



## Where is Christ?

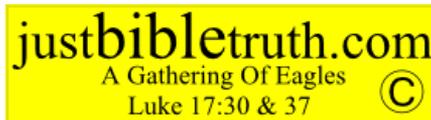
There are so-o-o many people trying to give you the answer to that question. Each group who claims to be Christian promises Christ is in their midst, and yet, their beliefs are all very different. You need to consider the scriptural prophecy by Jesus Christ as he warned about sectarian groups who would say they “have Christ,” but then express beliefs different from his (and from each other). Your need is to know where you can look for a reliable answer to the question:

Where is Christ?

This booklet is available at:

<http://www.justbibletruth.com/WhereIsChrist.pdf>

The booklet is available in .pdf file format and may be read using e-readers, or printed in booklet format using adobe reader (available on most computers). There are several other booklets available on the website [justbibletruth.com] by clicking the yellow tags on the opening page.



**Luke 17:30 & 37 [Bible in Basic English]** So will it be in the day of the revelation of the Son of man. **37** And they, answering him, said, Where, Lord? And he said to them, Where the body is, there will the eagles come together.

Jesus Christ gave a warning that is like a light house flashing over a rocky shore for every person who has faith in his teachings:

(Matthew 24:21-27 Modern World Translation [MWT]) <sup>21</sup> for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will ever occur again. <sup>22</sup> In fact, unless those days were cut short, no flesh would remain alive; but on account of the ones being chosen, those days will be cut short... <sup>23</sup> "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! The Christ is here,' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the ones being chosen. <sup>25</sup> Look! I have forewarned you. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. Please notice how Jesus follows his warning about the danger of false Christs and their misdirections, with a verse to comfort us. He provides what appears to be our protection against being deceived by "false Christs," as he goes on to add in Matthew 24, verse 28: *Wherever the carcass [or body] is, there the eagles will be gathered together.* What did Jesus mean by a gathering of Eagles, and why did he give us the warning about those who would be telling us the Christ is here or there? What, specifically, was he trying to protect us from? The answer to those questions will make clear how the different religious sects can be saying the same thing, and yet each one having a completely different faith. They each say the same by claiming you should join with their group, because they have the teachings of Christ; and yet, their religious doctrine and teachings are different. Understanding the stark difference between the varied religious sects, including those claiming Christianity, also reveals

for us the sacred secret<sup>1</sup> kept for 6000 years since the Garden of Eden.

Revealing and making clear the sacred secret,  
Jesus said:

Mark 4:10-11 Analytical Literal Translation (ALT) But when He came to be alone, those around Him, with the twelve, asked Him [about] the [illustration] allegory. (11) And He was saying to them, "To you it has been given to know the [sacred] secret<sup>2</sup> [or, mystery] of the kingdom of God, but to the ones outside, all the [things] are in [illustrations] allegories, Please note it was Jesus himself who explained what that sacred secret was, as he spent his life explaining what his Father wanted ~~them~~ us all to know.<sup>3 & (19) & (20)</sup> Jesus told his followers about the kingdom being

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<sup>1</sup> Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/ASecret.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Romans 11:25 Modern World Translation (MWT) <sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant of this sacred secret, in order for you not to be discreet in your own eyes: that a dulling of sensibilities has happened in part to Israel until the full number of people of the nations has come in,~

1 Corinthians 4:1 MWT <sup>1</sup> Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates of Christ and stewards of sacred secrets of God.~  
Ephesians 3:4-6 MWT <sup>4</sup> In the face of this you, when you read this, can realize the comprehension I have of the sacred secret of the Christ. <sup>5</sup> In other generations this [secret] was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by spirit, <sup>6</sup> namely, that people of the nations should be joint heirs and fellow members of the body and partakers with us of the promise in union with Christ Jesus through the good news.

<sup>3</sup> John 6:41-51 MWT <sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews began to murmur at him because he said: "I am the bread that came down from heaven"; <sup>42</sup> and they began saying: "Is this not Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it that now he says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> In answer Jesus said to them: "Stop murmuring among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him; and I will resurrect

established by his Father Jehovah with him as King.<sup>4</sup> The sacred secret, then, is the sum total of all the knowledge wrapped up in

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him in the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by Jehovah.'<sup>(4)</sup> Everyone that has heard from the Father and has learned comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that any man has seen the Father, except he who is from God; this one has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Most truly I say to YOU, He that believes has everlasting life. <sup>48</sup> "I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> YOUR forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness and yet died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and, for a fact, the bread that I shall give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world."~

John 6:35-40 MWT <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them: "I am the bread of life. He that comes to me will not get hungry at all, and he that exercises faith in me will never get thirsty at all. <sup>36</sup> But I have said to YOU, YOU have even seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everything the Father gives me will come to me, and the one that comes to me I will by no means drive away; <sup>38</sup> because I have come down from heaven to do, not my will, but the will of him that sent me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of him that sent me, that I should lose nothing out of all that he has given me but that I should resurrect it at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone that beholds the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him at the last day."

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 6:9-10 CEV [*Jesus said:*] You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. (10) Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven. You can see Jesus prayed in that verse for God to help us honor his name. He also prayed:

John 17:25-26a Analytical Literal Translation (ALT) "Righteous Father indeed the world did not know You. But I knew You, and these knew [*or, came to know*] that You sent Me. (26) "And I made Your name known to them, and I will make [*it*] known..."

The God of the Old Testament (OT) promised mankind for 4000 years before Jesus was born that He would produce a Messiah to deliver mankind from their sinful state. The God of that OT record is the Father of Jesus Christ, and He had his name recorded in those Hebrew Scriptures over 6000 times. It is יהוה. Since יהוה had his divine name put in the Bible 6000 times, it seem obvious

Jesus Christ and taught to us by him. That secret is only now, in these last days, being more clearly understood. It is revealed because of the assistance being given by the “helper” Jesus said he would leave us when he left.<sup>(37)</sup> Religious confusion about “where the Christ is” has become rampant in our day (added to or caused by all the different religious beliefs). Not to worry, Jesus prophetically exposed what we today see happening, and made it easy for us to see right through all their confusion. The source of confusion about where the Christ is stems from this: All religions (those claiming to be Christian) say Jesus is the answer, but then each one will direct you to their own organizational doctrine (teachings), and those doctrines are all very different. The differences between the sects highlight our need for great caution! Please note the additional warning Jesus gave:

**Matthew 7:15-24 Contemporary English Version (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. (21) Not everyone who calls me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey my Father in heaven will get in. (22) On the day of judgment many will call me their Lord. They will say, "We preached in your name, and in your name we forced out demons and worked many miracles." (23) But I will tell them, "I will have nothing to do with you! Get out of my sight, you evil people!" (24) Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. It really isn't hard to understand what Jesus was warning us about *if, and only if*, we reflect on what we see.

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he wanted us to know and use it. That's why Jesus said what he did in the above scriptures. The modern English pronunciation of that Hebrew name of God Almighty is Jehovah. Just as you should know and use the English pronunciation of God's son *Ye-shu'a'* (Jesus), you should know the Father's name as well.

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

Jesus said we can know false Christs by their fruits (by what they do). Simply ask yourself: Are any of these religious sects actually teaching us (you) to rely on the words of Christ; telling us to get to know him personally through reading and re-reading *his* words?<sup>(57)</sup> They will all claim they are teaching what Christ taught, of course. But are they? Or, are they rather teaching people who will submit to them to follow their sect and its organizational teachings? Recognizing false Christs really is just that simple! They are either teaching you Jesus's words from the Bible; or, they are keeping you buried in their sectarian religious writings. Most will claim it is one and the same thing. Studying religious writings of men, and studying the Bible inspired by God, are two very different activities. Studying the Bible makes you a Christian. Studying religious doctrines written by men makes you a Doeg.<sup>5</sup>

Religious groups surround us nearly without number. Many among them claim to be Christian.

There are Baptists, Mormons, Catholics, Protestants, Methodists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Amish, Mennonites, Alliance Churches, Calvinists and Presbyterians, to name just a few. Apart from asserting they are Christian, do you know what else these groups share all in common? They each one claim it is they alone who are God's *true* servants. Each will say they alone possess the sayings of life. Each one will assert your future hope of pleasing God rests in your becoming an approved member of their respective cult, and/or, in your learning the truth *from them*. Think about that. That is their fruit! They all have different doctrine or dogma, and yet they each assert it is necessary for you to express faith in their group to gain life. They can't all be right! It's easy to verify they have different doctrine, because that doctrine is what identifies them as being different one from the other. They each spend a great deal of time and effort highlighting what is different about

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<sup>5</sup> Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/BeingADoeg.html>

them, because those are the things they believe make them special. It is those differences that identify their respective sect. Those differences give rise to their different sectarian names.<sup>(69)</sup> Those things they take pride in as making them different from each other, are also the (imagined) proof they proudly hold up to verify why you should follow *them and no one else*. It certainly can't be the Bible's one teaching that makes them *different*, and yet the Bible is what they all claim to follow. Since each group claims to be following Christ Jesus and the Bible, **where do their differences come from? Jesus made that clear** as well, because he had the very same problem with the religious leaders when he was alive on the earth. As he went about teaching people the truth,<sup>6</sup> it was mostly religious leaders tried to interfere with his work.<sup>7</sup> They wanted people to continue to follow them (and their religion), rather than listen to Jesus.<sup>(10)</sup> Those religious leaders said Jesus was a Samaritan. (Samaritans were descendants of mixed nationality marriages. In the mind of those religious rulers, if Jesus had been a Samaritan, it would have meant he was a lower class person and not a true Jew.)<sup>8</sup> They further asserted Jesus had a demon.<sup>9</sup> They attacked Jesus because they hated the truth he brought them, and that because truth interfered with

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<sup>6</sup> Mark 10:1 Good News Bible (GNB) Then Jesus left that place, went to the province of Judea, and crossed the Jordan River. Crowds came flocking to him again, and he taught them, as he always did.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 21:23 God's Word (GW) Then Jesus went into the temple courtyard and began to teach. The chief priests and the leaders of the people came to him. They asked, "What gives you the right to do these things? Who told you that you could do this?"

