

Are you Good?



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¹ Mark 13:22-23 CEV False messiahs and false prophets [*those stating you are dependent on them*] will come and work miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones. (23) But be on your guard! That's why I am telling you these things now.

² Acts 17:10-11 Modern World Translation ¹⁰ Immediately by night the brothers sent both Paul and Silas out to Berea, and these, upon arriving, went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were really so.

Are you a good man or a good woman?

Let us just start in saying, no, you are not! Now, before you get all defensive and confrontational, asserting that you are so good, let us please clarify our statement. We are speaking in an absolute sense. Even if you are the best and most righteous person alive on the face of the earth, you are still not good. We are all imperfect and sinful people, and so we are none of us good.³ It is important to understand that. If we don't understand that simple truth, we might bring great loss to ourselves by coming to feel there is no need for Christ in our life.⁴

So, then, we are all imperfect people and that defines we cannot be good. Even if we were perfect, however, and again speaking in an absolute sense, we would still not be good. To be able to understand that, we need to consider our great exemplar, Jesus Christ. Looking to his example is the same method by which we understand most every spiritual thing (and many other things about life as well). Unlike the rest of us, Christ was born as a perfect man. There was no sin in him.⁵ He never did a single thing

³ 1 John 1:8-10 Good News Bible If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. (9) But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us.

⁴ Matthew 9:12-13 Contemporary English Version Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. (13) Go and learn what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.' [Hosea 6:6 GNB I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me.] I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers [*because there are no good people*]. I came to invite sinners."

⁵ Hebrews 4:14-16 CEV We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him. (15) Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! (16) So whenever we are in need, we

wrong. That being so, Jesus said that even he was not good. A man approached him with a question, referring to him as “good” master. Jesus said, “Why do you call me good, no one is good except God.”⁶ Realizing Jesus was perfect, and never did anything wrong, why would he say he was/is not good. Because he was speaking in an absolute sense. Jesus recognized the Scriptural truth that his Father Jehovah⁷ is perfect. Because of that, Jesus

should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.

⁶ Mark 10:17-18 GNB As Jesus was starting on his way again, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?" (18) "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone.

Mark 10:17-18 American Standard Version And as he was going forth into the way, there ran one to him, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? (18) And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good save one, *even* God.

⁷ We will be quoting often from (English translations of) the Hebrew Scriptures (or the Old Testament [OT]), because that is what Jesus did.⁽⁴⁾ The OT used the personal name of God [Jehovah] over 6000 times. While some translators have taken the liberty of replacing the divine name with LORD using all capitols, some simply removed it altogether. Many English translations used Jehovah (the English translation of God’s name) everywhere the original documents contain the Hebrew form of that name. When you see “LORD” in all caps, it indicates God’s personal name “Jehovah” existed in the original text of the translation you are reading. The popular King James Version of the bible removed the name over 6000 times, but they did retain it in four Scriptures. (Exodus 6:3 King James Version And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. Psalms 83:18 KJV That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth. Isaiah 12:2 KJV Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also *is* become my salvation. Isaiah 26:4 KJV Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength:.) It seems sensible those four scriptures could not convey anything like the original language meaning if they did not include God’s name. It also seems hard to understand how the King James translators could

always tried to do what his Father taught him.⁸ Jesus realized, because his Father is perfect in every single thing he does, it is always done in the very best way. Any course of disobedience to his Father was a course away from perfection, and therefore sin. He realized his Father, as the perfect Creator of all, had the lone right to say what is Good. That is so because everything Jehovah⁽⁷⁾ does is always the best it can be, for everyone's sake. There is no selfishness or badness in him. Even though Jesus was perfect and never did anything wrong, he also knew his Father alone was good in that absolute sense: That his Father alone should establish and define good. We need to follow that pattern set by Jesus.⁽¹⁴⁾

Still... Most individuals seeking to become better people follow Christ in their pursuit of becoming righteous. Why does being viewed by Almighty God as righteous not make them good? God can view us as righteous based on our having faith in his son.⁹

have felt comfortable removing God's name all the other thousands of times. We will use God's self-given name where it appears in the original Hebrew text. You should know Jehovah and use his name. Don't let yourself be influenced by those who have tried to remove it, or by those who have misused it. You should not imagine knowing and using Jehovah's personal name connects you with any religious cult who have used it in the name of their group. Don't let them have that kind of control over you.

Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html>

⁸ John 8:28-29 CEV 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."

⁹ Romans 5:1-2 Analytical Literal Translation Therefore, having been justified [*or, declared righteous*] by faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have the access [*or, privilege to enter*] by faith into this grace in which we have stood, and we boast [*or, rejoice*] in the hope [*or, confident expectation*] of the glory of God!

Acts 13:38-39 Bible [*in*] Basic English And so, let it be clear to you, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is offered to you: (39) And through him everyone who has faith is made free from all those things, from which the law of Moses was not able to make you free.

That is the arrangement explained to us in the Bible.¹⁰ If you put forth the time and effort to examine the truth of the Bible, you will find it is a perfect and beautiful solution to all problems.

Still, though, why does becoming a faithful Christian, or certainly being viewed by God as righteous, not make us good? It is for the same reason that even Jesus Christ didn't consider himself good. He chose to honor his Father as greater,¹¹ and to be obedient to him. Jesus explained that to a group of self-righteous religious leaders of his day,¹² warning them they needed to seek the truth

Romans 3:21-25 CEV Now we see how God does make us acceptable to him. The Law and the Prophets tell how we become acceptable, and it isn't by obeying the Law of Moses. (22) God treats everyone alike. He accepts people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. (23) 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.

¹⁰ Visit: justbibletruth.com/DoYouKnowChrist.pdf

¹¹ John 14:28 GW You heard me tell you, 'I'm going away, but I'm coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I'm going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am.

¹² John 8:31-47 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 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. (35) A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there forever. (36) If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free. (37) I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are trying to kill me, because you will not accept my teaching. (38) I talk about what my Father has shown me, but you do what your father has told you." (39) They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." "If you really were Abraham's children," Jesus replied, "you would do the same things that he did. (40) All I have ever done is to tell you the truth I heard from God, yet you are trying to kill me. Abraham did

and obey it. Jesus explained that is the same course he follows, as he only teaches us what he learned from his Father.¹³ This is an important Bible truth to understand. Jesus sets us a pattern in always being subject to (obedient to) his Father. He always will be, for all eternity.¹⁴ If you are to become his disciple, you must understand that as a pattern of your life!

nothing like this! (41) You are doing what your father did." "God himself is the only Father we have," they answered, "and we are his true children." (42) Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message. (44) You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies. (45) But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? (47) He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen."

¹³ John 5:19-22 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,

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 CEV (20) But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life. (21) Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be raised to life because of Christ. (22) Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring 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 the Father. (25) Christ will rule until he puts all his enemies under his power, (26) and the last enemy he

If we are to understand and believe that we are not good, and that we cannot ever become good, how can we really and comfortably understand what it means or takes for us to become righteous? That has a very simple answer: Obedience!!!

If we love God, we will obey...

Jesus came to teach us about his Father,¹⁵ and that is probably the greatest thing he taught us: to obey Jehovah. Even the perfect Jesus had to better learn that lesson.¹⁶ Jesus was perfect and had never been disobedient. How, then, could Jesus Christ himself need to learn obedience. Jesus loved Jehovah and was loved by him. Jesus always received blessings at his Father's hand.¹⁷ That is

destroys will be death. (27) When the Scriptures say that he will 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.

¹⁵ Matthew 11:25-30 CEV At that moment Jesus said: My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. (26) Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. (27) 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.

¹⁶ Hebrews 5:8-10 CEV Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God. (9) Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him. (10) This is because God chose him to be a high priest like Melchizedek.

¹⁷ Proverbs 8:13-36 ASV [*These verses speak of the life the pre-human Jesus had with his Father before he became the son of man, born of Mary*] The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil: Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, And the perverse mouth, do I hate.

