

A Prepared Place?

What will be required *of you*? Have you made yourself perfect in God's sight?^(Mat 5:48 on pg 61) Do you sit in judgment of those not approved by your religion?^(LLLLL) Jesus did warn about religion! He exposed it in the light (of his words).^(Mat 7:21 on pg 19)



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Rage, rage against the dying of the light! ^(pg 84)

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A usual topic at funerals is the “place prepared.”

I recently lost a dear friend in death. Colene was my cousin a couple of times removed and, as I knew her, she was a woman who tried to manifest kindness and peace. In discussing our loss, my aunt Mae Dean confided Colene sent her a birthday card just before she died. She and Colene are second cousins who grew up together as little girls. They haven't seen each other for about 50 years. It does seem such outwardly small acts of loving-kindness form the bonds that bind together those who love peace.^A Colene seemed a person of kindness foremost, no doubt, because I knew her to be a lover of God's word. Being peace lovers, you see, is what Jesus teaches us all to become!^(A)

At almost every funeral, the preacher talked about time spent reflecting on what he could say about the person who died. After that deliberation, they read the words of Christ we hear at almost every (Christendom) funeral:

John 14:1-3 The Analytical Literal Translation “Stop letting your heart be troubled! You believe [*or, trust*] in God, be believing also in Me. (2) "In the house of My Father are many *dwelling places* (In other translations: abodes, mansions, rooms.), but if not [*fig., if it were not so*], I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. (3) "And if I go {and} prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and I will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also shall be.

It is understandable they choose to read that scripture. Those are some of the most comforting words in the Bible. There is never anything wrong with reading what Jesus Christ said. Many preachers, however, use that scripture to go on to assert everyone

^A **Luke 10:5-6 CEV** As soon as you enter a home, say, "God bless this home with peace." (6) If the people living there are peace-loving, your prayer for peace will bless them. But if they are not peace-loving, your prayer will return to you.

who loves Christ is going to heaven to be with God and/or Christ. There is much debate among Bible scholars about whether God's plan for mankind's future is here on earth or in heaven.^(IIII) We don't mention this to start a dispute, or even primarily to change your mind, but to highlight how and why religious debate should be seen as a danger for each of us personally! Whichever way any preacher personally believes about this matter, or any of many other Bible subjects, they will invariably proclaim *their faith* to be Bible truth. Please understand: If something is not absolutely defined by the Bible, and yet someone runs ahead and teaches it to be truth from the Bible,^(BBBB) that is the very definition of religious doctrine.^(GG) Does it pose a danger for you? Be assured, it does! Please consider: Doesn't the fact that one or the other of the beliefs about any matter under debate is right, at the same time mean the opposing view is wrong? With regard to our future home, many will read and pass right over the words where Jesus said he is "coming back" to receive us. That could mean he is "coming back" to be with us on earth. He did say, however, he went away to heaven to prepare our place. Could that mean, though, he only did the work of preparing from the heavens?

Jesus actually favored some of his followers with a preview of his kingdom. He took them up on a mountain where they were in his presence, along with two ancient resurrected servants of God: Moses and Elijah.^B What Peter and James and John observed was

^B [Matthew 16:24-17:5 MWT](#) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. (25) For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you are willing to lose your life for my sake, you will find it. (26) Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! There is nothing you can give to regain your life. (27) For the Son of Man is about to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his deeds. (28) **I assure you that there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Son of Man come as King.**" [Matthew 17:1-5 MWT](#) **Six days after that Jesus took with him Peter and the brothers James and**

Christ as king right here on earth. Some will assert Jesus's shining face in their assembly infers he was a spirit creature. When ancient Moses was being used as God's spokesman, however, his face emitted rays.^c The similar view Peter and the others (who were all very familiar with Moses as their ancestor and Law giver) had of Christ could simply mean we should listen to Jesus^d as he speaks

John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. (2) As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white. (3) Then Moses and Elijah appeared, talking with Jesus. (4) So Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how good it is that we are here! If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (5) While he was talking, a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased---listen to him!"

^c **Exodus 34:29-32 LITV** And it happened as Moses was going down from Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony [*Ten Commandments*] being in Moses' hand as he went down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face had become luminous through His speaking with him. (30) And Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses. And, behold! The skin of his face had become luminous. And they were afraid to draw near to him. (31) And Moses called to them. And Aaron and all the leaders among the congregation turned back to him. And Moses spoke to them. (32) And afterwards all the sons of Israel drew near. And he commanded them all *that* which Jehovah had spoken with him in Mount Sinai.

^d **Acts 3:18-23 GNB** God announced long ago through all the prophets that his Messiah had to suffer; and he made it come true in this way. (19) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins. If you do, (20) times of spiritual strength will come from the Lord, and he will send Jesus, who is the Messiah he has already chosen for you. (21) He must remain in heaven until the time comes for all things to be made new, as God announced through his holy prophets of long ago. (22) **For Moses said, "The Lord your God will send you a prophet, just as he sent me, and he will be one of your own people. You are to obey everything that he tells you to do.** (23) Anyone who does not obey that prophet shall be separated from God's people and destroyed.'

directly to his Father and then becomes the sole source^(SSS) of our spiritual truth (and light).^{(AA) & (PPPP)} The resurrected Moses and Elijah, who also appeared as humans, were talking with Jesus in that preview of his kingdom. There was probably much those faithful men of old could say to encourage Jesus in his time of trial. They had both endured much during their lifetimes. It might also have provided opportunity for Moses and Elijah to express faith in Christ, since they had both prophesied about his coming but had not known him.^(D) All people who died before the birth of Christ will have to express faith in him as the son of God when they are resurrected. Faith in Christ is God's only arrangement for life.^(SSS) Peter certainly viewed Christ and Moses and Elijah to be humans, as he offered to construct a tent for them. On another occasion, Jesus told his followers he would not drink the produce of grape vines with them again until he drank it new with them in the kingdom.^E Grapes grow on the earth. Again, our purpose in considering this material is not to convert you to our view on our future home. It is to highlight the danger of becoming dogmatic through the recklessness of building faith in the doctrines of men. Our intent is to help you see there are two ideas about the future abode of mankind, as well as with *many* other understandings (or misunderstandings) about other Bible teachings. Because some man or woman or group makes the choice to believe, and then to preach a thing to be true, does not make it so. As you continue in your study of the Bible, you will find there are many scriptures that give insight on where our future home will be.^(QQQQ) At some point, if you learn from and follow Christ, you will develop a faith in one idea or the other that is based in *your* personal Bible knowledge. Our effort is to encourage you to take time as you continue to read and listen to the words of Christ, and only *t – h – e – n* to build your own personal faith. Your faith should be one which is apart from mine, and a faith apart from that of any other man or woman. It must be a faith in what you personally know the Bible teaches. If

^E [Matthew 26:29 ALT](#) "But I say to you, from now on by no means shall I drink of this fruit of the grapevine until that day when I shall be drinking it with you new in the kingdom of My Father."

you follow Christ, of course, your faith will finally become the same as all the others who are following him.^(V) Please realize the teaching by Jesus that you should not to rush to build faith in what you don't fully and personally understand from the Bible: Christ taught he does not hold you accountable for what you haven't had time to learn,^(DD) and, you can't depend on humans to tell you what Jesus said.^(Mat 7:15 on pg 19) You must listen to the son of God for yourself. You must read your Gospels!

The danger of sectarian religion. Please recognize a grave danger Jesus warned about many times: The danger from organized sectarian religion.^(ZZ) Jesus not only warned about them, he also explained how we can easily recognize them and keep ourselves safe from their perverted thinking.^{F & (Mat 7:16 on pg 19)} If you express faith in Christ, by actually *remaining in his teachings* (only possible if you personally read the Gospels through many times), you don't have to worry about knowing everything the Bible teaches. It is very important to realize that! Understanding you are not responsible for what you don't yet know^(DD) should help you see *why you must not ever go along with those who make proclamations you aren't positive the Bible actually does teach.*^G If

^F **Matthew 16:11-12 GNB** How is it that you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? Guard yourselves from the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!" (12) Then the disciples understood that he was not warning them to guard themselves from the yeast used in bread but from the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees [*religious leaders*].^(Luke 12:1 on pg 20)

^G **Acts 1:1-2 CEV** Theophilus, I first wrote to you about all that Jesus did and taught from the very first [*see Luke 1:1-3*]* (2) until he was taken up to heaven. But before he was taken up, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit.~

* **Luke 1:1-4 GNB** Dear Theophilus: Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. (2) They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message. (3) And so, Your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an

they had any respect for you, they wouldn't expect (or even allow) you to join their sect blindly (or ignorantly). Be careful never to take sides on issues you don't fully understand *from your own knowledge of the Bible*. Jesus will enlighten you over time as you read his words and progress to Christian maturity.^H In refusing to follow other humans, you are actually heeding Jesus's warning to make yourself a cautious person.^I All religionists are alike in that they each one try to convince you of your need to join and follow them.^J They have followed a group of men and believe you should do the same. That action distinguishes religion from Christianity! Christians will always encourage you to read the words of Christ (the Gospels) and to follow Jesus only, while religionists always encourage you to follow their sectarian group's doctrine. Doctrine is developed by each religious sect as they try to identify who they are and why they are special. They produce their own set of rules and include them in their written materials, which they invariably proclaim to be "Bible study aids." Some are so bold as to assert they are producing "new spiritual food" in the literature their organization produces.^K Any who have fashioned their own doctrine over any length of time have made grave errors as they did so. They have made errors because what modern men produce is not inspired by God. (What God sent Jesus to teach mankind is recorded in the Gospels and the inspired Bible canon was closed

orderly account for you. (4) I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

^H Visit: justbibletruth.com/MatureChristianOrBabe.pdf

^I **Matthew 10:16-17 ASV** Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (17) But beware of men...

^J **John 7:45-49 GW** When the temple guards returned, the chief priests and Pharisees asked them, "Why didn't you bring Jesus?" (46) The temple guards answered, "No human has ever spoken like this man." (47) The Pharisees asked the temple guards, "Have you been deceived too? (48) Has any ruler or any Pharisee believed in him? (49) This crowd is cursed because it doesn't know Moses' Teachings."

^K Visit: justbibletruth.com/SpiritualFood.html

many hundreds of years ago.) So then, how do those who manufacture their own doctrine (and even proclaim it to be “spiritual food”) explain it to their “sheep” after they have run beyond what the Bible teaches to say what is not true?^(M) One sect actually teaches in writing that we should all still follow them because what they produced in error was still “spiritual food;” even though it was wrong. They go on to proclaim what they produced was “imperfect spiritual food” (bad spiritual food).^L - (This footnote is

^L (This footnote spans several pages.) As an example of religious doctrinal folly: Jehovah's Witnesses follow a subgroup they refer to as their “governing body.” They believe their governing body has some special connection with Christ and God the rest of us don't have. Their doctrine further explains we can't really know about the “special calling” of their governing body because Holy Spirit tells those individuals who they are inside their own mind. Lower caste members of the sect must follow the lead of those they have chosen to worship expressing blind faith in that special relationship which those ones claim to have with God, and they must do so without question. Those who don't will be summarily disfellowshipped and cast aside with even their own family members encouraged to shun them. **Please read below, in their own words, how they explain the prophecies they have previously rendered in God's name that did not materialize.**^(M) Rather than repent, they try to justify themselves. Note their teachings from the February 2017 Watchtower, page 26, paragraph 10 and 12. (Dark blue text is added as narration.) In their own words, then:

10 ... Jesus appointed “the faithful and discreet slave.” For what purpose? To give his domestics (the lower caste JW's)

“(spiritual) food at the proper time.” (Matt. 24:45) ... The July 15, 2013, issue of *The Watchtower* explained that “the faithful and discreet slave” is a small group of anointed brothers (anointed, they believe and teach, by God's Holy Spirit to their special position of oversight) who make up the Governing Body... (For more information visit:

justbibletruth.com/WatchTowerSpiritualFood.html) They go on to

proclaim in their magazine: **12** The Governing Body is neither inspired nor infallible. Therefore, it can err in doctrinal matters or in organizational direction. In fact, the *Watch Tower Publications Index* includes the heading “Beliefs Clarified,” which lists adjustments in our Scriptural understanding since 1870. **Of course, Jesus did not tell us that his faithful slave would produce perfect spiritual food.** So how can we answer Jesus’ question: “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave?” (Matt. 24:45) What evidence is there that the Governing Body is filling that role?^(M) Let us consider the same three factors that directed the governing body in the first century. (The early Christians did look for guidance to the men who were mature Christians, and to those trained personally by Christ. [*Remember: The Bible Cannon was not completed until near the end of the first century.*] The men they looked to were those collaborating on the books of the Bible that we today have following the Gospels. Those early Christians *always* directed people to Jesus. We can know that because *their inspired teachings* are now preserved in those books (letters) that follow Jesus’s teachings in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.^(G) As usually happens with humans who are producing their own doctrine, however,^(GG) they make use of phrases they must concoct in support of that doctrine. Hence, the term “governing body” does not appear in the Bible.) They continue:

13. How has holy spirit helped the Governing Body?

13 *Evidence of holy spirit.* The holy spirit has helped the Governing Body to grasp Scriptural truths not previously understood. For example, reflect on the list of beliefs clarified that was referred to in the preceding paragraph. Surely, no human deserves credit for discovering and explaining these “deep things of God”! (**Read 1 Corinthians 2:10.**) The Governing Body echoes the apostle Paul, who wrote: “These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by the spirit.” (1 Cor. 2:13) Members of the “Governing Body” here liken themselves to the Apostle Paul, and their teachings to his teachings that were inspired by God’s spirit to become part of the Bible. They further say their wisdom comes from God. If it is “imperfect spiritual food,” however, as they earlier state, it does not come from God! The Bible

doesn't record anything Paul ever taught that was wrong. So... JW's at one and the same time claim they are taught and led by God's spirit, and yet they also admit making mistakes in their doctrine. There is a simple solution for them (and for us all): Follow Jesus and don't produce their own doctrine at all. Tell their followers to become intimately familiar with the Gospels, and therefore, of Christ. That is the purpose of the teachings of Christ! The Gospels are the only doctrine for true Christians. If you simply read what Jesus taught, you never have to worry about being misled.^(HH) That's why his teachings are to be preferred over those of men, no matter how righteous such men imagine themselves to be.

If some of JW's do have the "special connection" with God they claim to have, great for them! The problem for the rest of us is this: If they don't, and you choose to have faith in them, you will suffer the consequences.^(U) From their own mouth they confess the rest of us can't know about their special blessing, which they claim is by Holy Spirit, or if their teachings are even correct. In actual fact, they admit they often make mistakes as they claim Jesus is directing them by "imperfect spiritual food." What you absolutely can rely on, always and forever, are the teachings of Jesus Christ.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) If we do that, we don't have to follow their advice to "just trust them," and/or to have faith they actually are who they claim to be. Jesus did warn us about people saying to trust and follow them!^(ZZ) In our selection of these teachings by JW's to help illustrate the danger from religion, we do not assert they are worse than other religious sects. At least they don't kill those who disagree with them. (They rather judge them wicked and lost to God. And, they shun them!) We chose JW's only as an illustration of the danger from all the groups who claim and/or believe they can judge nonmembers of their group to be lost to God. This group is easier to use to illustrate the problem because they are more open and public in showing their highly sectarian nature. Many or even most of JW's seem to be true believers in their sect. So likely, remember, were those Jesus said would approach him for help and be rejected.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) The common problem for JW's and all others who are misleading sincere people is this: True believers will keep looking into the Bible until they expose the lies they are being taught. Sincere individuals who

several pages long.) Please... Saying what they produced is wrong but is still “spiritual food” exposes them as false teachers.^M The term

are caught in the midst of those who happily follow the doctrines of men will recognize the truth in what Jesus was sent by his Father to bring. Our warning is not only against JW’s. It serves as a broad-spectrum solution: If you are part of (infected by) any sect of people who are not cautioning you to learn for yourself what Jesus taught (in the Gospels), and then urging you to follow those teachings, you are in grave danger of losing your life. That goes for them, for us, and for everyone. In our day, we have the inspired teachings of Jesus Christ recorded for us in the Gospels. And, we have the teachings of the apostles in the books (letters) that follow the Gospels. Those books by the early Christians encourage us over and over to put faith in Christ. Also, the Bible is the sum total of the “spiritual food” God has provided. The Gospels contain the teachings the Bible explains God’s son was sent to bring.^(FFFF) The Bible is inspired and without error. That, is what defines the Bible and the Bible alone to be “spiritual food.” Who would really continue to follow men who openly confess they are producing bad spiritual food? This ain’t rocket science! What the apostles taught in their letters was this: “Listen to Jesus Christ” and have faith in him. We accomplish that today by reading the Gospels. Jesus’s words protect you from being misguided to place faith in men who claim to be Christ, or who claim to be stand-ins for him.^(ZZ) If this all seems confusing, it is because it is. It is always confusing to talk about doctrines of men because it is all Satan’s gibberish. What is not ever confusing, however, are the teachings by Jesus Christ. Read your Gospels and avoid the doctrines of men altogether.

^M **(Deuteronomy 18:20-22)** ²⁰ “However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. ²¹ And in case you should say in your heart: “How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?” ²² when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him.’

