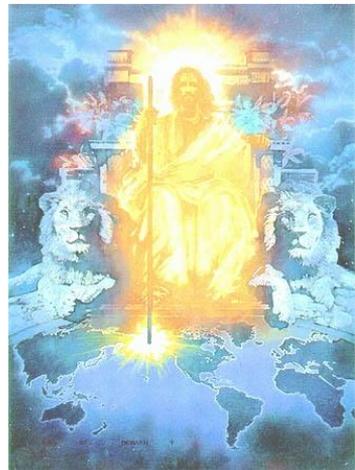


What defines Christianity?

A self-test!



This booklet is available to read or to print at: [justbibletruth.com/self-test.pdf](http://justbibletruth.com/self-test.pdf)

It can be printed in booklet format using Adobe Reader, available on most computers.

This booklet concludes with a test to help us evaluate our Christianity. Because of some warnings Jesus gave (considered below <sup>[Mat 7:21-23]</sup>), it seems we do well to gauge ourselves. The test consists of some simple questions we should consider. Our intent is to caution you that you are the lone human judge of whether you are Christian. Also, to help you realize the real test we are each and every one taking is our individual response to the teachings of Christ Jesus.<sup>(22)</sup> If you don't know what he taught, you benefit yourself to learn. Jesus has impacted mankind far more than any other person who ever lived. Even our calendar system is based on him [everything after his birth (some 2000 years ago) being referred to as CE (i.e. 2015 CE [of the Christian Era]) and everything before his birth being referred to as BCE (Before Christian Era)]. Since so many people claim our very lives depend on our faith in the Christ, doesn't it seem wise to at least consider what he taught. Remember: You can't know whether you even *want* to express faith in Jesus if you don't start by knowing what he taught. So... You might be inclined to skip ahead to the test, but please consider the following scriptures before you do so. The reading consists mostly of scriptures, and the test likely won't make sense without that background. The nice thing about the Bible is this: Whether you are just considering Christianity, or building stronger faith, you can't be misled by *reading* the Bible. My teachings, or the teachings of any person or group might mislead you, but the Bible never will. (You can be misled by those who pick and choose certain scriptures and then misapply them in support of their own doctrine. You can't be misled, however, by *reading* the Bible.) It is so simple to consider what Jesus said: Most of what he came to teach is contained in the four short accounts of his life in the Bible Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Old Testament is largely prophecies about the coming of the Christ, and explains how God used men like Abraham and the Jewish nation to produce the Messiah. Then, Jesus announced himself as Messiah arrived.<sup>1</sup> The Bible books after the

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<sup>1</sup> **(John 7:28-31)** <sup>28</sup> Therefore Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple and said: "You both know me and know where I am from. Also, I have not come of my own initiative, but he that sent me is real, and you do not know him. <sup>29</sup> (The Jewish nation worshiped Jehovah God through their Law Code, and so they should have known Jesus's Father.) I know him, because I am a representative from him, and that One sent me

Gospels contain the first century record of those who tried to apply Jesus's teachings. But: the teachings of Jesus are contained in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Only about fifty pages each... Read them!

Please start in considering the difference between *Christianity* and *Religion* as that is the basis of the test. Consider a brief definition of each:

## Christians:

Christians are the individual followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ: They know who they are based on their personal knowledge<sup>2</sup> of what Jesus taught, and are justified in their own conscience<sup>3</sup> based on that knowledge. While anxious to learn what the Bible teaches, and therefore willing to consider scriptural counsel given by others,<sup>4</sup> they refuse to submit themselves to the judgment<sup>5</sup> of other men or women:

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forth. . . . <sup>31</sup> Still, many of the crowd put faith in him; and they commenced saying: "When the Christ arrives, he will not perform more signs than this man has performed, will he?"

**(Mark 14:61, 62)** . . . Again the high priest began to question him and said to him: "Are you the Christ the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> Then Jesus said: "I am; . . .

<sup>2</sup> **(John 8:31, 32)** . . . "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>3</sup> **(Romans 2:15, 16)** <sup>15</sup> They are the very ones who demonstrate the matter of the law to be written in their hearts, while their conscience is bearing witness with them and, between their own thoughts, they are being accused or even excused. <sup>16</sup> This will be in the day when God through Christ Jesus judges the secret things of mankind, according to the good news I declare.

<sup>4</sup> **(Acts 17:10, 11)** <sup>10</sup> Immediately by night the brothers sent both Paul and Silas out to Bereoa, and these, upon arriving, went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> Now the Bereoans were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so.

