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Would you like to know a secret that has been kept for 6000 years? How about a *sacred* secret; a secret more important than anything in life?

The secret of life:

(In the words of Jesus Christ.)

Mark 4:11-12 *Modern King James Version* – [MKJV] And He [Jesus] said to them, To you it is given to know the [sacred secret, or] mystery of the kingdom of God. But to those outside [those who don't love the truth], all these things are given in parables (12) so that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Romans 11:25 *Contemporary English Version* – [CEV – The apostle Paul] My friends, I don't want you Gentiles to be too proud of yourselves. So I will explain the mystery [or sacred secret] of what has happened to the people of Israel. Some of them have become stubborn, and they will stay like that until the complete number of you Gentiles has come in.

A revelation of the sacred secret.

Romans 16:25-27 *Modern World Translation* – [MWT] God can make you strong by means of the Good News: the message I tell about Jesus Christ. He can strengthen you by revealing the sacred secret [or mystery] that has been kept in silence for a very long time (26) but now is made manifest. The everlasting God ordered that what the prophets wrote must be shown to the people of every nation by means of his son Christ Jesus, to bring them to the obedience that is associated with faith. (27) God alone is wise. Glory belongs to him through Jesus Christ forever! Amen.

When, though, did this sacred secret originate? And can we know more about it? Can we really understand it? We start by realizing when this secret was created or came to be. The secret originated while our first parents were still in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had sinned against God and brought the promised death upon themselves, and on all of us as their unborn children. [Genesis 1-3] (Diseased or imperfect people cannot give birth to healthy children. In similar fashion, we were born sinful, the same as Adam and Eve had made themselves to be.) When God pronounced judgment on Adam and Eve and Satan, He also promised good to their unborn children, giving birth to the sacred

secret: [Genesis 3:11-15 Good News Bible \[GNB\]](#) ... God asked. "Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?" (12) The man answered, "The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it." (13) The LORD [*Jehovah*¹] God asked the woman, "Why did you do this?" She replied, "The snake tricked me into eating it." (14) Then the LORD [*Jehovah*] God said to the snake, "You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: From now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. (15) I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel."

The good promise God there uttered (accompanying his judgment for their disobedience), is that one of the woman's future seed would crush Satan's head. That was and is the foundation of the

¹ You will note this translation of the Bible [*Good News Bible*], along with many others, uses LORD as a designator along with, or in place of, the personal name of God (i.e. "LORD God"). They did this to convey they had removed the name of the God of the Old Testament (OT) and replaced it with *LORD* in all capitals. They apparently replaced the divine name because of a superstitious fear that developed against pronouncing the divine name. Since God had his name (יהוה in Hebrew - English translation: Jehovah) recorded over 6000 times in the original OT text, it is clear He wanted it known. His son Jesus believed that as well. Jesus said to his Father in prayer: [John 17:25-26 MWT](#) ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world has, indeed, not come to know you; but I have come to know you, and these [*his followers*] have come to know that you sent me forth. ²⁶ And I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them." יהוה is not to be confused with descriptive titles used for God, such as "Sovereign Lord," "Creator," "Father," and "the Almighty." יהוה is the self-given Bible name of the only true God. It was recorded in the original Bible text over 6000 times. You should know that! We will use the English translation of that name, Jehovah, when it is appropriate. We do so to show respect for God's divine name. You should not feel using God's personal name connects you with any modern day religious sect. יהוה has been the name of the true God for at least all of the 6000 years recounted by the Bible.

sacred secret: a seed of the woman who would undo what Satan and Adam and Eve had done to us all.⁽⁴⁹⁾ All creation has been waiting to see how that would come about and who “the seed of the woman” would be, ever since that day. Four thousand years later, Jesus Christ presented himself as that “seed” of promise. He thus referred to himself, and is denoted in the Bible, as the “son of man” (seed of the woman). He came to peel back the lies Satan used to besmirch his Father, and to reveal and teach each of us who Jehovah⁽¹⁾ really is.² **The “sacred secret,” therefore, amounts to the sum total of all the knowledge revealed in and by Jesus Christ.**

You could not (no one could) understand the secret until it was Jehovah’s⁽¹⁾ time for it to be revealed. It is important for you to understand: That time has arrived!

Mankind started to appreciate bits of the secret thousands of years ago – even as God revealed it to them. The ancient Jewish nation was used for a period of time by God both as his representatives in the earth,³ and to produce the promised “seed of the woman.” Mankind knew from a promise made to Abraham about 4000

² *Matthew 11:25-30 Modern World Translation [MWT]* At that time Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to babes [*or ordinary persons, or those without a lot of traditional training*] what you have hidden from wise and intellectual persons. (26) Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen. (27) "My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." (28) "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. (30) For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."

³ *John 4:19-22 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.

years prior to our day, that by means of Abraham's seed all nations of the earth would bless themselves. That prophecy meant the promised Messiah would be one of Abraham's descendants.⁴ They also knew from God's word that the deliverer would come from King David's line.⁵ Just as God's word promised, Jesus was born from that Jewish nation and through both Abraham and David.⁶ More of the secret was being revealed.

A little over 500 years before Jesus was born, mankind knew (again from the Bible) that the revelation of the secret would include the reestablishment of the kingdom of David (an ancient Jewish King who was dear to Jehovah's heart, and whose kingdom provided a time of peace for the peoples of the earth who loved God). (Please do not confuse this scriptural Christian history with a lesson on or in support of Judaism. When the Jewish religious leaders, and their nation as a whole rejected Jesus as Messiah, he told them their house was abandoned to them.⁷ The Jews have a

⁴ Genesis 22:15-18 MWT ¹⁵ And Jehovah's angel proceeded to call to Abraham the second time out of the heavens ¹⁶ and to say: "By my own name I do swear," is the utterance of Jehovah, "that by reason of the fact that you have done this thing and you have not withheld your son, your only one, ¹⁷ I shall surely bless you and I shall surely multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and like the grains of sand that are on the seashore; and your seed will take possession of the gate of his enemies. ¹⁸ And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice."

⁵ 1 Chronicles 17:7~14 *Modern King James Version [MKJV]* (7) And now you shall say this to My servant David, So says Jehovah of Hosts, ... (10) ... And I declare to you that Jehovah will build you a house. (11) ... I will raise up your seed after you, who shall be from your sons. And I will make his kingdom sure. (12) ... and I will establish his throne forever. (13) I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. And I will not take My mercy away from him... (14) And I will settle him in My house, and in My kingdom forever. And his throne shall be established forever.

