

Is This Judgmental?

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Luke 17:30 & 37

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

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justbibletruth.com is for all persons who love and look to a God who is good.^(QQQ) It is for everyone who has an interest in the Bible, but have never really fit in or felt comfortable among any of the “churchy” religious groups. This is to help everyone understand, that is OK. Truth is, fitting in can often be a really bad thing.^(W) & ^(II) Many of the individuals who serve religious causes, notoriously those who direct their members to kill and destroy, are actually serving God’s enemy. Many fail to realize those who serve Satan also include groups who cause emotional harm (by rendering sectarian judgment against non-members that they are unfit for life). Members of all such groups are unknowingly joining and serving people whose only goal is seeking the authority (the power) they gain from that member support; power which enables them to do harm to others. Individuals cannot usually cause great harm without a mob supporting or following them. New members of sectarian religious groups are harmed by being led toward the intended goal of fitting in and being approved by the men they serve. Members are duped to believe they are serving God (through an approved group membership) while they really allow themselves to be led to judge nonmembers as disapproved for life. Please understand: This website (justbibletruth.com) is not intended to start or gather yet another of such groups. It is a loving scriptural encouragement for us all to follow only Jesus Christ: It serves to enlighten you about the wonderful promises Jesus Christ made while it also points out the warning Jesus gave to all those who are searching for God: He warned of the great and grave danger of becoming followers of men!^(SS) & ^(II)

My name is Joe Cummings and I am the person primarily responsible for selecting the content of justbibletruth.com. The website has remained largely anonymous for one simple reason: I am not seeking followers of *my* teachings. The world is way too full already of the varied sects of men and women who have been led to follow other humans. Religion^A (being something very different from Christianity, mind you) is a cancer that is consuming and destroying mankind. justbibletruth.com is intended to offer something completely different from religion. The site actually draws attention to the true God's purpose to first expose, and then to destroy, religion.^{(W) & (X)} I was tempted to say God was destroying "false" religion, but the point being made is that there is a great difference between religion and Christianity. All "religion" is false worship. The name "Christianity" distinguishes faith in Christ from religion by virtue of the fact that religionists always teach doctrines of men^(X) in place of what Jesus taught. If they were actually teaching what Christ taught, they would know to call themselves Christians.^(!!!!) All religion must thus be destroyed because they are all liars.^B This is an effort to help everyone understand why that is true, and why it is not harsh or mean on God's part to destroy religion. It is also to help everyone see the method by which God is in the process of ending false worship! Whether they do it

^A justbibletruth.com/Observations/BibleTruthOrReligiousDoctrine.html

^B John 8:42-47 ESV Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. (44) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (45) But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? (47) Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

intentionally, or in ignorance, sectarian religions are actually turning people away from God. Because of that great danger to potential Christians, justbibletruth.com is focused on encouraging you to make a simple and personal examination of the teachings by Jesus Christ. Just ask yourself: How could that be bad counsel? By the simple act of directing people to listen to Christ, it reveals the simple and beautiful truth hidden for all these centuries of mankind's existence. The sacred secret^C of God is this: All persons who seek to be righteous can become Christians (and approved by God) simply by isolating their mind from the lies being spread by religion. They can only do that by reading the Gospels over and over, until they become intimate with Jesus by virtue of that association through his words. Read the Gospels. As you see how Jesus dealt with all the people who came to him, you can come to really know him as your friend! Because of the many varied and deceptive religious teachings, those who will become followers of Christ must first come to understand the great and important difference between religion and Christianity: Religionists follow the teachings of men,^(X) while Christians follow only Christ.^(GGG) To guard your heart against deception, *you* need to be able to discern when religion is only pretending it is Christianity!^D

All that said about anonymity and not wanting to draw attention to myself, I have mentioned my name in this letter because I suddenly

^C **(Mark 4:10-12)** ¹⁰ Now when he got to be alone, those around him with the twelve began questioning him on the illustrations. ¹¹ And he proceeded to say to them: "To YOU the sacred secret of the kingdom of God has been given, but to those outside all things occur in illustrations, ¹² in order that, though looking, they may look and yet not see, and, though hearing, they may hear and yet not get the sense of it, nor ever turn back and forgiveness be given them." Jesus's early followers could only learn the sacred secret of God by paying attention and listening to God's son. Nothing has changed! If we boil that secret down to one command, it is to be made perfect by loving everyone, including our enemies.^(GG)

^D **(Matthew 7:15, 16a)** *Modern World Translation* ¹⁵ "Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep's covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruits you will recognize them."

feel compelled to take personal responsibility for its contents, and for the whole of justbibletruth.com. (This letter in booklet form is available for personal use on the website:

justbibletruth.com/IsThisJudgmental.pdf) The reason I *suddenly* feel the need to justify my efforts is something said to me recently by one of my three daughters. While I dearly love and respect her, she feels I have judged or am judging her and her spiritual effort as unacceptable to God. (Her feeling that I am disappointed in her would include how she believes I feel about her whole family, including, of course, my grandchildren). She was made to feel that way simply because she is a member of a church and my website generally warns to be very cautious of religious memberships. To quote my daughter: “Daddy... I know that you’ve always said to study the Bible for ourselves and follow the teachings of scripture and not man. And I can honestly say that we strive to do that. But, I know you don’t think we do. The enclosure from your website” (the reference she was making is to a printed webpage I sent her – something similar to this booklet) “shows that you think we’re following men and not God...” Because I hurt my daughter, I need to make my feelings clear about the matter of judgment. The fact is, because of what she said, I need to scripturally review and maybe adjust those feelings. This letter is my attempt to provide a scriptural response to the pain I caused her. This webpage is for my daughter, and then, by extension, for everyone I have talked with over many years about the Bible. It is for everyone reading my website!

Let me start in saying rendering judgment over others is absolutely not my intent, nor does such an idea reflect my feelings or thinking. While I said I am responsible for content, I like to think my website represents what the Bible teaches. So, in my thinking, the material is not really mine at all: It is my representation of the truth as I understand it to be taught us by Christ Jesus in the Gospels. Credit

for any good thing I have knowledge of goes to God through Christ.^E My belief is that same responsibility to tell other people what Jesus taught falls to every person who claims to be his follower.^{F & (V)} There is, however, a severe limitation in my efforts to teach what Jesus taught: I am limited to doing so from my own personal understanding and experience in coming to know God. Please be warned about this important fact: *that very same limit afflicts all imperfect men and women who try to teach.*^(GGG) The very best any one of us can do is teach to others what *we believe* the Bible teaches. My faith in the Bible is the inspired word of God.^G My understanding of what it teaches, however, certainly is not. We all

^E **(Romans 2:16)** ¹⁶ This will be in the day when God through Christ Jesus judges the secret things of mankind, . . . ~

(Ephesians 1:7-11) Contemporary English Version (7) Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us. God has great wisdom and understanding, (8) (SEE 1:7) (9) and by what Christ has done, God has shown us his own mysterious ways. (10) Then when the time is right, God will do all that he has planned, and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth. (11) God always does what he plans, and that's why he appointed Christ to choose us.

^F **(Matthew 28:19, 20)** ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations... ²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."~

(Philippians 1:8-14) ⁸ For God is my witness of how I am yearning for all of you in such tender affection as Christ Jesus has. ⁹ And this is what I continue praying, that your love may abound yet more and more with accurate knowledge and full discernment; ¹⁰ that you may make sure of the more important things, so that you may be flawless and not be stumbling others up to the day of Christ, ¹¹ and may be filled with righteous fruit, which is through Jesus Christ, to God's glory and praise. ¹² Now I desire you to know, brothers, that my affairs have turned out for the advancement of the good news rather than otherwise, ¹³ so that my bonds have become public knowledge in association with Christ among all the Praetorian Guard and all the rest; ¹⁴ and most of the brothers in the Lord, feeling confidence by reason of my prison bonds, are showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.

