

BEYOND BELIEF
– *The Search for Truth*

A Theologic Study of Biblical Christianity

Study Series 1

**AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE
AND
THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL.**

by

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Beyond Belief

The Search For Truth

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This study is the first in a series that begins with the obvious question:

"Is there a real literal God?"

If so, is He the God of the Holy Bible? What evidence is there? How can we know what this God is all about, and is He the intelligence behind intelligent design? Did He literally create all LIFE, or does 'GOD' relate to some kind of "life-force" behind the *evolution of the species* and an endless universe? These are very basic but critical questions concerning the quest to understand HOW we came to be, and WHY we exist. What should we believe in, and most importantly: is there some purpose to all this that would give mankind a ray of hope for something more?

This study is intended to direct your thinking about truth, both religious and non-religious. This study is written in the view of the Biblical testimony and to appeal to the "deep thinker" or those with an open scholastic nature. The first section may appear too obvious and simple to some, but is necessary to lay the ground work for much deeper insight. But then, it is sometimes the simple things that trip us up and lead us to bad assumptions. As stated in the INTRODUCTION, this is NOT a religious commentary, but a logical and almost scientific approach to extra-denominational Theology of the Bible text itself. It is very important that we know and understand what we truly believe and why. ONLY THEN, do we have something concrete and REAL to be the object of our FAITH. There are many charismatic teachers of all types with "good intention", who propagate errors in both science and religion.

Do you dare think for yourself? Or would you rather someone else decide what is best for you to accept and believe, making you a dedicated part of the human herd that is being led to the slaughter? Obviously, in addition to free-will choice, mankind has the basic intelligence to learn what our choices truly are. We need only to exercise that intelligence and to consider the wisdom contained in the Holy Bible.

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"YOUNG MEN LIKEWISE EXHORT TO BE SOBER MINDED."
(Titus 2:6)

1. THE SEARCH FOR GOD

**"BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM:
FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD
MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS,
AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT
DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM."**
(Hebrews 11:6)

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE? This question appears to be as significant today as it ever has been. Do these words from the Holy Bible sound like religious rhetoric? Or if it is literal, is it too profound to accept as truth? We CAN see two basic facts in this verse: (1) All religions acknowledge this first requirement and believe 'God' exists; (2) however, only FEW actually do SEEK God out and (in truth) receive the rewards. Therefore, as a substitute for a literal search to find the living God, religious people are satisfied with their own ideology, their own understanding of what they think God and their religious beliefs are all about. The rejection of searching God's counsel and finding Him, (Prov 1:28-31; 8:17; Jer 29:13), is also evident within the majority of the scientific community, as shown in this quote by the well known Astronomer— Carl Sagan, concerning the search for intelligent life in the universe:

"If there is a plausible argument that there isn't anybody out there, bearing in mind we are wrong, we ought to keep looking. Because the question is of extreme importance. It calibrates our place in the universe; it tells us who we are."

Then there is NASA's *PROJECT SETI*, (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) where mega-millions of dollars are spent on radio telescope probing of space for intelligent sources of radio signals. As revealed by Mr. Sagan, the search for intelligent life in the universe is actually a search for our origin and destiny; it is an innate search for GOD.

Of course the Bible offers the answers to these questions, but the majority of modern man rejects the Bible as religious rhetoric. Modern science devotes much of its energy attempting to deny "intelligent design" or the existence of a real personal God, because a real personal God means a real personal judgment.

**"FOR THUS SAITH THE LORD THAT CREATED THE HEAVENS;
GOD HIMSELF THAT FORMED THE EARTH AND MADE IT;
HE HATH ESTABLISHED IT, HE CREATED IT NOT IN VAIN,
HE FORMED IT TO BE INHABITED:
I AM THE LORD; AND THERE IS NONE ELSE."
(Isaiah 45:18)**

The Holy Bible is the ONLY written text that makes this claim of an exclusive Creator God of all that exists. Either this is true or it is not, even if it were symbolic. If this verse of Scripture is not literally true, then the entire Bible is based upon a falsehood. There is no interpretive middle ground here, no alternative. So how could we settle this question? Is the Biblical testimony true, or is the theory of evolution true? How do we even think about these things and the concept of God?

We begin with a basic thought process called PHILOSOPHY, which consists of LOGIC and REASON. So what is the logic and reason for the universe, Earth and life? Why are we here? Is there an intelligent Creator God? If there is NO Creator, then what alternatives are there to logically explain the existence of all things? It is through **philosophy** we think about our existence, and through **theology** we think about God. Having the basic resources that are available is the first step to gain understanding in our thought process. As far as the Bible goes, two of the best resources is a Bible Concordance with the Hebrew and Greek lexicon. Also, the first *American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster (circa 1828) which developed about the time the popular 'Authorized' King James Bible version was revised in 1769. These take us reasonably close to the meanings of the MAJORITY Bible text.

PHILOSOPHY, (*Webster-1828*), 1. **Literally, the love of wisdom.** But in modern acceptation, *philosophy* is a general term **denoting an explanation of the reasons of things; or an investigation of the causes of all phenomena both of mind and of matter.** When applied to any particular department of knowledge, it denotes the collection of general laws or principles under which all the subordinate phenomena or facts relating to that subject, are comprehended. Thus, **that branch of philosophy which treats of God, &c. is called theology;** that which treats of nature, is called *physics* or *natural philosophy*; **that which treats of man is called logic and ethics, or moral philosophy;** that which treats of the mind is called *intellectual* or *mental philosophy*, or *metaphysics*.

The objects of philosophy are to ascertain facts or truth, and the causes of things to their phenomena; to enlarge our views of God and his works, and to render our knowledge of both practically useful and subservient to human happiness. **"True religion and true philosophy must ultimately arrive at the same principle."** S.S. Smith.

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2. Hypothesis or system on which natural effects are explained. 3. Reasoning; argumentation.

It is interesting to note that the word 'PHILOSOPHY' is the combination of two Greek loan words of '*philo-*', meaning: **loving**. And '*-sophy*', meaning: **science of**. We could say PHILOSOPHY is: "**loving the science of...**", just as well as "**the science of loving**", and according to the Bible, God is the source of both TRUE LOVE AND TRUE SCIENCE.

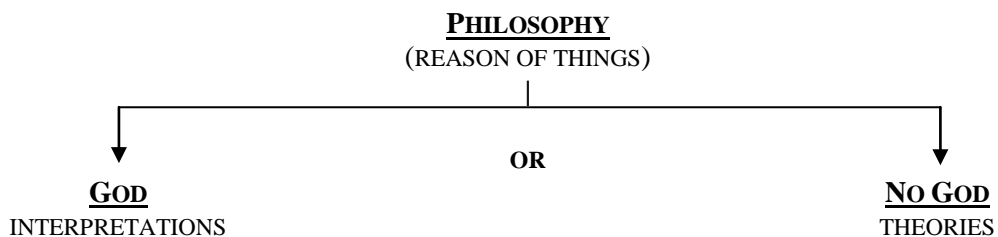
SCIENCE, (*Webster-1828*): 1. **In a general sense, knowledge, or certain knowledge; the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind. The *science of God must be perfect.***

GOD, (*Webster-1828*): 1. **The Supreme Being; Jehovah; the eternal and infinite spirit, the creator, and the sovereign of the universe.**

THEOLOGY, (*Webster-1828*), [Gr. *theos*, God, and *logos*, the Word], Divinity; the science of God and divine things; or the science which teaches the existence, character and attributes of God, his laws and government, the doctrines we are to believe, and the duties we are to practice. Theology consists of *Natural theology*, is the knowledge we have of God from this works, by the light of nature and reason. *Revealed theology*, is that which is to be learned only from revelation. *Moral theology*, teaches us the divine laws relating to our manners and actions, that is, our moral duties. *Speculative theology*, teaches or explains the doctrines of religion, as objects of faith. *Scholastic theology*, is that which proceeds by intellect, schools of divinity or which derives from established principles of faith.

Philosophy is "the reason of things", the search to understand truth behind the existence of the universe and mankind. The how and why we are here question. Everyone, (to a certain degree) is a philosopher. Mankind has the innate desire to know his origin and purpose. **Therefore, by the root essence of philosophy:**

EITHER THERE IS A GOD, OR THERE IS NO GOD.

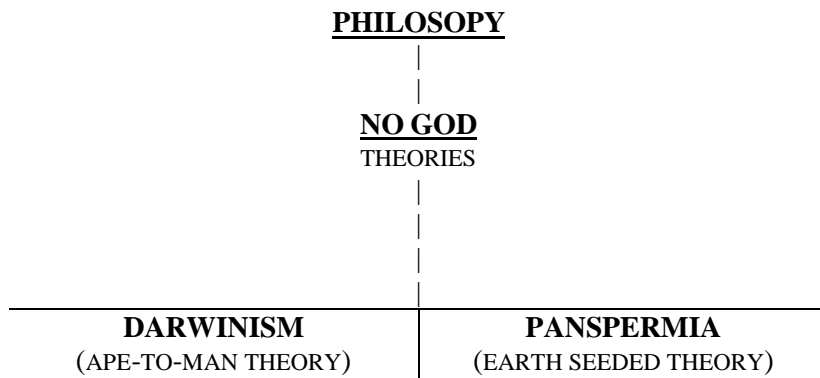


In view of philosophy, we have either a God or no-God option. The no-God option is willfully chosen by the majority of scientists, Governments, and academic educators, as well as many humanists. With a no-God reality, there can be no reference of a law giver/regulator, hence no logic or reason for existence of the universe or its laws.

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Therefore, the universe and the so-called laws of science just randomly 'HAPPENED' into existence by **chance and mutation**. There are no other choices. Even philosophy by definition is vanity in a no-God reality because there is no meaning or reason why things exist. Things simply 'ARE' without any purpose or real hope beyond this reality.

◆ *THE NO-GOD PHILOSOPHY THEORY:*



Evolution theory is based on the circular reasoning of the geologic time table and humanistic Darwinism. No proof exists or documentation that supports its theories. But it is the only 'model' modern science accepts as feasible.

The more recent PANSPERMIA theory is a modification of Darwin's theory of evolution in an attempt to explain the "missing links" between species; the idea of extra-terrestrial life and the UFO phenomena. This theory teaches that man was originally 'seeded' here by highly advanced cultures from other solar systems. And ancient religious writings, like the Bible, are nothing more than an attempt by primitive people to explain these advanced "space brothers" as GODS, angels, or 'avatars' of Hindu mythology. This version of the evolution theory is gaining popularity, and may be "setting-up" the overall population for the coming strong delusion spoken of in 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12.

The concept of NO-GOD means there is no origin or standard of measure for good and evil. Man ultimately has no higher authority to answer to, because there is no higher intelligence. Therefore, man is his own GOD. To those who accept the evolution theory as fact, must view the Bible as religious myth and symbolism. Other ancient texts and all supporting archeological evidence would be 'reversed' to claim the Bible is not inspired text given by a real personal God, but interpretation of man's experiences and beliefs.

The NO-GOD believers must cunningly devise fables to explain away the manifestation of works and miracles attributed to the God of the Bible. Without acknowledging a real personal God, that leaves only HUMANISM, there are no other choices.

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HUMANISM, [*Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*] **3. a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values; esp : a philosophy that asserts the dignity and worth of man and his capacity or self-realization through reason and that often rejects supernaturalism.**

SUPERNATURALISM, [*Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*] **2. belief in a supernatural power and order of existence.**

Therefore under HUMANISM we have:

1. **Man is his own god;**
2. **There can be no central truth;**
3. **Moral interpretation is abstract; a system of situational ethics;**
4. **Might is right, the strong [chief gods] rules the weak [lessor gods], law of the jungle;**
5. **The end justifies the means, there is no ultimate accountability;**
6. **Natural human imagination and desire leads to increased cycles of chaos, which leads to a police state, which leads to totalitarian rule, which leads to inward corruption of administration, which leads to eventual revolution or self destruction.**

The first five are the core beliefs of ILLUMINISM, (Freemasonry and communism). The underlying theme of Masonic hierarchy and the "New World Order" is: "*Ordo Ab Chao*", (order out of chaos). However, the order of man is always corrupt. He cannot change the condition of the heart, he does not even know his own heart.