<sup>8</sup> John 4:9 GW The Samaritan woman asked him, "How can a Jewish man like you ask a Samaritan woman like me for a drink of water?" (Jews, of course, don't associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>9</sup> John 8:48 GW The Jews replied to Jesus, "Aren't we right when we say that you're a Samaritan and that you're possessed by a demon?"

their religion.<sup>10</sup> On one such occasion, Jesus told them very plainly why they were so wrong: [Mark 12:24 Analytical Literal Translation \(ALT\)](#) And answering, Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are led astray [fig., are mistaken]: you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? The reason the religious leaders attacking Jesus were so lost as to truth was simply because they hadn't bothered to learn what the Bible taught. They thought and said they were Bible scholars, of course, but they were really followers of *their own doctrine* and Jesus exposed that ignorance. In another account, Jesus explained why they (and modern day religion even more so) didn't know what was in the Bible, as he said to them: ([Mark 7:1-9 MWT](#)) 7 Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes that had come from Jerusalem gathered about him. 2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat their meal with defiled hands, that is, unwashed ones, 3 for the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the tradition of the men of former times, 4 and, when back from market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves by sprinkling; and there are many other traditions that they have received to hold fast, baptisms of cups and pitchers and copper vessels; 5 so these Pharisees and scribes asked him: "Why is it

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<sup>10</sup> [Matthew 26:3-4 BBE](#) Then the chief priests and the rulers of the people came together in the house of the high priest, who was named Caiaphas. (4) And they made designs together to take Jesus by some trick, and put him to death.~

[John 11:43-48 GW](#) After Jesus had said this, he shouted as loudly as he could, "Lazarus, come out!" (44) The dead man came out. Strips of cloth were wound around his feet and hands, and his face was wrapped with a handkerchief. Jesus told them, "Free Lazarus, and let him go." (45) Many Jews who had visited Mary and had seen what Jesus had done believed in him. (46) But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. (47) So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council. They asked, "What are we doing? This man is performing a lot of miracles. (48) If we let him continue what he's doing, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will take away our position and our nation."

your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the tradition of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands?” 6 He said to them: “Isaiah aptly prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me.’<sup>11</sup> 7 It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men.’ 8 Letting go the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men.” 9 Further, he went on to say to them: “Adeptly you set aside the commandment of God in order to retain your tradition.”

That same disregard for the Bible by religion has only gotten worse in our day! Please understand this: What Jesus came to bring was Christianity, not religion. Christianity follows the Bible!

Religion is made clearly distinct from Christianity, then, by its traditions and doctrines.

All religious groups (even those who got their start as sincere Bible students) seem to start out with feeling a need to form rules and regulations for their group. Those rules go on to become their religious doctrine or dogma. Their religious leaders then govern their flock from that doctrine, using it to replace the Bible in policing their group's form of worship and conduct. They may have good intentions, but when they place organizational writings above the Bible in rendering decisions, they have turned away from Christ. It is easy to recognize when that is happening, simply because all such groups "study" from their organizational literature instead of the Bible. (They all study from the Bible a little bit, of course [so as to keep their “sheep” deceived]. Most

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<sup>11</sup> Isaiah 29:13 GNB The Lord said, "These people claim to worship me, but their words are meaningless, and their hearts are somewhere else. Their religion is nothing but human rules and traditions, which they have simply memorized.

don't even spend 10% of the time they join together in actually reading the Bible. Even the personal study of their members is “encouraged” toward being a study of their organizational literature rather than the Bible. They mix a few scriptures into those sectarian writings, so they can call them Bible study materials, or even spiritual food.) Every single one of these groups will say these things are not true about them. Most all of them will, however, admit it *is true* of the other groups we mentioned. Sincere Bible students who get caught up in any of these religious sects will at some point be faced with organizational doctrine which the group will assert all members must put faith in. Members must believe their sectarian teachings, they assert, simply because God's *true servants* (and they are convinced that is them alone, of course) say it is true. Each group will then brag about the “great works”<sup>(Mat 24:24 on pg 1)</sup> they have done, which they proclaim as proof of God’s blessing, and as confirmation they are God’s true organization; and as the reason you should have faith in them alone. (Some claim great works of building schools and hospitals, or boast of a great membership throughout the earth, or their great preaching or teaching work, or their great store of knowledge.) They always follow with their demand that members put faith in their organization doctrine, even if there is no direct and clear Bible support for some of those teachings. If members don't comply, they will be asked to leave and/or branded as wicked. They desire (and most will tolerate) only members who will join with them in such wicked judgments against “non-believers.” Such judgment has become so prevalent in our world, some of them will eagerly do physical harm (as well as emotional harm) to those who don’t agree with them. Then, there are other groups who will welcome members no matter what they believe. That is equally unacceptable, as such groups fail to warn their followers against what Jesus condemned.<sup>12</sup> How simple it would

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<sup>12</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 CEV (9) Don't you know that evil people won't have a share in the blessings of God's kingdom? Don't fool yourselves! No one who is immoral or worships idols or is

be if they could all just realize they are not the keepers of the membership of those who are loved by God. If you don't believe this is all true, print out this booklet (which has supporting scriptures as footnotes) and ask your religious group to discuss these scriptures in open forum, as a Bible study. Or, if that seems unnecessarily argumentative in your mind (and it should not),<sup>13</sup> ask them if they would join as a group in reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John through to the end; while being careful not to get caught up in foolish reasonings<sup>14</sup> about specific words or even the tense of those words, or about terms that don't even appear in the Bible. The goal should be obvious: to attempt to follow the theme of each Gospel, beginning to end. Most of these sects will have their own agenda that will preclude them from doing either! What could possibly be wrong with a request to study the Bible? Their response to your request to study the Bible will help you know if you are in the midst of sincere Bible students. (It may be hard to find groups you can follow, or who will follow you.<sup>(13)</sup> That is because true Christians are busy studying Christ's

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unfaithful in marriage or is a pervert or behaves like a homosexual (10) will share in God's kingdom. Neither will any thief or greedy person or drunkard or anyone who curses and cheats others. (11) Some of you used to be like that. But now the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit have washed you and made you holy and acceptable to God.

<sup>13</sup> Matthew 10:32-36 CEV If you tell others that you belong to me, I will tell my Father in heaven that you are my followers. (33) But if you reject me, I will tell my Father in heaven that you don't belong to me. (34) Don't think that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came to bring trouble, not peace. (35) I came to turn sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law. (36) Your worst enemies will be in your own family. Jesus did come to bring peace, of course, but not for those who hate the truth. Those choosing to make themselves wicked will be enemies of those who do love truth until the wicked are no more.<sup>(47)</sup>

<sup>14</sup> 2 Timothy 2:23 GNB But keep away from foolish and ignorant arguments; you know that they end up in quarrels.

teachings<sup>(Mat 24:28 on pg 1)</sup> and trying to show love<sup>15</sup> for others based on what they learn. All Christians are following Christ. They realize the only group they can be part of consists of the other individuals following that same course.)<sup>(13)</sup> Jesus started the only group that is ever going to matter and the Bible calls them Christians.<sup>(69)</sup> Down to this day, that remains the only group you can join that can be a benefit to you. If you are to follow Christ Jesus, you will find love from others who are doing the same. You must, however, be able to recognize the stark contrast between Christianity and religion.<sup>(13)</sup> All true Christians look to the Bible, with a focus on the teachings of Jesus Christ, as their one and only source for spiritual direction. The Bible is what they desire to talk with other people about. With a study of the Bible providing their

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<sup>15</sup> Romans 13:8-10 GNB Be under obligation to no one---the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. (9) The commandments, "Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else"---all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." (10) If you love others, you will never do them wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law.~

Matthew 22:34-40 ALT Now the Pharisees having heard that He silenced the Sadducees, were gathered together. (35) And one of them, a lawyer, questioned, testing Him, and saying, (36) "Teacher, which [*is*] the great commandment in the Law?" (37) Then Jesus said to him, "'You will love the LORD [*Jehovah*]<sup>(4)</sup> your God with your whole heart [*fig., your entire inner self*] and with your whole soul and with your whole understanding.'

[*Deut 6:4,5*]\* (38) "This is [*the*] first and great commandment.