⁶ Matthew 1:1 GNB This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.

⁷ Matthew 23:37-38 MWT Jerusalem, Jerusalem!!! Killer of the prophets and stoner of the messengers who were sent to you. I have wanted to gather your people, as a hen gathers her chicks

avored history as the nation that produced the Christ. When they killed him, however, that arrangement was changed. Since then, Jews have to place faith in Christ Jesus to find favor with Jehovah; just like the rest of us.⁸ We must all become a new creation: Those with faith in Christ are reborn from a dying society with a new hope of life. Every person ever born was technically already dead. They just have (or had) a few years to walk around before the death sentence overtakes them. Those who express faith in Christ become a new creation⁹ by having been given a gift of life replacing their death sentence. By means of their faith, they are no longer headed to the grave. They have been made alive. Today, every person alive is either a Christian with a hope of life, or they are not, in which case they will die in their sins⁽⁴⁰⁾ (if they don't repent and change). That's the only two choices there are for any of us to be! Jesus is the Messiah and the seed of Abraham by means of whom all the earth is (or can be) blessed. All God's promises to all the faithful men and women who have ever lived will be fulfilled through Christ upon all those who adhere to faith in him.^(39 – Gal 3:29) God will restore the peaceful conditions the Jews knew under

under her wings. But you people did not want it. (38) And now look! Your house is abandoned to you.

⁸ Galatians 5:6 CEV If you are a follower of Christ Jesus, it makes no difference whether you are circumcised [are Jewish] or not. All that matters is your faith that makes you love others.

Galatians 6:15 MWT For neither is circumcision [*keeping the Jewish law code*] anything nor is uncircumcision [*being a Gentile*], but a new creation is something! ⁽⁹⁾

⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:17 MWT Therefore, if anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away, look!, all things are new.

King David's rule, and far more, under the kingdom of Christ.¹⁰ Recognize Jesus as king¹¹ to the glory of his Father Jehovah⁽¹⁾.

¹⁰ Acts 1:6-7 MWT When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom of Israel back to mankind?" (7) Jesus said to them, "The times and occasions are set by my Father's own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be.

Luke 19:11 *Good News Bible* [GNB] While the people were listening to this, Jesus continued and told them a parable because he was now almost at Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God was just about to appear.

Mark 11:9-10 MWT The people who were in front and those who followed behind began to shout, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in Jehovah's name! [Ps 118:26^{*aa}] (10) God bless the coming kingdom of King David, ^{*ab} our father! Praise be to God in the heights above!"

^{*aa} [Psalms 118:26 *Literal Version* [LITV] Blessed is he who comes in the name of Jehovah; we blessed you from the house of Jehovah.]

^{*ab} (Luke 1:30-33) ³⁰ So the angel said to her: "Have no fear, Mary, for you have found favor with God; ³¹ and, look! you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you are to call his name Jesus. ³² This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father, ³³ and he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom."

Psalms 40:5-10 GNB You have done many things for us, O LORD [Jehovah⁽¹⁾] our God; there is no one like you! You have made many wonderful plans for us. I could never speak of them all--- their number is so great! (6) You do not want sacrifices and offerings; you do not ask for animals burned whole on the altar or for sacrifices to take away sins. Instead, you have given me ears to hear you, (7) and so I answered, "Here I am to do your will; your instructions for me are in the book of the Law. (8) How I love to do your will, my God! I keep your teaching in my heart." (9) In the assembly of all your people, LORD [Jehovah⁽¹⁾], I told the good news that you save us. You know that I will never stop telling it.

(10) I have not kept the news of salvation to myself; I have always spoken of your faithfulness and help. In the assembly of all your people I have not been silent about your loyalty and constant love.

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 MWT (20) But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life.

When God's ancient nation was destroyed and held captive in Babylon (because of their own badness), God's prophet Daniel realized from Bible prophecy the Jews would be repatriated to their homeland in 537 BCE (a little over 2500 years ago). Daniel also believed God would reestablish his kingdom over the earth at that time. Daniel was right in understanding Bible prophecy about the Jews being returned to Jerusalem, but he misunderstood about God's kingdom being reestablished in his day. Daniel's effort allowed mankind to know a little more about the sacred secret, but it still wasn't fully revealed. It was not God's time. When Jesus arrived, he revealed it all,¹² but it still took many years for

(21) Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be given life by means of Christ. (22) Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ brings life to all of us. (23) But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. (24) Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come, and he will give the kingdom to God his Father. (25) Christ will rule until he puts all his enemies under his power, (26) and the last enemy he destroys will be death. (27) When the Scriptures say that God put everything under his power, they don't include God. It was God who put everything under the power of Christ. (28) After everything is under the power of God's Son, he will put himself under the power of God, who put everything under his Son's power. Then God will mean everything to everyone.

¹² Acts 2:36 GNB "All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made Lord and Messiah!"

Acts 4:8-13 *God's Word* [GW] Then Peter, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and leaders of the people, (9) today you are cross-examining us about the good we did for a crippled man. You want to know how he was made well. (10) You and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands in your presence with a healthy body because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Jesus Christ, but God has brought him back to life. (11) He is the stone that the builders rejected, the stone that has become the cornerstone. (12) No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person." (13) After they found out that Peter and John had no education or special training, they were surprised to see how boldly they spoke. They realized that these men had been with Jesus.

mankind to understand what he had said and for Jesus to make preparation for his return as king of God's kingdom. That brings us to our day in time and to the question: When is Christ's Kingdom revealed???

His disciples asked Jesus when he would return as king: [Matthew 24:3 GNB](#) As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him in private. "Tell us when all this will be," they asked, "and what will happen to show that it is the time for your [*presence, or arrival, or*] coming and the end of the age [*or system of things, or world*]."

They wanted to know when Jesus was going to reestablish God's kingdom over the earth and remove the old system. They realized the answer to that question was also the final revelation of the sacred secret. Jesus answered them: [Matthew 24:5-14 GNB](#) Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will fool many people. (6) You are going to hear the noise of battles close by and the news of battles [*wars*] far away; but do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. (7) Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famines and earthquakes everywhere. (8) All these things are like the first pains of childbirth. (9) "Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. (10) Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another and hate one another. (11) Then many false prophets will appear and fool many people. (12) Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. (13) But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. (14) And this Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all people; and then the end will come.