***"THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS,
AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT?"
(Jeremiah 17:9)***

The phrase "DESPERATELY WICKED" in Hebrew is '*anash* (aw-nash'), which is defined: **frail, feeble, or desperate, incurable, sick.** The world's controlling 'elite' may force 'change' to some degree for a while, but no matter how much they force TOLERANCE between the masses, they cannot cure the human heart.

The foundation of the evolution theory is everything came about by CHANCE. Chance by definition denies design, order, and repetition, including the universal laws of nature. It is ironic that the Bible claims mankind FELL from perfection to chaos, and the French origin of the word 'CHANCE' means: **to fall.**

CHANCE, (Webster-1828), [French verb *cheoir*, **to fall**], 1. An event that happens, falls out or takes place, without being contrived, intended, expected or foreseen; the effect of an unknown cause, or the unusual or unexpected effect of a known cause; accident; casualty; fortuitous event; as, time and chance happen to all. 2. Fortune;

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3. An event, **good or evil**; success or misfortune, luck. v. To happen; to fall out; **to come or arrive without design, or expectation.**

***"A LAND of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death,
WITHOUT ANY ORDER,
and where the light is as darkness. "
(Job 10:22)***

Hebrew for 'LAND' here is *'erets* (eh'-rets), and means: **the earth at large, or a land, (i.e. nations or world)**. According to Scripture, the apparent chaos our world experiences is due to the FALL of man from perfect order to a lack of order. But under a no-God random chance existence, evolutionists claim the opposite: man is rising out of chaos toward PERFECTION. Just look at the population at large over the past 100 years or so. Do we have more or less chaos today? Are people more superior and becoming god-like?

"FOR IF THE DEAD RISE NOT, THEN IS NOT CHRIST RAISED:"

***"AND IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS VAIN;
YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS."***

THEN THEY ALSO WHICH ARE FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHRIST ARE PERISHED."

***"IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY WE HAVE HOPE IN CHRIST,
WE ARE OF ALL MEN MOST MISERABLE."
(1 Corinthians 15:16-19)***

Biblical Christianity is vanity according to a no-God universe. There can exist no redeemer, because there would be nothing to be redeemed from. There can be no hope beyond this life because there is nothing to hope for, only temporary self gratification. And survival *of the species* becomes futile. All moral law ultimately becomes void because there is no law giver except the State. Conscience guilt would simply be a weakness of the mind. Man would be free to take what he wants, when he wants by strength or deception without remorse. This makes the world itself to be chaos and doomed to misery and failure. As that verse indicates, ***Humanism in reality is vanity and misery.***

Everywhere one looks, there is pattern of design, order, and repetition. Design requires a designer; order requires measurable standards and laws. These require a law giver and regulator. Repetition implies a single source of intelligence. Who or what is this awesome intelligence and power?

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Since the universe obviously runs on physical and morally conscience laws, then that implies an intelligence and power greater than the universe itself. Man has intelligence and is able to gain limited understanding of the patterns and orders of the cosmos, but he cannot create anything out of nothing. Laws of 'nature' are absolute constants with no known variation, and LAW implies a LAW GIVER and regulator of those laws.

◆ *A FEW BASIC LAWS:*

LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT. For every effect, there is a cause; for every action, there is a reaction. The universe is an effect, who or what caused it? What force regulates and maintains it? Is it random chance that the earth rotates and orbits the sun at a specific speed and distance, or the moon regulates the tides, and we have a balanced ecosystem by which life upon the earth is constantly balanced? That a minor shift one way or the other could cause extinction, and there is nothing man can do about it?

**"AND EVERY PLANT OF THE FIELD BEFORE IT WAS IN THE EARTH,
AND EVERY HERB OF THE FIELD BEFORE IT GREW:
FOR THE LORD GOD HAD NOT CAUSED IT TO RAIN UPON THE EARTH,
AND THERE WAS NOT A MAN TO TILL THE GROUND."
(Genesis 2:5)**

One of the main causes of all vegetation upon the Earth is rainfall, and the Bible claims it is God that establishes the rain as part of a complex aquifer system. Without rain, Earth would become a ball of dust and rock like its moon. Also consider the complexity of the human eye. According to the science of mathematics, the random chance that the eye exists is a mathematical improbability. Now consider the innumerable 'miracles' of Earth and the universe and how probable these would **all** 'FALL' in place to create an overall harmonious system. The science of mathematics testifies against CHANCE creation.

LAW OF HOMOGENESIS. ["reproduction in which like begets like."; *Webster-1993*]

How could random mutation produce male and female of each of the thousands of species, reaching a point where like only produces like, and mutation ceases? Nor, is there any existence of any intermediate species?

Or why have all "pre-historic" half man - half ape bones proven to be hoaxes? Perhaps there are those who use science as a desperate attempt to disprove a Creator God.

**"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, AFTER THEIR KIND, AND EVERY WINGED FOWL AFTER HIS KIND: and God saw that it was good."
(Genesis 1:21)**

**"AND GOD SAID, LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH THE LIVING CREATURE AFTER HIS KIND, CATTLE, AND CREEPING THING, AND BEAST OF THE EARTH AFTER HIS KIND: AND IT WAS SO."
(Genesis 1:24)**

Mankind has intelligence, the ability to reason, imagination and a creative nature. Since only like begets like and there are no known variations to this law, then who beget man? Of whom was the likeness of man?

LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS. "Entropy is a concept from *thermodynamics*, the study of heat and work, and the conversion of energy from one form to the other. In nature, objects left to themselves create *entropy* as they run down. As an organism dies, a watch runs down, or a bouncing ball comes to rest, the universe gains entropy." **Therefore the energy of the universe is running down**, (increased entropy). [World Book Encyclopedia, vol. E, pg. 260]

The theories of Evolution claim that energy of the universe is increasing, and expanding itself, and that man is evolving upward to "god-hood" status. This totally contradicts both the basic established laws of science and the Bible, both of which have no known variation. The law of thermodynamics teaches *cause and effect* which implies a "beginning". The Bible explains the beginning of the universe and how it is constructed, and how it runs down and shall be rejuvenated again. Unfortunately for the majority of mankind, the Bible testimony is entirely rejected even though it supports provable scientific laws.

"OF OLD HAST THOU LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH: AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORK OF THY HANDS."
"THEY SHALL PERISH, BUT THOU SHALT ENDURE:
YEA, ALL OF THEM SHALL WAX OLD LIKE A GARMENT;
AS A VESTURE SHALT THOU CHANGE THEM,
AND THEY SHALL BE CHANGED:" (Psalm 102:25-26)

The Bible testifies to the law of *entropy*. Since the laws of thermodynamics and the Bible says the universe is running down, then how is it that evolution claims that it improves over time? Is evolution ACTUALLY based upon FACTUAL LAWS?

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The ONLY provable fact of evolution is: IT IS THEORY. Theories are speculation based upon the imagination, and imagination is nothing more but man's vain thoughts. IDOLATRY also comes from the imagination. Since Darwinism is a belief, that makes EVOLUTION AN IDOLATRY!

THEORY, [Webster 1828]: 1. Speculation; a doctrine or scheme of things, which terminates in speculation or contemplation, without a view to practice. It is here taken in an unfavorable sense, as implying something visionary. 4. The philosophical explanation of phenomena, either physical or moral.

VISIONARY, [Webster 1828]: ONE WHOSE IMAGINATION IS DISTURBED. Imaginary; existing in imagination only; not real, having no solid foundation.

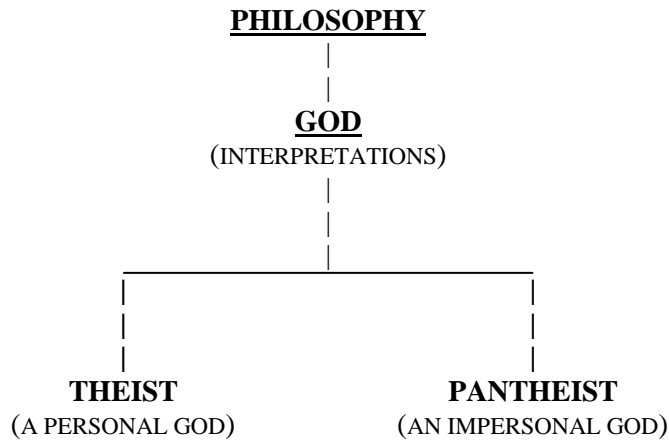
"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.
THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART,
THERE IS NO GOD.
THEY ARE CORRUPT, THEY HAVE DONE ABOMINABLE WORKS,
THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD."
(Psalm 14:1)

The word "FOOL" is *nabal* (na-bawl'), and is defined: **stupid; wicked, foolish, vile person**. The 'HEART' represents our spirit, the perception and motivation behind our belief and efforts, keeping in mind the Bible testifies the heart is deceitful. Since it is a FOOL that believes there is NO GOD, then what does that make HUMANISTS and EVOLUTIONISTS? The WORKS of fools has caused the ills upon the world, including all the doctrines of '-ISMS'. Therefore, according to the philosophy of a no-God belief:

NO GOD THEORIES = SPECULATION

= DISTURBED IMAGINATIONS OF FOOLS, HENCE: NOT REAL.

Since all we find in NO-GOD logic is theory, and theory is pure speculation based upon man's imagination, which is not real, then there is NO REASON FOR THINGS TO EXIST, NO CENTRAL TRUTH. This then voids both philosophy and logic, making them also vanity of a foolish heart. This leaves one conclusion, THERE EXISTS A GOD. And in relation to GOD, there are also two options.



Pantheist's concept of God is an "IT", the life-force of the cosmos. IT, is an "energy" which has no personality and man cannot relate to or communicate with IT, so IT cannot make *moral law* or *redeem* man. Thus we return to humanism where man is only accountable to himself, and a no-God scheme of things.

the-ist [*Random House Unabridged Dictionary*]

1. the belief in one God as the creator and ruler of the universe, without rejection of revelation (distinguished from deism which rejects supernatural revelation).

PAN'THEIST, [*Webster's 1828 Dictionary*]

"One that believes the universe to be God; a name given to the followers of Spinoza, the earliest Grecian pantheist of whom we read is Orpheus."

Since PANTHEIST'S believe the universe and everything it contains IS 'God', then from whence came this GOD? We find here that PANTHEISM is also a doctrine of man's imagination and an un-provable theory, this also leads to NO REASON FOR THINGS TO EXIST which is again HUMANISM. That leaves only one obvious conclusion, THERE MUST BE A PERSONAL GOD THAT GENERATED AND SUSTAINS ALL THERE IS. But which GOD? For the selection is many.

A 'personal' God manifests Himself in various ways to His adherents, i.e. physically, mentally, and spiritually. Which GOD has an ancient established testimony and a written text claiming to be his inspired Word? Which GOD claims to be the only ONE that ever was, or ever will be? Which GOD claims to have created all there is and gives a detailed testimony of it? Which GOD created mankind in his image? Which GOD of ancient times still has a remnant of people who still worship Him? Which GOD can be tested by observing his prophecies, past and future? Which GOD has a documented plan for the ages and reveals how it will be implemented? Which GOD has VISITED his creation and TALKED to man? Which GOD gives His comforting Spirit to guide His people into the WAY of truth? What GOD gives the reward of His Divine LOVE and eternal life to those who diligently seek him? What is his name, or what is his Son's name, if you can tell?

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2. THE SOVEREIGN FATHER

**"IT IS HE THAT SITTETH UPON THE CIRCLE OF THE EARTH,
AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF ARE AS GRASSHOPPERS;
THAT STRETCHETH OUT THE HEAVENS AS A CURTAIN,
AND SPREADETH THEM OUT AS A TENT TO DWELL IN:"**
(Isaiah 40:22)

We see from Isaiah that it refers to the "**circle of the earth**". The 'THEORISTS' of old who claimed the Earth was FLAT should have read and believed the Bible. There is the 'earth' of Genesis 1:1, and the 'Earth' of Genesis 1:10, (which came from the first). From the study of the doctrine of creation, it is apparent that our universe is enclosed within a **glass-like sphere**. Within the 'earth' of the first day, (which was of unknown size and shape, and mostly water), we're told God placed a 'FIRMAMENT' in the midst of that water. God named this FIRMAMENT 'Heaven' which caused a separation of the waters above and below this heaven, (Gen 1:6-7; Ps 148:4-6). It is in this FIRMAMENT called 'Heaven' that God placed the sun, moon, and stars, (Gen 1:14-18). This thing that God calls "**a tent to dwell in**" is a vacuum that we call OUTER SPACE. Every reference where God created the heavens, He said He STRETCHED them out. The word study on 'STRETCH' means to hammer out, which implies a steady vibration of sound waves, (Ps. 33:6-9). The waters above the firmament (heavens), was "stretched out" and formed a frozen layer of ice, being **made clear "like unto crystal"**, (Rev 4:6, 15:2; 2nd Enoch 27:1). According to the Bible and 2nd Enoch the only thing that exists outside of this glass-like sphere is God's throne and the light God made in the first day that Genesis calls "the heaven". Then, we are told this sphere has a thick dark cloud concealing God's throne above, and the light He made the first day, (Isa 50:3; Job 22:13-14; Job 26:9).