(39) "But a second [*one is*] similar to it, 'You will love your

neighbor as yourself.' [*Lev 19:18*] (40) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."~

\*Deuteronomy 6:4-5 LITV Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah. (5) And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. This scripture was referenced by Jesus because it is one of the Laws given God's nation of people 1500 years before Christ. In his words, the most important one.

foundation,<sup>16</sup> they attempt to use Jesus's counsel as a mirror to pattern their own lives.<sup>17</sup> Sincere Christians realize from the Bible that Jesus did not teach them to develop rules and doctrine so as to distinguish themselves,<sup>(69)</sup> and/or, to set themselves apart as judges over others.<sup>18</sup> Christians take every opportunity to speak

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<sup>16</sup> Matthew 7:24-27 ALT "Therefore, every [one] who hears these words of Mine and does them, I will compare him to a wise man who built his house on the solid rock; (25) and the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and they beat against that house, and it did not fall, for it had been founded on the solid rock. (26) "And every [one] hearing these words of Mine and not doing them will be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand; (27) and the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and they beat against that house, and it fell, and its fall was great."

<sup>17</sup> James 1:22-25 Contemporary English Version (CEV) Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. (23) If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror (24) and forget what they look like as soon as they leave. (25) But you must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do, if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget.

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 23:2-12 Modern World Translation (MWT) <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. [For a time, Moses was a judge over God's people before Christ. Christ is the only judge since the day he presented himself as the Messiah.] <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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]. <sup>6</sup> They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by men. <sup>8</sup> But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. <sup>10</sup> Neither be called 'leaders,' for your Leader is one, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> But the greatest one among

with others about the simple and wonderful teachings contained in the Bible. They direct people to Jesus and they realize that is all they can give or do. It then rests with the individual hearer as to whether they want to build faith in what Jesus said. What we can do for others is exactly the same for each one of us. We do well to remember: It is actually God who is helping people. It is not up to us to choose who gets help. God starts the process of helping each person (who will allow themselves to be helped) as He looks all through the earth for those persons who love what is good.<sup>19</sup> As He finds each one of them, He directs them individually to the teachings of his son. Jesus, in turn, helps us to know and have a relationship with his father.<sup>20</sup> That help comes to each person

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you must be your minister. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

<sup>19</sup> 2 Chronicles 16:9a MWT Jehovah's eyes scan the whole world to find those whose hearts are committed to him, so as to strengthen and support them...

<sup>20</sup> John 6:44a GNB People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me...~

Matthew 11:25-27 CEV At that moment Jesus said: My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. (26) Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. (27) My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too.~

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."~

Acts 2:32-36 GNB God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact. (33) He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and has received from him the Holy Spirit, as he had promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us. (34) For it was not David who went up into heaven; rather he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: Sit here at my right side (35) until I put your enemies as a footstool under your feet." (36) "All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure

based on their faith in the teachings by Jesus. Only those people who are looking, because God has seen them and is drawing them to the teachings of his son, can be helped by any of us.<sup>(3)</sup> Even then, the *only* help we can provide is to help them realize their own part in that process (by directing each to Jesus's teachings).<sup>(19)</sup> & <sup>(20)</sup> We should take every opportunity to support our God by helping others learn what Jesus taught. We can never know which persons are looking today, or will be looking tomorrow. That is God's work. We need to encourage every person we can! If they're not searching for God today, they might be tomorrow and will remember what we told them. In addition, however, as for you and I, our first responsibility is to be certain our own faith is built on what Jesus actually said.<sup>21</sup> We obviously can't help other people know what we do not. We must start with knowing what Jesus believed, in order to have any hope of expressing faith in his teachings for our own benefit, or to benefit others. Can you now see, that's the problem with all these religions? They are all following organizational religious doctrine rather than Jesus's teachings, and because of that, that's the only teaching they have to pass on to others.<sup>(Mark 7:8-9 on page 7)</sup> & <sup>(18)</sup> There is no club among men you can join to grant God's approval.<sup>22</sup> As you have seen in the scriptures above, Jesus clearly warned of the danger posed by sects of men who believe or assert they can grant you God's approval. All religions are anxious to claim they can provide that service for you, through a membership in their group, or through your association with them. *Please realize:* they have no authority to grant you God's approval!<sup>(Mat 24:23-26 on pg 1)</sup>

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that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made Lord and Messiah!"

<sup>21</sup> **Philippians 2:12 GNB** So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation,

<sup>22</sup> **John 17:3 GNB** And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent.

## Do you now see the meaning and the importance of Jesus's warning about people who assert they know "where the Christ is"?

What these groups are saying, each one in their own way is, "Here is the Christ," or, "We have Christ's spirit and you must join us to gain an understanding of his teachings."<sup>(Mat 24:21-27 on pg 1)</sup> Don't be deceived by such religionists! The Bible is simple and clear, and it was written for you. It was written as a personal message from God for each and every one of us.<sup>(68)</sup>

To very concisely outline the Bible, the Old Testament (OT) explains how mankind sinned (throwing away all hope of life), and how God immediately promised to help those who wanted a chance for life (the life He intended us to have). God said (in Genesis 3:15)<sup>23</sup> He would raise up a seed from the woman who would crush Satan's head. From Genesis 3:15 forward (or from about page 3 of the Bible forward), the OT expands upon and clarifies that promise (prophecy) by God, further identifying the seed of the woman who would finally present himself (4000 years later) as the coming Christ or Messiah. The OT provides many other details to identify that promised savior when he arrived. Following the OT, in the four short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus introduces the New Testament (NT) by presenting himself as that promised Messiah. The rest of the NT (following the Gospels) is the recorded efforts of Jesus followers, as they tried to put his teachings into practice in their own lives (along with some additional prophecy).

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<sup>23</sup> Genesis 3:15 GNB I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel."

What Jesus came to teach us, then, was recorded 2000 years ago in the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. **Please realize the point of this material: That is where the Christ is!**

The teachings Jesus brought to the earth were (and are) like lightening that has lit up the whole earth for centuries. This year is 2015 on our world calendar system. The reason it is 2015 is *because* Jesus was born 2015 years ago. Since the time Jesus's teachings were recorded, the Earth has become filled with (and illuminated by) Bibles containing those teachings. His teachings are available in most languages that exist. It seems anyone alive in the earth today who wants to learn what Jesus taught can somehow find a Bible, or has been exposed to one at some point in their life.

That is where the Christ is, and it is the only place he is: in the Bible recordings of his teachings.

(Christ is, of course, alive and seated in heaven at the right hand of God.<sup>24</sup> Knowing Jesus is seated in heaven does not change where he is with regard to our needs. Jesus is not speaking to us from heaven. With regard to our gaining knowledge of his teachings, Jesus exists in the four Gospel accounts he left us. That part of his work was finished when the Bible was recorded. He doesn't need to keep doing it over and over.) Jesus's teachings were inspired by God to be penned by Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Apostle John. Don't be fooled by someone telling you your salvation is in some way tied to them or to their group. None of these sects possess the Christ, and even though they assure you

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<sup>24</sup> [Ephesians 1:20 CEV](#) when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven.

they can, none of them can replace him in your life. Their approval and blessing means nothing at best. As Jesus warned in Matthew 24:24,<sup>(on pg 1)</sup> they all perform great signs by gathering huge memberships and constructing great edifices to their own organizational glory. They all construct elaborate doctrine and tradition which they can trace all the way back to... They all appear very real and even glamorous, and tend to command respect if, and only if, you are ignorant of what they really are! All the members of each of these vainglorious sects insist Christ is in their midst and allege that is where *you* need to be. He isn't! You don't! You are responsible to know that because Jesus warned you about them. The simple fact is: the teachings Jesus came to bring us exist only in the Bible, and that Bible is your one and only reliable source of truth. Let us say again: If you join with any of these groups, *you make yourself responsible*. You make yourself responsible because Jesus forewarned you!<sup>(Mat 24:24 & 25 on pg 1)</sup> Protecting you against being misled by them is a part of what the Bible is for.

What though, about that comforting statement by Jesus with reference to a gathering of eagles?<sup>(Mat 24:28 on pg 1)</sup>

What Jesus gave his very life to bring us, his teachings,<sup>25</sup> can in some sense be thought of as his remains; or as the body of Christ.<sup>26</sup> (Some people reading this are about now saying: "Oh no,

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<sup>25</sup> John 18:37b CEV ...Jesus told him. "I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice."

<sup>26</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:16b-17 BBE (16) ...and is not the broken bread a taking part in the body of Christ? (17) Because we, being a number of persons, are one bread, we are one body: for we all take part in the one bread.~

John 6:48-51 BBE I am the bread of life. (49) Your fathers took the manna in the waste land--and they are dead. (50) The bread

Christ came to save your soul." That is true, of course. Your salvation is, however, by means of your faith in his teachings.) Looking to Jesus as our only reliable source of truth can help us understand<sup>27</sup> the illustration he gave immediately following his warning about false prophets who would desire to tell us "the Christ is in their midst." His illustration helps us build faith to understand where our protection really does exist. When Jesus said: (Mat 24:28) "Wherever the carcass is (or, the remains of Jesus are), there the eagles will be gathered together," he was helping us understand: Everyone who is clear sighted (like an Eagle) in seeking God, is gathered around Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to feed on the words (or works, or earthly remains) of God's son.<sup>28</sup> True Christians have not been tricked into following

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which comes from heaven is such bread that a man may take it for food and never see death. (51) I am the living bread which has come from heaven: if any man takes this bread for food he will have life for ever: and more than this, the bread which I will give is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world.~

John 17:3 ALT "Now this is eternal life: that they shall be knowing You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You sent.~

John 18:37 BBE Then Pilate said to him, Are you then a king? Jesus made answer, You say that I am a king. For this purpose was I given birth, and for this purpose I came into the world, that I might give witness to what is true. Every lover of what is true gives ear to my voice.

