



JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH AND THE SABBATH

DIKAIOMA MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (DMI)

CLINTON BALDWIN, PHD.

.

Method of Bible Study

- ▶ First what it **meant**, before what it **means**
- ▶ Ancient meaning precedes modern application

JUSTIFICATION/RIGHTEOUSNESS

- **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH HAS TO DO WITH THE BASIS FOR ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD**
- **IT AFFIRMS THAT HUMANITY IS SAVED SOLEY ON THE BASIS OF THE ATONING DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS**

Justification/Righteousness

- IT AFFIRMS THAT SALVATION IS BASED SOLEY ON WHAT GOD HAS **DONE FOR US**, AND NOT BY WHAT HE IS **DOING IN US**

- IF SUCH IS THE CASE, THEN THE SABBATH IS NOT OBLIGATORY AS A **SPECIFIC DAY**. RATHER, IT IS ONLY OBLIGATORY AS A **PERSON AS PERSON-JESUS CHRIST**



BACKGROUND

THREE GROUPS OF CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY NT CHURCH

Aramaic speaking Jewish Christians

Greek speaking Jewish Christians

Gentile Christians

ACTS 6:1

- Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. (NAS)

ARAMIC SPEAKING JEWISH CHRISTIANS

- **Continued to keep entire Torah** (circumcised, worshipped in the temple, laws of clean & un-clean, holy days, etc.)
- **Demanded that Gentiles must become Jews** in order to be bona fide members of the church- i.e., the new Israel

Acts 15:1,5

- And some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, "Unless you are **circumcised according to the custom of Moses**, you cannot be saved."
- But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to **circumcise them**, and to direct them to **observe the Law of Moses [i.e. Torah]**" (NAS)

Acts 21:20,21

- And when they heard it they *began* glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all **zealous for the Law.** and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake **Moses,** telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. (Acts 21:21 NAS)

-

❖ For Aramaic Speaking Christians, Christianity was basically another sect of Judaism

Hellenistic Christians

- Advocated that there was no need for Gentiles to become Jews in order to be apart of the church
- Accepted Gentiles into the church without first making them Jews
- Paul, Barnabas (Acts 15:2)
- And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. (Acts 15:2 NAS)

GENTILE CHRISTIANS

- Were non Jews
- No background in Torah keeping
- Had to become Jews in order to become members of the new Israel – i.e., the Christian Church

Clash!!!



How Did a Gentile Become a Jew?

□ By pleading allegiance to the entire Torah and by engaging in certain special acts of Torah that distinguished one as a Jew

✓ **Circumcision**

✓ **Laws of clean and unclean**

✓ **The Sabbath(s)**

THEREFORE NO NEED FOR GENTILES TO:

Circumcision

Laws of clean and unclean

The Sabbath

These practices Paul called “works of law”

On What Basis Gentiles Needed Not Become Jews?

- ❖ Basis of Justification by faith of Jesus apart from works of law

WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH?

- TO BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUSNESS- TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD
- THE RESURRECTED JESUS IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD
- THEREFORE, THE PERSON WHO ACCEPTS JESUS IS RECKONED AS 100% RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD

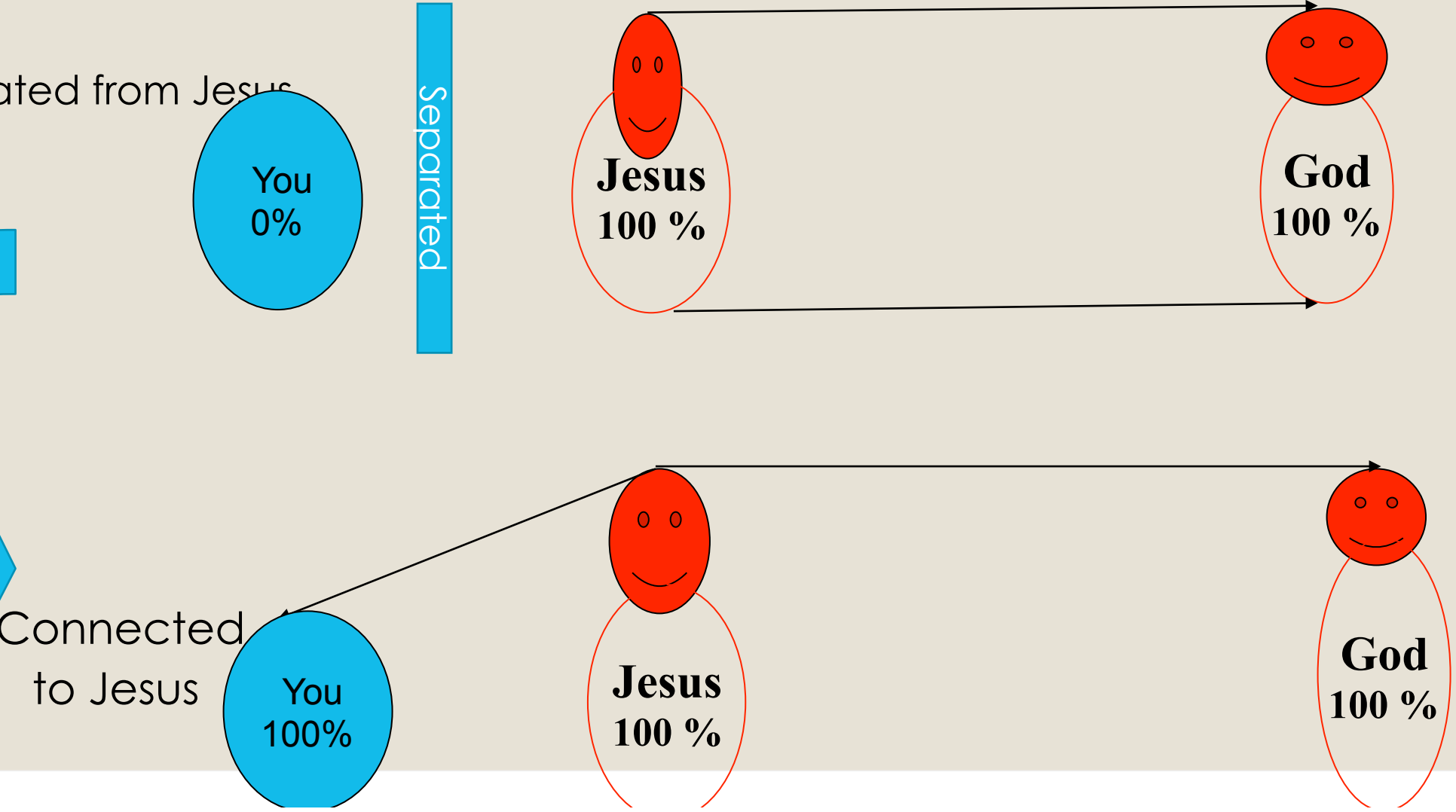
Rom 3:23,24

- For all have sinned and continue to come short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus

Gal 2:16

- ❖ Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (KJV)

Our Righteousness = A Person, Jesus



No To Circumcision (Gal 2:3-5)

3. But not even Titus who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
4. But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage
5. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that **the truth of the gospel might remain with us**

❖ **THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL = JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH**

No To Circumcision (Gal 5: 1-4)

1. It was for freedom that Christ set you free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subjected again the yoke of slavery.
2. Behold I Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you
3. And I testify again to everyman who receive circumcision, that he us under obligation to keep the whole law
4. You are severed from Christ, you who are seeking to **be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace

**❖ NO TO CIRCUMCISION BASED ON JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - THE TRUTH OF THE
GOSPEL**

NO TO FOOD LAWS: (Gal 2:11-16)

- 11. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.
- 12. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles, but when they came he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.
- 13. The rest of the Jews joined him in the hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

NO TO FOOD LAWS: Gal 2:11-16

- 14. But when I saw they were not straightforward with the **truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you being a Jew live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?”
- 15. We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;
- 16. nevertheless knowing that a man is not **justified by the works of the law** but through faith, **of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by **faith of Christ** and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified.

