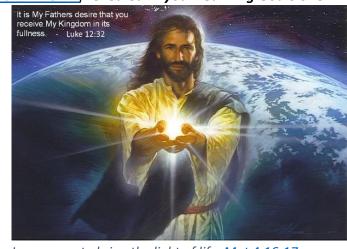
People of Earth

This letter is to satisfy the one extreme need shared by all. Everyone alive needs to realize what is being actively hidden from them: Please hear the sacred secret of God; $[Mark\ 4:10-11]$ revealed in your realizing God's one

simple (later day) command; obedience granting you a future in what God is doing (and thereby saving your very life). Please understand: These are the days of deliverance, [Luke 21:22; Deu 32:43] but, contrary to a pervasive deception, church membership can't help!

Please meditate on the enclosed scriptures as they reveal your need for faith in what you personally know Jesus Christ actually said and how you might have been deceived. Knowledge of what Jesus said must be an obvious basis for faith in his promises. Soon, the only people left alive will be those preserved by their faith in Jesus's words. [Heb 11:7 & 1 Pet 3:20-22] (You should contemplate the person life has molded you to be; and, more importantly, whether that is who you really want to be. While most try to pretend otherwise, and to imagine we



Jesus came to bring the light of life. <u>Mat 4:16-17</u>; <u>Jn 3:19</u>; <u>1 Jn 2:8</u> That requires you know and exercise faith in what he said. <u>Mat 9:28-29</u>; <u>Jn 12:48-50</u> If you want to be happy, read Jesus's words every day. <u>Jas 1:25</u>

are in control, we were/are terrified by the life we were awakened to at birth; and then forced to live. Because of the fear of death, or of harm or emotional abuse, we were all forced to do things we wouldn't have chosen if we could have had God's gift of freedom. [Heb 2:15 of 14-18] All the well-meaning but ignorant or even openly wicked people who tricked, seduced, or even terrorized you to choose a bad lifestyle [1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 Tim 1:8-11] will soon be destroyed by God. [Psa 37:10-11] You have every reason, and now through Jesus's teachings the opportunity, for a rebirth as a new person. [John 3:1-8+] The teachings of Christ grant you that freedom. Abandon all those who keep trying to justify badness; even saying wickedness is an acceptable lifestyle. [Isa 5:20; John 8:24] Lying and cheating and deviant behavior was/is always bad! [Gen 19:4-13] Just pray as you tell people you can no longer practice such things because God forbids it.) To have faith in what Jesus taught does require you first understand what he said. In relief, please realize: The tribulation destroying our world is what was foretold or promised by Jesus Christ. You should find joy and strength of faith in that knowledge. Hear the words of God's own son:

Matthew 24:3-8 MWT ³ While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?" ⁴ And in answer Jesus said to them: "Look out that nobody misleads YOU; ⁵ for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' or, 'I represent Christ,' and will mislead many. ⁶ YOU are going to hear of wars and reports of wars; see that YOU are not terrified. For these things must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another. ⁸ All these things are a beginning of pangs of distress.

Luke 21:7-13 GNB "Teacher," they asked, "when will this be? And what will happen in order to show that the time has come for it to take place?" (8) Jesus said, "Watch out; don't be fooled. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time has come!' But don't follow them. (9) Don't be afraid when you hear of wars and revolutions; such things must happen first, but they do not mean that the end is near." (10) He went on to say, "Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. (11) There will be terrible earthquakes, famines, and plagues everywhere; there will be strange and terrifying things coming from the sky... (13) This will be your chance to tell the Good News...

Matthew 24:14 GNB 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.

Do you recognize these signs Jesus mentioned to be what we see happening? My youngest daughter Emily pointed out, 'Jesus said there in Luke 21:9, right in the midst of giving "the sign," that the wars and revolutions didn't mean the end immediately?' Yes! Jesus went on to explain why that is not a contradiction, however: In verse 13 he said that brief period would provide the chance for us to tell the Good News of his Kingdom, and then the end would

come. That "Good News" is what you are hearing now, and, what you now have a chance to tell to others. Why, though, would I call Jesus's warning about the <u>tribulation</u> a "promise" or "good news"? It is very important you understand why: It is because *Jesus said that "final preaching effort" brings our relief:*

<u>Luke 21:28</u> GW "When these things begin to happen, stand with confidence [or lift your heads high]! The time when you will be set free [or the time of your deliverance] is near."

The question every person should ask: **Do I really believe Jesus's promise the tribulation ends with good?** Do I have true faith in what he taught? What we believe is important because Jesus said our faith is happening to us:

Matthew 8:13 CEV Then Jesus said to the officer, "You may go home now. Your faith has made it happen." Right then his servant was healed.