<sup>27</sup> Romans 15:5 ALT Now [*may*] the God of patient endurance and of encouragement give to you to be having the same mind [*or, to be like-minded*] among one another, according to Christ Jesus,~ Proverbs 14:6 MWT The hater of authority searches for wisdom, but does not get it; but knowledge comes easily to the open-minded [*or understanding*] person.

<sup>28</sup> Ephesians 3:5-7 CEV No one knew about this mystery until God's Spirit told it to his holy apostles and prophets. (6) And the mystery is this: Because of Christ Jesus, the good news has given the Gentiles a share in the promises that God gave to the Jews. God has also let the Gentiles be part of the same body. (7) God treated me with kindness. His power worked in me, and it became my job to spread the good news.

sects of men, who have in turn become so arrogant as to assert and assume salvation rests with them and in their sectarian memberships. All such groups are actually trying to replace Christ in your life by telling you Jesus is with them.

Make no mistake: It is the responsibility of every person alive to manifest personal faith<sup>29</sup> in the son of God. That is God's provision for life.<sup>30</sup> We must each and every one become noble minded<sup>31</sup> by being certain our own faith is built on what Jesus actually taught, and not on what some religious sect has told you he taught. **We don't have to know everything** there is to know about Jesus. **None of us do.** We better each and every one, however, **be**

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<sup>29</sup> Matthew 17:19-20 CEV Later the disciples went to Jesus in private and asked him, "Why couldn't we force out the demon?" (20) Jesus replied: It is because you don't have enough faith! But I can promise you this. If you had faith no larger than a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you.~

Matthew 15:28 GNB So Jesus answered her, "You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you." And at that very moment her daughter was healed.

<sup>30</sup> 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."~

Matthew 21:42 ALT Jesus says to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'A stone which the ones building rejected, this [one] has become [the] head of a corner; this happened from the LORD [Jehovah], and it is marvelous in our eyes?' [Psalm 118:22,23]\*~

Mark 12:10 CEV You surely know that the Scriptures say, 'The stone that the builders tossed aside is now the most important stone of all.~

\* Psalms 118:22-23 Darby (1890) *The stone which the builders rejected hath become the head of the corner: (23) This is of Jehovah; it is wonderful in our eyes.*

<sup>31</sup> Acts 17:11 Darby And these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, receiving the word with all readiness of mind, daily searching the scriptures if these things were so.

**certain that what we do build faith in actually comes from Jesus Christ's own lips.** It will be of no value to build faith in the reasonings and traditions of men, no matter how well-meaning some of them might be. Knowledge of Jesus's teachings, and then faith in him based on that accurate knowledge, amounts to your personal gift of life from God! Jesus is still, down to this very day, talking to you from the Bible.<sup>(51)</sup> Read his words in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. All four books combined make up only about 200 pages. How simple could it really be!<sup>32</sup>

To have a faith that can preserve you alive,<sup>(54)</sup> you must start with some understanding of the Bible. Following are some points you should know and be able to keep in mind, all at once, so they will form one mental picture for you. These points should form one thought or understanding of the Bible theme.

## What follows are **Stepping Stones to Christ**, or, a brief foundation of faith:

(Supporting scriptures are included in this booklet. You should be familiar enough with the Bible to have faith in these few points without referring back to the

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<sup>32</sup> **Matthew 11:25-30 GNB** At that time Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. (26) Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen. (27) "My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (28) "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. (30) For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."~

**Micah 6:8 Darby** He hath shewn thee, O man, what is good: and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with thy God?

scriptures. This overview forms a basis of faith that should be or become a part of who you are.)

1. God promised He would raise up a seed of the woman (Eve) to crush Satan's head (that is the first prophecy identifying the coming Christ).<sup>(23)</sup>
2. Jehovah<sup>(4)</sup> used angels, prophets, judges, kings, and finally priests to deal and communicate with mankind for the 4000 years from Adam to Christ.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Hebrews 1:1-2 GW In the past God spoke to our ancestors at many different times and in many different ways through the prophets. (2) In these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. God made his Son responsible for everything. His Son is the one through whom God made the universe.~  
Luke 1:68-70 Coverdale Blessed be ye LORDE [*Jehovah*]<sup>(4)</sup> God of Israel, for he hath vysited and redemed his people. (69) And hath set vp an horne of saluacion in the house of his seruaunt Dauid. (70) Euen as he promysed afore tyme, by the mouth of his holy prophetes.

3. Following that 4000 years, and 2000 years ago, Christ presented himself as the promised Messiah.<sup>34</sup> Jesus had miraculous power to prove he was God's son.<sup>35</sup>
4. He gave those same powers to his early followers so they could join in proving who he was.<sup>36</sup>
5. Though his early followers had previously had gifts of holy spirit (to perform miracles), Jesus told them when he was going away

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<sup>34</sup> Hebrews 10:6-10 MKJV In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You have had no pleasure. (7) Then I said, Lo, I come (*in the volume of the Book it is written of Me*) to do Your will, O God." (8) Above, when He said, "Sacrifice and offering, and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin You did not desire, neither did You have pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), (9) then He said, "Lo, I come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first so that He may establish the second. (10) By this will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.~

Psalms 40:7-10 MKJV Then I said, Lo, I come, in the volume of the Book *it is written of Me*; (8) I delight to do Your will, O My God; and Your Law *is within My heart*. (9) I have preached righteousness in the great congregation; lo, I have not kept back My lips, O Jehovah, You know. (10) I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not hidden Your loving-kindness and Your truth from the great congregation.

<sup>35</sup> John 5:36-38 GNB But I have a witness on my behalf which is even greater than the witness that John gave: what I do, that is, the deeds my Father gave me to do, these speak on my behalf and show that the Father has sent me. (37) And the Father, who sent me, also testifies on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his face, (38) and you do not keep his message in your hearts, for you do not believe in the one whom he sent.

<sup>36</sup> Luke 9:1-2 & 6 GNB Jesus called the twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. (2) Then he sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick... (6) The disciples left and traveled through all the villages, preaching the Good News and healing people everywhere.

that he would leave them a helper, a different spirit, the “spirit of truth.”<sup>37</sup>

6. Jesus said by following in his teachings, each of his followers would worship the Father with spirit and truth.<sup>38</sup> That was the spirit of truth he would send them, and the truth they learned with the spirit’s assistance.
7. Early followers retained (for a time) the earlier “gifts” of Holy Spirit to perform miracles, so they could continue to prove Jesus had been who he claimed.<sup>39</sup> (Those gifts of healing etc., were different from the “helper” or “spirit of truth” which Jesus was leaving each of his followers when he departed.)

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<sup>37</sup> John 14:15-17 GNB "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit [of truth], who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

<sup>38</sup> John 4:23 CEV But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him.

<sup>39</sup> Acts 20:7-12 GNB On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal. Paul spoke to the people and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day. (8) Many lamps were burning in the upstairs room where we were meeting. (9) A young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, and as Paul kept on talking, Eutychus got sleepier and sleepier, until he finally went sound asleep and fell from the third story to the ground. When they picked him up, he was dead. (10) But Paul went down and threw himself on him and hugged him. "Don't worry," he said, "he is still alive!" (11) Then he went back upstairs, broke bread, and ate. After talking with them for a long time, even until sunrise, Paul left. (12) They took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

8. The Bible teaches Jesus's earlier gifts of holy spirit would disappear,<sup>40</sup> once they had served their purpose in leading to faith in Christ.<sup>41</sup>
9. Jesus said the "spirit helper" he would send, however, would remain forever;<sup>42</sup> calling to our mind what Jesus had taught<sup>43</sup> (that would happen based, of course, on our first spending time learning what he taught – **by reading over many times the Gospel accounts**). That spirit helper is responsible for the teachings of Jesus being more fully understood in our day, as it is time for his return in kingdom power. It is responsible for the sacred secret being revealed in our day.<sup>(1)</sup> You can gain that "spirit of truth" for yourself, by simple patterning or conditioning your mind. You do that by directing your thoughts over the teachings of Christ. His words are alive and *exert* power<sup>(51)</sup> to help you become the person God wants you to be (assuming, of course, that is also the person *you* want to be). Forcing your mind over the teachings of Jesus (many times)

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<sup>40</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:8 GW Love never [*fails*] comes to an end. There is the gift of speaking what God has revealed [*prophecy*], but it will no longer be used. There is the gift of speaking in other languages [*tongues*], but it will stop by itself. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will no longer be used.

<sup>41</sup> Galatians 3:23-25 GW We were kept under control by Moses' laws until this faith came. We were under their control until this faith which was about to come would be revealed. (24) Before Christ came, Moses' laws served as our guardian [*or tutor leading to Christ*]. Christ came so that we could receive God's approval by faith. (25) But now that this faith has come, we are no longer under the control of a guardian.