❖ Therefore, Food laws (clean & unclean) not obligatory because of Justification by faith, i.e., “The truth of the gospel”

NO TO SABBATHS

Gal 4:10,11

- But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
- You observe **days and months and seasons and years**. I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain

Col. 2:16

- Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a **festival** or a **new moon** or **a Sabbath day**--

SABBATH PACKAGE

❖ WEEKLY SABBATH

❖ MONTHLY SABBATH

❖ YEARLY SABBATHS

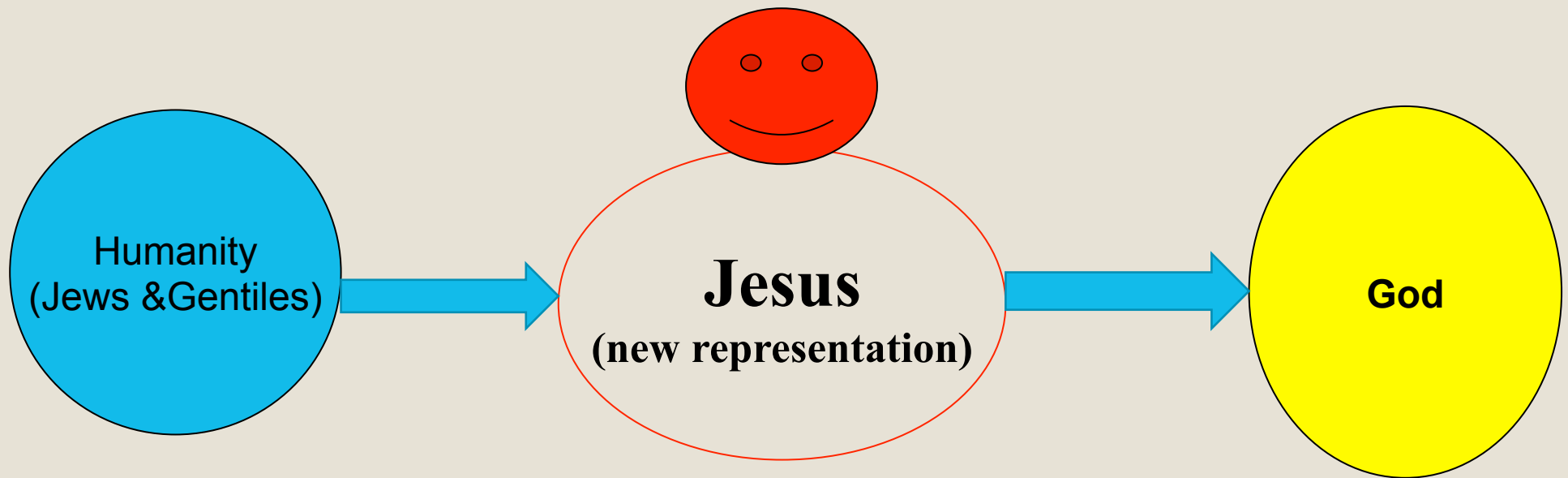
SABBATH PACKAGE

- ❖ **WEEKLY SABBATH = 7th DAY SABBATH**
- ❖ **MONTHLY SABBATH = NEW MOON SABBATH**
- ❖ **YEARLY SABBATHS = Sabbatical year, Jubilee Year, Tabernacles, Pentecost, etc.,**

•

❖ NO OBSERVANCE OF SABBATHS BASED ON JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Jesus is our Righteousness/Justification