Matthew 9:22 ESV Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

Those are just two of many examples where Jesus told people <u>their faith helped</u>. God requires our faith in Christ for us to receive help. [*Mat 13:58*] Jesus went on to liken our day to those of Noah and Lot:

Luke 17:26-30 GNB As it was in the time of Noah so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man. (27) Everybody kept on eating and drinking, and men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat and the flood came and killed them all. (28) It will be as it was in the time of Lot. Everybody kept on eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. (29) On the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and killed them all. (30) That is how it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

Why, though, is our day compared with that of Noah and why is faith required? That's easy... In Noah's day, the earth had become filled with violence because of humanity's disobedience to God. They had ruined the earth in God's judgment. It was ruined because there was no chance left for anyone to have a real life: No one had opportunity to live and grow while being exposed to knowledge of the true God; that being the only chance to become a righteous person. [Rom 10:14-15] God's word explains that ancient world's corruption in this way:

Genesis 6:9-14 GW This is the account of Noah and his descendants. Noah had God's approval and was a man of integrity among the people of his time. He walked with God. (10) He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (11) The world was corrupt in God's sight and full of violence. (12) God saw the world and how corrupt it was because all people on earth lived evil lives. (13) God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all people because the earth is full of their violence. Now I'm going to destroy them along with the earth. (14) Make yourself a ship (an ark) of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ship and coat it inside and out with tar. (Sadly, the earth has again become filled with the violence of our own making. So, God is once again destroying the wicked. That's what Jesus promised in Mat 24 [quoted in part above] As the scriptures that follow teach God's simple instruction for you, in the midst of our day of world destruction, is to listen to and build faith in what God's son taught.)

The Bible recounts Noah and Lot had specific instructions from God for survival. Noah was to build an ark while Lot was simply to flee the wicked city of Sodom. They each followed God's personal instructions and their faith preserved them alive. **Do you know God's instruction for you?** As with Lot, your command is simple:

Matthew 17:5 GNB While he [Peter] was talking [to Jesus], a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased---listen to him!"

God's only latter day instruction for you, then, is to listen to his son! The question, though, are you really hearing Jesus? All religionists teach you must follow them and their doctrinal teachings. [Mat 15:9] Also, there is a lot of material in the Bible making it seem daunting. Did God inspire the Bible to contain a key, however, that makes it simple to understand? Yes... The key is in knowing most of the Bible exists as a tutor leading us to listen to Christ:

Galatians 3:23-25 ALT But before faith came, we were being guarded [or, being kept in protective custody] under [the] Law, having been confined to the faith about to be revealed. (24) Therefore, the Law [the Old Testament] 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.

Ponder those verses: If you have faith in Christ, you should give less attention to the tutor (the Bible outside Gospels) in favor of following God's command to listen to his son. [Mat 15:9] The Apostle Paul further clarified it:

Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets (using the law code and from a burning bush etc...), (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... (The teachings of Jesus are recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.)

Once you know God is speaking to you by means of his son, and that He has given the specific command to listen to that son, [Mat 15:9] what should you do? **Listen to God's son...** Since Jesus is gone from the earth now 2000 years, how can you do that? That is easy to <u>understand</u>, read the Gospels. But, Jesus and the inspired Bible writers did warn there would be lots of people trying to deceive you and to make that truth seem hard to discern:

Matthew 7:15-20 CEV Watch out for false prophets! They dress up like sheep, but inside they are wolves who have come to attack you. (16) You can tell what they are by what they do. No one picks grapes or figs from thornbushes. (17) A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. (19) Every tree that produces bad fruit will be chopped down and burned. (20) You can tell who the false prophets are by their deeds.

Acts 20:29-30 ESV I [Paul] know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; (30) and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

If you seek a religion only to associate with other humans, it probably doesn't matter which one you choose. If, however, you seek to know the one true God, there is a great danger you must avoid! Heed Jesus's warning: You must identify the modern day false prophets Jesus and his early followers warned would be working to hide truth (by mixing it with lies)! How can you spot them? Being false, they obviously claim to be true prophets of God and Christ. These scriptures make it easy to understand who is true and who is not! Everyone who is encouraging you to follow God's one simple (latter day) command to listen to his son, is a Christian (and "Christian" is the only scripturally approved name or title for the true followers of Christ [Acts 11:26]). Conversely, everyone who is directing you to follow the leaders, or doctrines and teachings, of any of the world's religious sects is a false prophet. [Mat 15:8-9] (Obviously, those who give support to people who use religion to abuse children or to gain wealth and power are false Christians.) Note Jesus's very specific warning against any of us accepting high sounding titles for ourselves, and against following other people who do desire such things:

Matthew 23:1-12 NWT 23 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying: 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees (religious leaders) have seated themselves in the seat of Moses [appointed themselves judges of what is right and wrong-Ex 18:13]. 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 [teacher] by men. 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.