<sup>42</sup> 2 John 1:1-2 GNB From the Elder--- To the dear Lady and to her children, whom I truly love. And I am not the only one, but all who know the truth love you, (2) because the truth remains in us and will be with us forever.<sup>(37)</sup>

<sup>43</sup> John 14:25-26 GNB "I have told you this while I am still with you. (26) The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

sorts it and organizes it. Jesus's teachings provide a healing process for your thinking ability.<sup>44</sup>

10. Jesus said: "don't think I came to judge the world. I came not to judge but to save the world. Those who disregard my sayings have one to judge them. The word I have spoken is what will judge them in the last day."<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 MWT (14) For the natural man is not able to take in the things of the Spirit of God: for they seem foolish to him, and he is not able to have knowledge of them, because such knowledge comes only through the Spirit of Truth. (15) But he who has the Spirit, though able to discern all things, is himself judged by no one. (16) For who has knowledge of the mind of Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> so as to be his teacher? But we have the mind of Christ.

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

11. We are each one of us, then, judging ourselves for life<sup>46</sup> (or not)<sup>47</sup> by our response to the teachings of Jesus. Just as he said,

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<sup>46</sup> Ezekiel 9:1-6 GNB Then I heard God shout, "Come here, you men who are going to punish the city. Bring your weapons with you." (2) At once six men came from the outer north gate of the Temple, each one carrying a weapon. With them was a man dressed in linen clothes, carrying something to write with. They all came and stood by the bronze altar. (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 [*Jehovah*]<sup>(4)</sup> called to the man dressed in linen, (4) "Go through the whole city of Jerusalem [*The city of Jerusalem (with its temple) represented Jehovah's connection to mankind during Ezekiel's day. His son Christ Jesus is our connection with God today.*] 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. ~ Matthew 25:31-34 GNB "When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, (32) and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. (34) Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world.

<sup>47</sup> Psalms 37:9-18 MWT Evildoers will be cut off from the earth, but those who wait with hope in Jehovah will inherit the land. (10) In a little while wicked people will vanish. Then you can carefully examine where they were, but there will be no trace of them. (11) It is the oppressed people who will inherit the land, and will enjoy unlimited peace. (12) The wicked person plots against a righteous one and grits his teeth at him. (13) Jehovah laughs at him because he has seen that his time is coming. (14) Wicked people pull out their swords and bend their bows to kill

his words are our judge.<sup>(45)</sup> Our faith in those teachings amount to the ark of salvation for our day.<sup>48</sup> That presupposes, again, we must make ourselves very familiar with what he taught. As Jesus said, then, “where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”<sup>49</sup> His remains, or his body, represent the wealth of teachings he left us, and it is food for those who love him. We need to spend time meditating on what Jesus Christ taught.<sup>(50)</sup> Not on what people say he taught, mind you, but

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oppressed and needy people, to slaughter those who are decent. (15) But their own swords will pierce their hearts, and their bows will be broken. (16) The little that the righteous person has is better than the wealth of many wicked people. (17) The arms of wicked people will be broken, but Jehovah continues to support righteous people. (18) Jehovah knows the daily struggles of innocent people. Their inheritance will last forever.

<sup>48</sup> Matthew 24:36-39 GNB "No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come---neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. (37) The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. (38) In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; (39) yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes.

<sup>49</sup> Luke 17:26-30 MWT <sup>26</sup> Moreover, just as it occurred in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of man: <sup>27</sup> they were eating, they were drinking, men were marrying, women were being given in marriage, until that day when Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. <sup>29</sup> But on the day that Lot came out of Sodom it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed them all.

<sup>30</sup> The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed.~

Luke 17:37 MWT <sup>37</sup> So in response they said to him: “Where, Lord?” He said to them: “Where the body is, there also the eagles will be gathered together.” [The body or remains of Christ are his teachings. His wise and farsighted followers are gathered around those teachings.]

reading for our-own-self what he taught (as recorded in the Gospels). Not reading them once, but many times. As Jesus said: **“If you remain in my teachings** you are really my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”<sup>50</sup>

12. These few points form a simple overview of the entire Bible. You need to grasp them all in mind at once as a basis for your faith (by being familiar with the scriptures that support them – not chapter and verse, maybe, but what the Bible says. If you know what the Bible says, you can use a concordance to find chapter and verse.) If you grasp this scriptural foundation in mind, everything else in the Bible will make perfect sense. It will also help you recognize what is not true. If someone says, for example, the gifts of the spirit (such as healing and raising the dead) are still active, or that the Law and the Priesthood are still in effect,<sup>51</sup> you can know that makes no sense. They served their purpose in leading us to Christ.<sup>(41)</sup> Jesus finished his teaching work on earth and is now present to talk with each and every

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<sup>50</sup> John 8:31b-32 ALT ..."If you remain in My word, truly you are My disciples. (32) "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!"

<sup>51</sup> Hebrews 4:12-16 GNB The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart. (13) There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes. And it is to him that we must all give an account of ourselves. (14) Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God---Jesus, the Son of God. (15) Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. (16) Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.

one of us through the Gospels. If we are to live forever,<sup>52</sup> we will live by our faith<sup>53</sup> in those teachings.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> John 11:23-26 MWT Jesus said to her, Your brother will come to life again. (24) Martha said to him, I am certain that he will come to life again in the resurrection on the last day. (24) Jesus said to her, I myself am that resurrection and hope of life; he who has faith in me will have life even if he dies; (26) And no one who is alive in that day and has faith in me will ever see death. Do you believe this?~

Job 33:21-30 GNB Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; (22) they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel [Jesus, actually] 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 [*by sharing the teachings of Jesus with them*], and gives him the joy of living.

<sup>53</sup> 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 9:29 CEV Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, you will be healed."~

Matthew 15:28 GNB So Jesus answered her, "You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you." And at that very moment her daughter was healed.~

Mark 9:22b-23 BBE ...but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us, and give us help. (23) And Jesus said to him, If you are able! All things are possible to him who has faith.~

Luke 7:2-10 GNB A Roman officer there had a servant who was very dear to him; the man was sick and about to die. (3) When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. (4) They came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, "This man really deserves your help. (5) He

One person with considerable Bible knowledge, after hearing the points just enumerated along with the suggestion they should remember them all at once as a basis or foundation of faith, asked that they be written down as an aid to remember them. So... Here they are. The problems with that are twofold (at least). First, Christ did it much better **in the Gospels**. Secondly, all we can write or pass along is what we learned from Christ. He did it perfectly while we do it imperfectly. Additionally, you get it second hand from us. In an attempt to keep ourselves different from all these religious sects being exposed by Jesus, we continually direct you to the teachings of Jesus himself, recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Use our writings (justbibletruth.com) only as a pointer toward that goal. Your personal responsibility, and your greatest opportunity and joy of life, is to build faith in the teachings of God's son. You can't do

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loves our people and he himself built a synagogue for us." (6) So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the officer sent friends to tell him, "Sir, don't trouble yourself. I do not deserve to have you come into my house, (7) neither do I consider myself worthy to come to you in person. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. (8) I, too, am a man placed under the authority of superior officers, and I have soldiers under me. I order this one, 'Go!' and he goes; I order that one, 'Come!' and he comes; and I order my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." (9) Jesus was surprised when he heard this; he turned around and said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, I have never found faith like this, not even in Israel!" (10) The messengers went back to the officer's house and found his servant well.

<sup>54</sup> Hebrews 10:39 ALT But we are not of [*the ones*] shrinking back to destruction, but of [*the ones having*] faith to [*the*] preserving of [*the*] soul.~

1 Peter 3:20b ALT ...when the patience of God kept eagerly waiting in [*the*] days of Noah, while an ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water;

that reading what men have written - and yes - that does include us.

The same person who asked that these points be written down, after having attended a meeting as a member of one of the sects mentioned above, was excited to share what had been learned at that meeting. They learned about the need to keep their meeting place clean, and the need to teach others to do the same (because some of their new converts had never had familial structure to teach them such things). There is certainly nothing wrong with teaching people to be clean. It just isn't high among the very important teachings Jesus came to bring us.<sup>(48)</sup> The previous excitement this individual had felt (excitement about grasping-in-mind a forever-to-keep mental picture of the Bible theme) had been swept away,<sup>55</sup> replaced in their mind by organizational doctrine and dogma. That is the same impact all these religious sects have on the people they proselytize. They misdirect those they can influence<sup>56</sup> from being concerned with sitting at Jesus's feet, to being concerned with their organizational dogma and having pride in their respective sect.<sup>(57)</sup> They may mean well, but the results they have in fragmenting people and turning them away from Jesus are terrible.