(14) Counsel is mine, and sound knowledge: I am understanding; I have might. (15) By me kings reign, And princes decree justice. (16) By me princes rule, And nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth. (17) I love them that love me; And those that seek me diligently shall find me. (18) Riches and honor are with me; *Yea*, durable wealth and righteousness. (19) My fruit is better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; And my revenue than choice silver. (20) I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice; (21) That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance, And that I may fill their treasuries. (22) Jehovah possessed me [*or made me*] in the beginning of his way, Before his works of old. (23) I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, Before the earth was. (24) When there were no depths, I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. (25) Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills was I brought forth [*as with labor pains*]; (26) While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, Nor the beginning of the dust of the world. (27) When he established the heavens, I was there: When he set a circle upon the face of the deep, (28) When he made firm the skies above, When the fountains of the deep became strong, (29) When he gave to the sea its bound, That the waters should not transgress his commandment, When he marked out the foundations of the earth; (30) Then I was by him, *as* a master workman; And I was daily *his* delight, Rejoicing always before him, (31) Rejoicing in his habitable earth; And my delight was with the sons of men. (32) Now therefore, *my* sons, hearken unto me; For blessed are they that keep my ways. (33) Hear instruction, and be wise, And refuse it not. (34) Blessed is the man that heareth me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. (35) For whoso findeth me findeth life, And shall obtain favor of Jehovah. (36) But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: All they that hate me love death.

John 1:29-30 CEV [*John spoke about Jesus's pre-human existence.*] The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (30) He is the one I told you about when I said, "Someone else will come. He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born."

John 8:57-58 Murdock [*Jesus told the Jews of his pre-human existence.*] The Jews say to him: Thou art not yet fifty years old,

the natural way of things. Under normal conditions, those who love Jehovah are blessed by their loving him. There is never any pain in the relationship. Satan, however, changed that, temporarily. Because of what Satan and our first parents (Adam and Eve) did, we were each born headed to the grave with no chance for life. To buy us back the hope of everlasting life, and allow God to help us even though we are unrighteous, someone had to pay the sacrificial price.¹⁸ That is a way of satisfying justice when our perfect God lowers (or demeans) himself to help creatures who are imperfect (bad) and do not deserve his help. Jesus volunteered to provide that sacrifice!¹⁹ That course also meant, however, Jesus had to learn something new. He had to learn what it meant to be obedient even when there were great cost (instead of blessings) attached to his doing so. Jesus allowed himself to be destroyed²⁰ at the hand of his Father's enemy

and hast thou seen Abraham? (58) Jesus said to them: Verily, verily I say to you, That before Abraham existed, I was.

¹⁸ Romans 3:23-26 MWT ²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God set Jesus forth as a covering sacrifice for our sins, through faith in his blood. This was in order to maintain God's own righteousness, because he was forgiving the sins that occurred in the past during the time He was exercising forbearance; ²⁶ so as to exhibit his own righteousness in this present season, that he might be righteous even while declaring righteous the man that has faith in Jesus.

¹⁹ Psalms 40:6-10 LITV Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; You have opened ears to Me. You have not asked burnt offering and sin offering. (7) Then I said, Lo, I come, in the roll of the Book it is written of Me; (8) I delight to do Your will, O My God; and Your Law is within My inmost soul. (9) I have announced righteousness in the great assembly; behold, I will not restrain My lips; O Jehovah You know. (10) I have not concealed Your righteousness in My heart; I speak Your faithfulness and Your salvation. I have not hidden Your loving-kindness and Your truth from the great assembly.

²⁰ Matthew 26:53-54 ALT "Or do you think that I am not able [*even*] now to call upon My Father, and He will place beside me more than twelve legions [*i.e. military units of 6,000 soldiers*]

because he had faith Jehovah⁽⁷⁾ could and would restore him to life. He suffered as much as any man might suffer while he did so. Jesus truly learned obedience in a new way: being obedient even when it cost him everything he had (except his integrity). The perfect son of God allowed himself to be humiliated as a wrongdoer and destroyed by people acting against their own interest,²¹ for the sake of justice and to prove obedience to his Father is paramount. Of all he taught us, that is without doubt his greatest lesson: Be obedient to Jehovah⁽⁷⁾ no matter what the cost or outcome. That is because Jehovah's ways are always the very best way of doing things. To choose a different course will always cause harm to someone. That is the only reason Jehovah⁽⁷⁾ makes rules and regulations for us. Jesus knew that about his Father. He was obedient and he teaches us to be the same.⁽¹⁵⁾ You tell your little child not to play in the street. He, on the other hand, thinks that is the perfect place to bounce his ball or ride his trike. His ignorance of the danger does not mean you can let him go ahead and play in the street. It might take a very long time for us to understand the restrictions Jesus placed upon us (restrictions he learned from his Father). In the meantime, we must have faith for obedience and thereby gain life.²² Our obedience, then, is what

each] of angels? (54) "How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that in this way it is necessary [*for it*] to happen?"