^G **(2 Peter 1:21)** ²¹ For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit.

need to recognize that very same danger we face from all would-be teachers: The *personal understanding* of any and all men and women who strive to teach the Bible is a manifestation of the *limit of their knowledge and ability*. That is so because no person can teach what they do not know! Based on that simple realization, justbibletruth.com directs readers to rely solely on the teachings of Jesus (recorded for you in the four short Gospel Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).^(CCC) Don't listen to what I say except in my directing you to the teachings of Christ. The Gospels contain four parallel accounts of the life and teachings of Christ, as observed and then inspired by God to be recorded, by four different witnesses.^(G) While all of us are imperfect, and therefore very limited in our ability, the son of God is not. He is perfect and absolutely reliable. The first 2/3 of the Bible (the whole of the Old Testament [OT] - the portion that comes before the Gospels) consists largely of God's promise (prophecies) to produce a Messiah who would deliver us^H from the sinful state our first parent's disobedience brought upon us. It promises God's Messiah will help us by crushing Satan's head.^I The OT also explains how God went about producing that Savior of mankind (sometimes referred to in the Bible as "the seed of the woman" and as "the son of man"). In the Gospels, Jesus identified himself as that Messiah^J

^H Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/Everything.pdf>

^I **(Genesis 3:15 BBE)** *And there will be war between you (Satan) and the woman (Eve) and between your seed and her seed: by him will your head be crushed and by you his foot will be wounded.*

^J **(Matthew 16:13-17)** . . . Jesus went asking his disciples: "Who are men saying the Son of man is?" ¹⁴ They said: "Some say John the Baptist, others E-li'jah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them: "YOU, though, who do YOU say I am?" ¹⁶ In answer Simon Peter said: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ In response Jesus said to him: "Happy you are, Simon son of Jo'nah, because flesh and blood did not reveal [it] to you, but my Father who is in the heavens did.~
(John 3:16-21) GNB *For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior. (18) Those who believe in the Son are not*

of OT promise as he went about performing miracles and fulfilling much of the prophecy about himself (some prophecy about Christ is still to be fulfilled). The balance of the New Testament (NT) (the books that follow the Gospels) contains the record of the men and women who wrote about their efforts to apply Jesus's teachings in their lives. Those writers encourage us to read the record of Jesus's teachings from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. justbibletruth.com exists to help everyone understand how very simple it really is to learn what the Bible teaches. Everyone should start by realizing what Jesus taught in the Gospels amounts to the theme of the Bible.^K Everything before Christ in the Bible pointed forward to his coming, and everything after his life encouraged faith in his teachings. My desire is that everyone understand this simple fact: Personally reading, learning, and knowing what Jesus taught, *is the only thing* that can produce Christians.^L Sectarian memberships can

judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. (19) This is how the judgment works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. (20) Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. (21) But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

^K Galatians 3:24-29 ALT Therefore, the Law has become our tutor [to lead us] to Christ, so that by faith we should be justified [or, declared righteous]. (25) But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (26) For you are all sons [and daughters] of God by means of faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many as were baptized [or, immersed in Christ's teachings] into Christ put on [or, clothed yourselves with] Christ. (28) There is no Jew nor Greek, there is no slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) Now since you [are] Christ's, consequently, you are seed [fig., descendants] of Abraham and heirs according to promise. (When you read a promise to Abraham or his seed in the Bible, it is a promise to you if you have faith in Christ Jesus as God's son.)^(J)

^L 1 John 1:1-10 GW The Word of life existed from the beginning. We have heard it. We have seen it. We observed and touched it. [John

never do that. Don't build faith in what I say, or in what any other men and women say. Pay attention to the scriptures we present, but more importantly, to what Jesus himself said. If there is *clear, direct and contextual scriptural support* for what you are told, it is a good teaching. If there isn't clear scriptural support, don't pay us any mind. One man's opinion is just as good as any other – they are all largely worthless and often harmful. Assertions without *clear and obvious* scriptural support are just the opinions of men. The followers of those *opinions* have formed the many religious factions that are destroying our world.

Back to my personal experiences and incumbent limitations: Over the course of my seventy years of life, I have been an approved member of four different religious organizations. I also visited and

1:14 GW The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.] (2) This life was revealed to us. We have seen it, and we testify about it. We are reporting to you about this eternal life that was in the presence of the Father and was revealed to us. (3) This is the life we have seen and heard. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship with us. Our relationship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) We are writing this so that we can be completely filled with joy. (5) This is the message we heard from Christ and are reporting to you: God is light, and there isn't any darkness in him. (6) If we say, "We have a relationship with God" and yet live in the dark (ignorance of truth), we're lying. We aren't being truthful. (7) But if we live in the light in the same way that God is in the light, we have a relationship with each other.~

[Ephesians 4:25 GW So then, get rid of lies. Speak the truth to each other, because we are all members of the same body.] And the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from every sin. (8) If we say, "We aren't sinful" we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong. (10) If we say, "We have never sinned," we turn God into a liar and his Word is not in us. (Learning what Jesus taught is the only you can understand these scriptures and do what they teach.)

studied with several others. I was a Methodist, a Baptist, an Alliance church member, and a Jehovah's Witness. In addition, I studied with the Mormons, the Amish, and I talked at some length with people who glorify Buddhism and some of the so called eastern religions. It early became clear the Bible provides the only reasonable explanation of what I see in creation, while at the same time giving details of mankind's history^M and the reason for the condition we find ourselves in. Please know I never really viewed any of my religious activity as a social effort, although it did sometimes prove to be so. The primary reason for my varied religious affiliations was to come to know the true God, and then, as my faith in the Bible grew, to gain a clearer understanding of what God's Word teaches. A Methodist as a boy in my father's household, I started attending a Baptist church as a young man for no real spiritual reason. The girl I was dating had family in the Baptist Church I think. Over the years, as I gained Bible knowledge, I was asked to leave by those different religious groups; sometimes politely, but usually not so much so. Each time one of them judged me unfit for life, it was devastating for me. Please understand, I don't speak publicly about what happened to me to draw attention to myself or to get sympathy for how I believe I have been wronged. It is important to make public what happened because that knowledge can provide protection for those it ~~would otherwise~~ *will* happen to in the future. Maybe knowledge of what religion really is can protect people from being hurt. Even more importantly, maybe it can prevent them from being deceived like so many of us have been. It might protect individuals from being led away from the simple teachings by Jesus. It might help them recognize the hypocrisy of judgmental religionists^N (those who

^M justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html

^N Matthew 6:1-15 GW "Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. (2) So when you give to the poor, don't announce it with trumpet fanfare. This is what hypocrites do in the

imagine themselves superfine apostles).^o Speaking openly about sectarianism can help enlighten and protect all those victims (and potential victims) who have been (or will be) judged as wicked by religious sects. This material is for all those persons shunned and/or expelled for refusing to help cover over the sins of their religious leaders (whether that sin be child abuse, or other and much more common types of abuse in judgment). It is for those refusing be compliant with the varied unscriptural doctrinal teachings dreamt up by sects of men. Each sectarian group believes and teaches they are the lone keepers of truth. Knowledge of what and how judgmental these cults really are can enlighten and benefit persons who are looked down on by them; being looked down on because

synagogues and on the streets in order to be praised by people. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward. (3) When you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. (4) Give your contributions privately. Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you. (5) "When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They like to stand in synagogues and on street corners to pray so that everyone can see them. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward. (6) When you pray, go to your room and close the door. Pray privately to your Father who is with you. Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you. (7) "When you pray, don't ramble like heathens who think they'll be heard if they talk a lot. (8) Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (9) "This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, let your name be kept holy. (10) Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. (11) Give us our daily bread today. (12) Forgive us as we forgive others. (13) Don't allow us to be tempted. Instead, rescue us from the evil one. (14) "If you forgive the failures of others, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failures.

^o 2 Corinthians 12:11 ALT (11) I have become a fool by boasting; (but) you compelled me! For I ought to be commended by you. For in nothing did I fall short of those "super(fine)-apostles" of yours—even if I am nothing.

they are poor or are considered ignorant,^P or even because they are not rich and powerful (because they are “middle class”). Everyone should be helped to appreciate this: The poor and lowly ones ~~were~~ *are* important to Jesus Christ!^Q My effort, then, is to help everyone understand why “religion” is harmful and how it was Jesus himself who warned us to distinguish religion from Christianity.^(D) Religion teaches lies and obscures truth and causes harm to righteous people.^R - (Rev 17; note verses 6 and 15-18) In my own case,

^P John 7:45-49 ESV The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" (46) The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" (47) The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? (48) Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? (49) But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

^Q (Matthew 11:4, 5) ⁴ In reply Jesus said to them: "Go your way and report to John what (miracles) you are hearing and seeing: ⁵ The blind are seeing again, and the lame are walking about, the lepers are being cleansed and the deaf are hearing, and the dead are being raised up, and the poor are having the good news declared to them;