“Spiritual food” is found only once in the Bible but its meaning is clear:

1 Corinthians 10:1~4 CEV (1) Friends, I want to remind you that all of our ancestors walked under the cloud (the cloud represented God’s presence watching over the ancient Jewish nation) and went through the sea... (3) All of them also ate the same **spiritual food** (4) and drank the same spiritual drink, which flowed from the spiritual rock that followed them. That rock was Christ.^N

The spiritual food Paul here referred to was the manna God provided the Jews to eat during the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness (on their way to the Promised Land).^O The inspired word of God calling the manna “spiritual food” clearly meant it came directly from God. Holy Spirit also comes from our Creator. Saying something is “bad or imperfect spiritual food,” is like trying to say there can be bad Holy Spirit (or un-holy Holy Spirit). It is like trying to say there can be dark light.^P Spiritual food is always good because the very phrase makes clear it comes only from God. There can be no bad or imperfect spiritual food. Also, Jesus taught *he* is the true “spiritual food” sent from his Father.^Q As we feed on the

^N Visit: justbibletruth.com/TheGodBeforeChrist.pdf

^O **Exodus 16:14-16 Darby** And when the dew that lay *round it* was gone up, behold, on the face of the wilderness there was *something* fine, granular, fine as hoar-frost, on the ground. (15) And the children of Israel saw *it*, and said one to another, What is it? for they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, This is the bread which Jehovah has given you to eat. (16) This is the thing which Jehovah has commanded: Gather of it every man according to what he can eat, an omer a poll, *according to* the number of your persons: ye shall take every man for those that are in his tent.

^P **(Isaiah 5:20)** ²⁰ Woe to those who are saying that good is bad and bad is good, those who are putting darkness for light and light for darkness, those who are putting bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

^Q **John 6:32-35 CEV** Jesus then told them, "I tell you for certain that Moses wasn't the one who gave you bread from heaven. My Father is the one who gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) And the bread that God gives is the one who came down from heaven to give life to the world." (34) The people said, "Lord, give

teachings of Jesus, then, we are being fed by our Creator who sent Christ to teach us.^(RRR) For a group to admit they are serving poison ("imperfect spiritual food") and yet still try and call it spiritual food is simply beyond belief.^(L) Rather than humbly confessing their sins and seeking repentance, they assert justification for their error. What do their followers really have to be hit with to wake them up? Stop drinking their poison Kool-Aid! It is so very simple.^R

Christians worship God in spirit and truth, not by sectarian memberships. Jesus taught a time would come (started by him) when people would no longer worship God through organizations of men, but by means of spirit and truth.^S Christians worship God in

us this bread and don't ever stop!" (35) Jesus replied: I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty.

^R **Matthew 18:1-6 GW** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (2) He called a little child and had him stand among them. (3) Then he said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me. (6) "These little ones believe in me. It would be best for the person who causes one of them to lose faith to be drowned in the sea with a large stone hung around his neck.

^S **John 4:19-26 CEV** The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. (20) My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship." (21) Jesus said to her: Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world. (23) But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth. (25) The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we

spirit because it is God's spirit that draws them to the teachings of Christ.^{(AAA) & (RRR)} Then, they worship in truth because the message Jesus brought is God's pure truth.[†] Many point to the different congregations in Corinth and Ephesus and so on, and use them to assert the variety of names for modern churches are all justified. Wrong! Those early named congregations were all followers of

call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (26) "I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now."

[†] [John 7:14-18 CEV](#) When the festival was about half over, Jesus went into the temple and started teaching. (15) The *[religious]* leaders were surprised and said, "How does this man know so much? He has never been taught!" (16) Jesus replied: I am not teaching something that I thought up. What I teach comes from the one who sent me. (17) If you really want to obey God, you will know if what I teach comes from God or from me. (18) If I wanted to bring honor to myself, I would speak for myself. But I want to honor the one who sent me. That is why I tell the truth and not a lie.

Jesus Christ, and of him alone.^u They never followed other men.^v Thus, they were all called “Christians.” Those other names only

^u **Matthew 23:1-13 LITV** Then Jesus spoke to the crowd and to His disciples, (2) saying, The scribes and the Pharisees have sat down on Moses' seat (asserted themselves as judges using God's Law). (3) Then all things, whatever they tell you to keep, keep and do. But do not do according to their works, for they say, and do not do. (4) For they bind heavy and hard to bear burdens, and lay *them* on the shoulders of men, but they do not desire to move them with their finger. (5) And they do all their works to be seen by men. And they make their phylacteries (scripture containing cases which they wore) broad and enlarge the (identifying) borders of their robes. (6) And they love the first couch in the suppers, and the first seats in the synagogues, (7) and the greetings in the markets, and to be called by men, Rabbi, Rabbi. (8) **But do not you be called Rabbi, for One is your Leader, the Christ, and you are all brothers. (9) And call no one your father on earth, for One is your Father, the One in Heaven. (10) Nor be called leaders, for One is your Leader, the Christ.** (11) But the greater of you shall be your servant. (12) And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled, and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted. (13) But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of Heaven before men; for you do not enter, nor do you allow those entering to go in (by turning people to their religion and away from listening to God's son).

^v **1 Corinthians 1:10-31 GW** (10) Brothers and sisters, I encourage all of you in the name [*or, in the teachings or as a follower*] of our Lord Jesus Christ to agree with each other and not to split into opposing groups. I want you to be united in your understanding and opinions. (11) Brothers and sisters, some people from Chloe's family have made it clear to me that you are quarreling among yourselves. (12) This is what I mean: Each of you is saying, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." (13) Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in Paul's name? (14) I thank God that I didn't baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius (15) so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. (16) I also baptized Stephanas and his family. Beyond that, I'm not sure whether I baptized anyone else. (17) Christ didn't send me to baptize. Instead, he sent me to spread the Good News. I didn't use intellectual arguments. That would have made the cross of Christ lose its meaning. (18) The

reflected the cities where they lived or the group from which they were formed.^(BB) They all had the words of Christ as their only doctrine, and that is what they wrote in the inspired letters that follow the Gospels in the Bible.

We always want to believe every word Christ Jesus spoke! Does that mean, however, we should believe the explanations by the men and women who want to tell us what Jesus meant by what he said? According to Jesus, we should not!^(Mat 7:15 on pg 19) And yes, if you are wise, you should scrutinize what we say in the same way. (You will note as I write this, I sometimes say “we,” and sometimes “I,” believe this thing or that. The website (justbibletruth.com) gets

message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved. (19) Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise. I will reject the intelligence of intelligent people." (20) Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the persuasive speaker of our time? Hasn't God turned the wisdom of the world into nonsense? (21) The world with its wisdom was unable to recognize God in terms of his own wisdom. So God decided to use the nonsense of the Good News we speak to save those who believe. (22) Jews ask for miraculous signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, (23) but our message is that Christ was crucified. This offends Jewish people and makes no sense to people who are not Jewish. (24) But to those Jews and Greeks who are called, he is Christ, God's power and God's wisdom. (25) God's nonsense is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (26) Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. (27) But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. (28) God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises-what it considers to be nothing-in order to destroy what it considers to be something. (29) As a result, no one can brag in God's presence. (30) You are partners with Christ Jesus because of God. Jesus has become our wisdom sent from God, our righteousness, our holiness, and our ransom from sin. (31) As Scripture says, "Whoever brags must brag about what the Lord has done."

over 1100 visits per day from over 150 countries as of early 2017. Most of the material on the site and in this booklet is based on the studies and work of many people over many years. So, I use “we” when talking about such common Bible knowledge. Some of it is personal, however, and I try to use “I” to express my personal observations of faith.) So then, after you read what “we” say in this booklet, or on the website, go forward by reading Matthew, Mark, Luke or John (any one of the Gospels) through from beginning to end. That is the whole difference between what Christians teach and what religious sects teach: We [*Christians I think*] recommend you learn from Christ and follow him, while religionists recommend you follow and learn from them (by worshiping according to their sectarian doctrinal teachings).^w You must recognize religion and

^w **Colossians 2:16-23 GW** Therefore, let no one judge you because of what you eat or drink or about the observance of annual holy days, New Moon Festivals, or weekly worship days. (17) These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts the shadow belongs to Christ. (18) Let no one who delights in false humility and the worship of angels tell you that you don't deserve a prize. Such a person, whose sinful mind fills him with arrogance, gives endless details of the visions he has seen. (19) He doesn't hold on to Christ, the head. Christ makes the whole body grow as God wants it to, through support and unity given by the joints and ligaments. (20) If you have died with Christ to the world's way of doing things, why do you let others tell you how to live? It's as though you were still under the world's influence. (21) People will tell you, "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that!" (22) All of these things deal with objects that are only used up anyway. (23) These things look like wisdom with their self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body. But they have no value for holding back the constant desires of your corrupt nature.~

Colossians 3:1-17 GW Since you were brought back to life with Christ, focus on the things that are above-where Christ holds the highest position. (2) Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. (3) You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) Christ is your life. When he appears, then you, too, will appear with him in glory. (5) Therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you: your sexual sin, perversion, passion, lust, and greed (which is the same thing as worshiping wealth). (6)

Christianity to be very different. Most religionists actually demand that you publicly voice your need to continue to follow them, by asserting you are lost to God without their blessing (their blessing usually represented by an approved membership in their cult). Our

It is because of these sins that God's anger comes on those who refuse to obey him. (7) You used to live that kind of sinful life. (8) Also get rid of your anger, hot tempers, hatred, cursing, obscene language, and all similar sins. (9) Don't lie to each other. You've gotten rid of the person you used to be and the life you used to live, (10) and you've become a new person. This new person is continually renewed in knowledge to be like its Creator. (11) Where this happens, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, uncivilized person, slave, or free person. Instead, Christ is everything and in everything. (12) As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. (13) Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (14) Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. (15) Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. (16) Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you. Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. Sing to God in your hearts. (17) Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.~

1 Timothy 4:1-7 GW The Spirit says clearly that in later times some believers will desert the Christian faith. They will follow spirits that deceive, and they will believe the teachings of demons. (2) These people will speak lies disguised as truth. Their consciences have been scarred as if branded by a red-hot iron. (3) They will try to stop others from getting married and from eating certain foods. God created food to be received with prayers of thanks by those who believe and know the truth. (4) Everything God created is good. Nothing should be rejected if it is received with prayers of thanks. (5) The word of God and prayer set it apart as holy. (6) You are a good servant of Christ Jesus when you point these things out to our brothers and sisters. Then you will be nourished by the words of the Christian faith and the excellent teachings which you have followed closely. (7) Don't have anything to do with godless myths that old women like to tell. Rather, train yourself to live a godly life (by learning and following what the son of God taught).

world is being destroyed by the hate generated by religion over the 6000 years since Adam, and by their religious deceitful teachings. Some religions demand compliance at the end of a weapon, and others demand it by their judgment against non-members (which they proclaim is also God's judgment). Please consider the warning given by Jesus Christ himself.

Jesus told us how to identify false prophets:

Matthew 7:15-23 YLT `But, take heed of the false prophets, who come unto you in sheep's clothing, and inwardly are ravening wolves. (16) From their fruits ye shall know them; do men gather from thorns grapes? or from thistles figs? (17) so every good tree doth yield good fruits, but the bad tree doth yield evil fruits. (18) A good tree is not able to yield evil fruits, nor a bad tree to yield good fruits. (19) Every tree not yielding good fruit is cut down and is cast to fire: (20) therefore from their fruits ye shall know them. (21) `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. (22) On the day of judgment many will call me their Lord. They will say, "We preached in your name, and in your name we forced out demons and worked many miracles." (23) **But I will tell them, "I will have nothing to do with you! Get out of my sight, you evil people [you workers of lawlessness, for I never knew you]!"**

Is this warning from Christ about false prophets a little frightening for you? It should be! While Jesus doesn't expect you to know everything, he did tell you what you need to know to gain life: *You must have faith in him*. That infers knowledge of what he taught.^x From this and other warnings, we can know Jesus clearly did not intend us to have blind faith. So... What does that mean for you?

^x **Mark 1:14-15 ESV** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel [or, have faith in the good news – in the teachings of Jesus Christ]."

Until you gain enough Bible background and knowledge to really understand for yourself whether your future hope is on earth or in heaven, just refuse to be bullied to make a choice. Don't allow religious threats of being lost to God force you to express faith in something you don't know the Bible teaches. Don't allow debate over such doctrine to impact your faith in Christ! Don't debate at all. Simply listen to Jesus. The danger of debate is this: If you align yourself with one side of this (or any) doctrinal teaching, while the sect you join is teaching their doctrine to be Bible truth, what will it mean for you if they are wrong? Will our heavenly Father be pleased with you? Will his son? Especially in view of the fact Jesus gave so many warnings about false teachers; shouldn't we be cautious?⁽¹⁾ Jesus actually said he had *forewarned* us you.^(ZZ – Mat 24:25) Just please be sure it is *Christ* you are really listening to!

Jesus warned some people would try to deceive us. That means they will be pretending to be righteous (to be Christians) while what they will really be is religious.^Y As Jesus said at Luke 12:1:

Luke 12:1 CEV: ... Jesus ... told his disciples: Be sure to guard against the dishonest teaching of the Pharisees [*the doctrine of the religious leaders*]! It is their way of fooling people.

The religious persons who are trying to fool you may be bad and deliberate liars, like their father Satan,^Z but some may actually be

^Y **2 Corinthians 11:10-15 CEV** (10) As surely as I speak the truth about Christ, no one in Achaia can stop me from bragging about this. (11) And it isn't because I don't love you. God himself knows how much I do love you. (12) I plan to go on doing just what I have always done. Then those people won't be able to brag about doing the same things we are doing. (13) Anyway, they are no more than false apostles and dishonest workers. They only pretend to be apostles of Christ. (14) **And it is no wonder. Even Satan tries to make himself look like an angel of light.** (15) **So why does it seem strange for Satan's servants to pretend to do what is right?** Someday they will get exactly what they deserve.

^Z **John 8:39-44 CEV** The people said to Jesus, "Abraham is our father!" Jesus replied, "If you were Abraham's children, you would

kind hearted people who have simply been deceived and kept ignorant by their effort to follow the doctrine of men (the same way young Paul was deceived).^(HHH) Notice, though, Jesus said at Mat 7:21,^(on pg 19) it is only the individuals actually doing the will of his Father who will come into the reign of the kingdom of heaven. He also said many religious people (many false prophets) would be trying to deceive us. That knowledge should continuously beg the question from each of us: Could we have been deceived already, or, are we in danger of being so? The solution is this: If you are actually listening to Christ, and to him alone, you don't have to worry.

Remember: You can recognize fruitage! Jesus explained how we can easily recognize false teachers. How is that? By their fruitage. What, though, does that even mean? Since they are pretending to be righteous and loving (are wolves in sheep's clothing), how can we spot them? We can see false prophets because, as Jesus said:

It is what comes out of their mouth that exposes them:

Matthew 12:33-37 ESV "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. (34) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** (35) The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (36) **I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,** (37) for by

do what Abraham did. (40) Instead, you want to kill me for telling you the truth that God gave me. Abraham never did anything like that. (41) But you are doing exactly what your father does." "Don't accuse us of having someone else as our father!" they said. "We just have one father, and he is God." (42) Jesus answered: If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and only from him. He sent me. I did not come on my own. (43) Why can't you understand what I am talking about? Can't you stand to hear what I am saying? (44) Your father is the devil, and you do exactly what he wants. He has always been a murderer and a liar. There is nothing truthful about him. He speaks on his own, and everything he says is a lie. Not only is he a liar himself, but he is also the father of all lies.

your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

So, you see, you are judging your-own-self by the way you speak to and treat other people. Truly loving words can only come from a loving heart. How you treat others is defined solely by how much you influence yourself using the words of Christ.^{AA} That is because Jesus is the one and only person who can teach you to stop continuing as a worker of lawlessness, stop you from spewing hate.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) No matter what they say or even believe to the contrary, religious people all follow the doctrines of men. Otherwise, they would be "Christians." By following the doctrines of men,^(GG) religionists actually follow and make the Devil their father.^(John 8:44 on pg 58) Then, because of refusing Christ, the spirit they manifest is always wicked and hateful. It is that same spirit, then, that will be manifest by those they can deceive and manipulate to become their followers.^(U) And, the sect they have gathered to create will usually be named something beyond "Christian."^{BB} The name they choose for themselves, you see, is how they seek to identify themselves to be "the special ones" you *must* follow. So, then, their fruitage is how they treat other people,

^{AA} **John 12:44-50 CEV** In a loud voice Jesus said: Everyone who has faith in me also has faith in the one who sent me. (45) And everyone who has seen me has seen the one who sent me. (46) I am the light that has come into the world. No one who has faith in me will stay in the dark. (47) I am not the one who will judge those who refuse to obey my teachings. I came to save the people of this world, not to be their judge. (48) **But everyone who rejects me and my teachings will be judged on the last day by what I have said [will be judged by my words].** (49) I don't speak on my own. **I say only what the Father who sent me has told me to say.** (50) I know that his commands will bring eternal life. That is why I tell you exactly what the Father has told me.