**"THOU, EVEN THOU, ART LORD ALONE; THOU HAST MADE HEAVEN, THE
HEAVEN OF HEAVENS, WITH ALL THEIR HOST, THE EARTH, AND ALL
THINGS THAT ARE THEREIN, THE SEAS, AND ALL THAT IS THEREIN, AND
THOU PRESERVEST THEM ALL;
AND THE HOST OF HEAVEN WORSHIPPETH THEE."**
(Nehemiah 9:6)

**"HE THAT DESCENDED IS THE SAME ALSO THAT ASCENDED UP
FAR ABOVE ALL HEAVENS,
THAT HE MIGHT FILL ALL THINGS."** (Ephesians 4:10)

Hebrew for 'PRESERVEST' is *chayah* (khaw-yaw'), and in this context means: **to keep alive, nourish, preserve**, or we could say: MAINTAIN.

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Note this refers to All God created. THE HEAVEN of heavens is further qualified by Ephesians as a separate creation BEYOND (or outside) the heavens of the firmament. Would this highest HEAVEN not be THE HEAVEN created the first day, and the others be the multiple heavens created the second day? The word 'HOST' refers to the armies of the heavens who worships God, implying they also were created at the time the lower heavens were created. He that descended, then ascended to the uppermost heaven is of course Christ Jesus, and this uppermost heaven is the throne of God: (Jn 6:62; Jn 20:17; Rom 10:6). From the Biblical testimony, God created the entire universe and all therein. Attached to all of these are universal laws that can be studied and measured. This implies a power and intelligence beyond the comprehension of man.

**"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD."
"FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH,
SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS,
AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS."
(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

Since logic leads to a personal Creator God that is capable of creating the cosmos and beyond, then what kind of personality would this God have? This brings us to another form of philosophy called THEOLOGY and its THEOLOGIC reasoning.

THEOLOGY

(PERSONAL CREATOR-GOD)

ALL GOOD	GOOD - EVIL	ALL EVIL
<p>Absolute moral; order; strong; free; sound; firm; complete; perfect; virtuous; honorable; incorruptible; fair; kind; patient; faithful; consistent and constant; promoter of happiness; lawful; just; merciful, etc.</p> <p>Moral man would be answerable to such a God and should have been originally made with the creator's image of these qualities, according to the law of homogenesis.</p>	<p>Subject to evil, double minded, wavering, unsound in purpose, not perfect, not consistent in duties or design; corruptible; unfair, standards are unpredictable.</p> <p>Man would be the moral equal of God. Since both are subject to lawlessness, then there is no standard of measure for justice. God would be no morally higher than man, thus we return to humanism.</p>	<p>Absolute unmoral; disorder; mischievous; tendency to injure, destroy; wicked, perverse; unkind; unhappy; unjust; unmerciful; impatient; unpeaceful, etc.</p> <p>Man could not or would not trust such a God or attempt to communicate with him. There would be no standard of good, hence no justice. Man would reject this God and resort to his own self, which is again, humanism.</p>

By Theologic, the Creator of such a universe must be of unlimited power, intelligence, and wisdom. He must be self existent outside of time and space, not subject to death or corruption.

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He must be absolute good and just, with firmly planted principles and purpose. Thus it would be apparent that the Creator would possess a form of love to preserve and regulate what he created. What does the creation reveal about its Creator?

Extreme intelligence	Variety	Mysterious
Powerful	Colorful	Crafty
Orderly	Beauty	Harmonious
Logical	Promotes life	Merciful
Purposeful	Efficient	Protective
Wise	Perfection	Just
Precise	Patience	Fair
Methodical	Consistent	Lawful
Unruly	Careful	Righteous
Disciplinary	True	Generous
Foreknowing	Virtuous	Honorable

These basic characteristics testify to a God that is the opposite of self-serving or self-centered. Such a God would create man similar to Himself, a true offspring, having a much higher form of morals and love than what man possesses or knows AFTER his FALL in paradise, as also testified by the Scriptures.

**"SHALL MORTAL MAN BE MORE JUST THAN GOD?
SHALL A MAN BE MORE PURE THAN HIS MAKER?"**

**BEHOLD, HE PUT NO TRUST IN HIS SERVANTS;
AND HIS ANGELS HE CHARGED WITH FOLLY:"**

(Job 4:17-18)

"FOR I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT;

therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

(Malachi 3:6)

God exists on a much higher plane than both man and angels, an absolute 'good' in His WISDOM. Wisdom may be defined as: sound judgment, which is the opposite of CHANCE and CHANGE. CHANGE is a characteristic of CHANCE, and evolution theories consist of these unpredictable attributes. The theory of evolutionary change is required for that which is unstable. Because of the stability of God, His laws of creation must also be stable, even though He has on occasion demonstrated His control over those laws. A good example? See Joshua 10:12-14. However, man did change. The tree of knowledge in Genesis afforded man the CHANCE to 'fall', thus creating a CHANGE to a good-evil awareness.

The Search For Truth

Even though God obviously 'foreknew' the choice man would make, the Divine love of God is FREE of bondage, thus requiring a "FREE WILL" of both mankind and angels. Free will is one of the three components of consciousness as will be later shown. Thus, the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* had to be in the Garden of Eden, in order to establish "free will".

***"And Jesus said unto him, WHY CALLEST THOU ME GOOD?
NONE IS GOOD, SAVE ONE, THAT IS, GOD."***
(Luke 18:19)

"GOD IS A SPIRIT:
and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
(John 4:24)

***"HE THAT [AGAPAO] LOVETH NOT, KNOWETH NOT GOD; FOR
GOD IS [AGAPE] LOVE."***
(1 John 4:8)

According to Scripture, only God is GOOD. God is a spirit who's image is pure divine AGAPE LOVE. Also according to Scripture, man was originally made in this image of God's spirit which IS spiritual LIFE, (Jn 1:4). However, the FALL extinguished the spiritual LIFE of man, leaving the spirit of DEATH within with a PHILOS type of love that serves the desires of his flesh instead of naturally serving God.

◆ *GOD'S DIVINE AGAPE LOVE VS. MAN'S PHILOS TYPE LOVE :*

GOD'S DIVINE LOVE (AGAPE)	MAN'S LOVE (PHILOS)
suffers long – <i>very patient</i>	Impatient
kind – <i>benevolent</i>	Unkind
envies not – <i>not covetous</i>	Self centered & jealous
vaunts not itself – <i>unboastful</i>	Boastful, conceited
not puffed up – <i>non-egotistical</i>	Egotistical, arrogant
Does not behave itself unseemly	Behaves unseemly
seeks not her own – <i>exclusive association</i>	Seeks commonality (bigotry)
not easily provoked – <i>slow to anger</i>	Easily provoked
thinks no evil – <i>pure minded</i>	Thinks evil
Rejoices not in iniquity – <i>avoids evil</i>	Tolerates evil
rejoices in the truth – <i>delights in Christ</i>	No real love for truth or Christ
Beareth all things – <i>tolerant</i>	Intolerant
believeth all things – <i>seeks truth of God</i>	Unbelieving, contradicting
hopes all things – <i>strong in faith</i>	Unconfident
endures all things – <i>fortitude in trials</i>	Weak fortitude, hates correction
never fails – <i>loyal & steadfast</i>	Prone to failures and changes

Beyond Belief

The fact there is a difference in these love types is revealed in the following debate between Jesus and Peter in John chapter 21:

**"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,
SIMON, SON OF JONAS, [AGAPAO] LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE?
He saith unto him,
YEA, LORD; THOU KNOWEST THAT I [PHILEO] LOVE THEE.
He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."**

**"He saith to him again the second time,
SIMON, SON OF JONAS, [AGAPAO] LOVEST THOU ME?
He saith unto him,
YEA, LORD; THOU KNOWEST THAT I [PHILEO] LOVE THEE.
He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."**

**"He saith unto him the third time,
SIMON, SON OF JONAS, [PHILEO] LOVEST THOU ME?
Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time,
[Phileo] Lovest thou me?
And he said unto him,
LORD, THOU KNOWEST ALL THINGS; THOU KNOWEST THAT I
[PHILEO] LOVE THEE.
Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)**

Remember, three times Peter denied knowing the Lord in the physical sense, (Mat 26:69-75). But here, Peter is apparently grieved because he realizes that his love was not the same love type that Jesus was referring to, denying Jesus again three times spiritually. The divine love-spirit of God is called *agape/agapao* in the Greek. The fallen love-spirit of man in the Greek is *philos/phileo*.

Notice what Jesus' *agape* love was requiring of Peter. That he FEED Christ's SHEEP unconditionally. The feeding this is referring to is instruction in DOCTRINE of TRUTH that will lead His sheep unto the LIFE of God that is in Christ, the same spiritual LIFE that was lost at the FALL of Adam and Eve, (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Cor 3:2-3). Can you begin to see the MYSTERY here? (More on this in *Part 3*).

The Search For Truth

• **ATTRIBUTES THE BIBLE REVEALS ABOUT GOD:**

God is	Ex 3:14	God is a consuming fire	Deu 4:24
God is the Lord	Ps 118:27	God is a jealous God	"
God is a living God	Jer 10:10	God is a witness of men	Rom 1:9
God is creator	Gen. 1:1	God is wise	1 Cor 1:25
God is <i>agape</i> love	John 4:8	God is all powerful	Mat 19:26
God is spirit	John 4:24	God is solid as a rock	Deu 32:4
God has a soul	Isa 42:1	God's work is perfect	"
God can divide himself	Col 1:15	God of judgment	"
God can reproduce	Luke 1:35	God of truth	"
God only is good	Luke 18:19	God of just and right	"
God is merciful	Deu 4:31	God of no iniquity	"
God is holy	Ps 99:9	God of compassion	Ps 86:15
God, no respecter of persons	Acts 10:34	God of grace	"
God is faithful	1 Cor 1:9	God of patience	"
God is true	2 Cor 1:18	God of knowledge	1 Sam 2:3
God is light	1 Jn 1:5	God of wrath	Rom 1:18
God is a helper of men	Ps 54:4	God of salvation	Ps 85:4
God is judge	Ps 50:6	God of the living	Mark 12:27
God is a refuge	Ps 62:8	God of heaven and earth	Gen 24:3
God is pure	Prov 30:5	God of Israel	Ex 34:23
God is righteous	Dan 9:14	God of holy prophets	Rev 22:6
God is strong	Hab 3:19	God of angels	Heb 1:13-14
God does not change	Mal 3:6	God of the Lord Jesus	Eph 1:17

God reveals Himself to mankind in various ways: in His creation, (Romans 1:20); through faith, (Rom 1:17); through His wrath, (Rom 1:18), through His published Word, (Ps 68:11); through the Holy Spirit, (1 Cor 2:9-11); through divine revelation, (Jn 14:21-23); through the testimony of Jesus, (Jn 14:9, 17:6); through His prophets, (Num 12:6); by speaking directly, (1 Kings 19:12; Mat 17:5-6); and numerous other ways.