Note Jesus said the last thing to happen in this dying world system was that everyone would hear the "Good News about the Kingdom." That "Good News" is the "sacred secret" of God! That apports it to you and to me to shed light by telling everyone what is happening to them, and why.¹³ Tell the "Good News about the Kingdom" to everyone who will listen! The more people know,

¹³ [1 Corinthians 15:34 CEV](#) (34) Be sensible and stop sinning. You should be embarrassed that some people still don't know about God.

whether or not they choose to become subjects of the kingdom, the closer we are to paradise restored.^{14 & (60)}

To summarize the sacred secret, there are four things every person alive needs to know:

First: Everyone needs to understand the importance of the Bible in their life. Knowledge of truth actually does mean your life.¹⁵ That knowledge is available only in the words of Jesus.⁽²¹⁾ Learning what God is doing my means of Christ's teachings helps us know Jehovah⁽¹⁾ and to desire his will. We can then have faith we will receive what we seek because it is in harmony with the will of God.

Second: As Jesus said above,^(Mat 24:14) the end of this old system cannot come until the preaching work is completed. That work is accomplished as sincere students of Jesus Christ speak lovingly with others about what they have learned *from the Bible*: about the "good news of the kingdom." There is no reason to fight with anyone. As you speak wholeheartedly about your Bible hope, whether they hear or no, you strengthen your own faith by your effort. If they don't want to hear, take your leave. The choice is theirs alone. Maybe they will hear later. By your obedience, you work out your own salvation.¹⁶ (That is not to say you can earn life. Life is a gift from our heavenly Father to those who won't harm

¹⁴ **Isaiah 60:22 MWT** The little one himself will become a thousand, and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time." [Jehovah will likely "speed it up" by making known his sacred secret. You can help!]

¹⁵ **John 17:1-4 GNB** After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. (2) For you gave him authority over all people, so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. (3) And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent. (4) I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do.

¹⁶ **Philippians 2:12-13 MWT** My beloved friends, you have always obeyed, not only when I was with you but even more now that I'm absent. In obedience to Christ continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. (13) And God will work in you to produce the desires and actions that please him.

other people. If you love him (and others), however, you will obey him.⁽⁶³⁾

Third: Jesus was quoted as saying in Mat. 24:5 (above), that many would claim to be teaching what he taught when they really weren't. Jesus said all those false teachers would comprise a composite force of apostasy he and his followers referred to as "the man of lawlessness."¹⁷ They also said that man of lawlessness would have to be "revealed." His needing to be revealed implies he exists in secret and has achieved some stature in appearing upright and holy. He (being all the false religious teachers combined) needed to be revealed because he was claiming (each component sectarian part of him was claiming) he was a Christian teacher, while he was not. Jesus warned his true followers not to be misled by religion. The danger of being misled was real even for Jesus's own footstep followers. That danger is real for each of us today. Jesus taught you how to both recognize and to help expose the man of lawlessness! Very simply, every sect of the "man of lawlessness" shares one thing in common: they are not following Jesus's teachings.

Fourth: Perhaps most importantly, everyone needs to understand: "The end" Jesus spoke about is not a bad thing. It is the end of this old world system which has existed for all these hundreds of years since Adam. That old system has existed apart from God's direction. The actions by all those unrighteous rulerships, and those who follow, are the manifestations of mankind's disobedience to God. That rebellious course has created the great tribulation consuming our world in these last days. That's what Jesus was talking about in Mat. 24:6-12 (above). Every single thing he mentioned prophetically as the composite sign of the end of this system is coming true in our day!

¹⁷ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 GW (1) Brothers and sisters, we have this request to make of you about our Lord Jesus Christ's coming and our gathering to meet him. (2) Don't get upset right away or alarmed when someone claims that we said through some spirit, conversation, or letter that the day of the Lord has already come. (3) Don't let anyone deceive you about this in any way. That day cannot come unless a revolt takes place first, and the man of sin, the man of destruction, [or man of lawlessness] is revealed.

There will be lots of people who think these four points, and this very specific warning by Jesus Christ, are foolishness.¹⁸ Don't you see, though, that is the very decision we are *all* making?⁽¹⁹⁾ We are each and every one of us judging ourselves by our reaction to what

¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ALT (18) For the word of the cross [*or stake*] indeed is foolishness to the ones perishing, but to us, the ones being saved, it is [*the*] power of God! (19) For it has been written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing." [*Isaiah 29:14 GNB - So I will startle them with one unexpected blow after another. Those who are wise will turn out to be fools, and all their cleverness will be useless.*] (20) Where [*is the*] wise? Where [*is the*] scribe? Where [*is the*] skillful debater of this age? God made the wisdom of this world foolish, did He not? (21) For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the proclamation [*or, the message being preached*] to save the ones believing. (22) Since also Jews ask for a sign, and Greeks seek wisdom, (23) but we proclaim Christ [*as*] having been crucified, to Jews indeed a stumbling-block and to Greeks foolishness, (24) but to them, the ones called, both to Jews and to Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than people, and the weakness of God is stronger than people. (26) For you see your calling, brothers [*and sisters*], that [*there are*] not many wise according to [*the*] flesh, not many powerful, not many noble [*or, of high social status*]; (27) but God chose the foolish [*things*] of the world, so that He should be humiliating the wise; and God chose the weak [*things*] of the world, so that He should be humiliating the strong; (28) and God chose the insignificant [*things*] of the world and the [*things*] having been despised [*or, looked down on*], and the [*things*] not being, so that He should nullify the [*things*] being [*fig., which exist*], (29) in order that all flesh shall not [*or, no flesh shall*] boast before God. (30) But by Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, just as it has been written, "The one boasting, let him be boasting in [*the*] LORD [*Jehovah*⁽¹⁾]." [*Jer 9:24 - LITV But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Jehovah, doing kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; for I delight in these, says Jehovah.*]

Jesus came to tell.¹⁹ Some individuals have been saying “he is coming, he is coming,” nearly since the sacred secret was first uttered 6000 years ago in the Garden.⁽³⁸⁾ Make no mistake: it will happen. What should be of great interest to us all: It is likely happening in our day. If you choose to ignore what Jesus Christ taught, it will lose you your life.⁽⁴⁰⁾ If you do build faith, it is your means of eternal life.⁽¹⁵⁾ If you are to have such faith, you must start with gaining a personal understanding of what Jesus Christ taught. Therein lies a great danger for you. Jesus said in Mat. 24:5 (above) that many would claim to be speaking for him when they really were not. Based on that warning, we make the clear distinction between “religion” and “Christianity.” You can recognize Christianity as the only true faith because everything Jesus Christ said is happening. True Christians define themselves as his followers by looking only to *his* teachings.²⁰ Any form of worship that isn’t Christianity can be referred to as religion. From

¹⁹ John 12:44-50 GNB Jesus said in a loud voice, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in him who sent me. (45) Whoever sees me sees also him who sent me. (46) I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. (47) If people hear my message and do not obey it, I will not judge them. I came, not to judge the world, but to save it. (48) Those who reject me and do not accept my message have one who will judge them. The words I have spoken will be their judge on the last day! (49) This is true, because I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has commanded me what I must say and speak. (50) And I know that his command brings eternal life. What I say, then, is what the Father has told me to say."