^{BB} **Acts 11:25-26 YLT** And Barnabas went forth to Tarsus, to seek for Saul, (26) and having found him, he brought him to Antioch, and it came to pass that they a whole year did assemble together in the assembly, and taught a great multitude, **the disciples also were divinely called first in Antioch Christians.**

and, whether they are directing each person to read the Gospels and learn what Christ said. That is how Jesus said you can identify them. They will be saying peace and security,^{CC} just like real Christians would, but they will be manifesting hate in the form of judgment against non-members.^(Rom 1:29-31 on pg 53) While they always proclaim they are followers of Christ, and so *will actually speak some* of his words, they are always sneaky and deceptive (like their father Satan). They always mix their own lies (Satan's lies really) with a little Bible truth to form the doctrine they follow, and then to infect other people with.^(GG) They will want to sell you books and... You can eventually spot them by their lying religious doctrine, of course, but that takes time and a measure of Bible knowledge on your part. It would also require you somehow manage to avoid being misled by them while you gained the Bible knowledge required to recognize their lies. Do not fret. It is their abundant and available fruitage, how they treat other people day by day, which easily and quickly reveals who they really are. That is because how they treat other people is based on the lies they have allowed themselves to continue to believe. Jesus warned us.^(ZZ) He set us free of belief in lies by means of his teachings.^(HH)

Directing people to the teachings of Christ is perfect fruitage.

Directing people to materials written by men (the doctrines of men)

^{CC} **1 Thessalonians 5:2-9 ESV** (2) For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) **While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.** (4) But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. (5) For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (6) So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (9) For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

is bad fruitage. When religious leaders teach lies (or imperfect spiritual food) as doctrine, rather than simply directing people to read what Christ said (as they should be doing), it is hard for them when they come in contact with sincere Bible students. They hate people who, by their very life choice to imitate Christ, also expose them. So, they are forced to attack people who don't bow before and go along with their presumptuous assertions about what is truth. While they publicly say love, they will privately say bad things and spread rumors about people who don't join their sect. They often say things about people they have no actual knowledge of, as they fabricate lies about those who live a life that exposes them.^(Rom 1:29-31 on pg 53) They take that course simply because they are liars, like the father they have chosen to worship.^(John 8:44 on pg 58) Religious people are trapped in being unable to avoid showing judgment and hate simply because they haven't learned from Christ how to love others. If they don't attack and belittle those who seek and speak the truth, they rightly feel their own hatred and doctrinal lies of manipulation will be exposed. That's what religion does, you see: Religion manipulates people. Religious universities teach future religious leaders how to control people; how to keep the dollars flowing in. I have never heard even one religious school talk about the need for every person to become intimately familiar with the Gospel teachings of our lord, and to listen to him rather than to them. Judgmental religionists may even imagine they are doing good by attacking the true followers of Christ.^{DD} So, then, as always, it is just as Jesus said: You can spot

^{DD} [John 15:21-16:5 CEV](#) People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me. (22) **If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin.** (23) Everyone who hates me also hates my Father. (24) I have done things that no one else has ever done. **If they had not seen me do these things, they would not be guilty. But they did see me do these things, and they still hate me and my Father too.** (25) That is why the Scriptures are true when they say, "People hated me for no reason." (26) I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is

what people really are by paying attention to their fruitage (to what comes out of their mouth). You don't have to fear being deceived by them if you simply listen to Christ and build faith in his words. Pay close attention to what they are actually doing, not what they are saying they are doing.^{EE} Remember, some liars are sincerely deceived themselves. Some of them actually believe what they say is true. What they can't hide, however, are the works they produce. If they say or even believe they are doing good, but they are really causing harm, they are not followers of Christ. What they say they are doing may be a pretense, but whether they have real love toward others will be obvious in what they speak. They may show some pretext of love to people they like, in an effort to get people to like them, or to get them to do what they want them to do.^{FF}

true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me. (27) **Then you will also tell others about me**, because you have been with me from the beginning.~

John 16:1-5 CEV I am telling you this to keep you from being afraid. (2) You will be chased out of the Jewish [*religious*] meeting places. And the time will come when people will kill you and think they are doing God a favor. (3) They will do these things because they don't know either the Father or me. (4) I am saying this to you now, so that when the time comes, you will remember what I have said. I was with you at the first, and so I didn't tell you these things. (5) But now I am going back to the Father who sent me...

^{EE} **2 Peter 2:1-3 BBE** But there were false prophets among the people, as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly put forward wrong teachings for your destruction, even turning away from the Lord who gave himself for them; whose destruction will come quickly, and they themselves will be the cause of it. (2) And a great number will go with them in their evil ways, through whom the true way will have a bad name. (3) And in their desire for profit they will come to you with words of deceit, like traders doing business in souls: whose punishment has been ready for a long time and their destruction is watching for them.

^{FF} **Luke 6:31-38 ESV** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (32) "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. (33) And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. (34) And if you lend to those

(Even the most wicked man, for example, probably appeared to love his mother.) Christians, however, display love because that is what they have learned (or are learning) from Christ. Christians are not prejudice or sectarian. Christians love everyone because they are trying to be like their Heavenly Father.^(Mat 5:44 on pg 61) Jesus is the only one who can teach you how to have such love. Proud and arrogant religious leaders haven't changed since they killed Jesus some 2000 years ago. They claimed they were righteous back then, but their hatred was obvious.^(J) Religionists were deceiving people in Jesus's day, and they remain exactly the same in our day.^{GG & (Luke 12:1 on pg 20)} You just need to open your eyes to the words of Christ.^{HH} Religious leaders will respond with arrogance and hate when confronted with the truth.^{II & (J)} You, however, will be set

from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. (35) But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (36) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (37) "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (38) give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

^{GG} **Matthew 15:7-9 GNB** You hypocrites! How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! (8) "These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (9) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!" ~

Isaiah 29:13 GNB The Lord said, "These people claim to worship me, but their words are meaningless, and their hearts are somewhere else [*far from me*]. Their religion is nothing but human rules and traditions, which they have simply memorized.

^{HH} **John 8:31-32 CEV** Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said [*if you remain in my teachings*], you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"**John 8:33-44 CEV** They [*the religious leaders*] answered, "We are Abraham's children! We have never been anyone's slaves. How can

free.^(HH) Don't have faith in me, or in other men and women either. You can't go wrong if you simply read the Gospels and believe what Christ Jesus said!

Satan is a warlord! In trying to understand this world and how it works, think about warlords who commonly rise up in third world countries. (If you live in a nation with a government that tries to prevent such terroristic behavior, you should thank God!^(JJ) We see that many people are ready to tear down their government, actually imagining they can make it better. The results we have seen of demolishing established governments have been horrible, often worse than we could imagine.)^{JJ}

you say we will be set free?" (34) Jesus replied: I tell you for certain that anyone who sins is a slave of sin! (35) And slaves don't stay in the family forever, though the Son will always remain in the family. (36) If the Son gives you freedom, you are free! (37) I know that you are from Abraham's family. Yet you want to kill me, because my message isn't really in your hearts. (38) I am telling you what my Father has shown me, just as you are doing what your father has taught you. (39) The people said to Jesus, "Abraham is our father!" Jesus replied, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did. (40) Instead, you want to kill me for telling you the truth that God gave me. Abraham never did anything like that. (41) But you are doing exactly what your father does." "Don't accuse us of having someone else as our father!" they said. "We just have one father, and he is God." (42) Jesus answered: If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and only from him. He sent me. I did not come on my own. (43) Why can't you understand what I am talking about? Can't you stand to hear what I am saying? (44) Your father is the devil, and you do exactly what he wants. He has always been a murderer and a liar. There is nothing truthful about him. He speaks on his own, and everything he says is a lie. Not only is he a liar himself, but he is also the father of all lies.

^{JJ} **Romans 13:1-14 GW** Every person should obey the government in power. No government would exist if it hadn't been established by God. The governments which exist have been put in place [*or allowed*] by God. (2) Therefore, whoever resists the government opposes what God has established. Those who resist will bring

Warlords may go into a village and kill all the adults. They then take the boys and young men to serve them as forced warriors. The more successful warlords, however, are more wicked and deceitful. They go in after others have killed the parents of young people and pretend to “rescue” them. (They may actually have sent others ahead to kill the parents.) They begin to “take care” of the needs of the young people and promise they will continue to do so. They also start building hate by telling lies about the people they want

punishment on themselves. (3) People who do what is right don't have to be afraid of the government. But people who do what is wrong should be afraid of it. Would you like to live without being afraid of the government? Do what is right, and it will praise you. (4) The government is God's servant working for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid. The government has the right to carry out the death sentence. It is God's servant, an avenger to execute God's anger on anyone who does what is wrong. (5) Therefore, it is necessary for you to obey, not only because you're afraid of God's anger but also because of your own conscience. (6) That is also why you pay your taxes. People in the government are God's servants while they do the work he has given them. (7) Pay everyone whatever you owe them. If you owe taxes, pay them. If you owe tolls, pay them. If you owe someone respect, respect that person. If you owe someone honor, honor that person. (8) Pay your debts as they come due. However, one debt you can never finish paying is the debt of love that you owe each other. The one who loves another person has fulfilled Moses' Teachings. (9) The commandments, "Never commit adultery; never murder; never steal; never have wrong desires," and every other commandment are summed up in this statement: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." (10) Love never does anything that is harmful to a neighbor. Therefore, love fulfills Moses' Teachings. (11) You know the times in which we are living. It's time for you to wake up. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first became believers. (12) The night is almost over, and the day is near. So we should get rid of the things that belong to the dark and take up the weapons that belong to the light. (13) We should live decently, as people who live in the light of day. Wild parties, drunkenness, sexual immorality, promiscuity, rivalry, and jealousy cannot be part of our lives. (14) Instead, live like the Lord Jesus Christ did, and forget about satisfying the desires of your sinful nature.

the young captives to help them fight against and kill. Then, they *offer* the young people the “*opportunity*” to serve in their army against those they are being taught are “*wicked*.” By such deceit, they make young soldiers who will freely lay down their lives for the cause they have been led to put faith in. That’s exactly what Satan has done to the people of this world.^(LL) & ^(MM) When Adam and Eve allowed themselves to be misled by Satan’s lies (in the Garden of Eden), they made themselves children of God’s enemy. To eternally protect his growing creation, God allowed time for Satan to show whether his promises to Eve were true: Satan had told Eve she (and we all) would be better off apart from God’s direction.^{KK} Humankind has now lived about 6000 years under the influence of Satan.^{LL} The witness about the good Satan promised his rulership would bring is complete. Satan is the ruler of this world^{MM} and the tribulation^(ZZ) overwhelming our earth is the result

^{KK} **Genesis 3:3-5 BBE** But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, If you take of it or put your hands on it, death will come to you. (4) And the snake said, Death will not certainly come to you: (5) For God sees that on the day when you take of its fruit, your eyes will be open, and you will be as gods, having knowledge of good and evil [*deciding for yourself what is right and wrong*].

^{LL} **Ephesians 2:1-4 CEV** In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. (2) You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. (3) Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else. (4) But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you.

^{MM} **1 John 5:19 CEV** We are certain that we come from God and that the rest of the world [*or the whole world*] is under the power of the devil.~

John 14:30 GW The ruler of this world has no power over me. But he's coming, so I won't talk with you much longer.~

John 16:11 GW He will convince the world that God judges it, because the ruler of this world has been judged.~

of the actions by those who follow him. There is too much hate and suffering in this world to even bear to think about. Just having knowledge of it is damaging for everyone.^{NN} Our world rulers push and shove and threaten each other like ignorant and spoiled young children. Some among them are willing to tear down the governments our God has let become established.^(JJ) That is the work of Satan. You can't stop being a follower of Satan if he can keep you confused and ignorant. Religion is Satan's tool and deception is its fruitage.^(Luke 12:1 on pg 20) The ability to see this world for what it really is, that's the freedom you gain from your personal and intimate knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ.^{OO}

[Always return kindness for evil](#). Since I say what I do about religion (reveal what Jesus said about them really), and the religious leaders hear from their followers what I say, dealing with religious people is sometimes a painful ordeal. (There are also people who do love God's word in their midst. That makes the experience more pleasant.) While it's no fun dealing with the hate manifest by religionists, it *is* what Jesus said those who follow him should expect.^{(I) & (YYY)} You should note too, religionists treat members of their own flock the same way. Badness is not

[Acts 26:18 GW](#) You will open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from Satan's control to God's. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and a share among God's people who are made holy by believing in me.'

^{NN} [2 Peter 2:7-9 GW](#) Yet, God rescued Lot, a man who had his approval. Lot was distressed by the lifestyle of people who had no principles and lived in sexual freedom. (8) Although he was a man who had God's approval, he lived among the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Each day was like torture to him as he saw and heard the immoral things that people did. (9) Since the Lord did all this, he knows how to rescue godly people when they are tested. He also knows how to hold immoral people for punishment on the day of judgment.

^{OO} [John 8:31-32 ALT](#) So Jesus was saying to the Jews having believed [*or, trusted*] in Him, "If you remain in My word [*dwell in my word*], truly you are My disciples. (32) "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!"

something one can switch on and off. It is the reflection of who they are! Some religionists, like young Paul,^(HHH) actually believe they are serving God in their deceitful and hateful activities. If you make it a point to always return kindness for their mischief, however, it exposes and convicts them of what they really are.^{PP} It also prevents you from being driven to become hateful yourself, or losing your balance and behaving like a crazy person.^{QQ} Seeing them behave exactly like Jesus said they would should strengthen your faith in him. Your knowledge of truth may allow you to provide help for some of the people who are caught up in religion's clever pretext of righteousness. Satan's followers always try to transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.^(Y) No matter how much they try, however, they can never hide their inability to show love. Just always be asking yourself: Are they really showing love toward other people? It really is just that simple! The teachings of God's son allow you see behind the curtain of feigned

^{PP} **Romans 12:17-21 Murdock** (17) And repay to no man evil for evil: but let it be your study to do good before all men. (18) And if possible, so far as it dependeth on you, live in peace with every man. (19) And be ye not avengers of yourselves, my beloved: but give place to wrath. For it is written: If thou dost not execute judgment for thyself, I will execute judgment for thee, saith God.

[*Deuteronomy 32:35*]* (20) And if thy adversary be hungry, feed him: and if he be thirsty, give him drink. For if thou doest these things to him, thou wilt heap coals of fire on his head.

[*Proverbs 25:21 & 22*]*² (21) Be ye not overcome by evil; but overcome evil with good.~

* **Deuteronomy 32:35-36 LITV** (35) Vengeance and retribution belong to Me; in due time their foot will slip; for the day of their calamity is near, and the things prepared are hurrying for them. (36) For Jehovah will bring His people justice; and He shall have compassion on His servants, for He sees that *their* power is gone, and only the imprisoned and abandoned *remain*.~

^{*2} **Proverbs 25:21-22 Darby** (21) If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: (22) for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and Jehovah shall reward thee.

^{QQ} **Ecclesiastes 7:7 ESV** Surely oppression drives the wise into madness...

righteousness. Knowledge of Bible truth is wonderful in the extreme.

Not all people under the influenced of Satan are wicked. While we don't believe everyone in this world is wicked, we do believe each and every one of us is born being influenced by Satan and his world.^(LL) & ^(MM) You must *take the positive action of becoming* Christian if you are to be set free of what you were born into! Satan is the warlord of this world (controlling by means of his many and varied lying religious sects) who starts promising he will protect and help us from the time we are born.^(MM) We are witness to what all the religious activity of this world has produced: We live in a world with lots of well-meaning people, who, with no real knowledge of Bible truth^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) (which knowledge can come only from reading the words of Christ), go forward doing harm to each other as they ignorantly try to work out their own righteousness using the doctrines of men to guide them.^(GG) They display bad fruitage toward each other simply because they haven't learned from Christ how to show love. The teachings of Christ allow us to show love, and then, to have hope.

Are there two hopes available to Christians? I believe the Bible teaches we can continue to live forever by means of our faith in Christ (without having to die).^{RR} The scriptural support for that belief was previously outlined in a booklet available at:

^{RR} **Job 33:17-30 CEV** God does this (teaches us) to make us turn from sin and pride (18) and to protect us from being swept away to the world of the dead. (19) Sometimes we are punished with a serious illness and aching joints. (20) Merely the thought of our favorite food makes our stomachs sick, (21) and we become so skinny that our bones stick out. (22) **We feel death and the grave taking us in their grip.** (23) One of a thousand angels (Christ) then comes to our rescue by saying we are innocent. (24) The angel shows kindness, **commanding death to release us [let them off from going down to the pit], because the price was paid.** (25) **Our health is restored, we feel young again,** (26) and we ask God to accept us. Then we joyfully worship

My hope and faith, then, is this: God is right now, or soon will be, protecting those who express faith (in Christ) so as to keep them alive forever. It is similar to the way the faithful were kept alive in Noah's day^{SS} and in Lot's day. That hope has led me to a question about my faith: What about all the people of loving-kindness who continue to die in our day in time? Why were they without the protection I try to believe God is providing? In other words: What about Colene and other kind hearted people? If I hope I can live forever, why wasn't she protected by her faith so as to live forever without dying?^(RR) So then...

If Christ is now helping his followers, why are people still dying? Individuals have been hoping in the resurrection since Jesus visited us (about) 2000 years ago; and even before.^(XXXX) The resurrection is a hope Jesus personally endorsed.^{TT} He performed several to

God, and we are rewarded because we are innocent. (27) When that happens, **we tell everyone, "I sinned and did wrong, but God forgave me (28) and rescued me from death! Now I will see the light."** (29) **God gives each of us chance after chance (30) to be saved from death** and brought into the light that gives life.