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<sup>55</sup> [Mark 4:3-9 GW "Listen! A farmer went to plant seed. \(4\) Some seeds were planted along the road, and birds came and devoured them. \(5\) Other seeds were planted on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil. The plants sprouted quickly because the soil wasn't deep. \(6\) When the sun came up, they were scorched. They didn't have any roots, so they withered. \(7\) Other seeds were planted among thornbushes. The thornbushes grew up and choked them, and they didn't produce anything. \(8\) But other seeds were planted on good ground, sprouted, and produced thirty, sixty, or one hundred times as much as was planted." \(9\) He added, "Let the person who has ears listen!"](#)

<sup>56</sup> [Matthew 23:15 YLT `Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye go round the sea and the dry land to make one proselyte, and whenever it may happen--ye make him a son of gehenna twofold more than yourselves.](#)

The religious leaders of all these different factions kiss babies and talk about helping the poor and tackling world problems, with never a suggestion that each individual actually sit at the feet of Jesus and learn<sup>57</sup> (by reading what he taught). One well known religious leader recently gained popularity so as to have the eyes of much of the world upon him. He lives a life refusing many of the luxuries other men of his office have enjoyed. It certainly makes him seem sincere, humble and well meaning. Recently, he summoned a woman from Kentucky (USA) to meet with him. It was the woman who has become famous for refusing to grant marriage licenses to homosexual couples (believing only heterosexual marriages are acceptable to God). She traveled a long way, and in a private meeting with her, he thanked her for her strength and faith. That action caused some others to get angry, however, so he next summoned two of his homosexual friends, seemingly to also support their point of view. **Think how much good that sectarian religious leader** (and all the others similar to him) **could have done, with so many eyes upon him, if he had just read a few scriptures to them** (from a modern English Bible when addressing his English speaking audience). Then, all of those people looking to him and hearing what he had to say would be getting not his opinion, but could each be receiving the same scriptural thoughts of God.<sup>(68)</sup> How unifying (for righteous people)! In the midst of the attacks against him over homosexuality, for example, he could read:

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<sup>57</sup> Luke 10:38-42 GW As they were traveling along, Jesus went into a village. A woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. (39) She had a sister named Mary. Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to him talk. (40) But Martha was upset about all the work she had to do. So she asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work all by myself? Tell her to help me." (41) The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You worry and fuss about a lot of things. (42) There's only one thing you need. Mary has made the right choice, and that one thing will not be taken away from her."

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 GW** (9) Don't you know that wicked people won't inherit the kingdom of God? Stop deceiving yourselves! People who continue to commit sexual sins, who worship false gods, those who commit adultery, homosexuals, (10) or thieves, those who are greedy or drunk, who use abusive language, or who rob people will not inherit the kingdom of God. (11) That's what some of you were! But you have been washed and made holy, and you have received God's approval in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

**1 Timothy 1:9-10 CEV** We also understand that it [*the Law code*] wasn't given to control people who please God, but to control lawbreakers, criminals, godless people, and sinners. It is for wicked and evil people, and for murderers, who would even kill their own parents. (10) The Law was written for people who are sexual perverts or who live as homosexuals or are kidnappers or liars or won't tell the truth in court. It is for anything else that opposes the correct teaching

**Romans 1:24-32 CEV** So God let these people go their own way. They did what they wanted to do, and their filthy thoughts made them do shameful things with their bodies. (25) They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshiped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised forever. Amen. (26) God let them follow their own evil desires. Women no longer wanted to have sex in a natural way, and they did things with each other that were not natural. (27) Men behaved in the same way. They stopped wanting to have sex with women and had strong desires for sex with other men. They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds. (28) Since these people refused even to think about God, he let their useless minds rule over them. That's why they do all sorts of indecent things. (29) They are evil, wicked, and greedy, as well as mean in every possible way. They want what others have, and they murder, argue, cheat, and are hard to get along with. They gossip, (30) say cruel things about others, and hate God. They are proud, conceited, and boastful, always thinking up new ways to do evil. These people don't respect their parents. (31) They are stupid, unreliable, and don't have any love or pity for others. (32) They know God has said that anyone who acts this way deserves to die. But they keep on doing evil things, and they even encourage others to do them.

That very well-known religious leader could have followed reading those scriptures by pointing out to *everyone*, the Bible didn't pick out homosexual behavior alone. Humble people should understand there is plenty for everyone to work on in those scriptures. Liars, thieves, gossipers, drug users, and adulterers (among others) are mentioned, right along with homosexuals as being people who won't enter God's kingdom. This leader could also point out our heavenly Father cares about each one of us, and He only tells us not to do what will cause us harm, or harm others.<sup>58</sup> **Seeking after the things God condemns will not ever make you happy.** If they would, He wouldn't condemn them! Did you notice above, verse 32 of the first chapter of Romans said those considered wicked include the ones who "even encourage others to do" the things listed. Failing to teach what Jesus condemns, when you yourself know better, might put you in among those persons who "even encourage others" to do those things condemned by God. The solution for this popular religious leader, and for us all, is to learn what Jesus taught and then to pass along Jesus's teachings to others. Not our opinion, and not the opinion of our sect.<sup>(70)</sup> If you are going to live by traditions and teachings of men, you should stop calling yourself Christian. That is the one and only name inspired to be called *upon the followers* of Jesus Christ.<sup>(69)</sup> If you are going to live with faith in Jesus's teachings, then, don't tell everyone whatever they are doing is alright. Don't pass along to them what other men say.<sup>(70)</sup> Just tell them what Jesus said! We all have the same choice to make about whether we will follow Jesus, and we each have our own

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<sup>58</sup> [Isaiah 48:17-18 CEV with this message: People of Israel, I am the holy LORD \[Jehovah\]<sup>\(4\)</sup> God, the one who rescues you. For your own good, I teach you, and I lead you along the right path. \(18\) How I wish that you had obeyed my commands! Your success and good fortune would then have overflowed like a flooding river.](#)

problems we can be working on<sup>59</sup> as we attempt to do so. We should not be judging and condemning others.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> 1 John 1:8-10 GNB If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. (9) But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us.

<sup>60</sup> Romans 14:1-13a MWT Welcome the person having weaknesses in their faith, but not to make decisions on inward questionings. <sup>2</sup> One person has faith to eat everything, but the person who is weak eats vegetables. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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<sup>(4)</sup> can make him stand. <sup>5</sup> One person judges one day as above another; another judges one day as all others; let each one be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup> He who observes the day observes it to Jehovah.<sup>(4)</sup> Also, he who eats, eats to Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat does not eat to Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> and yet gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> None of us, in fact, lives with regard to himself only, and no one dies with regard to himself only; <sup>8</sup> for both if we live, we live to Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> and if we die, we die to Jehovah.<sup>(4)</sup> Therefore both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah.<sup>(4)</sup> <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written: (\* Isa 45:22-25) “As I live,” says Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> “to me every knee will bend down, and every tongue will make open acknowledgment to God.” <sup>12</sup> So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not be judging one another. . . ~

\*Isaiah 45:22-25 LITV Turn to Me and be saved, all you at the ends of the earth; for I *am* God, and there is no other. (23) I have sworn by Myself, the Word (*Jesus is referred to as the word of God - Revelation 19:11-13 GW I saw heaven standing open. There was a white horse, and its rider is named Faithful and True. With integrity he judges and wages war. (12) His eyes are flames of fire. On his head are many crowns. He has a name written on*

One person asked if God was going to just sit Catholics and Jehovah's Witnesses<sup>61</sup> (and all the others – the names of any of them could be used interchangeably here) down and tell them they *have* to get along. The initial response was that it wasn't going to be like that. Individuals (Christians) are building faith for the preservation of life<sup>(54)</sup> based on what they personally learn from Christ, and they are demonstrating whether his teachings are important to them by their love for God and others.<sup>62</sup> Those

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*him, but only he knows what it is. (13) He wears clothes dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.)* has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. (24) He shall say, Only in Jehovah do I have righteousness and strength; to Him he comes; and they are ashamed, all who are angry with Him. (25) In Jehovah all of the seed of Israel (all Christians are adopted as children of Israel – Galatians 3:29 CEV So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family, and you will be given what God has promised.) shall be justified, and shall glory.~  
1 Corinthians 15:22-28 CEV (22) Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring life to all of us. (23) But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. (24) Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come, and he will give the kingdom to God the Father. (25) Christ will rule until he puts all his enemies under his power, (26) and the last enemy he destroys will be death. (27) When the Scriptures say that he will put everything under his power, they don't include God. It was God who put everything under the power of Christ. (28) After everything is under the power of God's Son, he will put himself under the power of God, who put everything under his Son's power. Then God will mean everything to everyone.