"YE SHALL NOT GO AFTER OTHER GODS,
of the gods of the people which are round about you;"

"(FOR THE LORD THY GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD AMONG YOU)
LEST THE ANGER OF THE LORD THY GOD BE KINDLED AGAINST THEE,
AND DESTROY THEE FROM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

"YE SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD,
as ye tempted him in Massah."
(Deuteronomy 6:14-16)

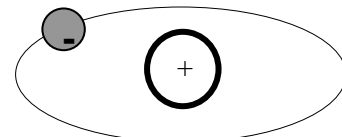
Beyond Belief

**"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD OF GODS, AND LORD OF LORDS,
A GREAT GOD, A MIGHTY, AND A TERRIBLE,
WHICH REGARDETH NOT PERSONS, NOR TAKETH REWARD:"**

**"HE DOTHT EXECUTE THE JUDGMENT OF THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOW,
AND LOVETH THE STRANGER, IN GIVING HIM FOOD AND RAIMENT."**
(Deuteronomy 10:17-18)

The Word of God testifies to His existence, His character, and His supreme POWER and AUTHORITY. The verses reveal He is one who loves justly as a true Father, who both lovingly provides as well as harshly punishes. His laws permeates throughout the heavens and the Earth to preserve them. Without law and justice, comes chaos and destruction as God is proving to mankind in these last days.

From our solar system to the smallest particle, has pattern and design. The center of our solar system is the sun, a positive energy force that radiates outward giving LIGHT and LIFE to our otherwise dark and lifeless planet that revolves around it. The center of the simplest atom is also a positive force, with an electron revolving around it. The spirit of God is a positive force that radiates outward to regulate His works. And according to the *Gospel of Thomas*, God is in "both motion and at rest". Does all life not REVOLVE instead of EVOLVE? This revolving is the act of regeneration, and what God claims to have done is sent His only offspring, Jesus Christ to REGENERATE the spirit within man. The word 'regeneration' literally means: **return to genesis**.



The atom

**"FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COME TO SAVE
THAT WHICH WAS LOST."** (Matthew 18:11)

Greek for 'SAVE' is *sozo* (sode'-zo). This salvation occurs by God's act of **regeneration** upon the human heart. This places the Son of God in an EXCLUSIVE position, which we shall explore in the next section. To complete this section, the following are a few names of God and what they mean:

◆ *NAMES OF GOD:*

'GOD', [4447 times in 3878 verses in entire KJV Bible]

HEBREW: H430, '*elohiym*, (el-o-heem'); **plural of H433**; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used in the plural of the supreme God. [2605 times in 2249 verses]

The Search For Truth

H433, '**elowahh**, (el-o'-ah); from G410; a deity or **the Deity:--God**, [56 times in 55 verses]

|
H410, '**el**, (ale); from H352; the Almighty but used also of any deity:--God (god). [242 times in 232 verses]

|
H352, '**ayil**, (ah'-yil); from the same as H193; strength; hence anything strong; spec. a chief (politically); also a ram (from his strength); a pilaster (as a strong support); an oak or other strong tree:--mighty (man), lintel, oak, post, ram, tree.

|
H193, '**uwl**, (ool); to twist, i.e. by implying be strong; the body (as being rolled together); also powerful:--mighty, strength.

"I AM", H1961, **hayah** (haw-yaw'), see under 'LORD' H1961.

'JAH', H3050. **Yahh**, (yaw); mean. the same as 'Jehovah'; Jah, the sacred name:--Jah, the Lord, most vehement. [used once in Psalm 68:4]

'JEHOVAH', H3068, **Yehovah** (yeh-ho-vaw'), see H3068 under 'Lord'. [used 4 times in 4 verses in]

'LORD': [7125 times in 6011 verses in O.T.]

Yehovah, H3068 (yeh-ho-vaw'); from H1961; (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jeho-vah, Jewish national name of God:--Jehovah, the Lord..

|
hayah, H1961 (haw-yaw'); a prim. root [comp. H1933]; to exist, i.e. be or become. [used as "I AM" in Exodus 3:14]

hava', H1933 (haw-vaw'); a prim. root [comp. H183, H1961] supposed to mean to breathe; to be (in the sense of existence).

avah, H183 (aw-vaw'); a prim. root; to wish for:--covet, (greatly) desire, be desirous, long, lust (after).

GREEK: G2316, **theos**, (theh'-os); a deity, espec. (with G3588, 'the') the supreme Divinity; fig. a magistrate, God, god .

kurios, G2962 (koo'-ree-os); from *kuros* (supremacy); supreme in authority, i.e. controller; God, Lord, master, Sir. [711 times in 657 verses in N.T.]

"LORD GOD", [533 times in 519 verses in O.T. as '*Adonay Yehovih* or *Yehovah 'elohiym*]
[13 times in 13 verses in N.T. as *kurios theos*]

'**Adonay**, H136 (ad-o-noy'); an emphatic form of H113; the Lord (used as a prop. name of God only):--(my) Lord. [432 times in 416 verses]

Beyond Belief

|
'**adown**, H113 (aw-done'), or (short.) 'adon, aw-done'; from an unused root (mean to rule); sovereign, i.e. controller (human or divine):--lord, master, owner. Comp. also names beginning with "Adoni-".

Yehovih, H3069 (yeh-ho-vee'); a var. of H3068 [used after H136, and pronounced by Jews as H430, in order to prevent the repetition of the same sound, since they elsewhere pronounce H3068 as H136]:--God. [304 times in 294 verses]

◆ ADDITIONAL VERSES THAT TESTIFIES OF A SOVERIEGN GOD:

"In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

"Behold, **the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.**"

(Deuteronomy 10:14)

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and **understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**"

"I, even **I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.**"

"I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god among you: **therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.**"

"Yea, **before the day was I am he;** and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: **I will work, and who shall let it?**" (Isaiah 43:10-13)

"**I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:**

I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: "

(Isaiah 45:5)

"Remember the former things of old: for **I am God, and there is none else I am God, and there is none like me.** "

(Isaiah 46:9)

"**Look unto me, and be ye saved,** all the ends of the earth: **for I am God, and there is none else.**"

"I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, **That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.**"

(Isaiah 45:22-23)

"That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,** of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;"

"And **that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10-11)

The Search For Truth

"And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against **the gods of the people of the earth, which were the work of the hands of man.**"

(2 Chronicles 32:19)

"For **all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.**"
(1 Chronicles 16:26)

"Thou shalt have **no other gods before me.**"

(Exodus 20:3)

"For **thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.**" (Exodus 34:14)

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that **there is none other God but one.**"

"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth,

(as there be gods many, and lords many,)"

"But **to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**"

(1 Corinthians 8:4-7)

"Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb,
I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone;
that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;"

(Isaiah 44:24)

"The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, **saith the LORD**, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, **and formeth the spirit of man within him.**"

(Zechariah 12:1)

"Behold, **I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?**"

(Jeremiah 32:27)

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

(Hebrews 12:9)

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that **I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth:** for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

(Jeremiah 9:24)

Beyond Belief

3. THE EXCLUSIVE SON

**"WHO HATH ASCENDED UP INTO HEAVEN, OR DESCENDED?
who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a
garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth?
WHAT IS HIS NAME, AND WHAT IS HIS SON'S NAME,
IF THOU CANST TELL?"**
(Proverbs 30:4)

There are a number of verses like this in the Old Testament that testifies to the Son of the Living God. Even though Old Testament Scripture does not reveal the name 'JESUS', His identity is beyond dispute by searching out the prophecies.

**"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD,
AND THE WORD WAS GOD."**

"THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD."

**"ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM;
AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANY THING MADE THAT WAS MADE."**
(John 1:1-3)

**"AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US,
(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."**
(John 1:14)

The opening verses of John sound like a confusing riddle, but it testifies to the MYSTERY aspect of God and the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, (1 John 5:7). Note the testimony that ALL THINGS are made by the WORD.

**"GOD, WHO AT SUNDRY TIMES AND IN DIVERS MANNERS
SPAKE IN TIME PAST UNTO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS,"**

**"HATH IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN UNTO US BY HIS SON,
WHOM HE HATH APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS,
BY WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS;"**

**"WHO BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY,
AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON,**

**AND UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER,
WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS,
SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH;"**
(Hebrews 1:1-3)

This passage in Hebrews gives much insight into this mystery. Verse 1 confirms what was first shown, the foretelling of Christ's coming in various ways. Then we find that the ages of the prophets ended with the appearance of Jesus. As Son, we see that Jesus is the heir of all things that His Heavenly Father made **through Him**. The word 'WORLDS' here is *aion* (ah-ee-ohn'), and refers here to: **age**, which refers to Christ's planning out the AGES. Verse 2 shows that Jesus was born in the IMAGE of God, just as Adam was made, (1 Cor 15:45). Not only is He our Creator, but **Christ is the one who upholds ALL THINGS by the WORD of His POWER**. THEN, it shows the sacrifice of His life for our atonement, at which time He ascended back to the Father, far above all heavens.

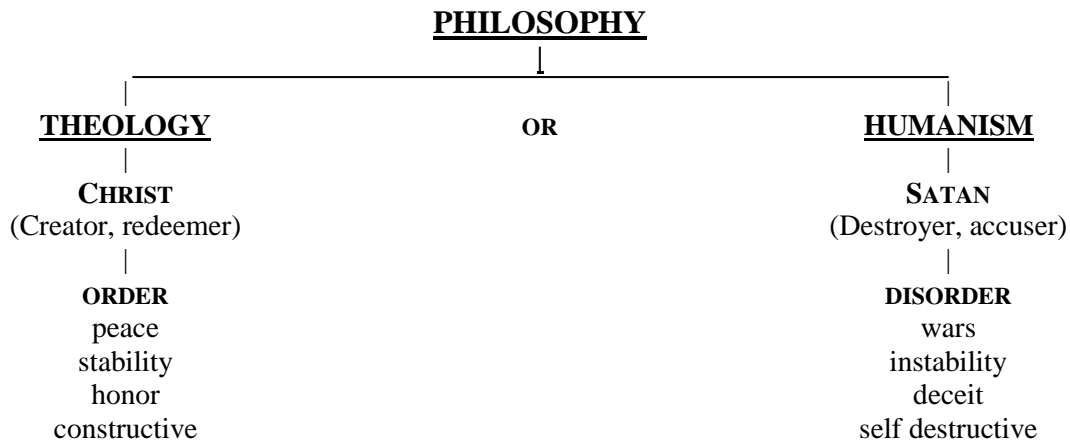
**"THAT ALL MEN SHOULD HONOUR THE SON,
EVEN AS THEY HONOUR THE FATHER.
HE THAT HONOURETH NOT THE SON
HONOURETH NOT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT HIM."**
(John 5:23)

This is another verse that claims the exclusivity of Jesus, the Son of God. This rules out Judaism and Islam because they DO NOT HONOUR JESUS CHRIST AS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF THE LIVING GOD. This is a very blunt statement, that also includes ALL cults including the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses.

There are MANY people who are not involved with religion that acknowledge God, even in prayer during time of distress. But, it is IN VAIN. Jesus said except a person REPENT, THEY WILL PERISH. And the only WAY Jesus said to do that was to STRIVE to enter the STRAIT GATE, and the WAY is NARROW to FIND LIFE. All religions outside of true Biblical Christianity promote self worth and voluntary humility to some form of a "graven image". An IDOL created from man's imagination that does not move, eat, breath, talk, or think. Out of all religions and theologies, only the Old and New Testament Bible has proven to be the most unique book ever written. God's Word has impacted the world consistently through the ages. The Bible is the only writing to claim it is a divinely inspired book, claims authorship of the universe, reveals a divine plan before it happens, and the conditional promise for eternal life ONLY through Christ Jesus the Son of God.

Beyond Belief

Because of Bible testimony, the two basic options we actually have is:



***"BEWARE LEST ANY MAN SPOIL YOU
THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND VAIN DECEIT,
AFTER THE TRADITION OF MEN, AFTER THE RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD,
AND NOT AFTER CHRIST."***

"FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY."

***"AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM,
WHICH IS THE HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER:"
(Colossians 2:8-10)***

Even without regard to philosophy, the heart of man will believe in something to some degree. Many a person has searched to fill the natural 'void' we are all born with. Because of that, we see the warning given here concerning being SPOILED. Greek for 'SPOIL' is *sulagogeo* (soo-lag-ogue-eh'-o), which means: **to lead away as booty, to seduce**. Generally speaking, man is an easy prey in this respect. It was one of the Rothschilds that said that religion is an 'opium' of the people. This appears to be an accurate assessment, from the poor and simple to the most successful and educated. But take careful note here, this is not condemning philosophy in relation to Christ, but philosophy in view of the world.