^R Revelation 17:1-18 ESV Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute (religion) who is seated on many waters (nations), (2) with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality (spiritual immorality, by believing and supporting religion's lies), and with the wine of whose sexual immorality (false teachings) the dwellers on earth have become drunk." (3) And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. (4) The woman (religion) was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. (5) And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (6) And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus (whom she put to death). When I saw her, I marveled greatly. (7) But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. (8) The beast that you saw was, and is not (changes from one ruler to another), and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it

some of the individuals who rendered their judgment against me were so self-righteous as to say terrible things about me publicly or in secret to my family and friends.⁵ The reason given by each sect

was and is not and is to come. (9) This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; (10) they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come (looking back over history and into the future at the time of this writing 2000 years ago – five world rulers had come and gone, one was ruling, and one was yet to come), and when he does come he must remain only a little while. (11) As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. (12) And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. (13) These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. (14) They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (15) And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages (who support religion instead of Christianity). (16) And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire (the governments will finally see religion for the divisive and destructive influence she is, and will band together to destroy her), (17) for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. (18) And the woman that you saw is the great city (religion) that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

⁵ **(Matthew 24:44-51 Contemporary English Version)** Always be ready! You don't know when the Son of Man will come. (45) Who are faithful and wise servants? Who are the ones the master will put in charge of giving the other servants their food supplies at the proper time? [They are the individuals telling others what they have learned from Jesus.] (46) Servants are fortunate if their master comes and finds them doing their job. (47) You may be sure that a servant who is always faithful will be put in charge of everything the master owns. (48) But suppose one of the servants thinks that the master won't return until late. (49) Suppose that evil servant starts beating the other servants and eats and drinks with people who are drunk. (50) If that happens, the master will surely come on a day and at a time when the servant least expects him. (51) That servant will then be punished and thrown out with the ones who only pretended to serve their master. There they will cry and grit their teeth in pain.~

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was always some variation of the same theme: They determined I didn't fit in because I was un-Christian. Some of them judged and said I was an "apostate," or "plagued with a demon of confusion," or some other thing they believed about me (or asserted they believed).^(GGG – please note John 8:48) In each case, however, they actually dismissed me because I disagreed with their organizational dogma. They certainly didn't want the people they are keeping deceived to hear what I had to say. They didn't even attempt to say I disagreed with the Bible, mind you, but with their organizational teachings. *That is an important distinction* you need to recognize if you are to protect yourself from being misled: Always try to spot the difference between Bible teachings and the sectarian religious doctrines of men.^(D) I respected the Bible from early in life. As I learned what the Bible taught (during the years I was involved with these groups), I was in each case confronted with organizational dogma or philosophy that I was required to express faith in to remain an approved member. Many use words to describe their doctrine of faith that don't appear in the Bible at all. The problem was, I saw their organizational doctrine to be contradictory to, and/or inconsistent with, Bible teachings.^{(II) & (H)} (I could have simply kept quiet about what I believed the Bible taught, of course, and been tolerated by them. Some of my previous friends, who have become my condemnatory judges, actually suggested I do that very thing: Pretend to believe! How hypocritical would that have been?) While I did learn some about the Bible during each of my membership experiences, I now realize, I was also being brainwashed to their sectarian points of view. Each group was, I am now convinced, going beyond what the Bible teaches.^T As for me

^T **(1 Corinthians 4:6)** ⁶ Now, brothers, these things I have transferred so as to apply to myself and Apollos for your good, that in our case you may learn the [rule]: "Do not go beyond the things that are written," in order that you may not be puffed up individually in favor of the one against the other.

myself, I could not stop talking^U about what I learned from the Bible.^V So... They treated me just like their religious forefathers treated Jesus and his early followers.^(U) Never did I demand their conversion to my understanding, mind you, just the freedom to express what I believed. Those religious sects did not want to hear anything I had to say!^W They certainly didn't want their "sheep" to hear. The doctrine and tradition^X they developed for their

^U **(Acts 4:18 - 20)** ¹⁸ With that they (the religious leaders) called them and charged them, nowhere to make any utterance or to teach upon the basis of the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But in reply Peter and John said to them: "Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to YOU rather than to God, judge for yourselves. ²⁰ But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."

^V **(1 Corinthians 9:16)** ¹⁶ If, now, I am declaring the good news, it is no reason for me to boast, for necessity is laid upon me. Really, woe is me if I did not declare the good news!

^W **(2 Timothy 4:3, 4)** ³ For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, whereas they will be turned aside to false stories.

^X **(Matthew 15:1-20)** ¹⁵ Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying: ² "Why is it your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal." ³ In reply he said to them: "Why is it you also overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition?" ⁴ For example, God said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death.' ⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother: "Whatever I have by which you might get benefit from me is a gift dedicated to God," ⁶ he must not honor his father at all.' And so you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said, ⁸ 'This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me.' ⁹ It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines." ¹⁰ With that he called the crowd near and said to them: "Listen and get the sense of it: ¹¹ Not what enters into his mouth defiles a man; but it is what proceeds out of his mouth that defiles a man." ¹² Then the disciples came up and said to him: "Do you know that the Pharisees stumbled at hearing what you said?" ¹³ In reply he said: "Every plant that my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted." ¹⁴ Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ By way of response Peter said to him: "Make the

established cult tickled their ears.^(W) They didn't want their tradition of faith challenged, right or wrong.^Y And, you see, that highlights the common failing of religion! It is part of what makes religion bad and defines it as very different from Christianity. People always become sectarian and judgmental when they allow organizational doctrine and membership concerns to replace their persistent search for truth in Bible understanding. It happens no matter how sincere and well-meaning those individuals might be. The second they leave off being Bible students, they are lost.

Christians are defined by the simple act of being sincere students

illustration plain to us.”¹⁶ At this he said: “Are you also yet without understanding? ¹⁷ Are you not aware that everything entering into the mouth passes along into the intestines and is discharged into the sewer? ¹⁸ However, the things proceeding out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those things defile a man. ¹⁹ For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies. ²⁰ These are the things defiling a man; but to take a meal with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

^Y **(Acts 7:51-60)** Stephen was a Christian charged with apostasy by his religious leaders. After acknowledging their (the Jews) part (from Acts 6:8-7:60) in being used by God to produce the Messiah, Stephen said to them: ⁵¹ “Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you are always resisting the holy spirit; as your forefathers did, so you do. ⁵² Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? Yes, they killed those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become, ⁵³ you who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it.” ⁵⁴ Well, at hearing these things they felt cut to their hearts and began to gnash their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand, ⁵⁶ and he said: “Look! I behold the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God's right hand.” ⁵⁷ At this they cried out at the top of the voice and put their hands over their ears and rushed upon him with one accord. ⁵⁸ And after throwing him outside the city, they began casting stones at him. And the witnesses laid down their outer garments at the feet of a young man called Saul. ⁵⁹ And they went on casting stones at Stephen as he made appeal and said: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice: “LORD God,^(TTT) do not charge this sin against them.” And after saying this he fell asleep in death.

of what Jesus taught, not by an approved membership in some sectarian group.^(H)

To make an additional point, I give more detail about a couple of personal examples of religious judgment and/or persecution: An Alliance Church I was a member of when I was younger told some of the congregation (in secret) that I was plagued with a “demon of confusion” because I could not support a doctrine of their group. Since what they did was in secret, it is just my word against theirs. Many of their members probably believe the individuals who govern their flock would never do such a thing. Later in life, however, Jehovah’s Witnesses (JW’s) were not secretive as they took very public action against me. Their action is recorded by their group and I remain disfellowshipped, even after many years have passed. They publicly disfellowshipped me as an apostate (as an enemy of God) because I wouldn’t agree that all the literature they produce is “spiritual food,” and thus is not to be questioned.² Being a disfellowshipped person, my family and friends were and are encouraged to shun me. Although not quite as flamboyantly as calling me apostate, or troubled with a demon, every group I have been associated with made clear they are probably not a good fit for me. Can you see, all religious sects express hatred (judgment) against non-members? Because they hide doesn’t mean they don’t do it. Since JW’s are well known to be judgmental, and they don’t try to hide it at all, they are used herein as an example. While not hiding it, JW’s do claim disfellowshipping is an expression of love, of course. They claim they are doing good because disfellowshipping is designed to shock the wicked person back “into the fold.” Since many people are disfellowshipped for rejecting non-scriptural doctrine, their real purpose is to keep the “truth” about who they really are from spreading among any righteous people who may be trapped in membership to their sect. JW’s have so much sway over members, some of them have committed suicide after being