<sup>5</sup> **(Acts 4:19, 20)** <sup>19</sup> But in reply Peter and John said to them: "Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. <sup>20</sup> But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."

**(Colossians 2:16-3:4)** <sup>16</sup> Therefore let no man judge you in eating and drinking or in respect of a festival or of an observance of the new moon

they refuse to accept the judgment by those who presume to assure them they have Christ's blessings; or of those who are anxious to judge they are not Christians.

## Religionists:

Religion includes all the followers of the different sects who claim to follow God, many among them claiming to be Christian. Religionists are anxious to submit themselves to be judged<sup>6</sup> and authenticated by other

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or of a sabbath; <sup>17</sup> for those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ. <sup>18</sup> Let no man deprive you of the prize who takes delight in a [mock] humility and a form of worship of the angels, "taking his stand on" the things he has seen, puffed up without proper cause by his fleshly frame of mind, <sup>19</sup> whereas he is not holding fast to the head, to the one from whom all the body, being supplied and harmoniously joined together by means of its joints and ligaments, goes on growing with the growth that God gives. <sup>20</sup> If you died together with Christ toward the elementary things of the world, why do you, as if living in the world, further subject yourselves to the decrees: <sup>21</sup> "Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch," <sup>22</sup> respecting things that are all destined to destruction by being used up, in accordance with the commands and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup> Those very things are, indeed, possessed of an appearance of wisdom in a self-imposed form of worship and [mock] humility, a severe treatment of the body; but they are of no value in combating the satisfying of the flesh. **3** If, however, you were raised up with the Christ, go on seeking the things above, where the Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Keep your minds fixed on the things above, not on the things upon the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life has been hidden with the Christ in union with God. <sup>4</sup> When the Christ, our life, is made manifest, then you also will be made manifest with him in glory.

<sup>6</sup> **(Romans 2:1, 2)** **2** Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are, if you judge; for in the thing in which you judge another, you condemn yourself, inasmuch as you that judge practice the same things. <sup>2</sup> Now we know that the judgment of God is, in accord with truth, against those who practice such things.

**(Romans 14:10-12)** <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: "As I live," says Jehovah, "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.

**(James 4:11, 12)** <sup>11</sup> Quit speaking against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against law and judges law. Now if you judge law, you are, not a doer of law, but a

humans: who then render such judgment from sectarian doctrine and traditions<sup>7</sup> they have established. Many of the judges over such groups claim to be Christians and to be leading from the Bible. They can't be doing so because the Bible says they should not judge.<sup>8</sup> The religious

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judge. <sup>12</sup> One there is that is lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But you, who are you to be judging [your] neighbor?

<sup>7</sup> **(Mark 7:1-8)** **7** Now the religious leaders (the Pharisees and some of the scribes) that had come from Jerusalem gathered about him. <sup>2</sup> And when they saw some of his disciples eat their meal without washing their hands- <sup>3</sup> for the religious leaders (the Pharisees and all the Jews of Jesus's day) do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the tradition of the men of former times, <sup>4</sup> 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;— <sup>5</sup> so these Pharisees and scribes asked him: "Why is it your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the tradition of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup> 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>7</sup> It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men.' <sup>8</sup> Letting go the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men."

<sup>8</sup> **(Matthew 23:1-12)** **23** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying: <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees (the religious leaders of Jesus's day) have seated themselves in the seat of Moses (Moses was God's appointed judge over the nation of Israel.\* Christ, however, is our only judge today.). <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 even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms (which were intended as a safeguard for them), and they wear big tassels for everyone to see. <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 you must be your minister. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

leaders of Jesus's day provide us the perfect example of what Christians should not be. Religion remains the same down to this day.

## How should knowledge<sup>9</sup> impact us?

What the Bible provides you is knowledge! If you become wise by making use of that knowledge, it sets you free of all the traditions and doctrines established by men.<sup>(2)</sup> We should all be anxious to verify scripturally if we are really Christians, or just have religion. One reason we should check ourselves is because so many people in the earth state they are Christian, but then do things that seem very unloving and therefore un-Christian. Most of them no doubt believe they *are* Christians. How can we be sure we are not deceived as well? For a certainty, no one is judge of whether you are a Christian except you (and Jesus Christ and his Father of course).<sup>10</sup> Jesus gave warnings that make clear we should evaluate whether we are Christian, or have just