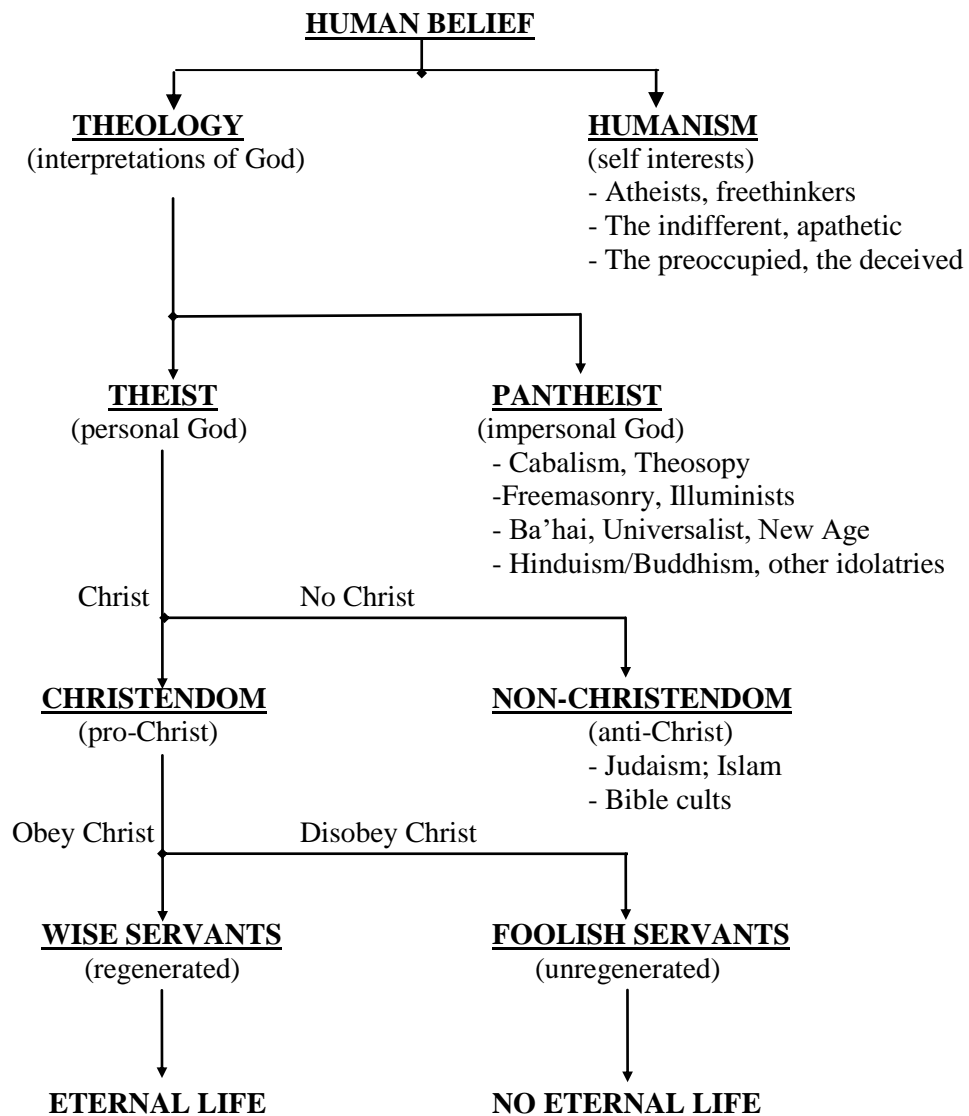
The Scriptures declare that the majority of mankind will perish in eternal torment because of errors in their thinking of God and Christ, (Rom 1:20). Jesus also reveals that the vast majority of His followers will also perish, (Mat 7:24-27). He said there are two pathways His followers will go: one is **narrow** that leads to LIFE, and the other is **broad** that leads to DESTRUCTION, (Mat 7:13-14).

The Search For Truth

Jesus said we will serve either God or mammon, it is one or the other, regardless what a person believes. Mammon is defined: **confidence, i.e. wealth personified or avarice deified**, which means to place our interest and confidence in ourselves and the material world instead of God.

People generally judge others by some measure of success, which is also HUMANISM. Even those who 'profess' Christ as their Lord but live in disobedience to His commands are counted as DIS-BELIEVERS. BELIEF is a strong compelling force exerted by the power of free will choice, regardless if the object of that belief is truth or a delusion.

Human belief can also be diagrammed logically:



Beyond Belief

"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED:
BUT
HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT IS CONDEMNED ALREADY,
BECAUSE HE HATH NOT BELIEVED
IN THE NAME [AUTHORITY] OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD."
(John 3:18)

Jesus was very blunt when said that any man who does not believe on Him was already condemned. This belief is well qualified by Scripture which includes OBEDIENCE to His commands to FIND LIFE, (Mat 7:13-29, Luke 6:46, Heb 5:9). His statement is based upon God's law and judgment, and therefore it also reflects the divine love and order of God. The same love type that sent His Son to die for the redemption of the world, is the same love that condemns man to eternal death for the rejection of His Son. That is why Jesus expressed grave warning that we MUST FEAR GOD, (Luke 12:5).

◆ *NAMES OF CHRIST:*

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son,
and shalt call his name JESUS."
(Luke 1:31)

'JESUS', [used 983 times in 942 verses in the N.T.]

GREEK: *Iesous*, (ee-ay-sooce') ;

HEBREW: *Yehowshuwa'*, (yeh-ho-shoo'-ah), from: *Yehovah-yasha'*;

ENGLISH: *Joshua*: as translated from Hebrew, H3091, *Yehowshuwa'*

GREEK: *Iesous*, G2424, (ee-ay-sooce'); of Heb. or. [H3091]; **Jesus (i.e. Jehoshua)**, the name of our Lord and two (three) other Israelites.

|
Yehowshuwa', H3091, (yeh-ho-shoo'-ah); or *Yehowshu'a*, yeh-ho-shoo'-ah; from H3068 [Jehovah H1961] and H3467; *Jehovah-saved*; **Jehoshua (i.e. Joshua)**, the Jewish leader:--Jehoshua, Jehoshuah, **Joshua**. Comp. H1954, H3442.

|
yasha', H3467, (yaw-shah'); a prim. root; prop. to be open, wide or free, i.e. (by impl.) to be safe; causat. to free or succor:-- X at all, avenging, defend, deliverer, help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save (-iour), get victory.

The Search For Truth

'MESSIAH': H4899. *mashiyach*, (maw-shee'-akh); from H4886; anointed; usually a consecrated person (as a king, priest, or saint); spec. the Messiah:--anointed, Messiah. [Note: only used twice and in Daniel 9]

|
H4886. *mashach*, (maw-shakh'); a prim. root; to rub with oil, i.e. to anoint; by impl. to consecrate; also to paint:--anoint, paint.

'YESHUWAH', (means SALVATION): H3444. *yeshuw'ah*, (yesh-oo'-aw); fem. pass. part. of H3467; something saved, i.e. (abstr.) deliverance; hence aid, victory, prosperity:--deliverance, health, help (-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare.

'SAVIOUR': H3467, *yasha'*

'CHRIST': G5547, [used 555 times in 522 verses], *Christos*, (khris-tos'); from G5548; **anointed**, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus:--Christ.

|
G5548. *chrío*, khree'-o; prob. akin to G5530 through the idea of contact; to smear or rub with oil, i.e. (by impl.) to consecrate to an office or religious service:--anoint.

◆ *OTHER SCRIPTURE OF THE EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRIST:*

And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh,**
justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles,
believed on in the world, received up into glory.
(1 Timothy 3:16)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious **appearing of the great God**
and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who **gave himself for us,** that he might **redeem us** from all iniquity, and purify unto himself
a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
(Titus 2:13-14)

Thus saith **the LORD the King of Israel, AND HIS REDEEMER THE LORD OF**
HOSTS;

I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.
(Isaiah 44:6)

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
(Rev 22:13)

He that hateth me hateth my Father also.
(John 15:23)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Beyond Belief

And **I give unto them eternal life**; and they shall never perish,
neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all;
and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

"I and my Father are one."

(John 10:27-30)

That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one
in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

(John 17:21)

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me,
Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou *then*, Show us the
Father? Believest thou not that **I am in the Father, and the Father in me**? the words that I
speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

(John 14:9-10)

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?

He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:

(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

(1 John 2:22-23)

We know that **whosoever is born of God sinneth not**; but he that is begotten of God
keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. **And we know that we are of God,
and the whole world lieth in wickedness.** And we know that the Son of God is come, **and
hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true**, and we are in him
that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God, and eternal life.**

(1 John 5:18-20)

Whosoever transgresseth, **and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.**

He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

(2 John 1:9)

4. TRUTH VS. SCIENCE

WHAT IS TRUTH? Is there any coherent person that has not had that
thought at least once in life? Most colleges and universities charge their
students to have an open mind, yet they themselves are closed minded to
intelligent design and the Biblical testimony. The American form of
government claims a "separation of Church and State". Is that not an
OXYMORON? This institution was formed upon basic Christian principles
applied to living and learning. However, today the trend is to eliminate all
perspectives of God and especially Christ, by replacing them with vain
humanistic ideals of logic and reason.

The Search For Truth

We find this same elementary fact two thousand years ago when Jesus Himself was being tried for the sake of TRUTH:

*"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then?
Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king.
To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world,
THAT I SHOULD BEAR WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH.
EVERY ONE THAT IS OF THE TRUTH HEARETH MY VOICE."*

*"Pilate saith unto him,
WHAT IS TRUTH?
And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews,
and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all."
(John 18:37-38)*

Pilate represented the World's greatest power –the Roman Empire. He was a learned and powerful man, of position and great authority in government. Apart from all that, He had no concept of what TRUTH really was, and obviously did not care to pursue it. Has this changed in two thousand years?

*"Jesus saith unto him,
**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE:
NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.**"
(John 14:6)*

Jesus said He is the TRUTH and the way to immortality is for those who seek that truth. But, only FEW find this truth that is well hid in Him, (Eph 3:9). **This is an exclusive truth that negates all other forms of religions and beliefs.**

True Biblical Christianity is not religion as the world perceives it, but is an exclusive perception of truth and life because Jesus declared He is the truth and life, and was not of this world.

The Bible claims God created ALL THINGS through His Son Jesus Christ, the FIRST begotten of all creatures and of all creation, (Jn 1:1; Eph 3:9; Col 1:13-17; Heb 1:1-4; Rev 4:11). And a person's creator is their God. **So what IF Christ actually did create all things?** What would that make the great 'minds' that influence the world? Where would that leave us in death and judgment?

Beyond Belief

The search for life in the universe is in reality THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH, is it not? The purpose of SCIENCE is the search for TRUTH. People seek religion for the reason of seeking TRUTH. But the ultimate TRUTH is NEVER found in these, they are looking in the wrong places. They REJECT the counsel of God that leads to the knowledge of REAL TRUTH.

"As he spake these words, MANY BELIEVED ON HIM."

"THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM,

IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD,

THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED;"

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

(John 8:30-32)

What TRUTH is Jesus referring to here? He said HE is the truth and was standing directly in front of them, yet they had to DO SOMETHING to FIND the TRUTH. This of itself creates a MYSTERY of the Word of God. These Jews BELIEVED in Jesus, they were His disciples. The Greek for 'BELIEVED' here is *pisteuo* (pist-yoo'-o), which means: **to have faith in, to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ.**

By modern Christian standards that makes them 'SAVED' Christians, but Jesus knew they were not yet made FREE. The word for 'FREE' is *eleutheroo* (el-yoo-ther-o'-o), which is: **to liberate, i.e. to exempt from moral or mortal liability, to deliver from sin.** Or, the common term is 'SAVED'. These were Jesus' disciples, but not "disciples indeed", which means disciples IN TRUTH. The 'MYSTERY' aspect of the Gospel of Christ is covered extensively in *Part III - "The Bible Puzzle"*.

"GOD IS A SPIRIT:

AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM

IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH." (John 4:24)

"AND WE HAVE KNOWN AND BELIEVED
THE [AGAPE] LOVE THAT GOD HATH TO US.

GOD IS [AGAPE] LOVE;

AND HE THAT DWELLETH IN [AGAPE] LOVE DWELLETH IN GOD,
AND GOD IN HIM."