²⁰ John 10:22-29 ESV At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, (23) and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. (24) So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." (25) Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, (26) but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. (27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

that warning Jesus gave, we can know something else about religion: Even those forms of worship that claim to be Christian must be tested to see if they really are. How can you test? Simple!!! By knowing for yourself what Jesus taught.⁽²⁰⁾ If you know what he said, you will know whether those who come in his name are really speaking *his* words. You must “remain in his teachings.”²¹ What does that mean, however, to remain in the teachings of Jesus. That hasn’t changed one bit since he was alive on earth. When his mother and brothers came to speak with him while he was teachings others what his Father sent him to teach,⁽³⁷⁾ they sent someone in to interrupt him to tell him his family was outside wanting to speak with him. He told that person to look around at those sitting at his feet listening to what he said and told him: **(Matthew 12:48-50)** . . . “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.” Those who were sitting at Jesus’s feet and learning from him were the ones doing the will of his Father.²² That made them his family. If you do the same (and you are careful to follow only Jesus’s teachings) you will be saved. Your faith in truth will grant you life.²³ & ⁽⁴²⁾ In light of Jesus’s warning about false teachers, it is wise to consider the ways he said we can identify them. He said we could know the false teachers by the fruit they

²¹ John 8:31-32 MWT So Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you remain in [obey] my teaching, you are really my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

²² Matthew 12:46-50 Contemporary English Version [CEV] While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and brothers came and stood outside because they wanted to talk with him. (47) Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside and want to talk with you." (48) Jesus answered, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" (49) Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "These are my mother and my brothers! (50) Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother or sister or mother."

²³ Matthew 8:13 BBE And Jesus said to the captain, Go in peace; as your faith is, so let it be done to you. And the servant was made well in that hour.

bear.²⁴ As Jesus said, whether they are producing good fruitage is seen in whether they are learning (and teaching) what he taught. If people want to join you in reading what Jesus taught, right from the Bible, they are helping. If they want to involve you in a study of materials written by them (which they will likely call Bible study aids), you are in danger. Jesus was sent to teach us what his Father wanted us to know.²⁵ Those men who want to convince you of your need for them to explain what Jesus meant are really trying to replace him as your teacher. They are in effect saying they are Christ (or his replacements).⁽³⁸⁾ If you can be convinced by men that you need them to explain what Jesus meant, who are you really following? *Jesus said* exactly what he meant for you to know. It's a very simple process really: Jehovah is looking through the earth for righteously inclined individuals who are looking for him.²⁶ Jehovah then directs those persons (those with a heart complete toward him) to the teachings of his son.²⁷ Jesus, in turn, teaches those who are drawn to him by his Father, *about his*

²⁴ Matthew 7:15-16 GNB "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. (16) You will know them by what they do [*by the fruit they bear*]. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs.

²⁵ John 5:19-24 GNB So Jesus answered them, "I tell you the truth: the Son can do nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does. (20) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. He will show him even greater things to do than this, and you will all be amazed. (21) Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, in the same way the Son gives life to those he wants to. (22) Nor does the Father himself judge anyone. He has given his Son the full right to judge, (23) so that all will honor the Son in the same way as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (24) "I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life. They will not be judged, but have already passed from death to life.

²⁶ 2 Chronicles 16:9 MWT "For as regards Jehovah, his eyes are roving to and fro through all the earth to show his power in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.

²⁷ John 6:44a MWT "No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him; ...

Father.²⁸ What you need to know is contained in the record of Jesus's teachings in the four short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.²⁹ Sitting at Jesus feet, by reading his own words, puts you in the group he founded and said were his family.⁽²²⁾ Be very cautious of joining any religious group, or in feeling justified in your membership among such groups.³⁰ Religious leaders in Jesus's day were so self-righteous as to render their judgment over even the son of God.⁽³⁰⁾ How could they be so foolish? One reason Jesus gave was they didn't know what the Bible said.³¹ They claimed and probably believed they were Bible scholars³² but

²⁸ Matthew 11:27-30 CEV My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too. (28) If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. (29) Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. (30) This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

²⁹ <http://www.justbibletruth.com/biblejohn.pdf>

³⁰ John 7:40-49 MWT When the crowd heard Jesus say this, some of them said, "He must be the Prophet!" (41) Others said, "He is the Messiah!" Others said, "Can the Messiah come from Galilee? (42) The Scriptures say that the Messiah will come from the family of King David. Doesn't this mean that he will be born in David's hometown of Bethlehem?" (43) The people started taking sides against each other because of Jesus. (44) Some of them, though, wanted to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him. (45) When the temple police returned to their religious leaders, they were asked, "Why didn't you bring Jesus here?" (46) They answered, "No one has ever spoken like that man!" (47) The Pharisees said to them, "You have not also been fooled by him have you? (48) Not one of the chief priests or other religious leaders have put faith in him. (49) And these people who don't know the Law are under God's curse anyway."

³¹ Mark 12:24 CEV Jesus answered: You are completely wrong! You don't know what the Scriptures teach. And you don't know anything about the power of God.

³² John 8:31-34 GNB So Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; (32) you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (33) "We are the descendants of Abraham," they answered, "and we have never

Jesus said it was not the Bible they were learning. He said they were learning traditions of men handed down by their forefathers.³³ Many or even most of such religious people probably mean well. Having good intentions, however, will be no benefit if you allow yourself to be carried along by doctrines and traditions contrived by men.³⁴ If you are surrounded by people who want to make rules about what you should and shouldn't do, you are in

been anybody's slaves. What do you mean, then, by saying, 'You will be free?'" (34) Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin.