² Visit: justbibletruth.com/WatchTowerSpiritualFood.html

disfellowshipped. Their organization is often thought of as the “last stop” for religious people. The sect asserts no member has anywhere to go if they leave the group. Even ex-members tout that proclamation. You hear ex-members ask: Where will ex-Jehovah’s Witness go? There is a reason many of them feel there is nowhere for ex-JW’s to go. Many religions display no real interest in learning and following what the Bible teaches. In many, their members can believe whatever they want to believe. Many of them only want to sing and/or dance, and to have some emotional religious experience. They desire to be part of a group, and they like the idea of tying the activity of that group to God. Many of such sects have little regard for Bible teaching. That presents as an early problem for sincere people who are trying to use the Bible as their source of knowledge about God. Genuine Bible students quickly see the foolishness (lack of interest in the Bible) shown by most religious groups. JW’s, however, make a big show of pretending to be Bible students. So... They fool many sincere people. They have created an elaborate doctrine which they have supported by selecting a number of scriptures out of context. Like all cults, then, some of what they believe is true. Their group’s training amounts to perpetually going over and over their doctrinal subset of scriptures, as they build support for group teachings. All the while, they are telling members they are studying the Bible. They do read through the Bible about once a year, but they never do so as an actual study of the Bible itself. They constantly intermix and rehash their doctrine as they consider only tiny portions of the Bible at any one time. They never simply read the Gospel accounts of what Jesus taught, making that as their doctrine. Many years ago, the organization chose a group of men they refer to as “the anointed ones.” They believe and teach the anointed members of their sect are stand-ins for Christ. Their members must follow those leaders without question. The sect is forced to continue in their sectarian teachings because if they allowed sincere Bible students (trapped in their membership) to actually read the words of Christ, the sect

would be exposed by Jesus's words. While pretending to be Bible students, just like all other religious groups, they don't really want to allow their followers to listen to and learn what God's son taught. Their elaborate doctrine, however, along with their pretext that they are Bible students, makes it hard to recognize their teachings to be the teachings of men;^(x) until a person gains the good sense to listen to Jesus by actually reading the Gospels. The group has seduced members to follow the individuals they refer to as "the anointed ones," and use their rules in place of Jesus's teachings. They actually proclaim no one can understand what God sent his son to teach without the guidance of the men worshiped by their group. They also refer to their leaders as the "faithful and discreet slave," quoting Matthew 24:43-47 for justification in using that title.^{AA} There is no scriptural support for believing Jesus was there talking about anyone except the composite group of all the individuals who follow and share his teachings. JW's have built a whole faith around that question: "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave?" Many of their members will chant it over and over, as if in a trance, if they are encouraged to put faith in Jesus instead of continuing to follow the men leading their sect. Because some of their members have thus been persuaded to believe they are in the company of Bible students, and because they recognized the failings of the other Churches (those religions who don't even make a pretext of following the Bible) before ever joining JW's, many people then question where ex-Jehovah's Witnesses can go. We see some who recognize the need to leave that sect, only to run back to one of the Churches they left when they were herded to

^{AA} **(Matthew 24:43-47)** ⁴³ "But know one thing, that if the householder had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have kept awake and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ On this account YOU too prove yourselves ready, because at an hour that YOU do not think to be it, the Son of man is coming. ⁴⁵ "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to YOU, He will appoint him over all his belongings.

become JW's. When they return to one of their previous religious groups, and when speaking about their change, most begin to drop the names of the prominent religious leaders among the group they have returned to. They seem interested in currying favor with prominent leaders of the sect. It makes them appear to be just men pleasers.^{BB} They were likely men pleasers when they were JW's, and they remain so when they leave. If so, they are receiving their reward in full.^(N) Such people will talk about those who leave JW's, and won't follow them back into one of the other Churches, as "rejecting everything." As with all religious people, they seem unable to grasp the simple idea that choosing to follow Christ, by building faith in his words alone, is not rejecting everything. They measure themselves by the approval of other men. They feel compelled to be in a sect. It is not like that for sincere people who recognize the truth of the Bible. They all understand they have only one place to go, no matter what they have been part of in the past. It is the same place all sincere lovers of God have been going for 2000 years. They turn to Christ and to him alone. They do that by making the choice to sit at the feet of Jesus, by immersing themselves in the Gospel records of Christ's teachings. By making that choice, they "worship God in spirit and truth." Jesus explained we would all need to learn that new way of worship. He spoke to a Samaritan woman at a well who asked him about proper worship.

^{BB} Ephesians 6:5-6 ALT The slaves, be obeying the masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of your heart, as to Christ, (6) not with eye-service as people-pleasers [*men pleasers*], but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from [*the*] soul [*fig., wholeheartedly*],~

Colossians 3:22-25 ESV Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as [*men pleasers*] people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (25) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

She drew attention to the fact that his worship, as a Jew, was different from hers. He told her that soon neither the form of worship by his forefathers, or that of hers, would be acceptable to God. He then explained his followers must learn to worship his Father in spirit and truth.^{CC} Jesus was introducing a new way of worshipping God. Christians worship in spirit because the only way we can come to Jesus is if his Father draws us to him.^{DD} We then worship in truth because Jesus taught us what he learned from his Father.^{EE & (NNN) & (J)} God is the source of all truth and he sent his son to teach us what we need to know.^{FF}

^{CC} **(John 4:19-26)** ¹⁹ The woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but YOU people say that in Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him: "I know that Mes-si'ah is coming, who is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly." ²⁶ Jesus said to her: "I who am speaking to you am he."

^{DD} **(2 Chronicles 16:9)** ⁹ For, as regards Jehovah, his eyes are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him. . . .

John 6:44 ALT "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father having sent Me draws [*or, drags*] him...

^{EE} **(John 7:16-18)** ¹⁶ Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality. ¹⁸ He that speaks of his own originality is seeking his own glory; but he that seeks the glory of him that sent him, this one is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

^{FF} **John 6:63-69 ALT** "The Spirit is the One giving life; the flesh does not accomplish [*or, benefit*] anything. **The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life!** (64) "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from [*the*] beginning who they are, the ones not believing, and who is the one

So... If these men who have behaved so wickedly toward me are sincerely trying to turn to Christ, I forgive them. My forgiveness of them, of course, is only a benefit to me. My forgiving them helps me become perfect in God's sight.^{GG} To benefit themselves, however, they must be forgiven by God. My forgiving them has no merit as far as their being forgiven by God.^(PP) Being forgiven by God requires repentance,^{HH} and faith in what Jesus taught.^(UU) My only and same admonition to every single person is this: *Please heed not my warning, but please do heed Jesus's warning!*^{II} His

[who] will be betraying Him. (65) And He said, "For this reason I have said to you, '**No one is able to come to Me unless it has been given to him from My Father.**'" (66) 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!"

^{GG} **(Matthew 5:43-48)** ⁴³ "YOU heard that it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ However, I say to YOU: Continue to love YOUR enemies and to pray for those persecuting YOU; ⁴⁵ that YOU may prove yourselves sons of YOUR Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if YOU love those loving YOU, what reward do YOU have? Are not also the tax collectors doing the same thing? ⁴⁷ And if YOU greet YOUR brothers only, what extraordinary thing are YOU doing? Are not also the people of the nations doing the same thing? ⁴⁸ YOU must accordingly be perfect, as YOUR heavenly Father is perfect.

^{HH} **(Matthew 4:17)** ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus commenced preaching and saying: "Repent, YOU people, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near."

^{II} **(Matthew 24:23-28)** ²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Christ,' or, 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones *[or, ones being chosen]*. ²⁵ Look! I have forewarned you. ²⁶ Therefore, if people say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; 'Look! He is in the inner chambers,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes out of eastern parts and shines over to western parts, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

words provide protection for everyone who wants to be sure they are not being deceived by religion. Christ warned over and over about the danger of false teachers. He cautioned we should not allow ourselves to be fooled.^{JJ} Our only protection against even sincere and well-meaning (but very confused) religious people, is to know for ourselves what Jesus *actually* taught.^{KK} Jesus said our very lives depend on understanding what *he* came to say.^{LL} The many varied and tortuously complicated religious doctrines contrived by men have made studying the Bible seem like a hard thing to do. It is not!^{MM & (H)} Religions have trouble understanding the Bible because

²⁸ Wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

[Jesus's teachings shine so as to illuminate the whole earth. His "remains" or his "carcass" are his teachings recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and his true followers are gathered around them.]~

(Matthew 22:29) ²⁹ In reply Jesus said to them: "You are mistaken, because you don't know the Scriptures . . .~

(2 Timothy 4:1, 2) **4** I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is destined to judge the living and the dead, and by his manifestation and his kingdom, ² preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and [art of] teaching.