(1 John 4:16)

The Search For Truth

The Bible testifies that God is the Spirit of DIVINE LOVE called 'AGAPE' in the Greek. Notice that God MUST be worshipped in SPIRIT and in TRUTH. This relates to the MYSTERY aspect of the Bible and the New Covenant of Christ. What Spirit and what TRUTH does John refer to here. Since this TRUTH is Christ, and is HIDDEN from mankind, then this must be the Spiritual essence of God's *agape* love that is IN Christ Jesus.

***"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,
SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM
THE [AGAPE] LOVE OF GOD,
WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD."
(Romans 8:39)***

***"And I have declared unto them thy name, AND WILL DECLARE IT:
THAT THE [AGAPE] LOVE
WHEREWITH THOU HAST LOVED ME
MAY BE IN THEM, AND I IN THEM."
(John 17:26)***

These verses give us some insight of the mystery. Jesus declared He and the Father were ONE, (Jn 10:30). God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are of the ONE divine *agape* love Spirit, (1 Jn 5:1). We are to FIND the TRUTH, the *agape* Spirit of God that is IN Christ to be ONE with them. Do you see? This is how Christ is IN the Father and the Father IN Him. Scripture reveals Mankind is a tripartite being, (1 Thess 5:23) with body, soul, and spirit. It is our spirit that is to be made whole by God's Spirit of *agape* love. The divine *agape* Spirit of God IS LIFE, which is what Adam and Eve lost by the curse of the Tree of Knowledge in paradise.

It will be proven by Scripture in later studies that being made FREE, SAVED, or BORN AGAIN is the regeneration of the Spirit of LIFE of God. Jesus told us how to find that LIFE that is IN Him, but the modern Christian religions have rejected the counsel of God and His Son, thereby CONCEALING the truth of HOW ONE IS TRULY SAVED, HOW ONE FINDS THE TRUTH THAT IS BEHIND ALL LIFE. The reason is the Bible also testifies that there are unseen forces at work to deter the search for REAL TRUTH. Even our own FALLEN spirit within deceives us, (Jer 17:9). Not to mention the powerful spirit called SATAN that lurks about as a "roaring lion" seeking to devour his prey, (1 Pet 5:8). Don't believe it? Try seriously searching for the truth of God's Word.

Beyond Belief

**"AND WITH ALL DECEIVABLENESS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
IN THEM THAT PERISH;**

BECAUSE

**THEY RECEIVED NOT THE [AGAPE] LOVE OF THE TRUTH,
THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED."**

"AND FOR THIS CAUSE

**GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION,
THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE:"**

(2 Thessalonians 2:10-11)

Notice that WITHIN them that perish is '**deceivableness**' because of the fallen spirit of the 'HEART', our center of awareness. The reason for this is the rejection of the LOVE of the TRUTH, the *agape* Spirit of Christ. Also note that it is the RECEIVING of God's *agape* love that makes one SAVED. The primary root word of 'SAVED' in the Greek is 'sos' (same as the international distress call), meaning: **to save, i.e. deliver or heal, make whole**. Since they REFUSE seek after and FIND God's love, then God Himself sends this STRONG DELUSION. In *Part 3* it is shown where God supports people's delusions through His Word because of their own conceit.

"FOR THERE SHALL ARISE FALSE CHRISTS, [MESSIAHS]

AND FALSE PROPHETS,

[CHRISTIAN PREACHERS, TEACHERS, EVANGELISTS]

AND SHALL SHOW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS; INSOMUCH THAT,

IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, THEY SHALL DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT."

"BEHOLD, I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE."

(Matthew 24:24-25)

The New Testament extensively teaches that the overall majority of converted Christians follow the false salvation doctrines of false Christian preachers, teachers, and evangelists all the way to eternal ruin. As we approach the end of the Gentile age, some of these people will manifest with great supernatural POWER and miracles in the name of Jesus. The "very elect" are Christians INDEED, therefore they are NOT deceivable, but there will also be Christians who fall away to follow false Messiahs of other religions or the New Age movement. The TRUE followers of Christ have had their senses exercised to recognize the spirit of error vs. the Spirit of Truth, (Heb 5:14)

Since these false prophets have the potential to lead even the Christian elect astray, then that means it is impossible to recognize them as deceivers without the guidance of God's Spirit. But modern SCIENCE is also paving the way for THE STRONG DELUSION.

High officials in Government, the judicial system, the school and college systems are indoctrinating and intimidating the youth to accept anything that refutes the Bible and the truths it contains. Perhaps that is one reason why Christ said that only FEW find the truth, FIND LIFE.

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART,

THERE IS NO GOD.

THEY ARE CORRUPT, THEY HAVE DONE ABOMINABLE WORKS,
THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD."

"THE LORD LOOKED DOWN FROM HEAVEN UPON THE CHILDREN OF
MEN, TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY THAT DID UNDERSTAND,
AND SEEK GOD."

"THEY ARE ALL GONE ASIDE, THEY ARE ALL TOGETHER BECOME FILTHY:
THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."

(Psalms 14:1-3)

"FOR THE INVISIBLE THINGS OF HIM FROM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD
ARE CLEARLY SEEN,

BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE,
EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD;

SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE:"

"BECAUSE THAT, WHEN THEY KNEW GOD, THEY GLORIFIED HIM NOT AS
GOD, NEITHER WERE THANKFUL;

BUT BECAME VAIN IN THEIR IMAGINATIONS,
AND THEIR FOOLISH HEART WAS DARKENED."

"PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO BE WISE,
THEY BECAME FOOLS,"

"AND CHANGED THE GLORY OF THE UNCORRUPTIBLE GOD INTO AN IMAGE
MADE LIKE TO CORRUPTIBLE MAN, AND TO BIRDS, AND FOURFOOTED
BEASTS, AND CREEPING THINGS."

Beyond Belief

"WHEREFORE GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNESS THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THEIR OWN HEARTS, TO DISHONOUR THEIR OWN BODIES BETWEEN THEMSELVES:"

**"WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE, AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE [CREATION] MORE THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOR EVER. AMEN."
(Romans 1:20-25)**

Remember, it is *humanists* that believe there is no literal Creator God. It is the *pantheists* that believe that CREATION itself IS God. They reject the Father and the Son of the Holy Bible. Science of today AS A WHOLE rejects the TESTIMONY of the Holy Bible and A PERSONAL creator God, therefore there is no alternative but to devise contradicting theories and spend ALL its efforts searching for proof to support those theories. The scientific humanists have adopted two theories of the origin of the universe and man.

THE BIG BANG - EVOLUTION THEORIES:

- rejects the Holy Bible testimony and a personal Creator God (atheism, pantheism);
- believes universe and life formed by random chance out of chaos;
- believes the universe is expanding, evolving upwards along with man;
- believes all modern species evolved by chance from microbes and advances through random selection or mutation;
- the geologic timetable is derived from the evolution theory, and evolution is based on Darwinism which is supported by the geologic timetable, (circular reasoning);
- macro evolution has no known facts or evidence to support it;
- claimed discoveries of evidence are always found as conspiratorial fraud.

DIRECT PANSPERMIA THEORY

- teaches humans originally seeded on Earth by extraterrestrial lifeforms;
- is based upon psychic encounters, UFO sightings and imaginative speculation;
- is void of explanations to universe and extra-terrestrial origins;
- is a recent doctrine used in conjunction with the evolution theory where "missing links" are non-existent due to "space brothers" performing periodic returns to improve the species.

"KNOWING THIS FIRST, THAT THERE SHALL COME IN THE LAST DAYS SCOFFERS, WALKING AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS,"

**"AND SAYING, WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?
FOR SINCE THE FATHERS FELL ASLEEP,
ALL THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY WERE FROM THE
BEGINNING OF THE CREATION."**

"FOR THIS THEY WILLINGLY ARE IGNORANT OF, THAT BY THE WORD OF GOD THE HEAVENS WERE OF OLD, AND THE EARTH STANDING OUT OF THE WATER AND IN THE WATER:"

"WHEREBY THE WORLD THAT THEN WAS, BEING OVERFLOWED WITH WATER, PERISHED:" [THE FLOOD OF NOAH]

"BUT THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, WHICH ARE NOW, BY THE SAME WORD ARE KEPT IN STORE, RESERVED UNTO FIRE AGAINST THE DAY OF JUDGMENT AND PERDITION OF UNGODLY MEN."

(2 Peter 3:3-7)

Let's take a close look at this because the Apostle Peter is perfectly describing what is happening today. The word for 'SCOFFERS' here is *empaiktes* (emp-aheek-tace'), which is defined: **to deride, implying a false teacher**. And 'LUSTS' in the Greek means: **desire**; and its root means: **to set the heart upon**. It is the scientific professors and professional people who have set their heart upon the EVOLUTION 'MODEL' and 'SCOFF' at Christian beliefs and their Bibles.

Next is shown what these people say. They jeer at Bible prophecy concerning the return of Christ. Then, it is revealed what they believe and teach. The word 'CREATION' is *ktisis* (ktis'-is), and in this context means: **original formation**. Which they teach everything simply 'HAPPENED'. Then Peter relates this to them being WILLINGLY IGNORANT of the world wide FLOOD, as recorded not only in the book of Genesis, but also in the ancient texts and folklore of many cultures around the world. In science this is known as UNIFORMITARIANISM, which natural processes in geological past are the same as now, rejecting the idea of various sediment layers formed due to a world flood.

Not only are these 'theories' refuted by universal laws and constants, BUT the geologic timetable is also theory based upon the REJECTION OF EFFECTS caused by the flood, and unreliable age testing methods. These evolutionists claim the age of earth is least 4.5 million years, while the majority of more reliable age determining methods indicate a very young universe and the earth being estimated no more than 12,000 years old. The factual data is WILLINGLY suppressed and ignored by many scientists.

Also, there are scientists who disagree with the evolution theory and accept creationism, not by religious faith alone, but due to scientific fact. Evolution scientists lie by claiming evolution is fact and therefore accepted by all rational and intelligent people.

Beyond Belief

Charles Darwin was an illuminist, and Evolution is documented as a fable generated and maintained by these conspirators to deceive the masses for the New World Order, as indicated in the non-government (NGO) classified manual called: "*Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars*".

DIVERSION THE PRIMARY STRATEGY

Experience has proven that the simplest method of accuring a silent weapon and gaining control of the public is to keep the public undisciplined and ignorant of basic systems principles on the one hand, while keeping them confused, disorganized, and distracted with matters of no real importance on the other hand. This is achieved by:

(3) **REWRITING HISTORY AND LAW AND SUBJECTING THE PUBLIC TO THE DEVIANT CREATION** thus being able to shift their thinking from personal needs to highly fabricated outside priorities.

[Operations Reasearch Corporation, Technical Manual No. TM-SW7905.1, pg. 47, emphasis added.]

"AND HE [THE ANTICHRIST BEAST]
SHALL SPEAK GREAT WORDS AGAINST THE MOST HIGH,
AND SHALL WEAR OUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH,
AND THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS:
AND THEY SHALL BE GIVEN INTO HIS HAND UNTIL A TIME AND TIMES AND
THE DIVIDING OF TIME." (Daniel 7:25)

By the turn of the century, Darwinism had practically been abandoned, but was revived by the ACLU, (an illuminist organization), and the court system in 1925, and placed in college curriculums by huge financial grants. the illuminati controlled court system, forces the doctrines of evolution while forbidding the teaching of intelligent design as a scientific view. Evolution is being accepted even in some areas of Christianity, (The Catholic "pope" supports the theory of evolution), even though The two concepts (Creationism and Evolution) ARE diametrically opposed.

The testimony of scripture claims a sovereign and personal God created all things through His Son during a specified amount of time, and in a particular order. Random chance and chaos is the opposite of controlled creation, a specified time, and a particular order. Scripture also declares both beasts and man were created in the same period, both male and female. Also, the basic laws of physics and thermodynamics reject an evolving universe, which is confirmed by scripture.

Most importantly, evolution and/or direct panspermia denies THE fall of man from the LIFE of God to an UN-regenerate state of spiritual death.

Therefore, since there was no transgression of the command of God in Eden by the first man Adam, then there is no need for a redeemer and regeneration which makes the gospel of God and the Lord Jesus Christ of none effect, WHILE rejecting the Holy Bible ENTIRELY as religious fable. Therefore:

EVOLUTION IS ANTICHRIST DOCTRINE.