³³ Mark 7:1-9 GNB Some Pharisees and teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. (2) They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their food with hands that were ritually unclean---that is, they had not washed them in the way the Pharisees said people should. (3) (For the Pharisees, as well as the rest of the Jews, follow the teaching they received from their ancestors: they do not eat unless they wash their hands in the proper way; (4) nor do they eat anything that comes from the market unless they wash it first. And they follow many other rules which they have received, such as the proper way to wash cups, pots, copper bowls, and beds.) (5) So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, "Why is it that your disciples do not follow the teaching handed down by our ancestors, but instead eat with ritually unclean hands?" (6) Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (7) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' (8) "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings." (9) And Jesus continued, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching.

³⁴ Matthew 7:21-24 *English Standard Version [ESV]* "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' (23) And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' (24) "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

danger. Jesus came and gave his life to provide us a chance for life.³⁵ *His words alone* tell you what you should do. You must have your own conscience built on your knowledge of what he taught.³⁶ Jesus also came to warn about false teachers, and to reassure you that you don't have to be deceived by them. Jesus is right there in our own Bible; we all simply need to listen to what God sent his

³⁵ John 1:9-14 CEV The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. (10) The Word was in the world, but no one knew him, though God had made the world with his Word. (11) He came into his own world, but his own nation did not welcome him. (12) Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God. (13) They were not God's children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one who made them his children. (14) The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us.

Romans 3:23-25 CEV All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. (24) But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. (25) God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so that by faith in him we could come to God. And God did this to show that in the past he was right to be patient and forgive sinners. This also shows that God is right when he accepts people who have faith in Jesus.

³⁶ Romans 2:14-16 ALT For when nations, the ones not having *[the]* Law, by nature are doing the *[things]* of the Law, these not having *[the]* Law are a law to themselves; (15) who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness with *[them]*, and among themselves their thoughts accusing or even defending *[them]*, (16) *[thus it will be]* in *[the]* day when God will judge the secrets of the people according to my Gospel through Jesus Christ.

son to teach.³⁷ & ³⁸ We can be sure we are really listening to Jesus only by reading *his* words for ourselves. (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.) By doing so, we demonstrate we are adopted into Jesus's family and become sons and daughters of his Father.⁽²²⁾ We put ourselves in line for the blessings promised the seed of Abraham.³⁹ If religious people really do mean well, they will probably learn the truth for themselves.^(53 - Php 3:4-10) (We say probably because the decision rests with them and our heavenly

³⁷ John 7:16-18 CEV 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.

³⁸ <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf> ~

Matthew 24:23-27 MWT Someone may say, "Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!" But don't believe it. (24) False Christs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones. (25) But I have warned you ahead of time. (26) If you are told that the Messiah is out in the desert, don't go there! And if you are told that he is in some secret place, don't believe it! (27) For the Son of Man will come like the lightning which flashes across the whole sky from the east to the west. [The Bible is the most published book of all time. It is available in most every language. Jesus words are available and shining from "east to west." There is no little sect of Christians you need to join so as to gain *their* approval.]

³⁹ Acts 3:25-26 ESV You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' (26) God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Romans 4:13 MWT ⁴³ For it was not through obedience to law that Abraham or his seed had the promise that he should be heir of a world, but it was through righteousness by faith.

Romans 4:13 CEV God promised Abraham and his descendants that he would give them the world. This promise wasn't made because Abraham had obeyed a law, but because his faith in God made him acceptable.

Galatians 3:29 CEV So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family, and you will be given what God has promised.

Father.) The only chance you have of helping anyone is if you make the choice to adhere strictly to what Jesus taught – and then to tell it to them. No matter what good intentions they might have, if you join a group who is following other men, you will surely die.⁴⁰ & (34)

⁴⁰ John 8:24-32 CEV That is why I said you will die with your sins unforgiven. If you don't have faith in me for who I am, you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven." (25) "Who are you?" they asked Jesus. Jesus answered, "I am exactly who I told you at the beginning." (26) There is a lot more I could say to condemn you. But the one who sent me is truthful, and I tell the people of this world only what I have heard from him." (27) No one understood that Jesus was talking to them about the Father. (28) Jesus went on to say, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know who I am. You will also know that I don't do anything on my own. I say only what my Father taught me. (29) The one who sent me is with me. I always do what pleases him, and he will never leave me." (30) After Jesus said this, many of the people put their faith in him. (31) Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

~ These scriptures explain what he meant when Jesus said above that he had told them who he was "from the beginning" ~ Matthew 16:13-17 ESV Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (14) And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (15) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (16) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (17) And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

John 3:16 Geneva For God so loued the worlde, that hee hath giuen his onely begotten Sonne, that whosoever beleeueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life.

John 10:10a-11 CEV . . . I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. (11) I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep.

If you will survive the end of this old system,⁴¹ you must build faith to preserve yourself alive.⁴² What Jehovah is doing by means of his son Christ Jesus must be real to you. It must be real every second of every day. You must realize Jesus is right now “subduing in the midst of his enemies.”⁽⁴³⁾ Satan still influences this old system, but the teachings of Jesus have raised an army of Christians spread all through the earth who are submissive and loyal subjects of the kingdom of Christ.⁴³ The truth they share is burning away the facade of decency that allows 1/4th of the world’s population to starve while others preach to them from glass cathedrals and ivory towers.⁴⁴ The common message among false Christian sects: that

⁴¹ Luke 17:26-30 MWT "When the Son of Man comes again, the situation will be like the time of Noah. (27) Disregarding the violence, people were trying to live a normal life. They 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.

⁴² Hebrews 10:37-39 ALT "For yet [*in*] a very little while, the One coming will come and will not delay. (38) "But the [*one*] righteous by faith will live [*or, the righteous will live by faith*]; and if he draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." [*Hab 2:3,4*] (39) But we are not of [*the ones*] shrinking back to destruction, but of [*the ones having*] faith to [*the*] preserving [*alive*] of [*the*] soul.

⁴³ Psalm 110:1-3 MWT The utterance of Jehovah to my Lord is: “Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet.” ² The rod of your strength Jehovah will send out of Zion, saying: “Go subduing in the midst of your enemies.” ³ Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force. In the splendors of holiness, from the womb of the dawn, You have your company of young men just like dewdrops.