²¹ Hebrews 12:1-3 MWT ...So, then, because we have a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put off every weight and the sin into which we come so readily, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² as we look intently at the Chief Agent and perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Indeed, consider closely the one who has endured such contrary talk by sinners against their own interests, that YOU may not get tired and give out in YOUR souls.

²² Hebrews 10:36-39 ALT For you have need of patient endurance, so that having done the will of God, you shall receive the promise. (37) "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 sort*] shrinking back to destruction, but of [*the ones having*] faith to [*the*] preserving [*alive*] of [*the*] soul.

makes us righteous men and women.²³ That is as good as we can ever be. That is a perfect arrangement! There can be no improvement.

You must be able to tell Jehovah (in prayer) that you are an obedient son or daughter. Then, you can ask him specifically for his blessings of life based on your faith in the teachings of his son.²⁴

If you seek to be righteous in God's eyes, one great downfall to avoid is seeking to be approved by other men (approved by their form of religion). All (or most) religions organized by men share one glaring failure. They all appoint some individual or group as leader over their sect, claiming some special relationship with God for that person (or group). Those sect members who haven't appointed their own leaders, follow individuals who have appointed themselves. In the mind of the followers of such groups, their "special" leaders are "appointed by holy spirit," "taught by an angel," "are stand-ins for Christ," or in some way entitled to govern and judge them. The problem for them all is this, to remain approved, their members must follow those leaders by allowing them to explain what the Bible means. They all say they don't follow men, of course. If they were to give voice to what they are actually doing, it would cause them to realize... They must, therefore, manufacture explanations of how and why they are not really followers of men. They all realize every other religious group

²³ Romans 6:17-18 MWT But thanks [*be*] to God, that you were once slaves of sin, but you became obedient from [*the*] heart to the pattern of teaching [*of the Christ*] to which you were committed. (18) But having been freed from sin, you became servants to righteousness.

²⁴ John 15:11-16 GNB "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (12) My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. (13) The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. (14) And you are my friends if you do what I command you. (15) I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. (16) You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.

is following men, mind you, but not them. Please... The common way they justify their group obeisance is by recognizing some great work done by their group. Some do what they consider a great preaching work, or a great building and educational work, or they believe they have amassed great scriptural knowledge which others don't have. Some will assert people who used to be members but woke up to truth and left, have stolen their knowledge and are using it to teach against them. Most of them believe individuals who place the Bible above their sectarian teachings are apostates. Many of them misapply Peter's answer to a question Jesus asked his followers at a time when some had been stumbled by something Jesus said. Those self-stumbled individuals left off following him. Jesus asked his followers who remained true: "You will not go away also will you"? Peter said: "Where would we go away to, you [*are the son of God and*] have sayings of everlasting life."²⁵ The leaders of some of these sects apply that response of Peter to them instead of Christ! When a member of a religious sect doubts or questions something their human leaders say, they will point to their great works and ask their followers where they will go away to. They imply that to leave their group is also leaving Christ. How arrogant! When a group of people allow another man (or group) to explain what the Bible means, who are they really following? Choosing to follow a sectarian group is very different from what Jesus Christ taught.²⁶

²⁵ John 6:66-69 ALT From this [*time*] many went away of His disciples to the things behind and were no more walking about with Him. (67) So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not also want to be going away, do you?" (68) Then Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have [*the*] words of eternal life." (69) "And we have come to believe and have come to know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

²⁶ Matthew 23:1-13 GW Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, (2) "The scribes and the Pharisees teach with Moses' authority. (3) So be careful to do everything they tell you [*from the scriptures*]. But don't follow their example, because they don't practice what they preach. (4) They make loads that are hard to carry and lay them on the shoulders of the people. However, they are not willing to lift a finger to move them. (5) "They do everything to attract people's attention. They make their headbands large and the tassels on their shawls long. (6) They love the place of honor at dinners and the front seats in synagogues. (7) They love to be greeted in the marketplaces and