***"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust,
AVOIDING PROFANE AND VAIN BABBLINGS,
AND OPPOSITIONS OF SCIENCE FALSELY SO CALLED:"
(1 Timothy 6:20)***

Notice that 'SCIENCE' is falsely called. Why? Because real science is suppose to be a search for the knowledge of truth, no matter what the resultant truth is or appears to be. The word 'OPPOSITIONS' in the Greek is *antithesis* (anti-thesis), which simply means: **a conflict of theories**. Is not the THEORY of evolution a speculation advanced by visionaries that conflict with the ancient Biblical testimony and basic law of homogenesis? The word 'FALSELY' in this verse is *pseudonumos* (psyoo-do'-noo-mos), and means: **untruly named, falsely called**. The word 'SCIENCE' in Greek is *gnosis* (gno'-sis), and defined: **knowledge, science**. In Hebrew (Dan 1:4), the word is *madda'* (mad-daw'), which basically is: **intelligent or conscious thought**. Even the original language word meanings are a contrast to fruitless discussion and quarreling. Timothy is simply told to avoid these types of discussions which genders STRIFE.

***"AND TO KNOW THE [AGAPE] LOVE OF CHRIST,
WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE,
THAT YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD."
(Ephesians 3:19)***

Despite the Christian doctrines of men and their pseudo religious denominations, real TRUTH and GENUINE salvation has to be searched for until it is found. We are TO KNOW this *agape* love of God, FOR THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE, (Jn 17:3). The word for 'KNOWLEDGE' here is again *gnosis*. When this hidden spirit of love is revealed to the individual who has searched for it as Jesus commands. Then, God reveals to them His awesome and super-eminent POWER that far surpasses science and knowledge of the world and universe.

Beyond Belief

Notice WHY we are to KNOW the *agape* love of Christ. ***That we might be FILLED with ALL THE FULNESS of God.*** One may say: "LOVE is an emotion, and what has that to do with science?" This is a very interesting and important question. How can we think in that relation? What is emotion?

From the *Random House Unabridged Dictionary* we find:

e·mo·tion, an affective state of consciousness in which joy, sorrow, fear, hate, or the like, is experienced, as distinguished from cognitive and volitional states of consciousness.

con·scious·ness, the state of being conscious; awareness of one's own existence, sensations, thoughts and feelings; full activity of the mind and senses, as in waking life; awareness of something for what it is; **internal knowledge**; concern, interest, or acute awareness.

cog·ni·tive, of or pertaining to the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment, and reasoning, as contrasted with emotional and volitional processes.

vo·li·tional, a choice or decision made by the will.

The Greek language of the Bible is much more descriptive than the English language. For example the English word 'KNOW' has various Greek counterparts with different applications. In the English language we only have the one word 'LOVE' where Biblical Greek has 31 variations of *philos* types of love and two types of *agape* love, (one human and one Divine). This sometimes is critical in understanding its application in New Testament Scripture, such as the confrontation the Apostle Peter had with Jesus, (Jn 21:15-17). Peter's **awareness** and **perception** of what Jesus was asking him was in view of human *PHILEO* love, which is conditional because it is a 'fondness' based upon SELF. Jesus' perception was of a totally different love type called *AGAPE/AGAPAO* which is NOT KNOWN by the world, it has to be REVEALED to a person at the manifestation of Christ when authentic salvation occurs. (Jn 14:21-23).

So from these word definitions we find that LOVE is an integral part of awareness and **INTERNAL KNOWLEDGE**. It may contrast our cognitive and volitional processes by definition, but it is CENTRAL to our reasoning and decision making processes of our will. This directly relates to what happen to mankind at the FALL at Eden.

"But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"

"FOR GOD DOTTH KNOW THAT IN THE DAY YE EAT THEREOF,

THEN
YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED,
AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL."
(Genesis 3:3-5)

What EYES is this talking about? Eve was standing in front of that tree and said how pleasant it was to the eyes, (verse 6). Hebrew for 'EYES' here is 'ayin (ah'-yin), which is defined: **an eye** (singular); as in sight or **knowledge**. This 'EYE' is obviously referring to our CENTER OF AWARENESS. How we perceive things in accordance to our **rational and emotional state of mind**. Adam and Eve were created in the IMAGE of God and we saw that God is a Spirit of *agape* love. Christ is also born in the IMAGE of God, (Col 1:15). Jesus said only God is GOOD, (Mat 19:17). Since Adam and Eve experientially KNEW God, and were made as amoral creatures, they KNEW only good. But the CURSE of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil caused them to be in violation of the law of the Spirit life in God, placing them in the law of sin and death.

Death means: **a separation**. In effect, **Adam and Eve became HUMANISTS, their own GODS**. Jesus Christ was sent by God the Father to REVERSE this condition, (Rom 8:2) because all children are procreated in the FALLEN and dead spiritual image of their FATHER Adam. This is why just "being a good person" or CONVERTED CHRISTIAN does not grant you eternal LIFE. You MUST be spiritually born again from above, (Jn 3:4-7); which means: you MUST receive the bestowment of God's *agape* love, (1 Jn3:1). To be ONE with the Father and the Son, (Jn 17:17-26).

"BUT THERE IS A SPIRIT IN MAN:
AND THE INSPIRATION OF THE ALMIGHTY
GIVETH THEM UNDERSTANDING."
(Job 32:8)

"THE SPIRIT OF MAN
IS THE CANDLE OF THE LORD,
SEARCHING ALL THE INWARD PARTS OF THE BELLY."
(Proverbs 20:27)

"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HATH SAID,

Beyond Belief

OUT OF HIS BELLY **SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER."**

(John 7:38)

The Bible gives these authoritative statements of a literal spirit within man. Note it is in relation to the spirit where God gives understanding. The word 'INSPIRATION' is *neshamah* (nesh-aw-maw'), which in essence means: **divine intellect, a divine spirit**. God must bestow this upon us, it is not something we do ourselves.

It is interesting to note that in recent years medical science has discovered that in humans there are as many neurotransmitters in the GUT as in the brain. And this "second mind" in the belly is connected to the EMOTIONAL center of the brain via a cranial nerve. Could it be that the center most essence known as the "seat of emotion" is in the BELLY, and the "seat of the soul" is in the brain? That our spirit dictates our EMOTIONAL aspect of our AWARENESS, and our mind controls our RATIONAL aspect of our consciousness? Is that why we have constant struggle within? We find the Apostle Paul perfectly understood this moral predicament:

ROMANS 7:

14 For we know that THE LAW IS SPIRITUAL: BUT I AM CARNAL, sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 FOR I DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD AFTER THE INWARD MAN:

23 But I see another law in my members, WARRING AGAINST THE LAW OF MY MIND, AND BRINGING ME INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE LAW OF SIN WHICH IS IN MY MEMBERS.

24 O wretched man that I am! WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. SO THEN WITH THE MIND I MYSELF SERVE THE LAW OF GOD; BUT WITH THE FLESH THE LAW OF SIN.

Do you see? It is with our RATIONAL mind we strive to do good and may decide to serve God.

The Search For Truth

But, but it is a **FALLEN SPIRIT** within our flesh that causes us to **SIN**, and be subject to the influence of demonic powers, (Mark 7:21-23). That is why Jesus said **IF** we find the **TRUTH** we will be set **FREE**. We may still sin after being regenerated, but the Spirit of **LIFE**, (the *agape* love of God that is in Christ), will **FREE US** from the bondage and control of sin in our lives. Jesus gave us the parameters how to find this truth, but His counsel falls upon deaf ears.

**"BEHOLD, THOU DESIREST
TRUTH IN THE INWARD PARTS:
AND IN THE HIDDEN PART THOU SHALT MAKE ME
TO KNOW WISDOM." (Psalms 51:6)**

**"WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM
DEATH UNTO LIFE,
BECAUSE
WE [AGAPAO] LOVE THE BRETHREN.
HE THAT [AGAPAO] LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER ABIDETH IN DEATH."
(1 John 3:14)**

Now it is clear that the **INWARD PARTS** of our conscious mind is where we desire **TRUTH**, but it is the **HIDDEN** part in the belly, that has to be **MADE** to **KNOW** the **WISDOM** of God. By **KNOWLEDGE** man **FELL** into spiritual **DEATH**, and by **KNOWLEDGE** man is **RAISED** to **LIFE**. From **DEATH** to **LIFE**.

***The only issue between God and man is the internal
knowledge of His divine agape-love.***

5. TRUTH VS. RELIGION

Up till now, Scripture has given us a contrasting perspective in view of what God views as truth vs. the science of man. But what about religion? Is the international movement to promote (i.e. force) **WORLD TOLERANCE** for all beliefs and religions to promote what is true? Or is it designed to **SHIFT** peoples thinking **FROM TRUTH**? Freemasonry teaches that **ALL** religions contain **TRUTH**, but **NO ONE** can claim **EXCLUSIVE TRUTH**. That is an odd statement coming from a secret society whose doctrine **EXCLUDES** all people but there own initiates.

Beyond Belief

The root definition of 'EXCLUSIVE' means: **to shut out**, and Webster's 1828 dictionary begins its definition as: "**Having the power of preventing entrance**". This becomes important because "HATE CRIME" legislation is based upon the TOLERANCE movement, which leads to Christian persecution. Where does this leave Christianity and the Bible itself? Does the Bible claim EXCLUSIVE TRUTH?

**"JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM,
I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE:
NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME."**
(John 14:6)

**"NO MAN CAN COME TO ME,
EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM:
AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY."**
(John 6:44)

These Biblical statements are bold claims that only Jesus Christ IS EXCLUSIVE TRUTH, and promises to give immortality in the "LAST DAY" to those who have literally found him. And it is only God the Father and God the Son who have the power to allow entrance into the new covenant. It does not matter if you believe that testimony or not, for it does not change the Word of God. NOTHING can destroy THE TRUTH, (Mat 24:35).

What DOES matter is IF a person has in fact FOUND the TRUTH, and how they respond to it. ACCEPTED BELIEF in any doctrine is NOT the 'finding' of truth, but should be the **force of HOPE** that propels a person to SEARCH for it, and to continue in that search until **it is REVEALED**. Let's look at the rest of John chapter 6 to further qualify Jesus' statements.

**"IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH; [GIVES LIFE]
the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you,
they are spirit, and they are life."**

**"BUT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU THAT BELIEVE NOT.
For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not,
and who should betray him."**

**"AND HE SAID, THEREFORE SAID I UNTO YOU,
THAT NO MAN CAN COME UNTO ME, EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN UNTO
HIM OF MY FATHER."**

**"FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK,
AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM."**

(John 6:66)

"THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THE TWELVE, WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?"

**"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord,
TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE."**

**"AND WE BELIEVE AND ARE SURE
THAT THOU ART THAT CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."**

(John 6:63-69)

These are profound statements, but first of all WHO was Jesus speaking to? His own DISCIPLES, followers of Christ. Now it is disciples who are indentified by Scripture as CHRISTIANS, (Acts 11:26). As we saw earlier, these people BELEVED in Jesus as the Messiah sent by God, but obviously they were not disciples IN TRUTH. These followers were not 'QUICKENED' which is *zoopoieo* (dzo-op-oy-eh'-o), meaning: **revitalize, make alive, to give life**. They were walking IN THE FLESH, not in the Spirit. Jesus foreknew these people were not of **the elect** of God, they did not possess the type of faith God requires, unlike the twelve CHOSEN ones who were SURE.

These 'flesh' oriented Christians "WENT BACK" to the lives they had before following Christ. They reversed their conversion to the Christian faith for being OFFENDED by what Jesus said. They could not handle the TRUTH of what He said. These may be like the ones John said who became *antichrists*, who were fellow disciples but left Christianity because they had not an 'unction' from God, (1Jn 2:18-21). This is interesting because notice the verse reference where they turned from the truth: John '**666**'.

This shows there are two types of followers of Christ. The MANY who follow Christ according to the flesh, and FEW who follow Christ through the Spirit. We should explore this division within Christianity further, but first we must understand the concept of RELIGION in view of Scriptural testimony.

**"BUT THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS,
WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER**

IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH:

FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM."

"GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM

Beyond Belief

MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH."

