary particle; properly, **assigning a reason** (used in argument, explanation or intensification; often with other particles).

Acts 15:19-21 "Therefore my judgment is that we don't trouble those from among the Gentiles who turn to God, but that we write to them that they abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood **BECAUSE** Moses from generations of old has in every city those who preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

The apostles understood that this same dispute would come up again in various cities, as it already had in Antioch. While they now preached Christ to Jew and gentile, they knew others still preached Moses. James wanted the gentile brethren to know what was applicable to them, so there would be no confusion when they met with their Jewish brethren in Christ, and in hearing the Law of Moses being read every Sabbath.

Acts 15:22-24 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner: "The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, 'Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law': to whom we gave no such commandment"

Notice this letter referred to the teaching of the Judaizers as a doctrine which would "trouble" them (as James vocally stated in Acts 15:19) -- even subvert their souls (verse 24).

“... troubled you with words, subverting your souls...”

Note also that the apostles and elders clearly stated that they gave no such commandment that gentile Christians must be circumcised and keep the Law.

“...saying, 'Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law': to whom we gave no such commandment.”

Acts 15:25-29 "It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."

Acts 16:1-5 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. **Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.** And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Galatians 2:1-5 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Galatians 5:6–11 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of Him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased

Galatians 6:12–16 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

1 Corinthians 7:17–20 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Ask yourself:

Am I siding with the apostles on this disputation, or with the men from Judea?

Why would Paul, Barnabas and the Apostles lie to the Gentile believers and say no, you don't have to do that (circumcision, Law of Moses) if they actually believed that the Gentiles did need to keep it?

"To do away with any part of it, you might as well do away with all of it."

Yes.....and no.

There is more to this than I think most in the church understand.

People often wonder, "What parts of the covenant were fulfilled? What parts are still applicable?"

A covenant is not like a buffet table wherein you can just pick n choose what you'll partake of. You partake of it all, or not at all.

When a covenant ends, it doesn't just end in part, but in whole.

Thus if we find parts of a covenant no longer in play, it means the covenant as a whole is no longer in play.

However, the ending of a covenant does not necessitate that the rules that regulated it are now destroyed and not able to be used in a different covenant.

Seek His holy will!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT HOLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT
WHOLLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT HOLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

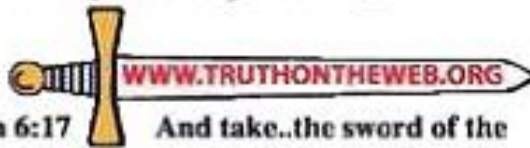
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**Thy
Word
is
Truth**

John 17:17



Truth On The Web Ministries



Eph 6:17

And take..the sword of the
spirit, which is the word of God.



THANK YOU!

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