⁴⁴ Hebrews 4:12-13 GW God's word is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword and cuts as deep as the place where soul and spirit meet, the place where joints and marrow meet. God's word judges a person's thoughts and intentions. (13) No creature can hide from God. Everything is uncovered and exposed for him to see. We must answer to him.

salvation equates with membership in their respective group. When men claim your salvation is tied to approval by their group, what they are really saying is “here is the Christ or there.” When they assert you can’t understand the Bible apart from their interpretation, they are claiming they are the Christ, or his God appointed stand in. Don’t be fooled!⁽³⁸⁾ (After Jesus left, there were men appointed by holy spirit to govern the first century congregations⁴⁵ (so as to give Christianity a start in the midst of those who wanted to destroy it). Such spirit appointed men, acting for Christ, could also raise the dead and heal the sick, just like Jesus could. The Bible says such gifts would die out, along with the revelation of the sacred secret.⁴⁶ In our day, Christians live by faith in the recorded words of Christ.⁴⁷ You can know Jehovah⁽¹⁾

⁴⁵ Acts 20:28-30 MWT Look after yourselves and everyone the Holy Spirit has appointed you to care for. Be like shepherds to God's worshippers [or assembly]. It is the flock that he bought with the blood of his own Son. (29) I know that after I am gone, others will come like fierce wolves to attack you. (30) Some of your own people will tell lies to win over the Lord's followers.

⁴⁶ 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 CEV (8) Love never fails! Everyone who prophesies will stop, and unknown languages will no longer be spoken. All that we know [by divine gift of holy spirit] will be forgotten. (9) We don't know everything, and our prophecies are not complete. (10) But what is perfect will someday appear [the revelation of the sacred secret], and what isn't perfect will then disappear. (11) When we were children, we thought and reasoned as children do. But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. (12) Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. Later we will see him face to face. We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us.

⁴⁷ John 7:38 ALT "The one believing [*or, trusting*] in Me, just as the Scripture said, 'Out of his belly [*or, innermost being*] will flow rivers of living water.'" [*no specific OT reference, but for general idea see Isaiah 55:1; 58:11; Ezek 47:1; Joel 3:18; Zech 13:1; 14:8*] John 12:46 BBE I have come as a light into the world, so that no one who has faith in me will go on living in the dark. John 6:28-29 ALT Therefore, they said to Him, "What shall we be doing so that we shall be working the works of God?" (29) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you, *p* be believing [*or, trusting*] in Him whom that One sent."

intimately, and you can be known by him, by learning and expressing faith in what Jesus came to teach. It is perfect! If someone again wants to claim to be a stand-in for Christ, they should also raise the dead and heal the sick.⁴⁸) Christ is alive and seated as king in heaven. As far as talking with us, he is alive in the pages of your Bible. That's one of the things the Bible means when it says it is alive and exerts power.⁽⁴⁴⁾ The Bible is the only way you can come to know Jesus intimately. These religious groups have no power to fix the problems of mankind themselves. The point is: that's something they all need to realize. The kingdom of Christ is in the process of repairing all the damage Satan has done.⁴⁹ People just need to be directed to what Jesus said so they can understand that fact. It is a very bad thing to assure people their help will come through an approved standing with some group of men. What they (or any of us) *can do* and should do, is speak the truth to others by directing them to what Jesus taught. Our doing so gives them a chance to build faith in *Christ*. Contrary to popular belief, you can not have a true and lasting faith⁵⁰ in Jesus Christ if you don't know what he said. Reading your Bible is the only

Romans 1:16-17 ESV For I am not ashamed of the gospel [*good news*], for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

⁴⁸ Acts 20:7-12 GW On Sunday we met to break bread. Paul was discussing Scripture with the people. Since he intended to leave the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (8) (Many lamps were lit in the upstairs room where we were meeting.) (9) A young man named Eutychus was sitting in a window. As Paul was talking on and on, Eutychus was gradually falling asleep. Finally, overcome by sleep, he fell from the third story and was dead when they picked him up. (10) Paul went to him, took him into his arms, and said, "Don't worry! He's alive!" (11) Then Eutychus went upstairs again, broke the bread, and ate. Paul talked with the people for a long time, until sunrise, and then left. (12) The people took the boy home. They were greatly relieved that he was alive.

⁴⁹ 1 John 3:8b ALT ... For this [*reason*] the Son of God was revealed, so that He should destroy the works of the Devil.

⁵⁰ Matthew 10:22b Darby ... But he that has endured to *the* end, *he* shall be saved.

method by which you come to know him. We do, of course, need to show loving kindness toward other people, helping them as we are able. Remember, however, Jesus is God's empowered king and is in the process of fixing everything that is wrong. Remember too, our faith in that solution is the personal deliverance for each one of us.⁵¹ Do good: help others have faith in what Jesus taught.

You have faced and will face trials in this old world system. If this system was good, God would not be in the process of replacing it. It is crumbling down on itself. God wants to protect you alive, but you must become a person He can depend on if He is to be able to help you. If He didn't make it so, those He protected would put us all right back in the same mess, by again choosing to disobey our Creator. What that means is we must be determined, no matter what, to follow the directions of the son God sent to teach us.⁵² We must become persons determined to do what God says because we know God always does what is absolutely best for everyone. That's what Jesus teaches us by his example.⁽¹¹⁾ If the promises of God aren't the most important thing in your life, the trials you face may overwhelm you. Those you love may turn their back on you. You may find that what you have hoped in, or the people you believed

⁵¹ 2 Chronicles 20:17a Darby (17) Ye shall not have to fight on this occasion: set yourselves, stand and see the salvation of Jehovah *who is with you!* ...

⁵² Matthew 21:33-41 GNB "Listen to another parable," Jesus said. "There was once a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press, and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to tenants and left home on a trip. (34) When the time came to gather the grapes, he sent his slaves to the tenants to receive his share of the harvest. (35) The tenants grabbed his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned another. (36) Again the man sent other slaves, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. (37) Last of all he sent his son to them. 'Surely they will respect my son,' he said. (38) But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the owner's son. Come on, let's kill him, and we will get his property!' (39) So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. (40) "Now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" Jesus asked. (41) "He will certainly kill those evil men," they answered, "and rent the vineyard out to other tenants, who will give him his share of the harvest at the right time."

in, are not who they pretended or who you believed they were. If the kingdom by Christ is real to you, you will surely read and meditate on *his teachings* as the most important part of your life. In that case, none of those trials will really matter, because your love for God is most important.⁵³ You will know his promises are good and that your future is bright!

The teachings of Jesus must be so real to you that you consider yourself part of his family. More importantly, *he must consider you part of his family*. When he was instructing others about what he learned from his Father, his family approached requesting he come outside and speak with him: **(Mark 3:31-35)**³¹ Now his mother and his brothers came, and, as they were standing on the outside, they sent in to him to call him.³² As it was, a crowd was sitting around him, so they said to him: “Look! Your mother and your brothers outside are seeking you.”³³ But in reply he said to

⁵³ Matthew 19:29 BBE And everyone who has given up houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or child, or land, for my name, will be given a hundred times as much, and have eternal life.