^{JJ} **(1 John 4:1)** **4** Beloved ones, do not believe every inspired expression, but *test the inspired expressions** to see whether they originate with God, because many false prophets have gone forth into the world.~

*How can we test the inspired expressions? **(Acts 17:11)** 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 so.

^{KK} **(John 18:37)** . . .For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice."

^{LL} **(John 17:3)** *GNB* ³ And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent.

^{MM} **(Matthew 11:25-27)** ²⁵ At that time Jesus said in response: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intellectual ones and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Yes, O Father, because to do thus came to be the way approved by you. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him.

they never make the simple effort to read and study it. They only want to pick and choose scriptures to support what they want to believe. They never try to follow the theme of each of its books from beginning to end. They don't concern themselves with how each book's theme merges into the whole of the Bible's theme. That is what the Bible encourages you to do.^{NN} Don't expand the meaning of individual words to make the Bible say what it does not. Just listen to the it's simple message. That is what justbibletruth.com encourages. If you have the opportunity to join with others in an actual study of the Bible by reading it, that can be good. Be careful not to accept silly and convoluted explanations of what a single Bible verse means, or to be involved in controversies about what individual words or even the tense of those words mean. If you become familiar with the Bible, so as to understand the context of each book, then every verse will make sense. Don't get caught in debates about words and terms that don't even appear in the Bible.^(III) Just *read the Bible* as you pay particular attention to what Jesus taught in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.^{OO} *Again... It really is just that simple!*^(MM)

^{NN} **(Deuteronomy 17:18-20)** ¹⁸ . . . he must write in a book for himself a copy of this law from that which is in the charge of the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ "And it must continue with him, and he must read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah^(TTT) his God so as to keep all the words of this law and these regulations by doing them; ²⁰ that his heart may not exalt itself above his brothers and that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left, in order that he may lengthen his days. . . The teachings of Jesus replaced the Law.~ **(Galatians 3:23-25)** ²³ However, before the faith arrived, we were being guarded under law, being delivered up together into custody, looking to the faith that was destined to be revealed. ²⁴ Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith. ²⁵ But now that the faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.

^{OO} <http://www.justbibletruth.com/biblejohn.pdf>

My desire in writing this letter, then, is partially to be cautious not to judge others.^{PP} Even so, I must highlight the warning Jesus himself did give.^{(JJ) & (X)} What we believe, and especially what we teach others, is very important:^{QQ} We rightly become responsible when we say Jesus Christ said a thing.^(NNN) We are responsible because God had his son's teachings recorded for us in the Gospels. Having the words of Christ, we can know not to say Jesus said something he did not say. Knowing for ourselves what Jesus taught, and then following *his* teachings,^(UU) is our only protection against being deceived into remaining workers of lawlessness.^{RR} That remains steadfastly true, no matter what encouragement or favorable judgment we receive from other men and women, and/or their religious sects.^{SS} If you receive praise from every person on earth, adulation coming to you from the towers of their shiny institutions, and you are not following Jesus's teachings, it is

^{PP} **(1 Corinthians 4:1-5)** ⁴ Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates of Christ and stewards of sacred secrets of God. ² Besides, in this case, what is looked for in stewards is for a man to be found faithful. ³ Now to me it is a very trivial matter that I should be examined by YOU or by a human tribunal. Even I do not examine myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself. Yet by this I am not proved righteous, but he that examines me is Jehovah^(TTT) (Jesus's Father). ⁵ Hence do not judge anything before the due time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring the secret things of darkness to light and make the counsels of the hearts manifest, and then each one will have his praise come to him from God.

^{QQ} **(John 17:3)** ³ This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.

^{RR} Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/BeAGoodNeighbor.pdf>

^{SS} **(Matthew 7:21-23)** ²¹ "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ²² Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?' ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness.~

(Luke 13:26, 27) ²⁶ Then you will start saying, 'We ate and drank in front of you, and you taught in our broad ways.' ²⁷ But he will speak and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!'

all worthless. Above all else, the encouragement of the website (justbibletruth.com) is for every person to realize and understand the Bible has power^{TT} to set everyone free to think for themselves.^{UU} Bible knowledge has the power to set people free of class distinctions and every other sectarian mentality that places one man under the boot of another.^{VV} It does so spiritually of course, but the Bible helps us understand God is also in the process of doing so physically; by means of the kingdom of Christ.^{WW} My

^{TT} **(Hebrews 4:12, 13)** ¹² For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and their marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting.

^{UU} **(John 8:31b & 32)** ³¹ . . . “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

^{VV} **(Ecclesiastes 8:9)** ⁹ All this I have seen, and there was an applying of my heart to every work that has been done under the sun, [during] the time that man has dominated man to his injury.

^{WW} **(Isaiah 11:1-12)** ¹¹ And there must go forth a twig out of the stump of Jesse; and out of his roots a sprout will be fruitful. ² And upon him the spirit of Jehovah^(TTT) must settle down, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of mightiness, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah; ³ and there will be enjoyment by him in the fear of Jehovah. And he will not judge by any mere appearance to his eyes, nor reprove simply according to the thing heard by his ears. ⁴ And with righteousness he must judge the lowly ones, and with uprightness he must give reproof in behalf of the meek ones of the earth. And he must strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the spirit of his lips he will put the wicked one to death. ⁵ And righteousness must prove to be the belt of his hips, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶ And the wolf will actually reside for a while with the male lamb, and with the kid the leopard itself will lie down, and the calf and the maned young lion and the well-fed animal all together; and a mere little boy will be leader over them. ⁷ And the cow and the bear themselves will feed; together their young ones will lie down. And even the lion will eat straw just like the bull. ⁸ And the sucking child will certainly play upon the hole of the cobra; and upon the light aperture of a poisonous snake will a weaned child actually put his own hand. ⁹ They will not do any harm or cause any ruin in all my holy mountain; because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea. ¹⁰ And it must occur in that day that there will be the root of Jesse that will be standing up as a

hope is all people will use the freedom granted by means of Bible knowledge to allow their heart (their disposition and thinking) to be influenced by the words of our Creator; to be influenced by the Bible record of the teachings of God's son.^{xx}

All during my some sixty odd years of searching for God, I have loved both God and other people. As I gravitated toward a study of his word, and learned more about him, it was an ongoing development of my relationship with him. While I was a rowdy young man, I was never insincere and searching for God was certainly never a waste of my time. All my sectarian religious experiences probably helped me to some degree: By virtue of at least some measure of Bible exposure they did afford. The groups I was associated with, however, also misled and radicalized me! (I

signal for the peoples. To him even the nations will turn inquiringly, and his resting-place must become glorious. ¹¹ And it must occur in that day that Jehovah will again offer his hand, a second time, to acquire the remnant of his people who will remain over from Assyria and from Egypt and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. ¹² And he will certainly raise up a signal for the nations and gather the dispersed ones of Israel; and the scattered ones of Judah he will collect together from the four extremities of the earth.
^{xx} **(Matthew 12:33-37)** ³³ "Either you people make the tree fine [we are all trees under cultivation by God*] and its fruit fine or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten; for by its fruit the tree is known. ³⁴ Offspring of vipers, how can you speak good things, when you are wicked? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man out of his good treasure sends out good things, whereas the wicked man out of his wicked treasure sends out wicked things. ³⁶ I tell you that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render an account concerning it on Judgment Day; ³⁷ for by your words you will be declared righteous, and by your words you will be condemned." * **(1 Corinthians 3:9)** ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. you people are God's field under cultivation, God's building. (Psalm 1:1-3) **1** Happy is the man that has not walked in the counsel of the wicked ones, And in the way of sinners has not stood, And in the seat of ridiculers has not sat. ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah,^(TTT) And in his law he reads in an undertone day and night. ³ And he will certainly become like a tree planted by streams of water, That gives its own fruit in its season And the foliage of which does not wither, And everything he does will succeed.

wasn't radicalized to bomb buildings or shoot women and children. Rather, I was misguided to judge non-members as wicked, and/or ignorant, and so, lost to God.)^(P) While I still believe many of those who misinformed me intended to do good, I have become ever more convinced I must pursue what the Bible teaches above all else.^{YY} One point of my letter is this: I wish, during all my years, I could have had someone looking after me and telling me to believe the Bible *and not to worry about the teachings or judgments of the religious organizations trying to direct me misdirect all mankind.*^(R) Even if I didn't immediately perceive and understand why all these sects are bad, such a warning might have saved me more pain than I can express when I was forced to recognize it for myself. It might also have helped me come to know our creator more quickly. I finally do understand, however, that is precisely what Jesus came to do and teach: To tell us about his Father^(MM) and to warn us about religion.^(GGG) All I ever needed to do to be set free of these enemies of truth was to *actually read* what Jesus taught. This is so you can know! Many people claim they are studying what Jesus taught, and many actually believe they are.^(SS) When is the last time you read all four Gospels through from beginning to end? How soon will you start again? Sadly, very few people are choosing to sit at the feet of Jesus by reading what he said. Sadly too, no one was helping me during my youth to recognize that simple truth, and my absolute need to rely on Christ! That's what I am trying to give you as you read this: The truth and freedom that can come only from Christ.^(UU) You need to recognize you can't get it from me. You must read what Jesus said. Each *religious* group you encounter will tell you they alone have the truth (the sayings of life). They will assure you an approved membership in their group is your only