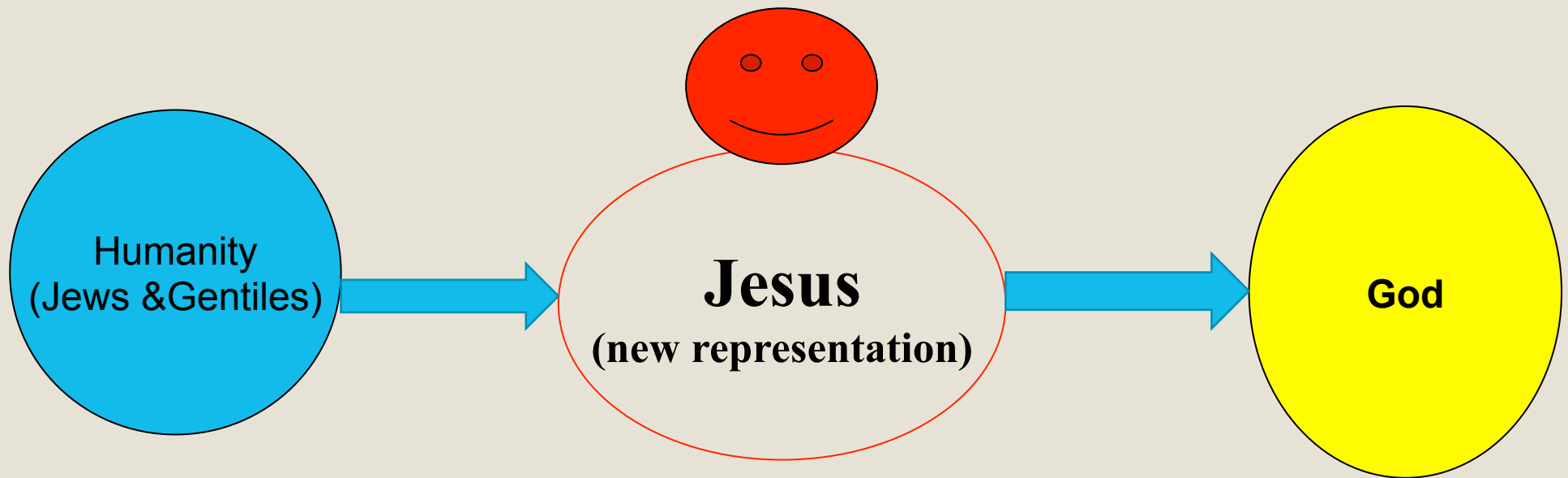


OT- The Torah as the Representation of Righteousness

OT

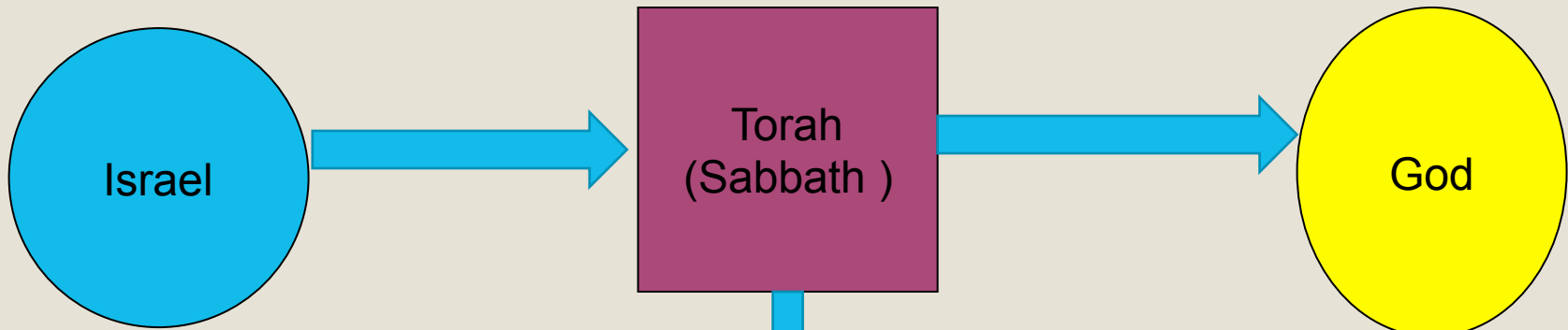


NT- Jesus Replaced Torah as the Representation of Our Righteousness

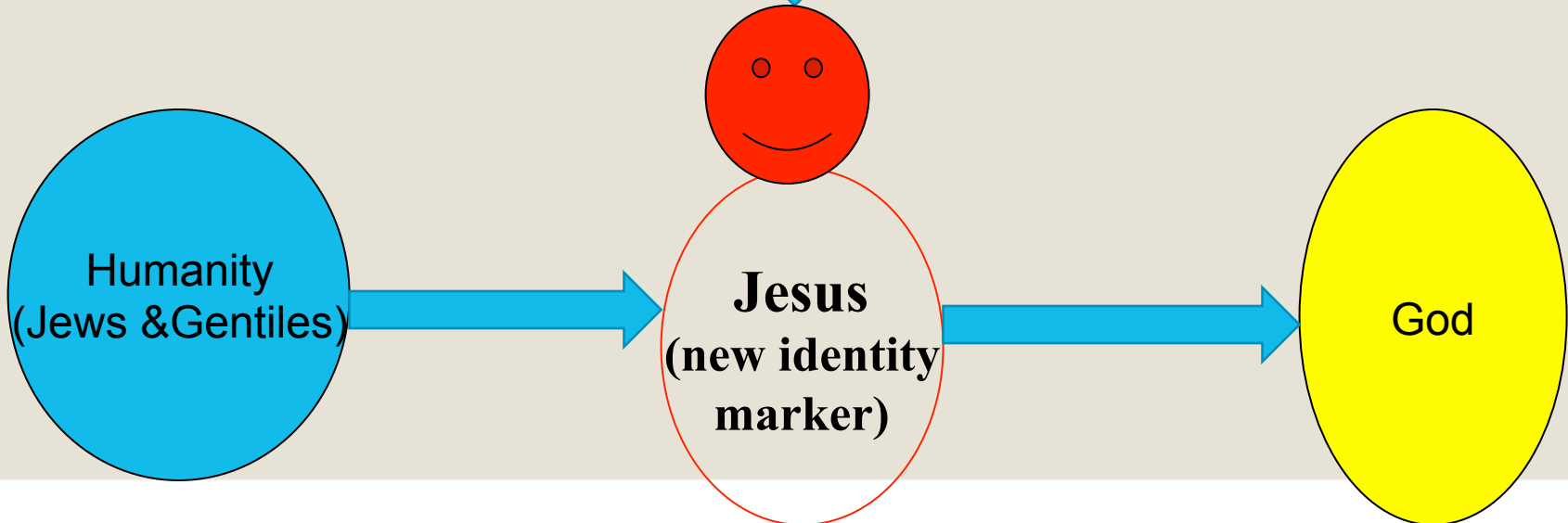


Representation of Our Righteousness

OT



NT



Gal 2:16

- Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ, so that we may be justified by faith of Christ and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the law no flesh will be justified.

Think it Through!

- Are Sabbath keepers the only persons who have accepted Jesus?
- Are Sabbath keepers the only individuals who are 100% justified?
- If a person is 100% justified while not keeping the Sabbath, then how do you turn around and make Sabbath-keeping obligatory?
- If 100% forgiven while not offering animal sacrifices, how do you turn around and make animal sacrifice obligatory?

Think it Through!

- ❖ Jesus is the representation of our righteousness/justification before God
- ❖ The Sabbath has lost its meaning as a symbol of righteousness/justification
- ❖ If a person is 100% justified although not observing what used to be the symbol of justification, i.e., Sabbath
- ❖ Then, to argue that this justified Christian needs to keep the Sabbath is to deny, that Jesus is the reality of righteousness/justification
- ❖ It is to deny that the Christian is 100% justified
- ❖ It is to enforce the symbol while the reality is present. That's legalism

❖ **TO AFFIRM SABBATH KEEPING AS A SPECIFIC DAY, IS TO DENY THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A PERSON AND NOT A DAY**

❖ **IT IS TO DENY THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL**

➤ **We Rest Physically, Mentally, Socially and Economically in Christ Everyday of the Week**



❖ Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matt. 11:28, 29 NAS)



THE END