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

<sup>9</sup> [justbibletruth.com/Faith.html#KnowledgeUnderstandingWisdom](http://justbibletruth.com/Faith.html#KnowledgeUnderstandingWisdom)

<sup>10</sup> **(Acts 10:42, 43)** <sup>42</sup> Also, he ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One (Christ Jesus) decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**(1 Corinthians 15:20-28)** <sup>20</sup> However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. <sup>21</sup> For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each one in his own rank: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence. <sup>24</sup> Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. <sup>27</sup> For God “subjected all things under his feet.” But when he says that ‘all things have been subjected,’ it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. <sup>28</sup> But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

been led to think we are. He said many would deceive themselves and would actually come to him in the last day saying: **(Matthew 7:21-23)** <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone saying to me, ‘my Lord, my Lord,’ will come under the reign of the kingdom of heaven, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in the Day of Judgment, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not speak God’s message in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many great works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And yet then I will tell them: I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness (or in other translations: “the ones practicing wickedness,” or “you evil people”).

These are people so sincere in believing they were Christians they would approach Christ Jesus expecting him to reward them. They had obviously *allowed* themselves to be deceived. Should they have known the truth? Of course!!! Jesus told them in John 8:31<sup>(footnote 2)</sup> they would be his disciples, “*if,*” they “remained in his word.” These people condemned by Jesus as “workers of lawlessness.”<sup>(Mat 7:23, above)</sup> had very obviously not remained in his teachings. Jesus also taught us (and them) to be careful because false religious leaders would prove a real danger: **(Matthew 24:24-28)** <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 chosen ones. <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. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Jesus explained how easy it is for sincere people to recognize those who are false teachers: **(Matthew 7:15-20)** <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.

What would be the fruits Jesus said we could recognize hanging from the false religious teachers (false prophets)? Easy, they *would not* be remaining in what Jesus taught.<sup>(2)</sup> Instead, they would create their own teachings from traditions and doctrines formulated by them. They

would begin by creating high sounding titles<sup>(8)</sup> for themselves so as to lord over and judge all those persons they could persuade to follow *them*. Every “good” member gets one of their titles and those who don’t get a title, well, they just don’t really measure up. Instead of encouraging people to read the four short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (which Gospel accounts contain most of what Jesus came to teach), false prophets create their own writings (often calling them Bible study aids or study plans) and encourage or even demand their followers look to those writings as the defining word on what God says (on what the Bible means). The only Bible given name or title for Jesus’s followers is “Christian.”<sup>11</sup> Religionists are never satisfied with that. They always pick out some other scripture and use it to create a “celebrated name” for themselves,<sup>12</sup> (a sectarian name) to set them apart from others. So... Baptists pick a scripture like John 1:6-8,<sup>13</sup> and believe they should call themselves Baptists because they want to announce Christ Jesus like John the Baptist did. Nazarenes pick a scripture like Mat 2:23<sup>14</sup> and determine to call themselves Nazarene’s because Jesus was called such. Jehovah’s Witnesses pick a scripture like Isaiah 43:10-11,<sup>15</sup> where Jehovah declared the Jewish nation to be his witnesses to the earth before Christ, and so call themselves by our heavenly Father’s name. The “Bible says,” however, the divinely inspired

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<sup>11</sup> **(Acts 11:26)** . . .and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called Christians.

<sup>12</sup> **(Genesis 11:4)** <sup>4</sup> They (the enemies of God) now said: “Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> **(John 1:6-8)** <sup>6</sup> There arose a man that was sent forth as a representative of God: his name was John. <sup>7</sup> This [man] came for a witness, in order to bear witness about the light, that people of all sorts might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not that light, but he was meant to bear witness about that light.

<sup>14</sup> **(Matthew 2:23)** <sup>23</sup> and came and dwelt in a city named Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

<sup>15</sup> **(Isaiah 43:10, 11)** <sup>10</sup> “You are my witnesses,” is the utterance of Jehovah, “even my servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and have faith in me, and that you may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. <sup>11</sup> I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior.”

name for the followers of Christ Jesus is “Christian.”<sup>(11)</sup> We don’t want to judge these people! If they and all the other self-named groups can be pleasing to our Heavenly Father and his son by using names they have selected for themselves, it is fine with us. We urge Christians to be cautious about being part of a group using a name besides the one specifically called out in the Bible.<sup>16 & (11)</sup> Also, be cautious about following men who elevate themselves using special titles in support of their judgmental and self-important stations.<sup>(8)</sup>

## Personal test of Christian Faith

So... The test becomes an easy one: Do the people you associate with encourage you to spend most of your time reading and actually studying the Bible, or do they engage you in to spend your time studying in what they call Bible study aids? Do they encourage you to build faith in what you personally know the Bible teaches, or do they demand you always stay in step with the organizational understanding of what each scripture means? Do you have faith you are Christian because of what you personally know the Bible teaches, or rely on approval by others?