^{YY} **(2 Timothy 4:1, 2)** **4** I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is destined to judge the living and the dead, and by his manifestation and his kingdom,² preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and [art of] teaching.

salvation.^{ZZ} Instead, I encourage you to learn what Jesus said. They tell you to read their approved literature and learn why you must follow *them and their doctrine*. If they weren't teaching their own doctrine, they wouldn't need anything except the Bible to teach you. If you willingly submit yourself to judgments by men, as they assure you who is righteous, you effectively bow down to them instead of God.^{AAA} If they solicit or even allow such worship by you, they are surely lost.^{BBB} [justbibletruth.com](http://www.justbibletruth.com) exists to warn people against being misled by even kind and well-meaning (but ignorant) individuals. They may even be people who are righteously inclined;^{CCC} people who are moving toward learning for themselves what the Bible really does teach.^{DDD & (RR)} Their sincerity has little to

^{ZZ} <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf>

^{AAA} **(Matthew 5:20)** I tell you, then, that you will be able to enter the Kingdom of heaven only if you are more faithful than scribes and the Pharisees in doing what God requires.^(see GGG)

^{BBB} **(Revelation 18:21)** ²¹ And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying: . . . **(Revelation 19:9, 10)** . . . "Write: Happy are those invited to the evening meal of the Lamb's marriage." Also, he tells me: "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that! All I am is a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing to Jesus. Worship God; for the bearing witness to Jesus is what inspires prophesying."

^{CCC} <http://www.justbibletruth.com/UnderstandYourBible.pdf>

^{DDD} **(Acts 22:3-5)** [These are the words of the apostle Paul, a Jewish Pharisee who, while zealous for God, persecuted and killed true Christians before his conversion to Christian truth. He provides a Bible example of a true believer who remained a worker of lawlessness until he had the truth.]

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strictness of the ancestral Law, being zealous for God just as all of you are this day. ⁴ And I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and handing over to prisons both men and women, ⁵ as both the high priest and all the assembly of older men can bear me witness. . . .~

(1 Timothy 1:12-16) ¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who imparted power to me, because he considered me faithful by assigning me to a ministry, ¹³ although formerly I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man. Nevertheless, I was shown mercy, because I was ignorant and acted with a lack of faith. ¹⁴ But the undeserved kindness of

do with what fruit they are actually producing. If they are teaching what Jesus did not say, they are producing bad fruit. Only by knowing and sharing with others what Jesus teaches can we produce good fruit.^(SS) Anyone saying Jesus Christ said what he didn't is a false teacher. That makes them workers of unrighteousness.^{EEE} And, they make themselves responsible. They are responsible because they have Jesus's teachings available to know better, just like you (and we all) do.^{FFF} It's easy to know if you are joined with sincere Bible students. Any Christian group will assemble with the purpose to actually read and study the Bible, and will try to worship God as directed by Christ's teachings. They will welcome other sincere Bible students^(JJJ) (Christians), and will avoid appointing lords and leaders among themselves.^{GGG} If you are being

our Lord abounded exceedingly along with faith and love that is in connection with Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Faithful and deserving of full acceptance is the saying that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am foremost. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, the reason why I was shown mercy was that by means of me as the foremost case Christ Jesus might demonstrate all his long-suffering for a sample of those who are going to rest their faith on him for everlasting life.~

(Acts 23:6) ⁶ Now when Paul took note that the one part was of Sadducees but the other of Pharisees, he proceeded to cry out in the Sanhedrin: "Men, brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. . . .

^{EEE} **(Luke 13:25-27)** . . .and you start to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Sir, open to us.' But in answer he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' ²⁶ Then you will start saying, 'We ate and drank in front of you, and you taught in our broad ways.' ²⁷ But he will speak and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!'

^{FFF} **(John 15:20-24)** ²⁰ Bear in mind the word I said to YOU, A slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute YOU also; if they have observed my word, they will observe YOURS also. ²¹ But they will do all these things against YOU on account of my name, because they do not know him that sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He that hates me hates also my Father. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have both seen and hated me as well as my Father.

^{GGG} **(Matthew 23:1-12)** **23** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying: ² "The scribes and the Pharisees [the religious leaders of

kept busy with reading so called Bible study aids, materials produced by your chosen sect of men, and/or in listening to lengthy sermons with a few scriptures scattered through, please realize *that is not Bible study*.^{HHH} Reading the Bible is Bible study! If you are part of a group whose leaders assert that for you to question their sectarian teachings is a bad thing, or that to doubt their elevated titles and claimed authority over their sect is to reject the pillars and foundations of the Christian faith, then you should be warned and know: Jesus Christ is the one and only pillar and foundation of

Jesus's day] have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. [Moses had been God's judge over the ancient nation of Israel,^(*) so those religious leaders elevated themselves as Judge of who was righteous and who was bad (even judging Jesus himself to be wicked.^(*))] ³ Therefore all the things they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but do not perform. ⁴ They bind up heavy loads and put them upon the shoulders of men, but they themselves are not willing to budge them with their finger. ⁵ All the works they do they do to be viewed by men; for they broaden the scripture-containing cases that they wear as safeguards, and enlarge the fringes of their garments. ⁶ They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by men. [Rabbi meaning "teacher," but among those religious leaders it meant "my great one" or "my excellent one".] ⁸ But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. ⁹ Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. ¹⁰ Neither be called 'leaders,' for your Leader is one, the Christ. ¹¹ But the greatest one among you must be your minister. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.~

(*) (Exodus 18:13) ¹³ And it came about on the next day that Moses sat down as usual to serve as judge for the people, and the people kept standing before Moses from the morning till the evening.~

(*) (John 8:48) ⁴⁸ In answer the Jews said to him: "Do we not rightly say, you are a Samaritan and have a demon? . . . The pious and self righteous religious leaders of Jesus's day looked down on Samaritans as a lesser people, because they didn't meet their religious requirements.

^{HHH} **(1 Corinthians 11:17-19)** ¹⁷ But, while giving these instructions, I do not commend you because it is, not for the better, but for the worse that you meet together. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together in a congregation, I hear divisions exist among you; and in some measure I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be sects among you, that the persons approved may also become manifest among you.

the Christian faith.^(GGG) Many will help Jesus Christ spread *his* message,^{(KK) & (LL) & (F) & (JJJ)} but those sincere Christians will never allow themselves to be titled and glorified (or even deified) by members of some sect of followers. *Never* follow teachings that require your expressed faith in reasonings about words or terms that don't even appear in the Bible.ⁱⁱⁱ *Following such doctrine is not Bible study!* Your simple and only protection is being able to quote for yourself what Jesus himself said about any matter. (Not necessarily being able to remember chapter and verse, mind you, but knowing what Jesus said *from your own Bible*. If you know what he said, you can use a Bible concordance to find chapter and verse. Jesus's teachings are recorded in the four short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Can you see how gaining an understanding of those four short [fifty or so page] books makes Jesus's teachings an easy study?)