^{SS} **Luke 17:26-30 GW** "When the Son of Man comes again, the situation will be like the time of Noah. (27) People were eating, drinking, and getting married until the day that Noah went into the ship. Then the flood destroyed all of them. (28) "The situation will also be like the time of Lot. People were eating, drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. (29) But on the day that Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from the sky and destroyed all of them. (30) The day when the Son of Man is revealed will be like that.

^{TT} **John 11:23-24 CEV** Jesus told her, "Your brother will live again!" (24) Martha answered, "I know that he will be raised to life [*in the resurrection*] on the last day, when all the dead are raised."

demonstrate what it would be like.^{UU} The resurrection promised by Jesus remains a valid hope. If God has chosen to introduce an additional hope, however, and is now protecting some people to be survivors of this dying world system, that is also good. It will also mean those *who are survivors* of the tribulation^{VV} won't have need of a resurrection. They will simply continue alive.^{(SS) & (RR)} If some are being kept alive, though, why are others who seem faithful still dying. I do not imagine myself a judge of other people, and certainly not of God. What we can always know, however, is everything God does is motivated by love. While being a survivor of this old world system is a wonderful gift and privilege, it will also be harsh to behold.^{WW} Having to live among hateful people who push

^{UU} **Mark 5:35-36 & 41-42 GNB** While Jesus was saying this, some messengers came from Jairus' house and told him, "Your daughter has died. Why bother the Teacher any longer?" (36) Jesus paid no attention to what they said, but told him, "Don't be afraid, only believe [*have faith*]." Mark 5:41-42 GNB He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha, koum,*" which means, "Little girl, I tell you to get up!" (42) She got up at once and started walking around. (She was twelve years old.) When this happened, they were completely amazed.

^{VV} **Revelation 7:13-17 GNB** One of the elders asked me, "Who are these people dressed in white robes, and where do they come from?" (14) "I don't know, sir. You do," I answered. He said to me, "These are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution [*the great tribulation*]. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. (15) That is why they stand before God's throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence. (16) Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them, (17) because the Lamb, who is in the center of the throne, will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

^{WW} **Psalms 91:7-16 GNB** A thousand may fall dead beside you, ten thousand all around you, but you will not be harmed. (8) You will look and see how the wicked are punished. (9) You have made the LORD your defender, the Most High your protector, (10) and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home. (11)

ahead following a course to “die in their sins”^(FFFFF) is painful to watch. Following Christ means we must, along with learning to have love, expose religious people who are only pretending to be loving and kind. Exposing liars is harsh. Religionists hate everyone who won't bow down and follow them.^{XX} Seeing the suffering of this world, in addition to the pain of dealing with religious people, leaves many of us feeling from time to time like it might be easier just to slip into the sleep of death our creator makes available to those who are suffering beyond what is bearable.^{YY} Like Moses and

God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go. (12) They will hold you up with their hands to keep you from hurting your feet on the stones. (13) You will trample down lions and snakes, fierce lions and poisonous snakes. (14) God says, "I will save those who love me and will protect those who acknowledge me as LORD. (15) When they call to me, I will answer them; when they are in trouble, I will be with them. I will rescue them and honor them. (16) I will reward them with long life; I will save them."

^{XX} **1 Peter 4:2-5 GNB** From now on, then, you must live the rest of your earthly lives controlled by God's will and not by human desires. (3) You have spent enough time in the past doing what the heathen like to do. Your lives were spent in indecency, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and the disgusting worship of idols. (4) **And now the heathen are surprised when you do not join them in the same wild and reckless living, and so they insult [speak evil of] you. [Verse 4 - MWT - Because you do not continue running with them in this course to the same low sink of debauchery, they are puzzled and go on speaking abusively of you.]** (5) But they will have to give an account of themselves to God, who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

^{YY} **Mark 15:31-37 GW** The chief priests and the scribes made fun of him among themselves in the same way. They said, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. (32) Let the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now so that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with him were insulting him. (33) At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. (34) At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" (35) When some of the people standing there heard him say that, they said, "Listen! He's calling

Elijah, who both slept in death until they were resurrected by Jesus,^(B) they have no knowledge of the passing of time.^(EEE - Ecclesiastes 9:5) For them, then, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. After Moses and Elisha finished talking with Christ,^(B) they likely went back to sleep awaiting the time for their resurrection to eternal life in paradise. Death and resurrection may thus remain an option for those who are too tender hearted to endure the hatred surrounding us as we witness the destruction of this old world system.^(YY) That is especially true when that hatred comes from those false prophets who, while asserting love and even using Christ's name, express only hate and judgment.^{ZZ} It is a wonderful but also heart wrenching experience to stand as witness while Christ goes subduing in the midst of his enemies.^(DDDD) Our desire should always be to support Christ as he exposes Satan and his followers in the light of truth. We can support Christ by trying to educate all people who remain ignorant. We must remember,

Elijah." (36) Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar. Then he put it on a stick and offered Jesus a drink. The man said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down." (37) Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice and died.

^{ZZ} **Matthew 24:21-28 MWT** There will be a great tribulation at that time, a kind of misery and suffering that has not happened from the beginning of the world until now and will certainly never happen again. (22) **If God did not reduce the number of those days, no one would survive. But those days will be cut short because of those whom God has chosen (or is choosing).** (23) "At that time don't believe anyone who tells you, 'Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' (24) False messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will work spectacular, miraculous signs and do wonderful things to deceive, if possible, even those being chosen by God. (25) Listen! I've told you this before it happens [*or, I have forewarned you*]. (26) So if someone tells you, 'Jesus is in the desert!' don't go out looking for him. And don't believe anyone who says, 'He's in a secret place!' (27) The Son of Man will come again just as lightning flashes from east to west. (The Gospel teachings of Christ are available all throughout the earth.) (28) Eagles will gather wherever the body is. (The remains of Christ [his body] exist in his teachings as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The wise gather around those teachings.)

though, if they wouldn't listen to Christ, they won't listen to us. It is painful to watch as people we love refuse to listen to truth. Jesus himself seemed amazed that some people couldn't hear what he said to them.^(John 8:43 on pg 58) It appears the key to understanding is that each individual must first be drawn to Jesus by his Father.^(RRR) God is looking for all those persons who will allow him to help them in that way.^{AAA} Please allow God to direct you to Christ!^(SSS)

God's will must be first! Another reason some righteous people might not be protected and kept alive is illustrated by Jesus and his disciples. Jesus handpicked 12 men to become his intimate followers. He was personally teaching them to become the nucleus of a new earth society in their day in time. They would have the task of breaking free of traditional religion to become the leaven for his earthly kingdom; the kingdom comprised of his faithful followers on earth. Christ was starting the destruction of Satan by exposing religion to be followers of Satan. To support that effort, those 12 men were being charged with filling the earth with the teachings of Christ.^{BBB} Because Jesus was working out God's will on earth, the disciples came under his special protection as he guarded and fed and cared for them while he gave them personal instruction for their task. What a privilege for those men. Now ask

^{AAA} **2 Chronicles 16:9 Darby** (9) For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro through the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him...

^{BBB} **Acts 5:27-33 ESV** And when they [*the chief priests and Pharisees*] had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, (28) saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this [*Jesus's*] name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." (29) But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (30) The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. (31) God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (32) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." (33) When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

yourself this: How were they selected? Do you suppose they were the only 12 righteous men in the nation of Israel? (Actually, only 11 faithful men were chosen; Judas was chosen to fulfill Bible prophecy about the one who would betray Christ. After his death, however, Judas was replaced with another righteous man.)^{CCC} There were likely many other faithful men Jesus could have chosen. Why those 12, and, why only 12? Do you think they were the most faithful in Israel? That also seems unlikely. (The Bible does not tell us how faithful they were as compared with others, so, we don't know.) It seems most likely they were just 12 righteous men who were fortunate to be in close proximity to Jesus when he began his work. What we can know for sure is this: They were the men who made up the number Jesus needed to accomplish his Father's purpose to start a new earth society of Christians. They were selected to have a part in accomplishing God's will, and, they eagerly accepted their assignment to be part of the new thing God was using them to do. In Noah's day, as well, God did a new thing in the earth: The earth had become filled with violence and could no longer produce righteous people; because of the vile influence of Satan over the world he had made to be wicked.^{DDD} God did

^{CCC} [John 6:68-71 GW](#) Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to what person could we go? Your words give eternal life. (69) Besides, we believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (70) Jesus replied, "I chose all twelve of you. Yet, one of you is a devil." (71) Jesus meant Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. Judas, who was one of the twelve apostles, would later betray Jesus.

^{DDD} [Genesis 6:5-14 ESV](#) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (7) So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." (8) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (9) These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. (10) And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (11) Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) And God saw the

something new in the earth by destroying all the workers of lawlessness, whether they were wicked, or just ignorant. As He destroyed the world of that day, He saved Noah and his family alive to become a new earth society.^(ZZZZ – 2 Pet 3:6) God took action so righteously inclined people could have a chance to become faithful and to live. God is doing something new in our day as well. Jesus used Noah as an illustration of what he is now doing to establish paradise earth wide.^(IIII) Like the 12 apostles of Jesus, those men and women who are protected alive to survive the tribulation of our day may not be the only righteous people in the earth. God will choose as many as he needs to serve his purpose. What mankind has done during our existence is this: By our rebellion against God, we have produced a worldwide tribulation that is killing everyone.^(ZZ) Just like in Noah's day, God will intervene to preserve alive at least as many as He needs to establish a nucleus of faithful people in the restored paradise.^(IIII) Then, in that new and loving environment, those who have previously died will be resurrected and given the opportunity to express faith in Christ. If they refuse God's loving direction even under those perfect conditions, having been set free of Satan's influence over them, they will force their own destruction. That is the second death and is the end of them.^{EEE} Hopefully, everyone will realize the truth and will prosper.

earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. (13) And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (14) Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

^{EEE} **Revelation 2:11 ALT** 'The one having an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies [*congregations*]: The one overcoming shall by no means be harmed by the second death.' ~ **Revelation 21:8 CEV** But I will tell you what will happen to cowards and to everyone who is unfaithful or dirty-minded or who murders or is sexually immoral or uses witchcraft or worships idols or tells lies. They will be thrown into that lake of fire and burning sulfur. This is the second death.~

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 GNB Yes, the living know they are going to die [*if they don't receive help from God through faith in Christ*], but the

In any case... If we personally want and hope to be survivors of the destruction of Satan's old world system, that's what we need to be asking Jehovah^(QQQQ) to give us through our faith in his son. When Jesus suffered distress as he faced his horrible death, he asked his Father to preserve him alive. Jesus added, however, that he wanted his Father's will be done above his own.^{FFF} We must be like Jesus: As we hope to remain alive and survive this system, we must ask for God's will to be done ahead of our own. So, then, ~~we~~ / hope to be among those who live forever but ~~we~~ / pray for God's will first. If we can become part of the new earth society in paradise by being survivors, we thank God. If we die and are resurrected into paradise, we still thank God. Jehovah's will be done!^{(QQQQ) & (JJJJ)}

dead know nothing. They have no further reward; they are completely forgotten. (6) Their loves, their hates, their passions, all died with them. They will never again take part in anything that happens in this world.

^{FFF} **Matthew 26:36-46 GNB** Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." (37) He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, (38) and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me." (39) He went a little farther on, threw himself face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want." (40) Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me for even one hour? (41) Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (42) Once more Jesus went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cup of suffering cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." (43) He returned once more and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. (44) Again Jesus left them, went away, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (45) Then he returned to the disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look! The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners. (46) Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!"

Please see [this world for what it really is](#): A smokescreen of righteousness put up by the many sects of Satan's ignorant or wicked religious followers. Satan doesn't care which of his groups he can get you to believe and join, as long as they keep you distracted from the simple truth that you need to actually read the Gospels for yourself. Remember, Jesus gave insight to be able to identify Satan's followers by their works. Just ask yourself, are they actually showing love, or just using the word love as they render judgment against others in what is really a display of hate? The greatest love you can show is directing people to the teachings of Jesus. Christians are the group made up of the *individuals* who are actually reading Jesus's words, *and then following him*. They will be loving and kind and will always, we say again always, encourage you to read the Gospels so you can come to know Jesus for yourself. They will neither judge you wicked nor do they imagine they have authority to pronounce you righteous. You must approve yourself.^(BBB) Jesus did forewarn you!^(ZZ) Like any warlord of his old world system,^(Y) & ^(MM) Satan controls his followers using lies. That is also his weakness. Since Satan [*religion*] must deceive many of his followers in order to control them (that because many people do respect the Bible), he must resort to perverting the Bible message in order to control his sheep. Only by twisting what the Bible says, in constructing a non-scriptural doctrine, can Satan prevent himself from being recognized. That leaves him in constant danger. As he leads people by means of their own ego and selfishness, to pick and choose scriptures they can misapply in constructing their sectarian religious doctrine, there is the constant danger his misguided followers will realize too much of the truth from the Bible and break free.^(HH) That is precisely how Jesus is destroying Satan: By exposing him in the light of truth^{GGG} to each individual his father is drawing to Christ's teachings.^(RRR)

^{GGG} [John 18:37 GW](#) Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus replied, "You're correct in saying that I'm a king. I have been born and have come into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me." (Please take note: You must read the Gospels to listen to Christ!)

Are we doing good or remaining “workers of lawlessness”? Please let me give the account of a composite visit (comprised of many similar experiences) that leads me, from time to time, to be in the midst of a group of the members of some church. This is not an attempt to judge between which individuals are religious and which are true Christians. It is simply an effort to compare some common behavior with what Jesus taught. For me, this often happens when I attend a funeral. My reason for examining my experiences, again, is so we can compare Jesus’s teachings and thereby realize the attitude displayed by religionists as groups: We can also note if it is the same attitude displayed by the religious people of Jesus’s day. Religionists display the same attitude toward nonmembers, toward their own sectarian members, and especially toward sincere Bible students. Sectarian groups commonly assert Bible students are heretics or apostates, simply because their Bible knowledge won’t allow them to join or seek the approval of the sect.^(BBBB) Please realize what I am attempting to comprehend, and then to explain. One thing I ~~have come to~~ *am coming to* realize about myself (and about all of us) is this: When we do a thing, what we *intend to accomplish* has little to do with whether we are peaceful people or we remain one of the “workers of lawlessness” condemned by Christ. Jesus specifically warned us about the danger of ignorantly remaining workers of lawlessness.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) In actual fact, the Bible teaches good intentions can often bring the most destructive results of all. As a Bible example of good intentions causing harm, we consider Saul’s first appearance in the Bible as the young apostle Paul. In his youth, the Bible recounts, Paul stoned to death a man named Stephen simply because Stephen was a follower of Christ.^{HHH} We know Paul meant well because he believed he was

^{HHH} **Acts 6:8-15 GW** Stephen was a man filled with God's favor and power. He did amazing things and performed miracles. (9) One day some men from the cities of Cyrene and Alexandria and the provinces of Cilicia and Asia started an argument with Stephen. They belonged to a synagogue called Freedmen's Synagogue. (10) They couldn't argue with Stephen because he spoke with the

servicing God. It was that blind faith in doing good by following men, however, that actually emboldened him to murder the innocent. Despite Paul's good intentions, he very clearly remained a worker of lawlessness. His own hateful act saddened him the rest of his

wisdom that the Spirit had given him. (11) Then they bribed some men to lie. These men said, "We heard him slander Moses and God." (12) The liars stirred up trouble among the people, the leaders, and the scribes. So they went to Stephen, took him by force, and brought him in front of the Jewish council. (13) Some witnesses stood up and lied about Stephen. They said, "This man never stops saying bad things about the holy place and Moses' Teachings. (14) We heard him say that Jesus from Nazareth will destroy the temple and change the customs that Moses gave us." (15) Everyone who sat in the council stared at him and saw that his face looked like an angel's face.~

Acts 7:1-2 GW Then the chief priest asked Stephen, "Is this true?" (2) Stephen answered, "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God who reveals his glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia. This happened before Abraham lived in Haran.~
In verses 3 thru 50, Stephen uses the religious leaders scriptural history to give a through witness why they should follow Christ. He then continues:~

Acts 7:51-58 GW "How stubborn can you be? How can you be so heartless and disobedient? You're just like your ancestors. They always opposed the Holy Spirit, and so do you! (52) Was there ever a prophet your ancestors didn't persecute? They killed those who predicted that a man with God's approval would come. You have now become the people who betrayed and murdered that man. (53) You are the people who received Moses' Teachings, which were put into effect by angels. But you haven't obeyed those teachings." (54) As council members listened to Stephen, they became noticeably furious. (55) But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked into heaven, saw God's glory, and Jesus in the position of authority that God gives. (56) So Stephen said, "Look, I see heaven opened and the Son of Man in the position of authority that God has given him!" (57) But the council members shouted and refused to listen. Then they rushed at Stephen with one purpose in mind, (58) and after they had thrown him out of the city, they began to stone him to death. The witnesses left their coats with a young man named Saul.

life.^{III} How could good hearted Paul have been led to commit such a vile and wicked act? And, this is the point you should take from his example: Paul had been misled and deceived by following his hate mongering religious leaders.^{JJJ} They had persuaded him he had God's blessing when he was actually serving Satan by serving those men and their sectarian doctrinal cause. Some of those who led Paul may have been sincerely deceived as well.^{KKK} While it is sad Paul was made a worker of lawlessness because of ignorance, and it is good to know God did forgive him, everyone should also comprehend why ignorance can no longer serve as an excuse. Jesus

^{III} **1 Corinthians 15:9-10 Darby** (9) For *I* am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called apostle, because I have persecuted the assembly (church) of God. (10) But by God's grace I am what I am; and his grace, which *was* towards me, has not been (in) vain; but I have laboured more abundantly than they all, but not *I*, but the grace of God which *was* with me.