Members led by such “special” men have actually allowed those men to replace Christ in their life.²⁷ They seem little different from the hypocritical Jewish religious leaders who tried to use their 1500 year history as God’s chosen nation to intimidate their “sheep” from following Christ.²⁸ They lived in a time of change.

to have people call them Rabbi. (8) But don't make others call you Rabbi, because you have only one teacher, and you are all followers. (9) And don't call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. (10) Don't make others call you a leader, because you have only one leader, the Messiah. (11) The person who is greatest among you will be your servant. (12) Whoever honors himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be honored. (13) "How horrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You lock people out of the kingdom of heaven [*by persuading the people to follow after them and their teachings instead of God*]. You don't enter it yourselves, and you don't permit others to enter when they try.

²⁷ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf> ~

Matthew 24:21-28 Darby for then shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until now, nor ever shall be; (22) and if those days had not been cut short, no flesh had been saved; but on account of the elect those days shall be cut short. (23) Then if any one say to you, Behold, here is the Christ, or here, believe it not. (24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall give great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. (25) Behold, I have told you beforehand. (26) If therefore they say to you, Behold, he is in the desert, go not forth; behold, *he is in the inner chambers, do not believe it.* (27) For as the lightning goes forth from the east and shines to the west, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. (28) *For wherever the carcass is [the remains of Christ – his teachings from the Gospels], there will be gathered the eagles [those persons with spiritual sight for truth].*

²⁸ John 8:31-33 ALT So Jesus was saying to the Jews having believed [*or, trusted*] in Him, "If you remain in My word, truly you are My disciples. (32) "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!" (33) They answered Him, "We are seed [*fig., descendents*] of Abraham, and to no one have we at any time been enslaved. How can You say, 'You will become free?'"

John 7:47-49 ALT Therefore, the Pharisees answered to them, "You have not also been led astray [*fig., been deceived*], have you?"

Their form of religion (Judaism) that had previously been acceptable to God had served its purpose.⁽³⁰⁾ Those who wanted to continue to please God had to change and express faith in his son. Our day is another time of change. We must build faith for the preservation of our lives. To do so, Jesus warned we must be certain our own faith is built on what we personally know he taught.²⁹ & ⁽²⁷⁾

There was a time when men needed interpreters to understand what God wanted them to know.^(Genesis 41) Those days have passed. All such interpretations were leading us to the Christ,³⁰ and they have all been recorded in the Bible. Jesus came to explain it to us.³¹ He is our one and only great interpreter, to teach us each one to know his Father.⁽¹⁵⁾ Jesus spoke truth. What he spoke defines truth because he learned it from his Father.⁽¹³⁾ He is still speaking

(48) "No one from the rulers believed in Him nor from the Pharisees, have they? (49) "But this crowd, the one not knowing the Law, is accursed."

²⁹ Matthew 7:21-24 Young's Literal Translation `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) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many mighty things? (23) and then I will acknowledge to them, that--I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness. (24) `Therefore, every one who doth hear of me these words, and doth do them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house upon the rock;

³⁰ Galatians 3:23-26 ALT But before faith came, we were being guarded [*or, being kept in protective custody*] under [*the*] Law, having been confined to the faith about to be revealed. (24) 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. (26) For you are all sons [*and daughters*] of God by means of faith in Christ Jesus.

³¹ John 18:37 ALT Then Pilate said to Him, "So then, You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this [reason] I have been born, and for this [reason] I have come into the world, so that I should testify [or] to the truth. Every [*one*] being of the truth hears My voice."

personally to you from the Gospel accounts of his life and teachings: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.³²

You can't imagine the insight and freedom you will gain by reading what Jesus taught, if, that is, you take what he said to heart.⁽¹²⁾ &
(James 1:25-on back pg)

³² <http://www.justbibletruth.com/biblejohn.pdf>

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A Gathering of Eagles

Where the carcass (Christ's remains are his teachings) is, there the eagles will gather. - Mat 24:28

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This is our gift. It is our great joy to give it! [\(James 1:25 MWT\)](#) **But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it.**