After being forced by my personal experience, and more importantly by the warnings Jesus gave, I warn others about the danger of religion. As I do so, I struggle to show some humility. If someone, if anyone, tells me they are in a church that studies the Bible and they are learning what Jesus Christ taught, I certainly don't judge that not to be true. (They should probably understand, such a statement would indicate they are actually reading the Gospels!) There are many churches I have never attended. Because I had some bad experience with the ones I did attend doesn't mean everyone will. My point is this: Each of us take personal responsibility for ourselves by the act of saying we are followers,

ⁱⁱⁱ **(1 Timothy 6:2-5)** CEV ...These are the things you must teach and tell the people to do. (3) Anyone who teaches something different disagrees with the correct and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. (4) Those people who disagree are proud of themselves, but they don't really know a thing. Their minds are sick, and they like to argue over words. They cause jealousy, disagreements, unkind words, evil suspicions, (5) and nasty quarrels. They have wicked minds and have missed out on the truth. These people think religion is supposed to make you rich.

and therefore students and then teachers, of Christ Jesus's teachings. I welcome every person who makes such a claim as a brother or sister in Christ.^{JJJ} Who am I to judge they are not?^{KKK} When they make the expression they are learning what Jesus Christ taught, they take responsibility for themselves^(FFF) for what they do and say. There is nothing left for me to say.^(KKK) I wish them only peace.^{LLL} If I know a scripture that seems to contradict some assertion by them, I will try and share it; but that is all I have to offer. I am judge of no one.^(KKK) I am a student of Jesus Christ, peering into the Bible so as to see my own reflection.^{MMM} It is not

^{JJJ} **(Romans 14:1-9)** 14 Welcome the man having weaknesses in his faith, but not to make decisions on inward questionings. ² One man has faith to eat everything, but the man who is weak eats vegetables. ³ Let the one eating not look down on the one not eating, and let the one not eating not judge the one eating, for God has welcomed that one. ⁴ Who are you to judge the house servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for Jehovah^(TTT) can make him stand. ⁵ One man judges one day as above another; another man judges one day as all others; let each man be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day observes it to Jehovah. Also, he who eats, eats to Jehovah, for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat does not eat to Jehovah, and yet gives thanks to God. ⁷ None of us, in fact, lives with regard to himself only, and no one dies with regard to himself only; ⁸ for both if we live, we live to Jehovah, and if we die, we die to Jehovah. Therefore both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living.

^{KKK} **(Matthew 7:1-5)** 7 "Stop judging that you may not be judged; ² for with what judgment you are judging, you will be judged; and with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you. ³ Why, then, do you look at the straw in your brother's eye, but do not consider the rafter in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Allow me to extract the straw from your eye'; when, look! a rafter is in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First extract the rafter from your own eye, and then you will see clearly how to extract the straw from your brother's eye.

^{LLL} **(Luke 10:5, 6)** ⁵ Wherever you enter into a house say first, 'May this house have peace.' ⁶ And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if there is not, it will turn back to you.

^{MMM} **(James 1:22-25)** ²² However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his

my responsibility to critique the reflection of others, only to help them recognize the mirror placed by God for each of us to use – to use on ourselves. My desire is that *everyone could would* realize the truth: We are each and every one in the process of judging our-own-selves by our response to the words of God’s son.^{NNN} We judge ourselves by whether or not we build faith in those teachings. Our faith in Christ is for the preservation of our life.^{OOO} No faith, no life!!! It really is just that simple. Faith for eternal life^{PPP} must be founded on what Jesus Christ said, and never on what people have told us *they* understand he said.^(II) Please recognize and understand the difference. Read your Bible!!!

You must surely understand why my background leaves me with no real choice but to warn others; to caution them against being deceived in the same way I have been. Some of these groups assert I stole knowledge from them and then turned against them. Think about what they are really saying. They claim to be followers of

natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. ²⁵ 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.

^{NNN} (John 12:46-50) ⁴⁶ I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. ⁴⁷ But if anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I came, not to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He that disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him in the last day; ⁴⁹ because I have not spoken out of my own impulse, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to tell and what to speak. ⁵⁰ Also, I know that his commandment means everlasting life. Therefore the things I speak, just as the Father has told me them, so I speak them.”

^{OOO} (Hebrews 10:37-39) ³⁷ For yet “a very little while,” and “he who is coming will arrive and will not delay.” ³⁸ “But my righteous one will live by reason of faith,” and, “if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” ³⁹ Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul.

^{PPP} (John 11:26) ²⁶ and everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?”

God's word, and yet are so grand in their own eyes as to claim I stole knowledge from THEM! I must confess they did have an impact on me, but what I have always been trying to learn is what the Bible teaches. It does even disturb me a little to realize I have been created, in part, by the abuse of these religious zealots^(O) from my past. There is no doubt I am who I am, in some measure, because of my life course. That includes their hatred for me. If Joseph hadn't been sold into slavery by his brothers, remember, he wouldn't have been positioned to save the lives of all his father's household.^(Genesis 37 & 39 - 48) If Moses hadn't been abandoned so the daughter of Pharaoh could save his life as a baby and then raise him as an Egyptian, he wouldn't have been in a position to free his people from Egypt.^(Exodus 1 - 14) I am not trying to equate myself with those righteous men, but simply to make the point: We are all, to some degree, the product of the life we have lived.

Please understand: I don't hold myself up in your eyes as being righteous, or as having done good by my claims to have been a Bible student over the years of my life; or now for that matter. Those who knew me when I was younger would likely have thought me a rowdy and an insolent man.^(DDD) Still, since I can remember, I believed in a God who is good.^{QQQ} I realize I did not and do not, however, seek God because I am a good man. I seek him because I know I am not.^{RRR} I do want to be better, however, and I am convinced the Bible holds the explanation of how to do that.^{SSS}

^{QQQ} **(Hebrews 11:6)** ⁶ Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please him well, for he that approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

^{RRR} **(Matthew 9:13b)** . . . For I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners."

^{SSS} **(2 Timothy 3:14-17)** ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things that you learned and were persuaded to believe, knowing from what persons you learned them ¹⁵ and that from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for

While everyone does well to be cautious about listening to me, just the same as they should about listening to everyone else, I say again and always: Please *do listen* to Christ Jesus! My wish is for every single person to seek a good conscience with the true God^{TTT}

disciplining in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.~

(Proverbs 2:1-3:2) 2 My son, if you will receive my sayings and treasure up my own commandments with yourself, ² so as to pay attention to wisdom with your ear, that you may incline your heart to discernment; ³ if, moreover, you call out for understanding itself and you give forth your voice for discernment itself, ⁴ if you keep seeking for it as for silver, and as for hid treasures you keep searching for it, ⁵ in that case you will understand the fear of Jehovah,^(TTT) and you will find the very knowledge of God. ⁶ For Jehovah himself gives wisdom; out of his mouth there are knowledge and discernment. ⁷ And for the upright ones he will treasure up practical wisdom; for those walking in integrity he is a shield, ⁸ by observing the paths of judgment, and he will guard the very way of his loyal ones. ⁹ In that case you will understand righteousness and judgment and uprightness, the entire course of what is good. ¹⁰ When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge itself becomes pleasant to your very soul, ¹¹ thinking ability itself will keep guard over you, discernment itself will safeguard you, ¹² to deliver you from the bad way, from the man speaking perverse things, ¹³ from those leaving the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, ¹⁴ from those who are rejoicing in doing bad, who are joyful in the perverse things of badness; ¹⁵ those whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their general course; ¹⁶ to deliver you from the strange woman, from the foreign woman who has made her own sayings smooth, ¹⁷ who is leaving the confidential friend of her youth and who has forgotten the very covenant of her God. ¹⁸ For down to death her house does sink and down to those impotent in death her tracks. ¹⁹ None of those having relations with her will come back, nor will they regain the paths of those living. ²⁰ The purpose is that you may walk in the way of good people and that the paths of the righteous ones you may keep. ²¹ For the upright are the ones that will reside in the earth, and the blameless are the ones that will be left over in it. ²² As regards the wicked, they will be cut off from the very earth; and as for the treacherous, they will be torn away from it. **3 My son, my law do not forget, and my commandments may your heart observe,** ² because length of days and years of life and peace will be added to you.

^{TTT} **(Psalm 83:18)** ¹⁸ That people may know that you, whose name is Jehovah, You alone are the Most High over all the earth.~

(John 17:25, 26) [These are words by Christ Jesus:] ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world has, indeed, not come to know you; but I have come to know you, and these have come to know that you sent me forth. ²⁶ And I have

so their prayers will be heard by him. A good conscience can only be had through their expressed faith in his son Christ Jesus.^{UUU} You must start that process by knowing what Jesus said. Knowledge of God's word has power to be your protection and

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.”~

(Proverbs 18:10) ¹⁰ The name of Jehovah is a strong tower. Into it the righteous runs and is given protection.~

(Romans 10:13) ALT (*Analytical Literal Translation*) 13 For every [one], “who himself shall call on the name of [the] LORD [Jehovah] will be saved!” [The ALT shows this verse is a reference to Joel 2:32:] For it shall be, all who call on the name of Jehovah will be saved...