^{JJJ} **1 Timothy 1:12-14 GW** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord that he has trusted me and has appointed me to do his work with the strength he has given me. (13) In the past I cursed him, persecuted him, and acted arrogantly toward him. However, I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in my unbelief. (14) Our Lord was very kind to me. Through his kindness he brought me to faith and gave me the love that Christ Jesus shows people.~

Philippians 3:4-7 GW ... If anyone else thinks that he can trust in something physical, I can claim even more. (5) I was circumcised on the eighth day. I'm a descendant of Israel. I'm from the tribe of Benjamin. I'm a pure-blooded Hebrew. When it comes to living up to standards, I was a Pharisee. (6) When it comes to being enthusiastic, I was a persecutor of the [*Christian*] church [*by following religious traditions and instruction*]. When it comes to winning God's approval by keeping Jewish laws, I was perfect. (7) These [*religious*] things that I once considered valuable, I now consider worthless for Christ.

^{KKK} **Luke 23:33-34 ESV** And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. (34) And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do..."

came for the purpose of teaching^{LLL} us better. He thereby takes away ignorance.^(DD) You must, we must all, stop remaining workers of lawlessness by becoming followers of Christ.

So then, how can we apply young Paul's example to our own lives? Let's consider a more common illustration than Paul killing Stephen. Let's consider something similar to what many of us go about doing all the time: At a gathering, I was reintroduced to a young woman I might have seen, but that I hadn't really "taken note of," for several years. She had changed from a little girl to a beautiful young woman in those passing years.^{MMM} A little taken aback by the transformation, I blurted out the last time I saw her she was just a skinny little girl. Her mother lovingly said something to move the conversation along but I got the feeling there was some discomfort over my thoughtless statement. (I might have been mistaken, of course. My ignorant statement might not have upset her at all. The point is: I was too careless and inconsiderate to know whether I hurt them or not. That ignorance *is my fault* and *I am responsible!*) While my intent was kindness, as I envisioned to express that I had three daughters of my own and had seen them go through growth spurts where it seemed like they grew 6 inches overnight. Every time that happened, it stretched their body weight out over that new height and left them looking a little skinny or lanky. I believe that to be a sign of a healthy and well cared for young person. That is what I *intended* to convey. What my statement actually implied, however, was the girl had been skinny and possibly not well cared for by her parents. My good intentions

^{LLL} [Mark 1:38 BBE](#) And he said to them, Let us go to other parts into the nearest towns, so that I may give teaching there, because for this purpose I came.~

[Mark 1:38 CEV](#) Jesus replied, "We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come."

^{MMM} [\(1 Kings 1:3, 4\)](#)³ And they went looking for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and finally found Ab'i-shag the Shu'nam-mite and then brought her in to the king. ⁴ And the girl was beautiful in the extreme. . .

were thus responsible for the resultant pain I possibly brought by my thoughtless rambling. ^(Mat 12:36 on pg 21) Causing others pain is the very definition of being a worker of lawlessness. In such situations, our intentions have little meaning; only the results we produce. Those results are our fruitage. Please realize, if you want to be set free of remaining a worker of lawlessness, you must listen to what Christ taught and then use his teachings to govern what you say and do. His teachings are the only thing that can allow us to see and understand what we really witness among those who surround us, and then to stop hurting them. Religion aggravates instead of helping. Be assured, *you can know religion has been misleading you* and keeping you from truth, if they have not been *reading* the Gospels to/with you regularly. Not citing one scripture and then droning on and on about what it means. **They must be encouraging you to actually read the Gospels! That is the clearest display of what fruitage anyone is producing.** You can't get what you need from this booklet, or from any of the other writings or ramblings of men. I (or any Christian) can direct you to listen to Christ, but that's all I can do. *I* can't teach what you need to know. No other person can either. Jesus is alive and watching your efforts. He can direct you as you make the effort to draw to him. Read your Gospels and recognize you are sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ when you do so. Directing you to Christ is the purpose of this booklet and the website justbibletruth.com. Once you have been helped to see your simple need to listen only to Jesus, you have no further *need* for any human (spiritually speaking). Once you recognize the value of Jesus's words, as God inspired them to be recorded in the Gospels,

you are set free and can understand^{NNN} what Jesus came to teach. He taught us how we can accept the gift of life.^{OOO}

Some people are deaf to the words of Christ. If you are one who is led by God to listen to Jesus,^(RRR) and you realize how really simple that direction by God is, you will want to share that wonderful news with others. If history serves, when you try to impart that simple truth to other people, you will be surprised or even shocked that many people will remain deaf to your words. It's not really that they can't hear. Many will say you are preaching to the choir about the need for Christ in their life. Some will even repeat your words that they need to read and learn what is in the Gospels; that they need to learn what Jesus taught for themselves. In their next breath, however, they will try to direct you to some sect of men and to get you to join in following their group. It is like *they can't really hear what you say!*^{PPP & (John 8:43 on pg 58)} They will try and direct

^{NNN} **John 14:14-17 ALT** "If you ask {Me}, anything in My name I will do [it]. (15) "If you are loving Me, keep My commandments. (16) "And I will ask the Father, and another Counselor [or, Helper] He will give to you, so that He shall dwell with you into the age [fig., forever]. (17) "The Spirit of the truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it does not look upon [or, watch [for]] Him, nor knows Him. But you know Him, because He dwells with you and will be in you.~

John 14:25-26 GNB "I have told you this while I am still with you. (26) The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

^{OOO} **Proverbs 14:5-6 GW** A trustworthy witness does not lie, but a dishonest witness breathes lies. (6) A mocker searches for wisdom without finding it, but knowledge comes easily to a person who has understanding (they understand Christ is the source of knowledge and then wisdom).

^{PPP} **Matthew 13:14-17 GW** So they make Isaiah's prophecy come true: 'You will hear clearly but never understand. You will see clearly but never comprehend. (15) These people have become close-minded and hard of hearing. They have shut their eyes so that

you to this book or to that book, or to some movie, all of which they assert is based on the Bible. If those things are *based on the Bible*, why not *just read the Bible*? (Not saying all books or movies are bad, mind you. I think this booklet is good. The only good purpose any of the teachings of men can serve, however, is to direct you to the Gospels. Why accept some second hand interpretation?) So, then, if you truly are a person who is looking for God,^(AAA) it seems that may also make you rare.^{QQQ} Whether there are a whole lot of righteously inclined people, however, or just a few, what being righteous does mean for sure is you are one who has been found by God. We can know that because he is watching to find each kind hearted person in all the earth.^(AAA) If He

their eyes never see. Their ears never hear. Their minds never understand. And they never return to me for healing!" (16) "Blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear. (17) I can guarantee this truth: Many prophets and many of God's people longed to see what you see [*the teachings of God's Messiah*] but didn't see it, to hear what you hear but didn't hear it.~

John 12:39-42 GW So the people couldn't believe because, as Isaiah also said, (40) "God blinded them and made them close-minded so that their eyes don't see and their minds don't understand. And they never turn to me for healing!" (41) Isaiah said this because he had seen Jesus' glory and had spoken about him. (42) Many rulers believed in Jesus. However, they wouldn't admit it publicly because the Pharisees [*religious leaders*] would have thrown them out of the synagogue. (That's why God blinded them, because they wanted people to follow their sectarian doctrine instead of following God's son.)^(GG)

^{QQQ} **Matthew 7:12-15 CEV** Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about. (13) Go in through the narrow gate. The gate to destruction is wide, and the road that leads there is easy to follow. A lot of people go through that gate. (14) But the gate to life is very narrow. The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few people find it (the reason the road to life is hard to follow is because many people are trying hide the simple path to life and to mislead you). (15) Watch out for false prophets! They dress up like sheep, but inside they are wolves who have come to attack you.

has identified you, He is also showing his power in your behalf. One thing that means is He is drawing you to the teachings of his son.^{RRR} A likely sign God is drawing you to his son is your putting forth the effort to read this booklet. Don't be confused, though, no one can give you what you need except the words of Christ Jesus.^{SSS} The only valuable thing any man or woman can tell you is you should learn from Christ. You must be cautious in your search for God! Realize what God is not doing. He is not drawing to one of the many sects of men and women who religiously follow the doctrines they have created to isolate and identify their group, even while they claim to be Christians. The Bible plainly teaches if God is helping you, He is drawing you to the teachings of Jesus.^{(RRR) & (SSS)} Then, by reading Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, you are making the choice to sit at the feet of the son of God. In that way, you put yourself in the midst of those he taught hundreds of years ago. Or, more accurately, by immersing yourself in the teachings of Jesus and becoming intimate with him, you bring him to life within your own life. If you are being drawn by God, you must also recognize religion so as to avoid being misled by Satan as god of this world.^(LL) Religion is not just those who blow up women and children in what they

^{RRR} **John 6:43-48 CEV** Jesus told them: Stop grumbling! (44) No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me makes them want to come [*draws them, or drags them, in other translations*]. But if they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day. (45) One of the prophets wrote, "God will teach all of them." And so everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him^(LLLL) will come to me. (46) The only one who has seen the Father is the one who has come from him. No one else has ever seen the Father. (47) I tell you for certain that everyone who has faith in me has eternal life. (48) I am the bread that gives life!

^{SSS} **Acts 4:12-13 BBE** And in no other is there salvation: for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, through which we may have salvation. (13) Now when they saw that Peter and John were without fear, though they were men of no education or learning, they were greatly surprised; and they took note of them that they had been with Jesus.

imagine is service to God, it is also those who hatefully judge as wicked or lost those who won't join their sect. Don't doubt for one second: All those who hate the light Jesus brought will also hate you, because your loving-kindness is a light (reflection of Christ) that exposes them to be followers of men.^{TTT} & ^(GG) Please realize and never doubt, you (we are all) are caught in the midst of a spiritual war.^{UUU} Satan works hard to hide what is happening, and/or, to make you think it is all just foolishness.^{VVV} Satan is leader of those who assert there is no tribulation, and that things are just

^{TTT} [John 3:16-21 BBE](#) For God had such love for the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever has faith in him may not come to destruction but have eternal life. (17) **God did not send his Son into the world to be judge of the world; he sent him so that the world might have salvation through him. (18) The man who has faith in him does not come up to be judged; but he who has no faith in him has been judged even now (already), because he has no faith in the name of the only Son of God. (19)** And this is the test by which men are judged: the light has come into the world and men have more love for the dark than for the light, because their acts are evil. (20) The light is hated by everyone whose acts are evil and he does not come to the light for fear that his acts will be seen. (21) But he whose life is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his acts have been done by the help of God.

^{UUU} [2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV](#) (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

^{VVV} [Genesis 19:12-14 LITV](#) And the men said to Lot, Who still is here to you? Bring out of this place (Sodom) your sons and your sons-in-law and your daughters, and whoever *belongs* to you in the city. (13) For we are about to destroy this place, for the cry of them is great before Jehovah, and Jehovah has sent us to destroy it. (14) And Lot went out to speak to his sons-in-law, those taking his daughters. And he said, Rise up, go out from this place, for Jehovah is about to destroy the city. **And he seemed as one joking to his sons-in-law.**

as they have always been, while they encourage you to follow them and not to worry.^(ZZZZ) Your one and only protection is to learn from Jesus how to show love for God and for other people. Remember: You are not a judge. Many religionists may be like young Paul and remain ignorant. They often don't even realize what they are showing is hate. Like Paul, they imagine they are serving God.^(HHH) Your expression of loving-kindness, however, will always irritate those who remain workers of lawlessness, whether they are yet ignorant or they are bad. That is because, even in a cultivated ignorance, they can't hide from the light of Christ's teachings. It hurts when the light shines on what they are. Your very life course will convict them. Also, your loving-kindness toward them may help some turn to righteousness. Until they make the change by following Christ, however, they will manifest hatred toward you. Take heart, recognize there is a protection for you in that: It is how people treat others that identifies who they really are. Recognizing them is the first step in protecting yourself from being misled by their doctrine. Even more importantly, their hatred is how God is identifying who they are.^(AA) Remember: The choice of whether we are upright is for each one of us to make. Even God can't know^{WWW} until we make that choice.^{XXX} The greatest identifying fruitage of

^{WWW} Visit: justbibletruth.com/CanGodForeseeYourFuture.pdf

^{XXX} **Proverbs 27:11-12 ESV** **Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad**, that I may answer him who reproaches me. (12) The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.~

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 LITV (15) Behold, I have set before you today life and good and death and evil, (16) in that I *am* commanding you today to love Jehovah your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands and His statutes, and His judgments, and you shall live and multiply, and Jehovah your God shall bless you in the land where you are going in, to possess it. (17) But if you turn away your heart, and you do not listen, and are drawn on, *even you will* bow down to other gods, and serve them; (18) I have declared to you today that you shall certainly perish. You shall not prolong your days in the land...~

any person is whether they encourage you to read for yourself the words of Christ, or they encourage you to depend on them to teach you. It's not just those who actually *do intend* to cause pain that are being exposed and made responsible by Christ. It is also those who cause harm by thoughtless acts of imagined love (the actions of those who remain workers of lawlessness because they haven't bothered to learn from Jesus).^(Mat 12:36 on pg 21) If you do choose to follow Christ, it seems unlikely you will find yourself surrounded by a whole nest of nice people.^{YYY} You will, however, receive the love and respect of all the other individuals who are true followers of Jesus.^{ZZZ} Christianity is all that is real and is all that soon will be left.^{AAAA & (QQQQ)} It is all so simple and beautiful!

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 LITV (19) I call Heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, that you may live, you and your seed, (20) to love Jehovah your God, to listen to His voice, and to cleave to Him. For He is your life, and the length of your days *so that you may* live in the land which Jehovah has sworn to your fathers...

^{YYY} **John 15:20-22 GW** Remember what I told you: 'A servant isn't greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they did what I said, they will also do what you say. (21) Indeed, they will do all this to you because you are committed to me, since they don't know the one who sent me. (22) If I hadn't come and spoken to them, they wouldn't have any sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin.

^{ZZZ} **Mark 10:28-30 CEV** Peter replied, "Remember, we left everything to be your followers!" (29) Jesus told him: You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news (30) will be rewarded. In this world they will be given a hundred times as many houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and pieces of land, though they will also be mistreated. And in the world to come, they will have eternal life. ~ The new world Jesus spoke about is the world he would establish at his return.^(JJJJ) It is now being established as he goes subduing in the midst of his enemies.^(DDDD)

^{AAAA} Visit: justbibletruth.com/TheEndOfAllReligion.pdf

So then, just take note of the people surrounding you. Do they only pretend love while they backhandedly utter hatred in their expression of judgment toward you and others?^{BBBB} Note also how they talk *about* other people. Are they upright and kind, or are they backbiters and slanderers and liars and hatemongers? As Paul wrote the Roman Christians:

(Romans 1:28-32 MWT) ²⁸ And just as they did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge (by refusing to learn what He sent Jesus to teach), God gave them up to a disapproved mental state, to do the things not fitting, ²⁹ filled as they were with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malicious disposition, being whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, self-assuming, inventors of injurious things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, false to agreements, having no natural affection, merciless. ³² Although these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of

^{BBBB} **1 Corinthians 4:1-7 GNB** (1) You should think of us as Christ's servants, who have been put in charge of God's secret truths. (2) The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master. (3) Now, I am not at all concerned about being judged by you or by any human standard; I don't even pass judgment on myself. (4) My conscience is clear, but that does not prove that I am really innocent. The Lord is the one who passes judgment on me. (5) So you should not pass judgment on anyone before the right time comes. Final judgment must wait until the Lord comes; he will bring to light the dark secrets and expose the hidden purposes of people's minds. And then all will receive from God the praise they deserve. (6) For your sake, my friends, I have applied all this to Apollos and me, using the two of us as an example, so that you may learn what the saying means, "Observe the proper rules (do not go beyond what is taught by Christ)." None of you should be proud of one person and despise another. (7) Who made you superior to others? Didn't God give you everything you have? Well, then, how can you boast, as if what you have were not a gift?

death, they not only keep on doing them but also consent with *[approve of]* those practicing them.