Philippians 3:4-10 GNB I could, of course, put my trust in such things. If any of you think you can trust in external ceremonies, I have even more reason to feel that way. (5) I was circumcised when I was a week old. I am an Israelite by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, a pure-blooded Hebrew. As far as keeping the Jewish Law is concerned, I was a Pharisee, (6) and I was so zealous that I persecuted the church. [*Before Paul's conversion to Christianity, he persecuted the followers of Jesus as a religious leader of the Jewish nation.*] As far as a person can be righteous by obeying the commands of the Law, I was without fault. (7) But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake. (8) Not only those things; I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away; I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ (9) and be completely united with him. I no longer have a righteousness of my own, the kind that is gained by obeying the Law. I now have the righteousness that is given through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on faith. (10) All I want is to know Christ...

them: “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And having looked about upon those sitting around him in a circle, he said: “See, my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God, this one is my brother and sister and mother.” While this material was previously considered, please take special note of who Jesus considered to be his family: those who ~~were~~ *are* “doing the will of his Father.” Jesus pointed out those who were doing his Father’s will were the individuals seated around him listening to what his Father wanted them to know.⁽³⁷⁾ That’s how you make yourself part of Jesus’s family right down to this day. Read what Jesus came to teach you in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.⁽²⁹⁾ It really is just that simple.⁽²⁾

We have spoken several times about surviving the end of this old system (by being preserved alive). It is important to realize that wonderful hope is part of the sacred secret of God. God promised (in the book of Job) there would come a time when there would be someone to intervene in behalf of those heading to the grave, and would turn them back from it. He promised their flesh would grow young again.⁵⁴ Jesus mentioned that hope as well. Just before he resurrected Lazarus, Jesus told his sister Martha all those who had died would be resurrected, but those who were alive at the time of

⁵⁴ Job 33:16-30 GNB He makes them listen to what he says, and they are frightened at his warnings. (17) God speaks to make them stop their sinning and to save them from becoming proud. (18) He will not let them be destroyed; he saves them from death itself. (19) God corrects us by sending sickness and filling our bodies with pain. (20) Those who are sick lose their appetites, and even the finest food looks revolting. (21) Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; (22) they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." (25) Their bodies will grow young and strong again; (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life, and gives him the joy of living.

his return would never die at all.⁵⁵ Jesus also said the end of this old system would be like the days of Noah and Lot. Both were men of faith, and they (along with all who would listen to them) were preserved alive in their respective days of destruction (and salvation).⁽⁴¹⁾ When each of those men lived, the earth (or the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's case) was filled with violence.⁵⁶ Just as Jesus said, the destruction of the earth in our day will be similar to the days of Noah. The righteous will be preserved alive while the wicked will be destroyed. As God promised Ezekiel, when the wicked are destroyed, those marked in their forehead (because they were sighing and groaning over the badness in the earth) will be preserved alive.⁵⁷ Your personal faith

⁵⁵ John 11:21-27 GW Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask him." (23) Jesus told Martha, "Your brother will come back to life." (24) Martha answered Jesus, "I know that he'll come back to life on the last day, when everyone will [*be resurrected*] come back to life." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live [*be resurrected*] even if they die. (26) Everyone who lives [*at the time of his return*] and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?" (27) Martha said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who was expected to come into the world."

⁵⁶ Genesis 6:12-14 GW God saw the world and how corrupt it was because all people on earth lived evil lives. (13) God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all people because the earth is full of their violence. Now I'm going to destroy them along with the earth. (14) Make yourself a ship of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ship and coat it inside and out with tar.

⁵⁷ Ezekiel 9:1-7 MWT And he proceeded to call out in my ears with a loud voice, saying: "HAVE those giving their attention to the city come near, each one with his weapon in his hand for bringing ruin!" ² And, look! there were six men coming from the direction of the upper gate that faces to the north, each one with his weapon for smashing in his hand; and there was one man in among them clothed with linen, with a secretary's inkhorn at his hips, and they proceeded to come in and stand beside the copper altar. ³ And as regards the glory of the God of Israel, it was taken up from over

in Christ Jesus is the mark in your forehead. God foreknew a great tribulation that Jesus warned us about. He could know it would happen because it is the natural consequence of disobedience to him. He did not cause it or bring it. We brought it upon ourselves by our having destroyed and polluted the earth the way we have. God actually holds off the destruction⁵⁸ until just the right time so as to save as many as possible. When God releases the destruction of our own making, He will at the same time be protecting those who love him through their faith in his son (those who are marked in their forehead). That destruction may already have been released. If not, very soon. Everyone is deciding for themselves if they will exercise faith!⁵⁹ The tribulation we have brought and are

the cherubs over which it happened to be to the threshold of the house, and he began calling out to the man that was clothed with the linen, at whose hips there was the secretary's inkhorn. ⁴ And Jehovah went on to say to him: "Pass through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and you must put a mark on the foreheads of the men that are sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done in the midst of it." ⁵ And to these [others] he said in my ears: "Pass through the city after him and strike. Let not your eye feel sorry, and do not feel any compassion. ⁶ Old man, young man and virgin and little child and women you should kill off—to a ruination. But to any man upon whom there is the mark do not go near, and from my sanctuary you should start." So they started with the old men [*no doubt very religious men*] that were before the house. ⁷ And he said further to them: "Defile the house and fill the courtyards with the slain ones. Go forth!" And they went forth and struck in the city.

⁵⁸ Revelation 7:1-3 ESV After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. (2) Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, (3) saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

⁵⁹ Ezekiel 7:23-27 ESV "Forge a chain! For the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence. (24) I will bring the worst of the nations to take possession of their houses. I will put an end to the pride of the strong, and their holy places shall be profaned. (25) When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but

witnessing, will drive everyone to examine the hope that is wrapped up in Jesus – the sacred secret. We will build (or we are building) faith in Jesus or we won't. There is no exemption from the war. You must decide you do love God, or it means you don't. Read what Jesus taught and warn others to do the same. It is our only hope!⁶⁰

there shall be none. (26) Disaster comes upon disaster; rumor follows rumor. They seek a vision from the prophet, while the law perishes from the priest and counsel from the elders. (27) The king mourns, the prince is wrapped in despair, and the hands of the people of the land are paralyzed by terror. According to their way I will do to them, and according to their judgments I will judge them, and they shall know that I am the LORD [Jehovah⁽¹⁾]."