Remembering Mat 7:20, Jesus said you can tell false prophets by their fruit. This is key: If you are part of a religious sect that keeps you busy reading their organizations literature, or listening to sermons by their Elders or leaders,

are you really hearing what Jesus taught? How could you know? That is the point: In view of Jesus's many warnings about false prophets, you can't be certain you are hearing his teachings unless you are reading his words from the Gospels; which God inspired to record Jesus's life and teachings: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Directing you to Jesus's words is good fruitage. That is the only good fruit there is. Jesus told us so:

<u>John 6:28-29</u> GNB So they asked him, "What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do [or, to be doing the works of God]?" (29) Jesus answered, "What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent."

Jesus not only warned us against false prophets, but also to examine if we might already have been misled:

Matthew 7:21-23 MWT ²¹ "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will come under the reign of 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*.

How could these people be so deceived as to approach Jesus expecting his help; even believing they had done powerful works in his name? They were deceived because, as he said, they remained "workers of lawlessness." How, though, were they workers of lawlessness while believing they were serving Christ? Again, it is simple:

<u>Matthew 15:9</u> GNB "It is no use [or in vain] for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!" [Jesus was here quoting from <u>Isaiah 29:13</u>]

This is simple to <u>understand</u>; if you appreciate the need to obey God's command to listen to his son. False prophets approve each other by their chosen doctrine [usually including some subset of scriptures] and by memberships and titles bestowed by their group; they follow men instead of looking to Christ. [John 5:44 in 39-47] From what Jesus said, some of them may be sincere; but are refusing to hear God's later day command. God said "listen" to his son, but, Jesus warned many would try to find salvation in the Bible outside his teachings:

<u>John 5:39-40</u> GNB You study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me! (40) Yet you are not willing to come to me [John 8:31-32] in order to have life.

You can only "come to" Christ by actually listening to him! That is God's one command for each of us. Jesus also explained *God's spirit resides in the words he spoke.* We thus consume God's spirit by listening to Jesus:

<u>John 6:63</u> 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! [Note what Jesus said just before this: <u>John 6:52-59 & 63</u>]

You *must* comprehend: Organized group religion was ended by Jesus when he told the woman at the well, right after she asked him about proper worship, that all righteous people worship as individuals in spirit and truth:

John 4:21-23 MWT Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming and is now here when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you [the faithful] worship the Father. (22) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such like people to worship him. (This woman ignorantly, but sincerely, worshipped as a Samaritan. Jesus's answer, however, applies to any and all the many forms of sectarian worship, including some ignorantly calling themselves "Christian." Jesus was born Messiah to the Jewish nation, making Christianity the fulfillment or result of Judaism [Gal 3:26-29])

Jesus said true Christians would, and do, worship in spirit and truth. What does that mean? **1**st They worship in spirit because Jesus said no one can come to him unless they are first drawn to him by his Father's spirit:

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

2nd After first being recognized and drawn to Jesus by God's spirit, [2 Chron 16:9] Christians worship in truth because Jesus came for the purpose of bringing truth:

<u>John 18:37</u> GNB ... I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me."

So... You are a Christian and being reborn by the spirit if you are among those following God's simple command to listen to his son. If you are truly hearing that command by God, it means, just as we read in John 6:44, you are first being drawn to Christ by God's spirit (being reborn by the spirit – John 3:3-7). That's how God is showing his strength in your behalf. [2 Chron 16:9] This message (Christ's words) may only benefit a small part of humanity. If you are a person of loving-kindness and truth and goodwill, however, the words of Jesus are for you. His words (quoted in this letter) can set you free of slavery to the false religions of this world, including pretend Christians:

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

Do you see how simple this really is? But again, here is your danger: If you have been led to membership or especially to become a titled leader (such as "Elder" or "Priest") in one of this world's <u>religious sects</u>, God's wrath is falling upon you! [Mat 23:1-12] Seek his forgiveness by breaking free; simply by listening to God's son! [John 8:31-32] Recognize and have deep affection for God's command to listen to Jesus. Then, don't ever feel (or certainly assert) God is not hearing your prayers, or, that He is not actively speaking to you.

<u>Job 33:13-14</u> GNB Why do you accuse God of never answering our [prayers] complaints? (14) Although God speaks again and again, no one pays attention to what he says.

As the Book of Job there explains, God speaks to each and every one of us (through Christ). The scriptures in this letter teach God is speaking to us individually; but to each one in the same way. God is using his son to speak. [Heb 1:1-2; Mat 17:5] The question for each of us: Are we really listening? Jesus would often ask his followers "have you never read," [Mat 21:15-17] or he would tell them, "it is written," [Mat 21:12-13] just before quoting from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) in support of what he was saying. [Luke 4:16-21] You should have the same faith in the teachings of God that Jesus himself displayed. Believe, then, in these Bible promises; promises which have never seen fulfillment before. Believe because... These promises by God are for our day:

Job 33:17-18 GNB God speaks [through Christ] to make them stop their sinning and to save them from becoming proud. (18) He will not let them be destroyed; he saves them from death itself.