^{UUU} **(1 Peter 3:21, 22)** ²¹ That which corresponds to this is also now saving you, namely, baptism, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the request made to God for a good conscience,) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² He is at God's right hand, for he went his way to heaven; and angels and authorities and powers were made subject to him.~

(Acts 4:8-12) ⁸ Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them: “Rulers of the people and older men, ⁹ if we are this day being examined, on the basis of a good deed to an ailing man, as to by whom this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you impaled but whom God raised up from the dead, by this one does this man stand here sound in front of you. ¹¹ This is ‘the stone that was treated by you builders as of no account that has become the head of the corner.’ ¹² Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved.”

deliverance.^{VVV} & ^{WWW} Your faith can preserve you alive,^{XXX} both now and through the destruction of this wicked world system.^(OOO) & ^(PPP) & ^{YYY} & ^{ZZZ}

^{VVV} **(Psalms 119:11) GW (God's Word)** I have treasured your promise (your word) in my heart so that I may not sin against you. This is a Bible verse someone recently and eloquently expressed his love for. It has greatly impacted his life. The Bible has power to influence your life in a way nothing else can.^(TT) Please note the Psalmist did not say *God put* his word into his heart. He said he put God's word into his own heart. That is the gift and responsibility falling to each and every one of us. Each sincere person will have their heart influenced in different degrees by different scriptures. Reading the Bible is the means by which God speaks personally to you. Read your Bible and meditate on what it says! We below recount this scripture from two additional translations of the original ancient Hebrew. Looking at what was brought out by the translation efforts of several individuals (or translation committees) can sometimes help us get the full import of what God inspired in the original language. By that method, we can often get a better understanding than if we could read ancient Hebrew for ourselves. God inspired his word for regular people.^(MM) It is easy to understand! If there is a scripture you don't understand, read it from several translations. <http://www.justbibletruth.com> can help with that. Simply click on scriptures linked from that website and they are displayed from several translations of the Bible, just as has been done here:

(Psalms 119:11) CEV (Contemporary English Version) I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you.

(Psalms 119:11) YLT (Young's Literal Translation - 1862) In my heart I have hid Thy saying, That I sin not before Thee.

^{WWW} **(Matthew 24:37-39) GW (Gods Word)** (37) "When the Son of Man comes again, it will be exactly like the days of Noah. (38) In the days before the flood, people were eating, drinking, and getting married until the day that Noah went into the ship. [The point here is that some were wicked while others were just unconcerned with the wickedness surrounding them, and were going on with a "normal" life.] (39) They were not aware of what was happening until the flood came and swept all of them away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes again.

^{XXX} Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>

^{YYY} **(Job 33:22-30) GNB (Good News Bible)** (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 [enlightens them with the light of those worshiping God in truth], and gives him the joy of living.

^{zzz} The following verses are prophetic. At the time they were written, Jerusalem was the city where God's temple resided. Jerusalem thus represented God's connection with mankind. It was a city important to both those who truly loved God, and those who claimed to be religious. The ancient city is also used to represent those who truly have faith in Christ, and those who only claim to have faith, as they are mixed together through the earth during the time of the end. It is a good thing for deliverance to be provided only for those who have faith, "just as in the days of Noah."^(www)

(Ezekiel 9:3-6) GNB Good News Bible (3) Then the dazzling light of the presence of the God of Israel rose up from the winged creatures where it had been, and moved to the entrance of the Temple. The LORD called to the man dressed in linen, (4) "Go through the whole city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the forehead of everyone who is distressed and troubled because of all the disgusting things being done in the city." (5) And I heard God say to the other men, "Follow him through the city and kill. Spare no one; have mercy on no one. (6) Kill the old men, young men, young women, mothers, and children. But don't touch anyone who has the mark on his forehead. Start here at my Temple." So they began with the leaders who were standing there at the Temple.

God's peace upon all who are seeking to know him through the teachings of his son. May they avoid worrying about the approval or judgment of man-made groups^{AAAA} (and/or following their sectarian divisive doctrines). Becoming a Christian requires you first gain an understanding of the difference between being a Christian and being religious.^(D) Jesus did warn you: The world is full of people trying to deceive you.^(II) & ^(D) Become a true Christian then!!!^{BBBB} Do so by becoming intimately familiar with the Gospels recording what Jesus taught. May we all make it the focus of our lives to learn from Christ and to feel the same way he felt about all things! I hope to accomplish two things by this letter: First, I want

^{AAAA} 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 CEV (14) That's why only someone who has God's Spirit can understand spiritual blessings. Anyone who doesn't have God's Spirit thinks these blessings are foolish. (15) People who are guided by the Spirit can make all kinds of judgments, but they cannot be judged by others. (16) The Scriptures ask, "Has anyone ever known the thoughts of the Lord [*Jehovah*]^(TTT) or given him advice?" [*Isa 40:13*] But we understand what Christ is thinking.~

Isaiah 40:13 Darby Who hath directed the Spirit of Jehovah, and, as his counsellor, hath taught him?

^{BBBB} Acts 4:12 GNB Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us."~

John 17:1-8 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. (5) Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made. (6) "I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your word, (7) and now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. (8) I gave them the message that you gave me, and they received it; they know that it is true that I came from you, and they believe that you sent me.

to help you see how really easy it is to understand what the Bible teaches.^(H) Second, to help everyone alive know what a treasure it is^{CCCC} to discern and have faith in what God sent his son ~~to teach us~~ *to teach you.*^(XXX) There are two steps involved in becoming a Christian: The first is you must know what Christ taught. READ THE GOSPELS! The second is you must have faith to build your life around those teachings. For the end of this old system to come, it seems that first step must be accomplished for everyone: Each person God is choosing must hear about the truth brought by Christ.^{DDDD} All religious sects obscure the simple truth Jesus taught, by encouraging your faith in their organizational doctrine and dogma. Being an approved member of their sect is what they believe (or want *you* to believe) will help you. No... No... No... Read and actually listen to what Jesus taught. Building faith in what Christ taught, then, becomes the very personal step we are each one of us having the opportunity to take.

Agape, Joe M. Cummings

^{CCCC} Matthew 13:44-49 GNB (Knowledge of) **"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. (45) "Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, (46) and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl. (47) "Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish. (48) When the net is full, they pull it to shore and sit down to divide the fish: the good ones go into the buckets, the worthless ones are thrown away. (49) It will be like this at the end of the age: the angels will go out and gather up the evil people from among the good**

^{DDDD} Matthew 24:11-14 GNB **Then many false prophets will appear and fool many people. (12) Such will be the spread of evil (lies) 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.**

Christ Jesus is justifiably referred to as the prince of peace.^{EEEE & (LLL) & (WW)} That said, it is also necessary to share his warning for and

about those who choose to make themselves enemies of peace.^{FFFF} The danger is: ~~they~~ we can be deceived to follow enemies of peace unawares.^(SS) Modern religion is not producing Christians^(IIII) who can function apart from the men who lead and govern their sect; men and women who can function autonomously from their own Bible faith.^(UU) True Christians are guided by their individual conscience, and that based on their personal knowledge of what Jesus Christ taught. That is what demonstrates they have faith in *him*.^(UU) Religion is rather producing Doegs^{GGGG} who follow men and call themselves by some “celebrated name” which their group has preferred^{HHHH} (often using some other Bible verse to support their choice).^{IIII} Most of their members then function as a follower of their sect based on group doctrines and traditions^(X) (led to do so by men who have been able to convince them their sectarian directives [organizational writings] are Bible study aids).^{(SS) & (II)} They have allowed themselves to be deceived^(II) simply because they didn’t rely on the Bible as their only source of spiritual food.^{JJJJ} It’s all so very simple: we’re either becoming followers of Christ using the Bible, or we follow the writings by men!

This booklet is a gift presented by justbibletruth.com. It and other Bible study aids can be read and/or printed from the website. The specific web address for this booklet is justbibletruth.com/IsThisJudgmental.pdf (be careful of caps when typing the address in your web browser – type it in the address bar near the top of the browser window, not in the search bar near the middle of the screen). Print as a booklet for personal use by using Adobe Reader.

^{EEEE} **(Isaiah 9:6)** ⁶ For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us... And his name will be called... Prince of Peace.

^{FFFF} **(Matthew 10:34)** ³⁴ Do not think I came to put peace upon the earth; I came to put, not peace, but a sword.

^{GGGG} justbibletruth.com/BeingADoeg.html – See also: 1 Samuel 20:42-22:19

^{HHHH} **(Genesis 11:4)** ⁴ They now said: “Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth.”

^{IIII} **(Acts 11:26b)** . . .and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called Christians.

^{JJJJ} **(Mark 12:24)** ²⁴ Jesus said to them: “Is not this why YOU are mistaken, YOUR not knowing either the Scriptures or the power of God?”