⁶⁰ Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD [Jehovah⁽¹⁾] of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:1-10 *American Standard Version [ASV]* And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the 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 shall be in the fear of Jehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears; (4) but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for 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 waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. (6) And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. (7) And the cow and the 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 asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. (9) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all

If you wrap yourself in the teachings of Jesus Christ and try to follow his example, you don't really have to worry about what not to do. His example will always help you know. With so many false teachers about, however, it seems wise to give what we should not do some consideration.

The apostle Paul said: **Colossians 3:5-17 GNB** You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry). (6) Because of such things God's anger will come upon those who do not obey him. (7) At one time you yourselves used to live according to such desires, when your life was dominated by them. (8) But now you must get rid of all these things: anger, passion, and hateful feelings. No insults or obscene talk must ever come from your lips. (9) Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old self with its habits (10) and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself. (11) As a result, there is no longer any distinction between Gentiles and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, savages, slaves, and free, but Christ is all, Christ is in all. (12) You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (13) Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. (14) And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. (15) The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. (16) Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. (17) Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea. (10) And it shall come to pass in that day, that the root of Jesse, that standeth for an ensign of the peoples, unto him shall the nations seek; and his resting-place shall be glorious.

We have all practiced some of these wicked things, and we all struggle against the desire to practice some of them still yet. Otherwise, we would be perfect.⁶¹ (We will, of course, regain perfection when we are in paradise, and those sinful desires will be gone forever.) The point for us to realize is this: we must be *trying* to follow Christ, which also means we fight against our sinful desires condemned by God. If we fall down, we must get up and renew the fight. We don't willfully practice such sins, or even say they are alright for others, maybe by claiming it is an expression of love. We must love God before we can love anyone else.⁶² If we really do love God, we will obey *him*.⁶³ Sometimes people look for their guidance to what the law of the land says is acceptable. Don't be fooled: if you practice or condone as acceptable what God condemns, you are not a follower of Jesus Christ.⁶⁴ If you are able

⁶¹ Romans 7:18-25 GW I know that nothing good lives in me; that is, nothing good lives in my corrupt nature. Although I have the desire to do what is right, I don't do it. (19) I don't do the good I want to do. Instead, I do the evil that I don't want to do. (20) Now, when I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it. Sin that lives in me is doing it. (21) So I've discovered this truth: Evil is present with me even when I want to do what God's standards say is good. (22) I take pleasure in God's standards in my inner being. (23) However, I see a different standard at work throughout my body. It is at war with the standards my mind sets and tries to take me captive to sin's standards which still exist throughout my body. (24) What a miserable person I am! Who will rescue me from my dying body? (25) I thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ rescues me! So I am obedient to God's standards with my mind, but I am obedient to sin's standards with my corrupt nature.

⁶² 1 John 4:19 GNB We [*are able to*] love because God first loved us.

⁶³ 1 John 5:3 CEV We show our love for God by obeying his commandments, and they are not hard to follow.

⁶⁴ 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 CEV (9) Don't you know that evil people won't have a share in the blessings of God's kingdom? Don't fool yourselves! No one who is immoral or worships idols or is unfaithful in marriage or is a pervert or behaves like a homosexual (10) will share in God's kingdom. Neither will any thief or greedy person or drunkard or anyone who curses and cheats others. (11)

to get every person alive to say you are right to practice a thing God condemns, you are still wrong. You don't have to argue with people who pronounce that what is bad is good,⁶⁵ or be concerned with their lifestyle. Just tell them what the Bible says along with your expression of faith in the Bible. Assure them you do understand your personal judgments have no value. What the Bible says, however, has great value. If they can justify their own behavior before our Creator, we will all be happy for them. If it is a practice which is condemned in God's word, no one can justify it.

May the blessings of the revelation of the sacred secret of God come upon you, just as you express faith in Jesus Christ. Spend every day of your life better learning what he came to teach.

Some of you used to be like that. But now the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit have washed you and made you holy and acceptable to God. (12) Some of you say, "We can do anything we want to." But I tell you that not everything is good for us. So I refuse to let anything have power over me.

⁶⁵ Isaiah 5:18-24 MWT How horrible it will be for those who string people along with lies and empty promises, whose lives are sinful. (19) They say [*insincerely*], "Let God hurry and quickly do his work so that we may see what he has in mind. Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel happen quickly so that we may understand what he is doing." (20) How horrible it will be for those who call evil good and good evil, who turn darkness into light and light into darkness, who turn what is bitter into something sweet and what is sweet into something bitter. (21) How horrible it will be for those who think they are wise and consider themselves to be clever. (22) How horrible it will be for those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are champions at mixing drinks, (23) who declare the guilty innocent for a bribe, who take away the rights of righteous people. (24) As flames burn up straw and dry grass shrivels in flames, so their roots will rot, and their blossoms will blow away like dust. They have rejected the teachings of Jehovah⁽¹⁾ of Armies and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

The material from justbibletruth.com is likely different from what you have heard or read before.⁶⁶ So was what Jesus Christ taught. We do our best to expose the difference between religion and Christianity. Also, to warn that many who claim to be Christians are really not teaching what Jesus taught.^{(21) & (24)} No matter what good intentions they might have, they are workers of lawlessness if they are going beyond⁶⁷ what Jesus Christ taught.⁽³⁴⁾ That simple knowledge lifts the veil⁶⁸ from people and they are left to make the decision.⁶⁹ will they serve God or not? Will they be obedient to the teachings of Jesus? Justbibletruth.com magnifies the awakening that is happening in the earth in our day. We pray everyone will make the wise decision.

⁶⁶ **This booklet is available online at: justbibletruth.com/ASecret.pdf** (be careful of capital letters if you are typing it into the address bar of your browser. You cannot find the document by typing the address into the search bar of your browser.)

The document can be printed in booklet form using Adobe Reader available on most computers. It can also be downloaded and read on anything that can display .pdf files.

⁶⁷ **1 Corinthians 4:6 Bible in Basic English [BBE] My brothers, it is because of you that I have taken Apollos and myself as examples of these things, so that in us you might see that it is not wise to go farther than what is in the holy Writings, so that no one of you may be lifted up against his brother [or puffed up with pride].**

⁶⁸ **Luke 2:29-32 MWT "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. (30) With my own eyes I have seen your means of salvation (31) which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: (32) A light to lift the veil from the nations and to bring glory to your people."**

⁶⁹ **John 15:22 GNB They would not have been guilty of sin if I had not come and spoken to them; as it is, they no longer have any excuse for their sin.**