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.justbibletruth.com/jwinfo.html>

<sup>62</sup> Luke 19:11-28 GW This is an illustration Jesus gave about what we do with the valuable truth he brought us. Jesus was getting closer to Jerusalem, and the people thought that the kingdom of God would appear suddenly. While Jesus had the people's attention, he used this illustration. (12) He said, "A prince went to

individuals who refuse to build faith in Christ will simply die in this system<sup>63</sup> as it continues to get worse. Christ holds out the gift of life, but no one is forced to accept it. If you choose to follow a sect

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a distant country to be appointed king, and then he returned. (13) Before he left, he called ten of his servants and gave them ten coins. He said to his servants, 'Invest this money until I come back.' (14) "The citizens of his own country hated him. They sent representatives to follow him and say to the person who was going to appoint him, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' (15) "After he was appointed king, he came back. Then he said, 'Call those servants to whom I gave money. I want to know how much each one has made by investing.' (16) "The first servant said, 'Sir, the coin you gave me has earned ten times as much.' (17) "The king said to him, 'Good job! You're a good servant. You proved that you could be trusted with a little money. Take charge of ten cities.' (18) "The second servant said, 'The coin you gave me, sir, has made five times as much.' (19) "The king said to this servant, 'You take charge of five cities.' (20) "Then the other servant said, 'Sir, look! Here's your coin. I've kept it in a cloth for safekeeping because (21) I was afraid of you. You're a tough person to get along with. You take what isn't yours and harvest grain you haven't planted.' (22) "The king said to him, 'I'll judge you by what you've said, you evil servant! You knew that I was a tough person to get along with. You knew that I take what isn't mine and harvest grain I haven't planted. (23) Then why didn't you put my money in the bank? When I came back, I could have collected it with interest.' (24) The king told his men, 'Take his coin away, and give it to the man who has ten.' (25) "They replied, 'Sir, he already has ten coins.' (26) "I can guarantee that everyone who has something will be given more. But everything will be taken away from those who don't have much. (27) Bring my enemies, who didn't want me to be their king. Kill them in front of me.'" (28) After Jesus had given this illustration, he continued on his way to Jerusalem.

<sup>63</sup> John 8:24 CEV That is why I said you will die with your sins unforgiven. If you don't have faith in me for who I am [*the promised Messiah*], you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven."

of men, that is your choice and that will be your only reward.<sup>64</sup> Jesus did warn you!<sup>(Mat 24:24 & 25 on pg 1)</sup> While the answer above, about “God telling Catholics and JW’s to get along” is true, upon further reflection, sitting everyone down and telling them they have to get along is precisely what Jehovah<sup>(4)</sup> has already done (through the teachings of his son Jesus). Again, though, he only teaches those who *have a desire to be taught - by him!*<sup>(19) & (20)</sup>

In a discussion about the Bible, one of Jehovah’s Witnesses asked if I imagined all the millions (about 8 million I think) of Jehovah’s Witnesses (JW’s) have been deceived. I replied that I did, and that person seemed incredulous that I could think that about them. Their whole group believes all the hundreds of millions of Catholics (and every other sect but them) have been misled, mind you, but refuse to consider it could have happened to them. (We speak here about JW’s and Catholics, but any of the sects of Christendom could be used interchangeably for the points being made.) JW’s take great pride in knowing Jehovah God’s name and that Christ Jesus is his son. They use that, and some other Bible knowledge they have gained, as their touchstone that they alone are righteous. The Bible teaches, however, the followers of Jesus should call themselves Christians.<sup>(69)</sup> If JW’s are going beyond that scriptural counsel when they call Jehovah God’s name on their organization, they might be using the divine name in a manner Jehovah God did not intend. All these sectarian groups are similar in that they each look to their own teachings above the Bible. We call out and specifically mention Jehovah’s Witnesses so you can realize one spiritual danger they pose which none of the other

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<sup>64</sup> [Matthew 6:1-2 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 synagogues and on the streets in order to be praised by people. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward."

groups do. You should not allow yourself to be influenced (led along) by them into feeling other people will think you connected with their organization if you know and use Jehovah God's personal name. Be pleased to call yourself a Christian.<sup>(69)</sup> Be pleased also, to know and use the name of Jesus's Father.<sup>(4)</sup> Another danger posed by JW's is that some people who recognize from the Bible God's name is Jehovah,<sup>(4)</sup> might feel drawn to their sect just because they use the name. All sincere and mature<sup>65</sup> Bible students know God's name.<sup>(4)</sup> It is sad so many fail to make it known to others. While JW's do use God's name, they don't look to Christ for their direction. They have a subset of their sect they refer to as "the anointed." Lower members must defer to them to explain what the Bible means without question. (Most all

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<sup>65</sup> Hebrews 5:5-14 CEV That is how it was with Christ. He became a high priest, but not just because he wanted the honor of being one. It was God who told him, "You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!" (6) In another place, God says, "You are a priest forever just like Melchizedek." (7) God had the power to save Jesus from death. And while Jesus was on earth, he begged God with loud crying and tears to save him. He truly worshiped God, and God listened to his prayers. (8) Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God. (9) Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him. (10) This is because God chose him to be a high priest like Melchizedek. (11) Much more could be said about this subject. But it is hard to explain, and all of you are slow to understand. (12) By now you should have been teachers, but once again you need to be taught the simplest things about what God has said. You need milk instead of solid food. (13) People who live on milk are like babies who don't really know what is right. (14) Solid food is for mature people who have been trained [who have a Bible trained conscience\*] to know right from wrong. ~

\*Romans 2:15-16 CEV This proves that the conscience is like a law written in the human heart. And it will show whether we are forgiven or condemned, (16) when God appoints Jesus Christ to judge everyone's secret thoughts, just as my message says.

the other sects [or cults] also have a person or group they look to for spiritual food or enlightenment.) JW's are required to dogmatically accept the organizational teachings provided by their "anointed" as spiritual food, which only the Bible actually is. They spend almost all of their study time reading publications written by those "anointed" individuals. They ~~can't~~ *won't* comprehend, if they rely on the teachings of those men, they have no way of knowing that is any different from other sects who look to John Smith, or the Pope, or Jim Jones, or whoever, for their spiritual food. If you can be misled to look to any person or group to define the Bible's meaning for you, they have effectively hidden the Bible in plain sight. *The Bible is for you.* That is its purpose. It is easy to understand if you simply listen to Jesus.<sup>66</sup>

This is all so very simple. Jesus Christ handpicked men to be his first century followers. He then taught them what his Father wanted them to know.<sup>67</sup> Four of his early followers were inspired by holy spirit to write down what Jesus taught.<sup>68</sup> Those early

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<sup>66</sup> Luke 10:38-42 MWT <sup>38</sup> Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named Martha received him as guest into the house. <sup>39</sup> This woman also had a sister called Mary, who, however, sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. <sup>40</sup> Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So, she came near and said: "Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me." <sup>41</sup> In answer the Lord said to her: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. <sup>42</sup> A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good [*or more important*] portion, and it will not be taken away from her."

<sup>67</sup> John 8:28 CEV Jesus went on to say, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know who I am. You will also know that I don't do anything on my own. I say only what my Father taught me.

<sup>68</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17 GNB All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and

followers were also inspired to call themselves Christians.<sup>69</sup> We don't need to start a new group (or join a group started by someone else after Jesus's day). Jesus Christ started the only group that is ever going to matter: "Christians..." We just need to learn what Jesus taught, join with him in sharing that very same good news (by in turn directing other people to Jesus's teachings), and to identify ourselves as Christians as a part of teaching them. Modern cults have chosen different names for themselves (than that one and only name inspired in the Bible)<sup>(69)</sup> and those who follow them must accept their traditions and teachings<sup>70</sup> which are what sets their named cult apart. Are they missing the point? Are they failing to recognize their absolute need to become a follower of Christ, just like the early "Christians" (by being personally and intimately familiar with *his* teachings)?<sup>71 & (57)</sup>

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giving instruction for right living, (17) so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed.~

2 Peter 1:21 CEV The prophets did not think these things up on their own, but they were guided by the Spirit of God.

<sup>69</sup> Acts 11:26 YLT and having found him, he brought him to Antioch, and it came to pass that they a whole year did assemble together in the assembly, and taught a great multitude, the disciples also were divinely called first in Antioch Christians.~

Christian is thus the only name inspired by God to be called upon the followers of Christ.

<sup>70</sup> Galatians 1:8-9 ALT But even if we or an angel out of heaven shall himself be proclaiming a gospel to you<sub>p</sub>, besides [*or, contrary to*] what we proclaimed to you<sub>p</sub>, let him be accursed [*Gr., anathema*]! (9) As we have forewarned and now say again, if anyone shall be proclaiming a gospel to you<sub>p</sub>, besides [*or, contrary to*] what you<sub>p</sub> received, let him be accursed!

<sup>71</sup> Matthew 7:21-23 YLT `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many

There is a problem you should recognize with our trying to assert these few points should form the basis of your faith: *All* religionists have some points *they* will want you to remember. They *all* claim your doing so means your very life. You, therefore, have a responsibility to make yourself noble minded.<sup>72</sup> Prove for yourself whether what we say is in the Bible. Read and re-read the Gospels. Any good thing we can share with you, we learned from the Bible and from the teachings of God's son. You should build your faith on what Jesus said. We can only point you to him. What Jesus came to teach you is recorded for you in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. There is only about 200 pages in all four of those books combined. That's a pretty short read for so valuable a prize.<sup>73</sup>

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mighty things? (23) and then I will acknowledge to them, that--I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness.

<sup>72</sup> Acts 17:11 BBE Now these were more noble than the Jews of Thessalonica, for they gave serious attention to the word, searching in the holy Writings every day, to see if these things were so.