As you answer, please remember: Those who approached and were rejected by Christ in his prophetic example <sup>(Mat 7:21-23)</sup> claimed to have done “great works” in his name. What works might they have imagined they had done? Most religious groups boast in large followings of people as a great work by them. They also build hospitals and schools. They do evangelizing work to spread their message in the earth, choosing to believe the organizational writings they spread are Jesus’s message. While those efforts are well-intentioned, and some really are helpful works, are they actually doing what *Jesus* taught us to do? Is spreading their own study materials really remaining in Jesus’s teachings?<sup>17</sup> It is probably things like those they call out to Jesus as great works, and which they used to deceived themselves into believing (or allowed others to deceive them into believing) they were doing the works of Christ Jesus. Are they really directing people to Jesus, or to

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<sup>16</sup> **(1 Corinthians 4:6)** . . .you may learn the rule: “Do not go beyond the things that are written (in the Bible),” in order that you may not be puffed up individually in favor of the one against the other.

<sup>17</sup> **(Mark 12:24)** <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them: “Is not this why YOU are mistaken, your not knowing either the Scriptures or the power of God?”

themselves and their group? Don't be deceived! Jesus warned us about their danger and he said the eagles would be gathered around his body<sup>18</sup> (so as to avoid being deceived). Christ is referred to as the word of God.<sup>19</sup> Jesus said he came for the purpose of teaching us God's word.<sup>20</sup> The Gospel recordings of what Jesus taught, then, can in some sense be thought of as his remains (or his body). That seems likely what he meant when he said "where the body is, there the eagles will gather."<sup>(18)</sup> Can you see why we admonish you to read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Everything in this world is secondary in importance to learning what Jesus taught! True Christians gather around Jesus's teachings (the Gospels)<sup>(18)</sup> and are then made or defined to be Christian by their manifesting love for God and their fellow man.<sup>21</sup> Knowing what

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<sup>18</sup> (Matthew 24:23-28) Someone may say, "Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!" But don't believe it. (24) False messiahs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones. (25) But I have warned you ahead of time. (26) If you are told that the Messiah is out in the desert, don't go there! And if you are told that he is in some secret place, don't believe it! (27) The coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning that can be seen from east to west. (28) Where the body is, there will always be eagles gathered.

<sup>19</sup> (Revelation 19:13)<sup>13</sup> and he is arrayed with an outer garment sprinkled with blood, and the name he is called is The Word of God.

<sup>20</sup> (John 18:37) . . . For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. . . .

Jesus said in prayer to his Father: (John 17:13, 14)<sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I am speaking these things in the world in order that they may have my joy in themselves to the full. <sup>14</sup> I have given your word to them, but the world has hated them, because they are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world.

(John 17:17)<sup>17</sup> . . . your word is truth.

<sup>21</sup> (Luke 10:25-28)<sup>25</sup> Now, look! a certain man versed in the Law rose up, to test him out, and said: "Teacher, by doing what shall I inherit everlasting life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him: "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" <sup>27</sup> In answer he said: "'You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind,' and, 'your neighbor as yourself.'"<sup>\* 28</sup> He said to him: "You answered correctly; 'keep on doing this and you will get life.'"

In answering Jesus, this young man was quoting from the law code at Deuteronomy 6:5 (See also Deu 10:12 & 11:22; Jos 22:5; Mark 12:30) and Leviticus 19:18. Since the original text and many older Bible

Jesus taught is what can help you do that.<sup>(31)</sup> The approval of religion can not benefit you. Pay no attention to the judgments organizations of men lift up against you, either for good or for bad. You are your own judge: by your response to the teachings of Christ Jesus.<sup>22</sup> We all either lack faith and are judging ourselves by that lack, or we are building faith to preserve alive our souls.<sup>23</sup> That is your test!!! Your personal faith is

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translations use the name of the Hebrew God in those scriptures, it seems likely the young man would have used God's name when he quoted those scriptures to answer Jesus. (For translations that retain the Diving Name, see the *American Standard Version*, the *Darby Bible*, the *Young's Literal Translation*, the *New World Translation*, the *Literal Version*, and the *Modern King James Version* by J. P. Green. See also: [justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html](http://justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html))

**(Deuteronomy 6:4, 5)** <sup>4</sup> "Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah. <sup>5</sup> And you must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force.