Jesus said they can't hide who they really are in their heart. What comes out of their mouth exposes them: They are good trees as sons and daughters of light, or they are of bad trees of darkness.^(Mat 12:34 on pg 21)

Christ is subduing in the midst of his enemies! What we see happening in our day^{CCCC} is Christ subduing in the midst of his enemies. He is accomplishing that by teaching the truth to those in spiritual darkness.^{DDDD} Don't fear those who persecute you for following Christ, hating you because you refuse to join them in what they imagine to be right. They are the blind leading the

^{CCCC} **2 Kings 6:15-17 LITV** And the servant of the man of God rose up early and went out. And, behold, an army was surrounding the city, and horses and chariots. And his young man said to him, Alas, my lord! What shall we do? (16) And he said, Do not fear, for those with us *are* more than those with them. (17) And Elisha prayed and said, I beg You, O Jehovah, open his eyes so that he may see. And Jehovah opened the eyes of the young man. And he looked, and behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

^{DDDD} **Psalms 110:1-7 LITV** *A Psalm of David.* A declaration of Jehovah to my Lord: Sit at My right hand, until I place Your enemies as Your footstool. (2) **Jehovah shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion to rule in the midst of Your enemies [or saying: “go subduing in the midst of your enemies”]**. (3) Your people *shall have* willingness [*offer themselves willingly in your service*] in the day of Your might; in the majesties of holiness; from the womb of the dawn, to You is the dew of Your youth. (4) Jehovah has sworn and will not repent: You *are* a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (5) The Lord at Your right hand shatters kings in the day of His anger. (6) He shall judge among the nations; He shall fill with dead bodies; He shall shatter heads over much land. (7) He shall drink out of the torrent on the way; therefore, He shall lift up the head.^(GGGG)

blind.^{EEEE} The promises God has made to mankind over the 6000 years since Adam are now coming true.^(VVVV) Many of those promises were to and through Abraham and his seed. All who love Christ are adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham, so as to inherit the promises made to him.^{FFFF} (The only valid promises to

^{EEEE} **Matthew 15:14 GNB** "Don't worry about them! They are blind leaders of the blind; and when one blind man leads another, both fall into a ditch."

^{FFFF} You can be adopted to receive the promises made to Abraham:

Romans 2:28-29 GW A person is not a Jew because of his appearance, nor is circumcision a matter of how the body looks. (29) Rather, a person is a Jew inwardly, and circumcision is something that happens in a person's heart. Circumcision is spiritual, not just a written rule. That person's praise will come from God, not from people.~

Ephesians 2:12-15 GNB At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God. (13) But now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies. (15) He abolished the Jewish Law with its commandments and rules, in order to create out of the two races one new people in union with himself, in this way making peace.~

Luke 1:68-69 GNB "Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to the help of his people and has set them free. (69) He has provided for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of his servant David.~

Acts 3:25 GNB The promises of God through his prophets are for you, and you share in the covenant which God made with your ancestors. As he said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants I will bless all the people on earth.'~

Galatians 3:14 & 16 & 28-29 GNB Christ did this in order that the blessing which God promised to Abraham might be given to the Gentiles by means of Christ Jesus, so that through faith we might receive the Spirit promised by God... (16) Now, God made his promises to Abraham and to his descendant. The scripture does not use the plural "descendants," meaning many people, but the

Abraham were inspired by God to be recorded in the Bible! Jesus is the primary seed of Abraham.) It should give you hope when you see Jesus's prophecies coming true, including those about the rampant hatred and the destruction from within this old wicked world system, most of the hate driven by religion.^{GGGG} What Jesus foretold will most surely include your being disliked for trying to follow and teach what he taught. Rejoice that there has been a savior king given to mankind.^{HHHH} We are the generation that is favored to witness the restoration of paradise on the earth.^{IIII} Jesus

singular "descendant," meaning one person only, namely, Christ... (28) So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. (29) If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.~

Galatians 3:24-25 ALT Therefore, the Law has become our tutor [*to lead us*] to Christ, so that by faith we should be justified [*or, declared righteous*]. (25) But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

^{GGGG} **Luke 21:25-28 CEV** Strange things will happen to the sun, moon, and stars. The nations on earth will be afraid of the roaring sea and tides, and they won't know what to do. (26) People will be so frightened that they will faint because of what is happening to the world. Every power in the sky (elevated governmental authority) will be shaken. (27) Then the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. (28) When all of this starts happening, stand up straight and be brave [*lift your heads high*]. You will soon be set free.

^{HHHH} **Isaiah 9:6-8 MKJV** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (7) There is no end of the increase of *His* government and peace on the throne of David, and on His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from now on, even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of Hosts will do this. (8) The Lord sent a Word to Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel.

^{IIII} **Isaiah 11:1-12 Darby** And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse (Christ is a descendent of King David and of his father Jesse), and a branch out of his roots shall be fruitful; (2) and the

is restoring the rulership of his Father for the benefit of all creation.^{JJJ} All who are worth saving will recognize the need to

Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. (3) And his delight will be in the fear of Jehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears; (4) but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (5) And righteousness shall be the girdle of his reins, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. (6) The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatted beast together, and a little child shall lead them. (7) And the cow and the she-bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the adder, and the weaned child shall put forth its hand to the viper's den. (9) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

(10) And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, standing as a banner of the peoples: the nations shall seek it; and his resting-place shall be glory. (11) And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to acquire the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. (12) And he shall lift up a banner to the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

^{JJJ} [1 Corinthians 15:19-28 ESV](#) (19) If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die (without God's intervention),^(RR) so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ [*will continue living*].^(RR) (24) Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

abandon their religion and worship Jesus's Father. If you do love Christ, you must also understand why most of this world will not like you.^(XX) That will foremost include religious people who imagine they are more righteous than you, even though they remain followers of other men (and thereby of Satan). Don't let them discourage you. Use the truth being revealed by their very exposure, and by their bad fruitage, to strengthen your own faith.

At every opportunity I talk about the Bible, encouraging an understanding of our common need to read the Gospels and actually "listen" to Christ Jesus. Also, I want to understand and to help others understand why we must cautiously avoid being misled by religious doctrine while we search for truth. (If that seems a repetitive theme of my writing, it certainly is. The need is great, you see, and so few seem able to actually hear!) Many of the people I talk to say "amen" and that I am "preaching to the choir" about our shared need for the teachings of Christ. Many times, just a minute later, however, I hear them witnessing about their faith in some doctrine built by men as they use words which don't even appear in the Bible. When that happens to you, be reminded of the words of our Lord when he spoke to the religious leaders during his first visit: **(John 8:42-44)** ⁴² Jesus said to them: "If God were YOUR Father, YOU would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth. ⁴³ **Why is it YOU do not know what I am speaking? Because YOU cannot listen to my word.** ⁴⁴ YOU are from YOUR father the Devil, and YOU wish to do the desires of YOUR father. . . . If God is not drawing us (you) to the teachings of his son, no man can help us.^(RRR) As Jesus taught, even

(25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (26) The last enemy to be destroyed is death (all who will accept the gift of life [by obedience to Christ] will be resurrected). (27) For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. (28) When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all [*may be all things to every creation*].

he couldn't help those not drawn to him by his Father.^{KKKK} Jesus realized: If they weren't being drawn by his Father, it was because they had chosen to continue being taught by Satan and his world of religion. Turn to the God of Creation.^{LLLL & (QQQQ)} Listen to the son He sent to teach you.^(RRR) The only way to learn from Jesus is by actually reading the Gospels. Looking for truth must begin with

^{KKKK} [John 6:65 CEV](#) Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come..."

^{LLLL} [Romans 1:18-32 ESV](#) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (19) **For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

(21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (24) Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, (25) because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (26) For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; (27) and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (28) And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (29) They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, (30) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (31) foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (32) Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

faith in a God who is good.^{MMMM} Then, you must listen to the son he sent you. Remember, as you do so, it's not what you intend to do that matters, it's what you actually accomplish. If you intend good but what you cause is harm, it shows you remain a worker of lawlessness and have not really been listening to Christ.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) Christ came to help you do either one of only two things: You must change from what we have all been, or else you make yourself responsible for following what you were born into. Your only choice is to start listening to Christ, or to continue following Satan. Paul intended to serve God when he killed Stephen.^(HHH) He actually did believe he *was* serving God. He had been misled, however, and his service was to Satan through the religious doctrines of men.^(GG) **Paul had to listen to Christ in order to stop remaining a worker of lawlessness. You must do the same.** Read the Gospels and so listen to the son of God. Never allow a word or phrase to be part of your faith if it didn't come from Jesus's own lips. (That is not to say there is anything wrong with the books of the Bible outside the Gospels. They are the inspired word of God. Just realize: The Bible is our tutor leading to Jesus^(FFFF – Gal 3:24) and he came to explain the truth of the Bible to us.^{NNNN} Having that

^{MMMM} **Hebrews 11:6 ESV** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him *[out]*.

^{NNNN} **Matthew 22:33-40 ALT** And having heard, the crowds were astonished at His teaching. (34) Now the Pharisees having heard that He silenced the Sadducees, were gathered together. (35) And one of them, a lawyer, questioned, testing Him, and saying, (36) "Teacher, which *[is]* the great commandment in the Law?" (37) Then Jesus said to him, "'You will love the LORD your God with your whole heart *[fig., your entire inner self]* and with your whole soul and with your whole understanding.' *[Deut 6:4,5]** (38) "This is *[the]* first and great commandment. (39) "But a second *[one is]* similar to it, 'You will love your neighbor as yourself.' *[Lev 19:18]*2* (40) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."~

* **Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ASV** Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: (5) and thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.~

insight: *Focus on what Jesus actually said* by reading his own words in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.) Running your mind over the words of God's son can help you understand spiritual things and provide you mental healing in the midst of a world promoting selfishness and hate.^(Rom 1:28 on pg 73) No matter how well intentioned we might be, none of the rest of us can provide you that gift! The best any man or woman can do for you is to direct you to Christ.⁰⁰⁰⁰

Did Jesus make the people he helped perfect? Jesus Christ healed people and even resurrected them back to life. Did he make them perfect when he did so? He said he did not and told them how to make themselves perfect. He said the gift of being made perfect rests with our personal choice. We become perfect by following the teachings of the son of God. It is exactly as Jesus said:

Matthew 5:43-48 GNB "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' (44) But now I tell you: **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45) so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven.** For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. (46) Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! (47) And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! (48) **You must be perfect---just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

According to Jesus Christ, then, we are made perfect in the sight of God by following the teachings he was sent by his Father to

*2 **Leviticus 19:18 Darby** Thou shalt not avenge thyself, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am Jehovah.

⁰⁰⁰⁰ **Hebrews 1:1-2 CEV** Long ago in many ways and at many times God's prophets spoke his message to our ancestors. (2) But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us...

bring.^{PPPP} That includes loving those who hate us. You can't follow and cling to what you don't first know and understand. You must read the Gospels and learn from Christ!

Are you a butterfly or a worm? We might use as a childlike illustration^(R) that we are all born having the ability to become beautiful butterflies. All butterflies, however, are born as worms (caterpillars) that chew and destroy almost everything they come in contact with. Similarly, we are all born into Satan's world^(MM) learning to be selfish users of others. We haven't known anything else. That doesn't make us bad. That just makes us what we were born: Workers of lawlessness.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) As the caterpillar matures, it spins a cocoon of protection for itself. Within that protective covering it undergoes a metamorphous into a beautiful creature that harms nothing and consumes only the surpluses of God's creation. We are told the new butterflies must struggle with all their might to escape their protective home (cocoon) or it becomes their tomb. While we are all born "workers of lawlessness," if we listen to our inclination to look for God,^(LLLL) He will put in us the desire to change. The teachings of Christ then provide a cocoon we can use to isolate us from Satan's lies and thereby protect ourselves. We must work to create our cocoon, but we should never leave it. Our cocoon is the love we make the choice to resolutely display to everyone alive, friend or foe. That's how we become perfect in the likeness of our Father.^(Mat 5:48 on pg 61) God does not force you to listen to Christ. He has given you the

^{PPPP} **John 5:30 GW** I can't do anything on my own. As I listen to the Father, I make my judgments. My judgments are right because I don't try to do what I want but what the one who sent me wants.~
John 5:19-20 GW Jesus said to the Jews, "I can guarantee this truth: The Son cannot do anything on his own. He can do only what he sees the Father doing. Indeed, the Son does exactly what the Father does. (20) The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. The Father will show him even greater things to do than these things so that you will be amazed.~
John 12:49 GW I have not spoken on my own. Instead, the Father who sent me told me what I should say and how I should say it.

opportunity to change by listening to his son. We each one must want to become righteous. Surrounding ourselves in the cocoon of Christ's teachings, we grow to Christian maturity and become people God can freely grant life in the paradise He is recreating.⁽¹¹¹¹⁾ He can usher us into that paradise only if we have become people who won't destroy it when we get there.^{QQQQ} We all must start with

^{QQQQ} **Psalms 37:7-13 LITV** Rest in Jehovah and wait patiently for Him; inflame not yourself with him who prospers *in* his way, with the man practicing evil wiles. (8) Abstain from anger and cease from fury; also do not inflame yourself to do evil. (9) For evildoers shall be cut off; and the ones waiting on Jehovah, they shall inherit the earth. (10) ***It is but a little while and the wicked shall not be; yea, you shall consider his place, and he is not.*** (11) ***But the meek shall inherit the earth; yea, they shall delight themselves in abundant peace.*** (12) The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes on him with his teeth; (13) the Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming.~

Psalms 37:20-34 ESV But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD [*Jehovah*]* are like the [*seasonal*] glory of the pastures; they vanish--like smoke they vanish away [*at the end of their time*]. (21) The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; (22) for those blessed by the LORD [*Jehovah*] shall inherit the [*earth*] land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. (23) The steps [*path*] of a man are established by the LORD [*Jehovah*], when he delights in his way; (24) though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD [*Jehovah*] upholds his hand. (25) I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. (26) He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. (27) Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. (28) For the LORD [*Jehovah*] loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. (29) The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. (30) The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. (31) The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. (32) The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death. (33) The LORD [*Jehovah*] will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial. (34) Wait for the LORD [*Jehovah*] and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.~

a recognition that we need to repent for our sins in order to obtain forgiveness.^{RRRR} Christ teaches that.

When I started this study, my intent was to detail and chronicle personal experiences of how I saw myself and others being wronged by the religious sects of this world. As it progressed, I realized that would make me just like them, and I would be doing the same thing I was trying to expose. So... I rather chose to expose my own sins and to try to learn from my doing so. One thing I learn is we can save ourselves a lot of pain and frustration if we avoid expecting we can get along with all the people of this world. When someone has an interest in talking about the Bible, or about anything for that matter, say peace to them.^(A) An extended way of saying peace is to be sure they understand your interest is in being upbuilding and encouraging through the teachings of Jesus Christ. Be sure they know you have no interest in raising yourself over them by showing your own great knowledge, nor in subjecting yourself to them or to their sect. Be clear you have no interest in joining them in judging the failings of others. Remember, even as you strive to pursue peace, there is no way for the people who love Christ to have peace with those who don't.^(UUU) We can only do the best we can do to promote peace. Actually having peace, however, is also dependent on them.^{SSSS} That's why the wicked (those who

* Visit: justbibletruth.com/TheGodBeforeChrist.pdf

^{RRRR} **Luke 24:44-48 GW** Then he said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you. I told you that everything written about me in Moses' Teachings, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to come true." (45) Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. (46) He said to them, "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. (47) Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act [*they should repent*] so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses to these things.

^{SSSS} **Romans 12:17-18 ESV** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

determine to refuse to be corrected by God) must finally be destroyed. Their hate would destroy life for everyone.

The Bible sometimes refers to people as animals, or as animalistic in nature.^{TTTT} That just means the people who don't know Christ are driven and motivated by whatever (they have believed) will make them feel good. Also like animals, they are constantly trying to establish a pecking order among themselves. Sometimes it is physical with threats and violence, like street gangs do, and sometimes by constantly bragging and commending each other about their great successes in life. The churches cater to self-centered people and try to keep them lulled in ignorance by assuring them of their righteousness. Proudful bragging and the display of wealth has become a more politically correct way of pecking others into their ~~proper~~ lower position. Having a similar disposition, many people learn that if they project an appearance of righteousness, it makes them feel good: They feel good because they find that many people like them when they pretend to be righteous. So... They feign love. All such people are showing love for the world. Love of this world brings only death.^{UUUU} True Christians, however, are driven by faith in Jesus.^{VVVV} Those who don't know

^{TTTT} **2 Peter 2:12 GNB** But these people [*false teachers not knowing Christ*] act by instinct, like wild animals born to be captured and killed; they attack with insults anything they do not understand. They will be destroyed like wild animals,

^{UUUU} **1 John 2:15-17 CEV** Don't love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you cannot love the Father. (16) Our foolish pride comes from this world, and so do our selfish desires and our desire to have everything we see. None of this comes from the Father. (17) The world and the desires it causes are disappearing (being destroyed). But if we obey God, we will live forever.

^{VVVV} Visit: justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf ~

Hebrews 10:39 ALT But we are not of [*the ones*] shrinking back to destruction, but of [*the ones having*] faith to [*the*] preserving of [*the*] soul.*~

Hebrews 11:1-3 CEV Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see. (2) It was their faith that

Christ will often claim what they have is knowledge.^{wwwww} You will hear people say such things as: “I’m saved” or “I know where I am going when I die.” While not judging those statements to be bad or even incorrect, they can sometimes help identify people who have faith^(BBBB – 1 Cor 4:4) from those who are convinced they have knowledge.^(John 7:47-49 on pg 73) When people realize what they have is a faith they have personally developed, they also recognize the need to constantly adjust that faith with more Bible knowledge. Those who are convinced they “know,” however, usually believe they have no need of further knowledge. After all, they already know (in their imagination)! So... People who believe they know usually won’t listen when you encourage them to continue reading the Gospels. They are also hateful to all who don’t agree with what they are convinced they do “know.” Remember: Paul had no humility and was absolutely convinced he “knew” what was right when he and his religious sect arrogantly and ignorantly killed Stephen.^(HHH) (The Jews had been God’s chosen nation, and claimed they still served him. They refused, however, to accept the son God prophesied about in the writings he had given them. They were following each other (their doctrine) and so, rejected Christ.)