Job 33:22-30 GNB they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid---one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." (25) Their bodies will grow young and strong again; (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life, and gives him the joy of living.

The tribulation Jesus promised is what we witness happening today. But, that is not "bad." The tribulation our disobedience has caused is being ended by the establishment of God's kingdom by Christ, which is transporting Jesus's followers to all the good promises of God: [Luke 7:20-23] Including the promises we just read from Chap. 33 of the Bible's Book of Job (quoted above). What you have heard in this letter is an overview of the "good news of the kingdom," which Jesus said in Mat 24:14 (quoted above) would be preached throughout the earth before/so the end could come. He also said in Luke 21:13, that period of time would provide our your opportunity to preach that "good news": Just by telling people what Jesus said (as quoted in this letter). [2 Cor 5:17-6:2] You do take responsibility to yourself by learning from Christ! (Deu 30:15-16) You also grant yourself the greatest gift ever known, or that ever could be: The opportunity for eternal life as God's friend. As Jesus himself put it:

John 12:46-50 ESV I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (47) If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (48) The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (49) For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--what to say and what to speak. (50) And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

When Jesus likened our day to that of Noah and Lot, he said it would be very bad:

Matthew 24:21-22 CEV This will be the worst time of suffering since the beginning of the world [will be a great tribulation], and nothing this terrible will ever happen again. (22) If God doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones [or the ones being chosen], he will make the time shorter [or, the days will be cut short].

Please note: Jesus there said the tribulation we have brought would be so terrible, if God didn't step in to speed it to its conclusion, no flesh would be left alive. He also said, because of the ones being chosen for survival, the days will be cut short. The shortening of that tribulation is what we should be looking forward to and hoping in "having faith" in. Jesus also said that tribulation, and certainly more so the shortening of it, would be a good thing:

<u>Luke 21:28 GW</u> "When these things begin to happen, stand with confidence [or lift your heads high]! The time when you will be set free [or of your deliverance] is near."

So... This is the time of deliverance for all people of goodwill! If you are a person being drawn to Christ by God's spirit, listening to Christ's words is your baptism and/or your rebirth by the spirit. [Luke 3:15-17; John 3:3-5 of 1-8] Your being reborn by spirit makes God your patriarch [Gal 3:26] and your faith in Christ is the sprinkling of the blood of God's lamb over your doorpost. [Ex 12:5-7 & 22-23] • To survive the tribulation of our day, we need to eat the flesh and drink the blood of God's son. That means: We realize we sustain our very lives on Jesus's words. [John 6:52-59] • Church membership can not help! Also, we must tell others this good news of the kingdom. [Luke 21:13; 2 Cor 5:17-6:2] Do you understand? By sharing the overview these few scriptures provide, with everyone you know, you can help speed the preaching of the good news of God's kingdom all through the earth. You thus help speed us to the end of all the pain and suffering. In that way, you help God warn and preserve the righteous from the death consuming the wicked. [Job 33:14~30] above, also Acts 3:19-21] You likely don't help Christ [Mat 12:30] by sending your money to some religious leader. Support Christ by sending a copy of this free chain letter (containing Jesus's words of life) to everyone you know. Continue the chain to spread and receive all the blessings promised by Christ! [Rev 22:18-20]

Peace to you and yours. While fully understanding the sayings of Jesus's don't bring peace to everyone, they do for each individual who is a lover of peace (to the "wheat" and/or to "people of good will"). [Luke 2:13-14; 3:15-17] All the others (the chaff – those refusing to follow Jesus) will have to be judged and dealt with by God and his Christ: [Rev 21:5-8]

Matthew 10:34-36 GNB "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; (36) your worst enemies will be the members of your own family. (Jesus's words reveal what is in each person's heart, either good or bad. [Mat 25:31-34; Luke 2:34-35] That revelation of hearts sets the wicked against the righteous and identifies the righteous to God. [Rom 2:28-29])

Luke 11:27-28 GNB When Jesus had said this, a woman spoke up from the crowd and said to him, "How happy is the woman who bore you and nursed you!" (28) But Jesus answered, "Rather, how happy are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" [Mark 3:31-35]

Jesus is now ruling in the midst of his enemies. [Ps 110:1-2] Some of them don't yet know, but they will be forced awake. Christ is riding forth to destroy the wicked using the sword (the words) of his mouth. [Rev 2:16] These verses reveal God's view of what we consider reality. You should have faith in Jesus to see it as God sees it. Follow Christ!

Joe M. Cummings, Christian (Never judge who is bad, but, join in a united prayer that all the wicked will be changed/gone!)

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