**(Leviticus 19:15-18)** <sup>15</sup> "Be honest and just when you make decisions in legal cases; do not show favoritism to the poor or fear the rich. <sup>16</sup> "You must not go around among your people for the sake of slandering. You must not give false witness to cause your neighbor harm. I am Jehovah. <sup>17</sup> "You must not hate your brother in your heart. You should by all means reprove your associate so you don't bear his sin along with him. <sup>18</sup> "You must not, however, take vengeance or have a grudge against the sons of your people; and you must love your fellow as yourself. I am Jehovah.

<sup>22</sup> **(John 12:44-50)** <sup>44</sup> However, Jesus cried out and said: "He that puts faith in me puts faith, not in me only, but in him also that sent me; <sup>45</sup> and he that beholds me beholds also him that sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. <sup>47</sup> But if anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I came, not to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> He that disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him in the last day; <sup>49</sup> because I have not spoken out of my own impulse, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to tell and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> Also, I know that his commandment means everlasting life. Therefore the things I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak."

<sup>23</sup> **(Hebrews 10:35-11:3)** <sup>35</sup> Do not, therefore, throw away your freeness of speech, which has a great reward to be paid it. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, in order that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the [fulfillment of the] promise. <sup>37</sup> For yet "a very little while," and "he who is coming will arrive and will not delay." <sup>38</sup> "But my righteous one

your ark of salvation for our day.<sup>24</sup> Only you can choose to learn for yourself what Jesus taught so as to own faith.<sup>(24)</sup> Only you can build a faith in Jesus that can benefit you, and only you and Jesus and his Father know if you have it.<sup>25</sup> If you are taking pride in your approval by some

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will live by reason of faith,” and, “if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”<sup>39</sup> Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul.

**11** Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld. <sup>2</sup> For by means of this the men of old times had witness borne to them. <sup>3</sup> By faith we perceive that the systems of things were put in order by God’s word, so that what is beheld has come to be out of things that do not appear.

<sup>24</sup> **(Hebrews 11:7)** <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, after being given divine warning of things not yet beheld, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; and through this [faith] he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.

**(Matthew 24:37-39)** <sup>37</sup> For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. <sup>38</sup> For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

**(Matthew 8:13)** <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the army officer: “Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you.” And the manservant was healed in that hour.

**(Matthew 9:28-30)** <sup>28</sup> After he had gone into the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus asked them: “Do you have faith that I can do this?” They answered him: “Yes, Lord.” <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying: “According to your faith let it happen to you.” <sup>30</sup> And their eyes received sight. . . .

**(Matthew 15:28)** <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said in reply to her: “O woman, great is your faith; let it happen to you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that hour on.

**(Mark 9:23)** <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him: “That expression, ‘If you can!’ Why, all things can be to one if one has faith.”

<sup>25</sup> **(1 Corinthians 15:24-28)** <sup>24</sup> Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must rule as king until [God] has put all enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. <sup>27</sup> For [God] “subjected all things under his feet.” But when he says that ‘all things have been subjected,’ it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. <sup>28</sup> But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will

group of men, or in your elevated standing among them, you are likely in grave danger.<sup>26</sup> Please realize: it is not only those who appear wicked

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also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