I will always remember my friend Colene, and her brother Carvin as well; to be people who had respect for God’s word. They loved to

made our ancestors pleasing to God. (3) Because of our faith, we know that the world was made at God's command. We also know that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.~

* **Ezekiel 18:3-4 Darby** As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah... (4) Behold, all the souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

^{wwwww} **1 Corinthians 13:11-13 GNB** (11) When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult [*mature Christian*], I have no more use for childish ways. (12) What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror [*through faith in Christ*]; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete---as complete as God's knowledge of me. (13) Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love... (Knowledge is not mentioned.)

talk about the Bible and to learn about it. I will also remember them as people not largely overcome by the religious doctrines of men, and both of them were made special to me by that wisdom. I look forward to seeing them again.

God is accomplishing a great work in the earth, or maybe two!

God is providing the hope of the resurrection for those who die having faith in his son.^{XXXX} He is also granting the hope of surviving into the coming paradise without ever having to die.^(RR) To have your part in what God is doing, you must first express faith in what He is doing.^{YYYY} At a bare minimum, that means you must have faith in his son Christ Jesus. That would seem to also mean you have to actually know Jesus.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) That, in turn, means you must wrap yourself in the Gospel recordings of Jesus's teachings. If you listen to men, and so develop faith in what God is actually *not* doing, do you imagine faith in what is not true will come to pass for you?^(Mat 7:21 on pg 19) Just look around you... Our old world is being destroyed under the weight of the sins of all the individuals following Satan. It will continue to get worse until Christ makes it better.^(ZZ) Soothsayer politicians promise they will save you by their

^{XXXX} **Luke 14:13-14 ESV** But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just [*righteous ones*]."

^{YYYY} **Matthew 8:5~13 ESV** When he entered Capernaum, a [*Roman*] centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, (6) "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." (7) And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." (8) But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. (9) For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (10) When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith... (13) And to the centurion **Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed [*let it happen to you according to your faith*]."** And the servant was healed at that very moment.

human strategies and the deals they work; if you just support them. They fight and fuss with others as they seek their own glory. What they really desire is to be liked by everyone, and, many will say absolutely anything to chase that goal. Many of them verbally assault and speak lies about others^(Rom 1:28 on pg 53) as they seem ready to tear down the governments God has allowed to develop, all in an attempt to prove their own greatness.^(J) Soothsayer religionists^{ZZZZ} promise we will be saved by their elevated status

^{ZZZZ} **2 Peter 3:1-18 MWT** Dear friends, this is the second letter I'm writing to you. In both letters I'm trying to refresh your memory. (2) I want you to remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and what the Lord and Savior commanded you through your apostles. **(3) First, you must understand this: In the last days people who follow their own desires will appear. These disrespectful people will ridicule God's promise (4) by saying, "What's happened to his promise to return? Ever since our ancestors died, everything continues as it did from the beginning of the world."** (5) They are deliberately ignoring this one fact: Because of God's word, heaven and earth existed a long time ago. The earth appeared out of water and was kept alive by water. (6) Water then also flooded and destroyed that world. (7) By God's word, the present heaven and earth are designated to be destroyed by fire. They are being kept until the day ungodly people will be judged and destroyed. (8) Dear friends, don't ignore this fact: One day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. (9) The Lord isn't slow to do what he promised, as some people think. Rather, he is patient for your sake. He doesn't want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act. (10) The day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens [*what people have looked up to*] will pass away with a roaring sound. Everything that makes up this old world system will burn and be destroyed. The earth and everything that people have done on it will be exposed. (11) All these things will be destroyed in this way. So think about the kind of holy and godly lives you should live (12) as you look forward to the day of God and eagerly wait for it to come. When that day comes, heaven will be on fire and will be destroyed. Everything that makes up the old system will burn and melt. (13) But we look forward to what God has promised-a new heaven and a new earth-a

and their influence with God; if, again, you will just follow them. Seemingly righteous causes also pose a danger in misdirecting people. Save or protect this endangered thing or that. Protect an old house that is about to be torn down to preserve its historical significance. Those are not bad things to do, but they often give an overrated sense of value and thereby keep people misdirected from talking about the promises of Christ; the very thing that actually will help with all mankind's problems. Please don't build faith in the lies, or in the dreams, of self-righteous men. Listen to Jesus and build faith in what is true. Build such faith and live forever.^(RR) Those who enter paradise^(III) by being preserved alive through the destruction of this old world system^(ZZ) will give thanks to God for life in paradise. Those who enter paradise by being resurrected there will be happy and give thanks to God for life in paradise. May it happen to you according to your faith.^(YYYY)

We all have at least "one thing" about us where we are lacking. Jesus Christ is the only one who truly cares about you and will tell you what your one thing is.^{AAAAA} The question: Are you listening?

place where everything that has God's approval lives. (14) Therefore, dear friends, with this to look forward to, make every effort to have him find you at peace, without spiritual stains or blemishes. (15) Think of our Lord's patience as an opportunity for us to be saved. This is what our dear brother Paul wrote to you about, using the wisdom God gave him. (16) He talks about this subject in all his letters. Some things in his letters are hard [*take time*] to understand. Ignorant people and people who aren't sure of what they believe distort what Paul says in his letters the same way they distort the rest of the Scriptures. These people will be destroyed. (17) Dear friends, you already know these things. So be on your guard not to be carried away by the deception of people who have no principles. Then you won't fall from your firm decision to follow Christ. (18) But grow in the good will and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to him now and for that eternal day! Amen.^(JJJJ)

^{AAAAA} **Mark 10:17-23 GW** As Jesus was coming out to the road, a man came running to him and knelt in front of him. He asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" (18) Jesus

Peace to you and yours.^(A) God's will be done!(00000)

An overview of the Bible's message: You should never imagine trying to be kind and forgiving is the same as making excuses for people who have no integrity; people who fail to keep their arrangements and agreements, or in other ways deliberately do what is bad. You should also not imagine it is an act of love to ~~tell them~~ *allow them to believe* such behavior is OK, ^(Rom 1:32 on pg 53) even if it is only a seemingly small matter? According to Jesus, integrity is never a small matter:

(Luke 16:10) ¹⁰ The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much.

While Jesus is kind and tolerant of our ignorance, that is wholly different from making excuses for people who do understand what they are doing and simply refuse to change. Jesus actually taught just the opposite of tolerance for those sins which are committed with knowledge and understanding of God's will. We humans, of course, can't ever judge other people because we can't possibly know if they remain ignorant, or if they have understood and gained insight from Christ and thus become responsible. While we don't have the ability to judge, however, God *can!* No person alive should doubt this simple truth: You are right now being judged by God based on whether you are listening to the son He sent to teach

said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (19) You know the commandments: Never murder. Never commit adultery. Never steal. Never give false testimony [*never lie*]. Never cheat. Honor your father and mother." (20) The man replied, "Teacher, I've obeyed all these commandments since I was a boy." (21) Jesus looked at him and loved him. He told him, "You're still missing one thing. Sell everything you have. Give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven [*God's love and protection*]. Then follow me!" (22) When the man heard that, he looked unhappy and went away sad, because he owned a lot of property [*was very rich*]. (23) Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!"

you.^(AA) Though we can't judge other people, what we *can* learn to judge, or at least to better comprehend, is who we are in our own relationship with God. That is what Jesus came to teach each one of us.

Learn and fully grasp what the following few scriptures teach as a whole, if your desire is to understand what God's son taught.

Jesus said people are not responsible for their sins as long as they remain ignorant. He also said, however, he came to do away with ignorance: **(John 15:22-24)** **²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.** ²³ He that hates me hates also my Father. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have both seen and hated me as well as my Father.

He also said if we assert our own spiritual knowledge, that proclamation can make us responsible: ³⁹ And Jesus said: "For [this] judgment I came into this world: that those not seeing (those who are ignorant) might see and those seeing (who are self-righteous) might become blind." ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees (the religious leaders) who were with him heard these things, and they said to him: "We are not blind also, are we?" ⁴¹ **Jesus said to them: "If YOU were blind, YOU would have no sin. But now YOU say, 'We see.' YOUR sin remains."**

Jesus said if we are to gain life, we have to stop remaining workers of lawlessness and become doers of what is good: **(Matthew 7:21-24)** ²¹ "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ²² Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?' ²³ **And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.** ²⁴ **"Therefore everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them will be likened to a discreet man, who built his house upon the rock-mass.**

(1 John 2:17) ¹⁷ Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but **he that does the will of God remains forever.**

(Matthew 12:46-50) ⁴⁶ While he was yet speaking to the crowds, look! his mother and brothers took up a position outside seeking to speak to him. ⁴⁷ So someone said to him: "Look! Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to you." ⁴⁸ As an answer he said to the one telling him: "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ And

extending his hand toward his disciples, he said: "Look! My mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ **For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**" (Jesus thus made clear it is not spouting his name in self-proclaimed righteousness that would help us, but the actual doing of his Father's will. Being an integrity keeper (an honest person) is a foremost part of God's will for each one of us.)^{BBBBB}

Jesus also explained what would keep us from gaining life. After the religious leaders were chastised by Jesus for attacking his followers because they didn't adhere to their religious doctrine about the proper way to wash their hands before eating, Jesus encouraged his followers: **(Mark 7:18-23)** ¹⁸ So he said to them: "**Are YOU also without perception like them? Are YOU not aware that nothing from outside that passes into a man can defile him,** ¹⁹ since it passes, not into [his] heart, but into [his] intestines, and it passes out into the sewer?" Thus he declared all foods clean. ²⁰ Further, he said: "**That which issues forth out of a man is what defiles a man;** ²¹ **for from inside, out of the heart of men, injurious reasonings issue forth: fornications, thieveries, murders,** ²² **adulteries, covetings, acts of wickedness, deceit, loose conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, unreasonableness.** ²³ **All these wicked things issue forth from within and defile a man.**"

The apostle Paul also taught us what he had learned from Christ about how we can do harm spiritual to ourselves: **(Romans 1:28-32)** ²⁸ And just as they [*those hating truth*] did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mental state, **to do the things not fitting,** ²⁹ filled as they were with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, **deceit,** malicious disposition, being whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, self-assuming, **inventors of injurious things,**

^{BBBBB} **Psalms 7:8-13 Darby** Jehovah shall minister judgment to the peoples. Judge me, Jehovah, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity which is in me. (9) Oh let the wrong of the wicked come to an end, and establish thou the righteous *man* ; even thou that triest the hearts and reins, the righteous God. (10) My shield is with God, who saveth the upright in heart. (11) God is a righteous judge, and a *God who is indignant all the day. (12) If one turn not, he will sharpen his sword; he hath bent his bow and made it ready, (13) And he hath prepared for him instruments of death; his arrows hath he made burning.

disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, **false to agreements**, having no natural affection, merciless. ³² Although **these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of death**, they not only keep on doing them but also consent with (approve of) those practicing them.

To gain life, you must separate yourself from sects of men who claim to be Christian but are really just seeking and accepting glory from one another. Religionists pat each other on the back as they proclaim how fortunate they are to be the true servants of God. According to Jesus's teachings, however, they take responsibility to themselves when they imagine they are judges of who is acceptable to God (when they proclaim you need an approved membership in their sect). Instead of Christian humility, just like the religious leaders of old, they proclaim knowledge and judgment over others. Jesus said they make themselves responsible by their own self-righteousness: **(John 7:45-49)** ⁴⁵ Therefore the officers went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, and the latter said to them: "Why is it YOU did not bring him [*Jesus*] in?" ⁴⁶ The officers replied: "Never has [another] man spoken like this." ⁴⁷ In turn **the Pharisees answered: "YOU have not been misled also, have YOU? ⁴⁸ Not one of the rulers or of the Pharisees has put faith in him, has he? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the Law are accursed people."** (Even while the religious leaders went about seeking to kill the son of God, they proclaimed they were righteous and that people who wouldn't join and follow them were ignorant and the accursed of God. So... They made themselves guilty: **(John 5:39-44)** [*Jesus said*] ³⁹ "YOU are searching the Scriptures, because YOU think that by means of them YOU will have everlasting life; and these are the very ones that bear witness about me. ⁴⁰ And yet YOU do not want to come to me (we today must come to Jesus by reading the Gospels) that YOU may have life. ⁴¹ I do not accept glory from men, ⁴² but I well know that YOU do not have the love of God in YOU. ⁴³ I have come in the name of my Father, but YOU do not receive me; if someone else arrived in his own name, YOU would receive that one. ⁴⁴ **How can YOU believe, when YOU are accepting glory from one another and YOU are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?**

The one and only way we can seek the glory of God is by learning, and then by following (and sharing), the teachings of his dear son. ^(KKKK)

When people say things that are not true, or when they prove false to agreements, Jesus said that illuminates them as his enemies.^(EEE – Rev 21:8) He did not make excuses for them. Integrity is a prerequisite of Christianity. Don't join with those who have no respect for integrity, or even consider it foolishness. Persons who love God ~~will be~~ *are being* rewarded for their integrity!^(QQQQ)

So then, in light of these warnings by Jesus, how can you be certain *we* haven't selected and misapplied scriptures to mislead you? The answer is simple! After considering what we say, select one of the Gospels and read it through. Verify if this isn't exactly what Jesus taught. Now, read another of the Gospels. Read them over and over until you become a personal friend of Jesus Christ.

The simple fact is we are all born ignorant. God has helped us by providing enlightenment through the words of his son Jesus Christ.^{CCCC} God also allows time for us to contemplate and understand what Jesus taught. As we do so, we fully decide if we really do have faith. That decision amounts to our own judgment for, or against, our-own-selves: **(Ecclesiastes 8:11-13)** ¹¹ *Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad.* ¹² *Although a sinner may be doing bad a hundred times and continuing a long time as he pleases, yet I am also aware that it will turn out well with those fearing the [true] God, because they were in fear of him.* ¹³ *But it will not turn out well at all with the wicked one, neither will he prolong his days that are like a shadow, because he is not in fear of God.*

Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, the Bible says, those who are wicked think they are getting away. They are not! They are judging themselves by refusing to

^{CCCC} **Acts 20:18-21 MKJV** ...*[Paul]* said to them, You know how I was with you at all times, from *the* first day I arrived in Asia, (19) serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and many tears and temptations happening to me through the plots of the Jews (religious leaders); (20) *and* how I kept back nothing that was profitable, but have shown you and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, (21) testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

listen to God's son, and, once they have clearly decided and defined who they are in their inner being, they will receive exactly what they deserve: **(Mark 4:24)** ²⁴ He further said to them: "Pay attention to what YOU are hearing [to what I am saying]. With the measure that YOU are measuring out, YOU will have it measured out to YOU, yes, YOU will have more added to YOU. **(Matthew 7:1, 2) 7** "Stop judging that YOU may not be judged; ² for with what judgment YOU are judging, YOU will be judged; and with the measure that YOU are measuring out, they will measure out to YOU. So then, after we have each one judged ourselves by our response to what Jesus taught, ^(AA) no one will be able to say any defense when they are punished and suffer according to their own sins. Those who are upright are being rewarded by God. ^(QQQQ)

Because this message rings clear and true (it is the message of Christ), religious people will steal bits and pieces of it (use the understanding they gain from it) to try and build a following for themselves. You can easily spot them, however, because they don't direct you to become a personal student of the Gospels or to justbibletruth.com. The goal of religious people is always to have you follow them. So... *They will attempt to challenge you to new spiritual heights by using their doctrine in place of the Gospels!* May you find peace and eternal life in your personal study of the words of Christ Jesus. It's not hard to learn from Christ! Read the Gospels. It's not hard, either, to know if what we say is truth. Because we do not speak of our own originality, we are not seeking our own glory. We say again, read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and by doing so, listen to Christ! - **(John 7:16-18)** ¹⁶ Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality. ¹⁸ **He that speaks of his own originality is seeking his own glory; but he that seeks the glory of him that sent him, this one is true,** and there is no unrighteousness in him. ⁽⁷⁾ Jesus spoke the words his Father had sent him to teach, and thus sought glory for God. Christians seek a following for God through Christ by speaking the words Christ sent us to teach. Religionists seek their own glory by seeking people to follow them. The difference between religion and Christianity is simple. Read your Gospels!

If God is granting eternal life in paradise, how will you survive and become a perfect person?^(RR) Will you need to eat healthy and take care of yourself? That may play some part in growing to perfection.^{DDDDD} We should all remember, however, what Jesus himself clearly told us we *must* do to achieve perfection: We must “love our enemies” as ourselves.^{(Mat 5:48 on pg 61) & EEEEE} Someone asked how soon I thought the end would come, and if it would happen in the next 10 years. The ancient Jews wandered 40 years in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. All the wicked died off^{FFFFF} while every righteous person was preserved alive during that 40 year trek. The old entered the promised land with youthful vigor.^{GGGGG} We may be in (or soon enter) a similar situation of protection for *all* the righteous, while the destruction of the wicked is accelerated; during the time the tribulation is being brought to its end.^(ZZ) We will have to wait in faith to see the details of what God is doing – to see what He has in store for us personally. You can right now, however, read your Gospels and have faith in what the son of God did say. Just be sure your faith is in Christ!