<sup>73</sup> Matthew 13:37-46 GNB Jesus answered, "The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; (38) the field is the world; the good seed is the people who belong to the Kingdom; the weeds are the people who belong to the Evil One; (39) and the enemy who sowed the weeds is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are angels. (40) Just as the weeds are gathered up and burned in the fire, so the same thing will happen at the end of the age: (41) the Son of Man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things, (42) and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth. (43) Then God's people will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Listen, then, if you have ears! (44) "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

The simple and beautiful theme of the Bible is that Jesus came to give his own life to buy ours (from the sin and death conveyed to us all by our first parents), and to leave us his teachings so as to teach us to know and love his father.<sup>(20)</sup> It's all so very simple, if and only if, you don't allow religionists to pollute and confuse the truth with their traditions and sectarian dogma.<sup>(82)</sup>

One point in closing: Some individuals don't want the truth known... They will insinuate those persons who recognize the trouble and tribulation of the world of our day<sup>(Mat 24:21 on pg 1)</sup> are ignorant or even unstable. They have the silly notion that mankind will solve all these problems. That tribulation warned about by Jesus is (or will be) nipping at their heels, just the same as all of us. Jesus said it would be so and he is not a liar! They will have to face it.<sup>(47)</sup> & <sup>74</sup> What is unwise (or maybe unstable) is going along with a majority of people who refuse to see what is happening right in front of their face.<sup>(48)</sup> The only real question for them remains the same as it does for us all: Will we manifest faith in the

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pearls, (46) and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

<sup>74</sup> Jeremiah 31:34 Darby And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Jehovah: for I will pardon their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.

son of God as the solution to all these problems?<sup>(48)</sup> Don't let their ridicule upset you.<sup>75</sup> It is short lived!<sup>76 & (47)</sup>

Some of such cynics will focus on those who actually are mentally ill, insinuating their "problems" are related to their faith in the Bible. The sad and pathetic man who killed nine people in Roseburg, Oregon (USA - 2015), is an example. Someone commented that murderer believed the world was so bad that he imagined himself an avenging angel, putting his victims out of their misery. If he was silly (or mentally ill) enough to believe that, it did not make him wrong to recognize the pain and suffering going on in this world. He was completely irrational, however, to imagine himself God's servant in his course to harm others. God knows every person alive. If God wanted someone dead, they would be dead.<sup>77</sup> God wants everyone to live! As long as there is

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<sup>75</sup> 2 Peter 3:3-7 GW First, you must understand this: In the last days people who follow their own desires will appear. These disrespectful people will ridicule God's promise (4) by saying, "What's happened to his promise to return? Ever since our ancestors died, everything continues as it did from the beginning of the world." (5) They are deliberately ignoring one fact: Because of God's word, heaven and earth existed a long time ago. The earth appeared out of water and was kept alive by water. (6) Water also flooded and destroyed that world. (7) By God's word, the present heaven and earth are designated to be burned. [Our old world system is being burned up by being exposed to the light of Jesus's teachings.] They are being kept until the day ungodly people will be judged and destroyed.

<sup>76</sup> Psalms 37:27-29 MWT Turn away from bad and do what is good, and keep living and be secure in the land forever; (28) for Jehovah loves what is right and does not abandon his faithful people. He protects them forever, but as for the descendants of the wicked persons, they will be cut off. (29) The righteous will possess the earth and live in it forever.

<sup>77</sup> Acts 5:1-5 GW A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some property. (2) They agreed to hold back some of the money they had pledged and turned only part of it over to the apostles.

life, there seems hope (*seems* hope we say, because only God knows in each individual case) the person will turn to God and gain life.<sup>78</sup> The pathetic man who shot all those people was clearly fighting against God, not serving him. He might have had religion but what he did was *certainly* not because he was a Bible student. It was because he was not. If he had known and taken to heart what Jesus taught, he would not have committed that atrocity.<sup>79</sup> Do you, know what Jesus taught?<sup>(15) & (83)</sup>

One closing warning from Jesus you should consider: Jesus said, (Matthew 24:15-16 BBE) "When, then, you see [*standing*] in the holy place the unclean [*or disgusting*] thing which makes destruction [*or causes desolation*], of which word was given by Daniel the prophet [*Daniel 11:31*]<sup>80</sup> let this be clear to the reader

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(3) Peter asked, "Ananias, why did you let Satan fill you with the idea that you could deceive the Holy Spirit? You've held back some of the money you received for the land. (4) While you had the land, it was your own. After it was sold, you could have done as you pleased with the money. So how could you do a thing like this? You didn't lie to people but to God!" (5) When Ananias heard Peter say this, he dropped dead. Everyone who heard about his death was terrified.

<sup>78</sup> Ezekiel 33:11 MWT Say to them, As I live, declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but in that someone wicked turns from his way and lives; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?<sup>(60)</sup>

<sup>79</sup> Matthew 26:52 GW Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword away! All who use a sword will be killed by a sword.

<sup>80</sup> Daniel 11:31 BBE And armies sent by him will take up their position and they will make unclean the holy place, even the strong place, and take away the regular burned offering and put in its place an unclean thing causing fear.~

Daniel 12:9-10 BBE And he said, Go on your way, Daniel: for the words are secret and shut up till the time of the end; (10) Till a number are tested and make themselves clean; and the evil-doers will do evil; for not one of the evil-doers will have knowledge; but all will be made clear to those who are wise.

*[or, let the reader use discernment]*, (16) Then let those who are in Judaea go in flight to the mountains:” Religion is made up of all those groups who claim to represent Christ or God, but who rather promote their *own teachings and lies*. They are all, by glorifying their own doctrine, misdirecting people from the clear and healing words of the Christ. Do you see how religion, by that chosen course, turns itself into “the disgusting and unclean thing standing in the holy place”? Religion promotes sectarianism, which leads to the warfare and destruction we see in the world today. (That has been happening since the days of Abel, really, but much more so in our day. Have you seen the once beautiful and vibrant cities of Syria, now laying desolate and empty, bombed to rubble? That is religion...) Jesus said the reader of his warning should be discerning. Do you discern all these self-grandiose sectarian religious entities to be what they really are? If so, you should flee to the mountains of truth contained in the Bible.<sup>81</sup> You thereby keep away from them spiritually (not necessarily separating from them physically), so as to avoid being poisoned (infected) by their false religious teachings.<sup>82</sup>

If you join yourself to any sectarian religious group, you will be led into judgment and prejudice. The very act of joining has that effect on you. It is religion that is tearing our world apart. You can never get along with religious people if you are not a member of their sect. They are each one convinced they are God’s chosen.

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<sup>81</sup> Psalms 3:4 Darby With my voice will I call to Jehovah, and he will answer me from the hill *[or mountain]* of his holiness. Selah.

<sup>82</sup> Matthew 16:6-7 BBE And Jesus said to them, Take care to have nothing to do with the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees *[Religious Leaders]*. (7) And they were reasoning among themselves, saying, We took no bread.

Matthew 16:11-12 BBE How is it that you do not see that I was not talking to you about bread, but about keeping away from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees? (12) Then they saw that it was not the leaven of bread which he had in mind, but the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

How could they really be tolerant of someone who refused to join them? In their mind, you see, any person refusing to join them is refusing to join *God*. The fancy garb and/or lordly status and titles of their leaders cannot help but encourage you to be judgmental.<sup>(18)</sup> Once you can be misled to look to a mere human for guidance (or to a group of them) you will be infected by prejudice against the poor, or the ignorant, or other races, and on and on the reasons of men go. Or, most certainly, you will be prejudiced against non-members of the sect you join. None of the world's religions ever seem able to understand the simple thing Jesus came to teach: God is on everyone's side.<sup>(20)</sup> He wants you to listen to him. You do that by learning what Jesus Christ taught.<sup>(50)</sup> Jesus is the only one who can teach you to love others.<sup>(15)</sup> Will you join with one of the many sectarian groups, each one with its asserted solutions to your problems? Or, will you recognize and bow down to the King Christ Jesus as you look to his kingdom<sup>(1 Cor 15:22-28 in footnote 60)</sup> as the one and only solution to our problems? Do not be confused; You are in the process of making that very choice.<sup>(Mat 7:24 on pg 4)</sup>

God's peace upon all persons who love what is good and true.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Micah 6:8 MWT He has declared to you, O earthling man, what is good. And what is Jehovah asking back from you, but to do justice, and to love mercy and kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?~

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 MWT <sup>13</sup> The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God and keep his commandments. For this is the whole obligation of man. <sup>14</sup> For the true God himself will bring every sort of work into the judgment in relation to every hidden thing, as to whether it is good or bad.~

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Revelation 14:6-7 ALT And I saw an angel flying in midair, having the eternal Gospel to proclaim to the ones sitting [*fig., dwelling*] on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people, (7) saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment came, and prostrate yourselves in worship before the One having made heaven and the earth and the sea and springs of waters." [*Exodus 20:11a*]\*~

\* Exodus 20:11 Darby For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them...

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Luke 17:30 & 37

*All who come to God must believe that He exists,  
and that He is good. Heb 11:6*

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<sup>84</sup> **(Matthew 7:15-20 MWT)** <sup>15</sup> “Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep’s covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruits you will recognize them. Never do people gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, do they? <sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree produces fine fruit, but every rotten tree produces worthless fruit; <sup>18</sup> a good tree cannot bear worthless fruit, neither can a rotten tree produce fine fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree not producing fine fruit gets cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Really, then, by their fruits you will recognize those men. [Are your religious leaders<sup>(13)</sup> directing you to personally learn Jesus’s teachings, or rather herding you to sectarianism and a judgment of those who are not in your group?]

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