**(Isaiah 11:1-12) 11** And there must go forth a twig out of the stump of Jes'se; and out of his roots a sprout will be fruitful. <sup>2</sup> And upon him the spirit of Jehovah must settle down, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of mightiness, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah; <sup>3</sup> and there will be enjoyment by him in the fear of Jehovah. And he will not judge by any mere appearance to his eyes, nor reprove simply according to the thing heard by his ears. <sup>4</sup> And with righteousness he must judge the lowly ones, and with uprightness he must give reproof in behalf of the meek ones of the earth. And he must strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the spirit of his lips he will put the wicked one to death. <sup>5</sup> And righteousness must prove to be the belt of his hips, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> And the wolf will actually reside for a while with the male lamb, and with the kid the leopard itself will lie down, and the calf and the maned young lion and the well-fed animal all together; and a mere little boy will be leader over them. <sup>7</sup> And the cow and the bear themselves will feed; together their young ones will lie down. And even the lion will eat straw just like the bull. <sup>8</sup> And the sucking child will certainly play upon the hole of the cobra; and upon the light aperture of a poisonous snake will a weaned child actually put his own hand. <sup>9</sup> They will not do any harm or cause any ruin in all my holy mountain; because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea. <sup>10</sup> And it must occur in that day that there will be the root of Jes'se that will be standing up as a signal for the peoples. To him even the nations will turn inquiringly, and his resting-place must become glorious. <sup>11</sup> And it must occur in that day that Jehovah will again offer his hand, a second time, to acquire the remnant of his people who will remain over from As-syr'i-a and from Egypt and from Path'ros and from Cush and from E'lam and from Shi'nar and from Ha'math and from the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> And he will certainly raise up a signal for the nations and gather the dispersed ones of Israel; and the scattered ones of Judah he will collect together from the four extremities of the earth.

<sup>26</sup> **(Luke 6:26)** <sup>26</sup> "Woe, whenever all men speak well of you, for things like these are what their forefathers did to the false prophets.

**(1 John 4:5, 6)** <sup>5</sup> They originate with the world; that is why they speak [what proceeds] from the world and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We originate with God. He that gains the knowledge of God listens to us; he that does not originate with God does not listen to us. This is how we take note of the inspired expression of truth and the inspired expression of error.

that actually are wicked. Some who try to appear righteous are also wicked.<sup>27</sup> You can not judge who is following Christ, and you can't even know. You only need to know about yourself.<sup>28</sup> Rest your hope in knowing God is judging who belongs where, each by their response to the teachings of his son. Knowing for yourself what Jesus taught is your protection and blessing.<sup>29</sup> If you refuse to build faith in Jesus Christ, as the one who came to fulfill all God's promises<sup>30</sup> to Abraham and other faithful men, your lack of faith will certainly prove a malediction for

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**(James 4:4)** <sup>4</sup> Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God.

<sup>27</sup> **(Matthew 7:15-20)** <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]. <sup>28</sup> **(James 1:22-25)** <sup>22</sup> However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. <sup>25</sup> But he who peers into the perfect law\* that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it.

**\*(James 2:8)** <sup>8</sup> If, now, you practice carrying out the kingly law according to the scripture: "You must love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing quite well.

<sup>29</sup> **(Deuteronomy 30:19, 20)** <sup>19</sup> I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction; and you must choose life in order that you may keep alive, you and your offspring, <sup>20</sup> by loving Jehovah your God, by listening to his voice and by sticking to him; for he is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the ground that Jehovah swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give to them."

<sup>30</sup> **(2 Corinthians 1:19, 20)** <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you through us, . . . <sup>20</sup> For no matter how many the promises of God are, they have become Yes by means of him. . . .

you.<sup>(29)</sup> If you build faith in what Christ taught, it will prove such a blessing as you can't imagine.<sup>31</sup> Some people look for signs and others seek wisdom.<sup>32</sup> We find both in Christ Jesus, and that is what we preach.<sup>33</sup> This simple and beautiful solution by God, as taught to us by his son, is far too wonderful to have been dreamt up by men. It is the word of God!

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<sup>31</sup> **(Matthew 1:21)** <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**(Acts 4:12)** <sup>12</sup> Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."

**(Acts 10:43)** <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name."

**(Philippians 2:5-11)** <sup>5</sup> Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. <sup>7</sup> No, but he emptied himself and took a slave's form and came to be in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**(Proverbs 3:13-18)** <sup>13</sup> Happy is the man that has found wisdom, and the man that gets discernment, <sup>14</sup> for having it as gain is better than having silver as gain and having it as produce than gold itself. <sup>15</sup> It is more precious than corals, and all other delights of yours cannot be made equal to it. <sup>16</sup> Length of days is in its right hand; in its left hand there are riches and glory. <sup>17</sup> Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its roadways are peace. <sup>18</sup> It is a tree of life to those taking hold of it, and those keeping fast hold of it are to be called happy.

<sup>32</sup> **(1 Corinthians 1:22)** <sup>22</sup> For both the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks look for wisdom;

<sup>33</sup> **(1 Corinthians 1:23-25)** <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ impaled, to the Jews a cause for stumbling but to the nations foolishness; <sup>24</sup> however, to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because a foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and a weak thing of God is stronger than men.