The religions of this world are without number. Many people will promise it doesn't matter what faith you have as long as you have

^{DDDDD} **Revelation 22:1-2 CEV** The angel showed me a river that was crystal clear, and its waters gave life. The river came from the throne where God and the Lamb were seated. (2) Then it flowed down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river are trees that grow a different kind of fruit each month of the year. **The fruit gives life, and the leaves are used as medicine to heal the nations.**

^{EEEE} **Matthew 19:21 MWT** ²¹ **Jesus said to him: “If you want to be perfect... come be my follower.”**

^{FFFF} **John 8:24 CEV** ... If you don't have faith in me for who I am [*the son of God*], you will die [*in your sins*], and your sins will not be forgiven.”

^{GGGG} **Joshua 14:10-11 LITV** And now, behold, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, these forty five years since Jehovah spoke this word to Moses, when Israel went in the wilderness. And now, behold, today I *am* a son of eighty five years; (11) yet I *am* as strong today as in the day Moses sent me. As my strength was then, so is my strength now for war, both to go out and to come in.

faith in God. That is true only as long as you have faith in the true God.^{HHHHH} The only thing the varied religions of this world share in common is they are about to be destroyed by the son of the true God; for refusing to listen to his Father.^{IIIII & (JJJJ)} If you allow yourself to be deceived to join them, you will be joining yourself to

^{HHHHH} **1 Corinthians 8:2-6 ESV** (2) If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. (3) But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (4) Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." (5) For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"-- (6) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.~

Jeremiah 11:11-14 ESV Therefore, thus says the LORD, Behold, I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape. Though they cry to me, I will not listen to them. (12) Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods to whom they make offerings, but they cannot save them in the time of their trouble. (13) For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to make offerings to Baal. (14) "Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble.~

Psalms 115:3-8 GW Our God is in heaven. He does whatever he wants. (4) Their idols are made of silver and gold. They were made by human hands. (5) They have mouths, but they cannot speak. They have eyes, but they cannot see. (6) They have ears, but they cannot hear. They have noses, but they cannot smell. (7) They have hands, but they cannot feel. They have feet, but they cannot walk. They cannot even make a sound with their throats. (8) Those who make idols end up like them. So does everyone who trusts them.

^{IIIII} **Revelation 6:2 ESV** And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.~

Revelation 17:14 GNB They will fight against the Lamb; but the Lamb, together with his called, chosen, and faithful followers, will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings."

their fate. Jesus did come and warn you! Read your Gospels. Don't you wonder why all the churches you have ever attended have never explained this simple truth?

If you want to live forever, Jesus said you must live on every word coming from his Father.^{JJJJ} Jesus is the only one who can tell you what his Father wants you to know.^{(SSS) & (John 8:44 on pg 58)} You, in turn, are the only one who can choose to listen to Jesus and ~~learn~~

^{JJJJ} **Matthew 4:1-4 GNB** Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. (2) After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. (3) Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." (4) **But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'** " Jesus was here quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3:~

Deuteronomy 8:1-9 LITV You shall take heed to do every commandment which I am commanding you today, so that you may live and may multiply and may go in and possess the land which Jehovah has sworn to your fathers. (2) And you shall remember all the way which Jehovah your God has caused you to go these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, to try you, to know that which *is* in your heart, whether you will keep His commandments or not. (3) And He has humbled you, and caused you to hunger, and caused you to eat the manna, which you had not known, and your fathers had not known, in order **to cause you to know that man shall not live by bread alone, but man shall live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of Jehovah.** (4) Your clothing did not wear out on you, and your foot did not swell, these forty years. (5) And you have known with your heart that as a man disciplines his son, Jehovah your God disciplines you. (6) And you shall keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him. (7) For Jehovah your God brings you into a good land, a land of streams of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, (8) a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, (9) a land in which you shall eat bread without want; you shall not lack anything in it; a land whose stones *are* iron; and you shall dig copper out of its mountains.

live.^{KKKKK} So, as Jesus also said: If you want to become perfect, you must love your enemies as you love yourself. Paul gave his insight (what he learned from Christ) on how to become perfect when he wrote the Ephesians saying we need to be made new in the force actuating our mind.^{LLLLL} Think what that means... We are made new in the force actuating our mind, or made new in the spirit of our mind, by abandoning the lies we have been taught from birth as we

^{KKKKK} **John 6:63 GNB** What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit.

^{LLLLL} **Ephesians 4:17-32 GW** So I tell you and encourage you in the Lord's name not to live any longer like other people in the world. Their minds are set on worthless things. (18) They can't understand because they are in the dark. They are excluded from the life that God approves of because of their ignorance and stubbornness. (19) Since they no longer have any sense of shame, they have become promiscuous. They practice every kind of sexual perversion with a constant desire for more. (20) But that is not what you learned from Christ's teachings. (21) You have certainly heard his message and have been taught his ways. The truth is in Jesus. (22) You were taught [*to become new in the force actuating your mind, or to be made new in the spirit of your mind, and*] to change the way you were living. The person you used to be will ruin you through desires that deceive you. (23) However, you were taught to have a new attitude. (24) You were also taught to become a new person created to be like God, truly righteous and holy. (25) So then, get rid of lies. Speak the truth to each other, because we are all members of the same body. (26) Be angry without sinning. Don't go to bed angry. (27) Don't give the devil any opportunity to work. (28) Thieves must quit stealing and, instead, they must work hard. They should do something good with their hands so that they'll have something to share with those in need. (29) Don't say anything that would hurt another person. Instead, speak only what is good so that you can give help wherever it is needed. That way, what you say will help those who hear you. (30) Don't give God's Holy Spirit any reason to be upset with you. He has put his seal on you for the day you will be set free from the world of sin. (31) Get rid of your bitterness, hot tempers, anger, loud quarreling, cursing, and hatred. (32) Be kind to each other, sympathetic, forgiving each other as God has forgiven you through Christ.

begin the process of following the teachings of Christ. If you don't know personally what Jesus actually said, you can't be following him. So... *We must each one be made new!* You should ask yourself this: Is the force actuating my mind what I personally know Jesus said, or is it what a bunch of men and women who claim to be stand-ins for Christ have taught me to believe? Do I function independently of the influence of other humans based on what I personally learned from Jesus, or am I following a sect of men and going along with what they tell me is right? Jesus said your answer to those questions means your very life.^(Mat 7:15 to 23 on pg 19) Your perfection is being achieved by taking the action of being certain the loving force that actuates your mind is Christ. Perfection will then display as love for everyone. Isn't that just wonderful? Isn't that just perfect?

The Bible paints the most beautiful picture I can imagine. It tells of the sin of our first parents and of God's immediate promise to provide a Messiah to help.^{MMMMM} The Bible illustrates our need for

^{MMMMM} **Genesis 3:11-15 Darby** And he [*God*] said, Who told thee that thou art naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee not to eat? (12) And Man said, The woman, whom thou hast given *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. (13) And Jehovah Elohim said to the woman, What is this thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate. (Satan spoke to the woman through the serpent like a ventriloquist might do. Hence Satan is referred to as the original serpent.* God's pronouncement of judgment is thus against Satan.) (14) And Jehovah Elohim said to the serpent, Because thou hast done this, be thou cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field. On thy belly shalt thou go, and eat dust all the days of thy life. (15) **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed [*there will be a war between your seed and the seed of the woman*]; he shall crush thy head, and thou shalt crush his heel.**~

Revelation 12:9-12 GW The huge serpent was thrown down. **That ancient snake [*original serpent*], named Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world,** was thrown down to earth. Its angels were thrown down with it. (10) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, power, kingdom of our God,

that Savior and recounts 4000 years as God selected a line of men and women to produce him. It then tells of the birth of the son of God 2000 years ago, and records what Jesus's Father sent him to teach. The Bible's story is nearly beyond human comprehension and it is certainly beyond human fabrication. I read the scriptures here presented over and over as I try to fit together and fully comprehend what God is doing. Mostly, of course, I read the Gospels! Like everyone, I am waiting to find out if my faith really is in what God is doing, and then, if what I have built in myself is true faith, or if I just hope it is true. Hoping God is helping us, you see, is not the same as having faith (truly believing). If I only hope God's word is true, and don't have true faith, the outcome for me may not be a good one.^(Mat 7:23 on pg 71) Those who are convinced they "know" for sure what is true, will at this point proclaim my reliance on my faith is a sign of weakness. They are also the ones, remember, who will judge you unfit for life if you don't agree with them. I, however, agree with Paul: While I am not aware of anything about my life that would keep me from God's favor,^(BBBB) my own good judgment does not prove me righteous. Like Paul, I await God's approval. May you do the same. Promote peace!^(A)

Can you see the world for what it really is? Having considered these scriptures, are you able to see clearly?^(CCCC) Mankind has abused and polluted the earth to the point of causing or exacerbating the "natural disasters" happening on a more and more frequent basis.^(ZZ) Everyone quickly learns from life that nearly every single person

and the authority of his Messiah have come. The one accusing our brothers and sisters, the one accusing them day and night in the presence of our God, has been thrown out. (11) They (the seed of the woman) won the victory over him because of the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony. They didn't love their life so much that they refused to give it up [*refused to express faith in Christ*]. (12) Be glad for this reason, heavens and those who live in them. How horrible it is for the earth and the sea because the Devil has come down to them with fierce anger, knowing that he has little time left" (thus bringing the tribulation destroying our earth. Christ will soon destroy Satan.)^(ZZ)

they come in contact with wants to use them or to get something from them.^(Rom 1:28 to 32 on pg 53) The only hope you think you might see lies with distinctly religious people. They all promise you some grand gift from our Creator, whether that be golden streets or a pile of virgins. Then, lo and behold, you find they only want to use you or to get something (usually money, but sometimes your life) from you. Man has abused his fellow man until hatred is rife in the earth. Of the nearly 8 billion people on the earth, ¼ or more are without enough food and the basic needs of life. The 80 richest people share and control the same amount of wealth as the poorest half of the population. Put in other words, the poorest 4 billion people subsist on the same amount of the earth's resources as the 80 wealthiest people. The rich believe they are in the right because they have been blessed by their education and hard work. Some actually believe they are chosen above others by God. The poor believe that is not true and can recount how they have watched their children and grandchildren go hungry while the wealthy live luxuriant lifestyles that are often so extravagant and wasteful as to be obscene. When righteously inclined people do try to help, the resources they give are mostly stolen by the greedy (and wealthy) before it ever gets to those for whom it was intended. The poor have become convinced they must take some share by force in order to survive. Both the rich and the poor (as groups) are beyond wanting to change their attitude and course of conduct because they all have religious leaders proclaiming God's blessings on their efforts to promote what they believe is right. Many are so convinced they are righteous, while they receive blessings from religious leaders who promise they have God's blessing, they are ready to kill and even die in support of their faith. Others imagine themselves more civilized than those who kill in the name of their God; while they actively judge non-members lost to God and unworthy of life. All the while, all of them pat themselves on the back for their own righteousness and enlightenment. Most people don't believe it will ever change.^(ZZZZ) In the late 1960's, a newspaper ran an article that showed a poor skinny woman from a third world country bathing the corpse of her dead child. The skin and bones baby, with bloated belly, had starved

to death. The picture showed the mother wailing as she bathed him in preparation for burial. In the next picture, on the very same page of the newspaper, it showed a farmer using a bulldozer to bury a mountain of potatoes because no one would buy them. The poor think it will never change because the wealthy are selfish and wicked. The rich believe they are already doing all they can to help because the poor won't help themselves. By this and many other prejudicial and overwhelming problems, everyone is trapped playing out their part in Satan's earth consuming drama of the tribulation.^{(LL) & (MM)} Satan doesn't care which part he can keep you playing, as long as he can keep you from actually listening to the son of God. The Gospel teachings of Jesus can break you free of it all, by allowing you to separate yourself from religion... You do that by reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and/or John, and by putting your faith in the promised kingdom of Christ.^(JJJJ) You should also encourage others by talking with them about your wondrous hope. Direct them to the Gospel recordings of Jesus's teachings and/or to justbibletruth.com. Never use what you learn to try and get other people to follow or depend on you. That would define you as just another part of the problem. Help everyone realize: Christ's kingdom is in the process of correcting all of mankind's problems.^(III) Faith in the kingdom can preserve you alive forever!^{(YYYY) & (RR)} None of us have the ability to judge anyone else, and God doesn't want or intend us to do so.^(FF) We judge only ourselves; and we are each one in the process of doing that very thing, by whether we put faith in what Jesus taught.^{(AA) & (TT)} Be very careful: Being a follower of Jesus is not at all the same as being approved by one of the world's religious sects. It is the opposite! You must be living your life based on what you have read from the Gospels and that you personally know Jesus taught!^(LLLL) Do not feel alone, and certainly not weak, as you awaken to your need to separate yourself from religion. All the righteous people in all the earth are sharing that same awakening.^(DDDD) If you listen to and

follow Christ, and him alone, you have the power of prayer.^{NNNNN}
Pray for all faithful men and women in all the earth who are individually learning what Jesus taught, and are thereby escaping religion. Join us as we personally and individually gain knowledge to join with Christ, by praying as Jesus taught: That God's will to be done on earth as in heaven...^{OOOOO} Renounce your membership in any and all of the religious sects of men and women, and as you do so, join Jesus Christ.

In contemplating the fate of all mankind, the poet Dylan Thomas wrote:

“Do not go gently into that good night...
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

Those are beautiful words! How, though, could a mere human rage against what is befalling us in this dying world; as we are caught in the 6000 year war between Satan and God? Our Grand Creator has granted us power to rage against our fate by choosing to understand what He is doing. Then, we can pray for his personal help by uttering requests that are aligned with his activity.^{PPPPP} God cares about ~~us~~ *you* and wants to help us.^(AAA) As we build faith in what God is doing, Jesus said it will happen to us according to our faith.^(YYY – Mat 8:13) Do not go gently into the night. Read the

^{NNNNN} **James 5:16 GNB** So then, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you will be healed. The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect.

^{OOOOO} **Matthew 6:9-13 GNB** This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honored; (10) may your Kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us today the food we need. (12) Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. (13) Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.'

^{PPPPP} **Psalms 141:1-2 MKJV** *A Psalm of David.* O Jehovah, I cry to You; make haste to me, give ear to my voice when I cry to You. (2) Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, *and* the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Gospels and learn from Christ. Having that knowledge sent from God, then, pray to have your part in what you know He is doing. May you have peace^(A) and eternal life.^(RR) & ^(QQQQ)

The following translations may have been quoted in this document:

ALT - Analytical Literal Translation (1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla)
ASV - American Standard Version (by the American revision committee in 1897).
Coverdale – 1535 James Coverdale
Darby - 1884, 1889 Darby Bible (John Nelson Darby)
DRB - 1899 Douay-Rheims Bible
BBE - 1949, 1964 Bible in Basic English (Cambridge Press)
LITV - Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976-2000 by J. P. Green)
KJV - King James Version (1611)
MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)
Murdock – James Murdock (1851)
MWT - Modern World Translation
Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)
RV - Revised Version (King James Revised Version - 1769)
YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

On the square in Somerset, KY, I met a couple of Anabaptists (Mennonites) carrying a big sign about Bible prophecy. I asked them if they met for a regular Bible study as I am always looking for groups to join in a study of what Jesus said. They assured me they meet once a week and were currently studying Matthew. They also gave me a pamphlet that could almost have been written by me. (JustBibleTruth.com/AnabaptistPamphlet.pdf) It was largely all scripture and mostly what Jesus said. What was glaringly lacking from their publication, however, was an ending with an encouragement to read and learn what Jesus taught in the 4 short Gospels. They rather ended with 3 member's names and their telephone numbers. The next day, I called the man I spoke with to inquire about their Bible study. When pressed, he admitted they didn't meet to simply read the Bible book through from beginning to end. "Elders" take turns reading a verse or two, and then explaining what those verses mean. I explained I wasn't looking for someone to explain Jesus to me, or to approve my faith,^(BBBB) but simply to join me in reading what Jesus taught. That led to discussing his doctrine as he explained what "they" believe. No infant baptisms, marriage fidelity, washing each other's feet, and on the list goes of requirements to be accepted in their sect. I explained about the danger of following men^(QQQ) and he told me I was picking and choosing scriptures to support my ideas. I admitted he was absolutely right and noted he and his "Elders" were doing the same thing. Reading the Gospels together is the only thing than can set us free^(HH) of building doctrine. Forming doctrine is what all religion does and is why God is destroying it.^(GG) In closing, please note the great difference between what Christians say and what religious sects always say. I don't give you my phone number so you can call and be taught by me. I direct you to set yourself free^(HH) by reading the words of our lord recorded for all of us in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

justbibletruth.com

“All who come to God believe he exists and is good.” Heb 11:6

Trademark

Our modern world is being destroyed by the tribulation^(ZZ) mankind has created in our rejection of God’s counsel. Jesus said many people would come to him in the last day saying they ~~wanted~~ *expected* his help. They will say they prophesied and cast out demons in his name. They will also assert they did *many* powerful works in his name. He will, however, refer to them as “workers of lawlessness” and tell them to get away because he didn’t know them at all. ^(Mat 7:23 on pg 19) How could they have been so utterly and completely deceived? Helping you realize and understand *how* is the purpose of this booklet and the website: justbibletruth.com