(John 4:23-24)

If you are a worshiper of God, do you worship Him in SPIRIT and in TRUTH? How do you know for sure? What does that mean? Are you involved in religion? Even a Christian religious denomination?

**"IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU
SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, AND BRIDLETH NOT HIS TONGUE,
BUT DECEIVETH HIS OWN HEART,
THIS MAN'S RELIGION IS VAIN."**

**"PURE RELIGION
AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD AND THE FATHER
IS THIS,
TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION,
AND TO KEEP HIMSELF UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD."**

(James 1:26-27)

The word 'RELIGION' in these verses is Strong's no. G2356, *threskeia* (thrace-ki'-ah), and is defined: **ceremonious in worship (as demonstrative), i.e. pious--religious**. The Random House dictionary defines 'pious' as: having or showing a dutiful spirit of reverence for God or an earnest wish to fulfill religious obligations; or characterized by a hypocritical concern with virtue or religious devotion; **sanctimonious**. Webster's original dictionary of 1828 under 'RELIGION' states: "**To bind with an oath. Originated from vows made to Roman gods**", could this be why Jesus said Not to swear any OATHS? (Mat 5:33-37).

There is typically a spiritual perspective to Scripture as well as the physical. The physical side of this Scripture is obvious in view of the needs of the flesh, but the spiritual aspect of this has a deeper meaning. God is a Father to those who are Godless; a judge of those who are without Christ, (Ps 68:5-6). He satisfies and fills the longing and hungry soul who are bound in darkness and hunger for truth, (Ps 107:8-14). These are they who have the saving faith God requires and SEARCH for the TRUTH with all their heart, (Jer 29:13). Therefore, Scripture gives us this definition:

PURE RELIGION: 1. VISIT, WATCH OVER, EXHORT, COMFORT, AND HELP THOSE IN SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL AFFLICTION. 2. WATCH TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN HEART FROM THE FILTH OF THE WORLD.

Spiritually, the 'Fatherless are those who do not have the Father, and "widows" do not have Christ. The dry land represents the absence of 'water' and water is instruction in righteousness given by the Word through the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, true religion according to the Holy Bible is to worship God in HIS spirit of TRUTH; to visit and exhort those who are in affliction of "THE WAY" of searching for the LIVING Christ; and to have the AGAPE-LOVE spirit of God within. This is the only way to keep yourself 'unspotted' from the world.

Where does this leave ALL the religions of the world who do not reverence the God of the Holy Bible or worship Him IN TRUTH? What does Scripture say concerning these? Should they be accepted and 'tolerated' as an integral part of the "GLOBAL COMMUNITY"?

***"THOU SHALT FEAR THE LORD THY GOD, AND SERVE HIM,
AND SHALT SWEAR BY HIS NAME."***

***"YE SHALL NOT GO AFTER OTHER GODS,
OF THE GODS OF THE PEOPLE WHICH ARE ROUND ABOUT YOU;"***

***"(FOR THE LORD THY GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD AMONG YOU)
LEST THE ANGER OF THE LORD THY GOD BE KINDLED AGAINST THEE,
AND DESTROY THEE FROM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH."***

(Deuteronomy 6:13-15)

These commands were given to God's chosen people of Israel, and confirms the FREE WILL choice God endowed mankind with. This is very blunt. Either Israel worships God as a people or they will be WIPED OUT as a nation.

***"WHAT SAY I THEN? THAT THE IDOL IS ANY THING,
OR THAT WHICH IS OFFERED IN SACRIFICE TO IDOLS IS ANY THING?"***

***"BUT I SAY, THAT THE THINGS WHICH THE GENTILES SACRIFICE,
THEY SACRIFICE TO DEVILS, AND NOT TO GOD:
AND I WOULD NOT THAT YE SHOULD HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH DEVILS."***

***"YE CANNOT DRINK THE CUP OF THE LORD, AND THE CUP OF DEVILS:
YE CANNOT BE PARTAKERS OF THE LORD'S TABLE,
AND OF THE TABLE OF DEVILS."***

(1 Corinthians 10:19-21)

Beyond Belief

The word 'IDOL' is interesting, and if you spend time searching this out you will fully realize that it is not so much the idol itself, but what it represents. This is what is explaining here. The Greek for 'IDOL' is *eidolon* (i'-do-lon) and is defined: **an image, by implying a heathen god, or the worship of such.** The roots words mean: **a view point, relating to a persons knowledge and understanding, their awareness or perception.** The Bible reveals that idolatry is nothing more than 'belief', (Isaiah 2:8), based upon the imaginations of man, as we saw in the definitions relating to Darwinism.

When this belief becomes followed as a RELIGION, there are SPIRITS attached to the idols that SEDUCE and deceive. The word 'DEVILS' is based in the Greek word *daimon* (dah'-ee-mown), from which the English word 'DEMON' is translated, and means: **a supernatural spirit (of a bad nature), a daemonic being; a deity, god.** The root word *daio* means: **to distribute fortunes.** The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of angels or demons, it just states them as a matter of fact.

This is why Satanism or witchcraft is so appealing to deceivable people, particularly the youth because of its seducing spirits that captivates their mind. The word 'cup' is a metaphor for SPIRIT, and 'table' is defined here as 'meat' which is a metaphor for DOCTRINE. Therefore Paul is warning NOT to attempt to associate yourself with both the Lord and idolatry. This concept is further warned in view of modern Christianity:

"NOW THE SPIRIT SPEAKETH EXPRESSLY, THAT IN THE LATTER TIMES

SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS,

AND DOCTRINES OF DEVILS;" (1 Timothy 4:1)

"AND WHAT CONCORD HATH CHRIST WITH BELIAL? OR WHAT PART HATH HE THAT BELIEVETH WITH AN INFIDEL?"

"AND WHAT AGREEMENT HATH THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS?

FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD HATH SAID, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

"WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM,

AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU,"

"AND WILL BE A FATHER UNTO YOU, AND YE SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAITH THE LORD ALMIGHTY." (2 Corinthians 6:15-18)

The Search For Truth

The word 'BELIAL' is an epithet of Satan which means: **worthlessness**. God says His TEMPLE is our bodies, and either His spirit will dwell IN you or the spirits of idols. But not both, for the spirit of the world is enmity against God, (1 Cor 2:12; James 4:4). The Apostle Paul is speaking to Christians, and we see later why He is making such a warning. Is God telling us to be 'separatists'? Indeed He is.

Every religion in the world is based upon 'BELIEVISM' by accepting its associated DOCTRINE as truth, and especially includes all organized '-isms'. Random House defines '-ISM' as: "**a distinctive doctrine, theory, system, or practice: *This is the age of isms***". And 'isms' cause schisms. Belief is a strong force, even Jesus spoke of its power. But the core difference between the POWER of belief and the doctrine of true salvation is that the POWER of FAITH is not REBIRTH of the spirit, (Zec 4:6). So, is ultimate TRUTH not found in all religions? In the 1990's there was a religious shrine proposed to be erected in Washington DC called the "Temple of Understanding". This was a project in view of the world tolerance movement in the hope of showing the value of the various religions and the future hope of a ONE WORLD RELIGION. The building was to be a **6** sided hexagram with **6** points of the star representing the **6** major religions of the world: i.e. **Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism**. Two other major religions in the U.S. are Mormonism and Jehovah Witnesses.

Judaism's early history is of course outlined in the BIBLE. There is but ONE God whose name is unspeakable, who created and maintains all there is. Beginning with the early patriarch Abraham, God chose and made a covenant through him to bring forth a chosen nation of people –the Hebrews. This covenant was confirmed in Abraham's son Isaac, and his son Jacob. It is out of the sons of Jacob (who God renamed Israel) that originated the twelve tribes of Israel. Later, God raised up Moses to reveal Himself to Israel and give the *Torah*, (the written law) which provided the system of sacrifice for the forgiveness of offenses against God's law which is called SIN. The Old Testament was a covenant of works of the law according to the flesh.

The observance of the law remains today through their traditional interpretations of the *Torah* which are written in a series of volumes called: *The Babylonian Talmud*, (the opinions of former Rabbis) which became THE interpretational 'authority' of all Jewish sects, except a small remnant of *Kiarite Jews*, who are pure *Torah* 'scripturalists', who choose to avoid the errors of Pharisaic Judaism. The reformed nation of Israel today is preparing to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and reinstate the system of sacrifice.

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Christianity is based upon the coming of the Messiah as promised in the Old Testament, and revealed in the New Testament as Jesus Christ.

According to the New Testament testimony, the Jews rejected Jesus as the foretold Messiah and His Gospel, thus allowing Gentiles to be 'grafted' into the House of Israel. This New Covenant is based upon the promise of the Spirit of Grace, also foretold in the Old Testament.

The mid-second to mid-fifth centuries was a time of severe persecution and change from the early Church to a 'universal' Roman Catholic Church which held sole power over Christianity until the *Reformation* period in the 16th century. The Catholic Church continues to claim they are the ONLY true representative of Christ, therefore salvation can only be through "The Church". The so-called 'reformers' broke away from the Catholics and originated the first Christian Protestant denominations.

Several of these men were also known as Christian *humanists*, such as Luther, Calvin, Coverdale and others who also generated Bible translations other than the *Latin Vulgate* Bible. Today, the overall Christian faiths apart from the Catholics, follow Luther's interpretation of the New Testament, that a person may receive the Grace of God and be 'saved' by faith alone, (believism), while a few independent Christian sects promote the works of Old Testament law. However, the Scriptures do not support these things, but teaches that true salvation occurs by 'revelation', the literal manifestation of Christ to an obedient seeking believer. (More on this in the following Sections).

Most Christian sects of today rose up between 1840's to the 1940's by the result of disagreements of Bible translations and interpretations. As the *times of the Gentiles* comes to a close, both the Old and New Testament prophecies reveal (in the literal sense), that Christ will return and first gather His elect, (His Bride); cleanse the Earth of evil; re-gather Israel, and rule over Earth for the following one thousand years. After which, God begins a new program. Unfortunately, most Christians of today also disagree on how to interpret those prophecies.

Islam, once known as *Mohammedanism* is the result of the efforts of one man, Mohammed who claimed to have received revelations from an Angel of their God, called '*ALLAH*'. He evangelized and unified Moslem converts in the early 600's A.D. Later, Mohammed's teachings were published as the *Koran* which resembled the Bible, Apocrypha, and the Talmud, recognizing Jesus as a great prophet, (but not THE Son of God, but who denounced Christianity and converted to Islam). Like all religions, Islam teaches good works and moral ethics, but not a supernatural rebirth of the spirit. Despite pro-Muslim perception, the *Allah* of Islam is not the *Jehovah* God of the Bible, and encourages *jihad* (holy war) with merciless killing of infidels

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(unbelievers), opposing what Christ said about loving our enemies. Islam is separated into two major and several smaller sects.

The larger group is *Shiites* and the other major group called *Sunnites*. Even though there is a mix in some countries, Arabia is predominately *Shiites* while Iran is *Sunnites*. Prior to Islam, Arabia was a wild country with a variety of pagan religions, and the Persian Empire practiced *Zoroastrianism* that arose out of 6th century B.C. Babylon.

Hinduism is one of the older religions that descended from the 'MYSTERY' religion of ancient Babylon that is basically *pantheism*, which developed from its earlier *Veda* system of nature worship and later influence of *Brahmanism*. The essence of this doctrine teaches that man can become 'ONE' with the eternal "life-force" of the universe that is IN all things through proper discipline of the mind and body. These disciplines include the practice of *yoga*; or the opening the "third eye", (symbolized by a painted red dot between the eyes). This practice can be traced back to the tower of Babel and Nimrod's priests who were called *Cyclops*. The purpose was, (through meditation) to see into the spiritual realm and gain spiritual insight, a practice called *necromancy* that God of the Bible condemns. In the 1800's the great Hindu leader and philosopher Ramakrishna spread the doctrine that all religions are alike, and all are searching for the same truth. [Sound familiar?]

Buddhism was founded by the man Gautama 'Buddha' in protest to Hindu doctrines. Developed from Hinduism, perfection of mind is achieved through self-discipline and willpower via an "Eightfold Path" taught in their doctrine. A very ritualistic form of *humanism*. This is the dominate religion of Asians being later separated into two major divisions and a number of various sects.

Confucianism is considered a religion even though there is no personification other than humanist virtue. Developed from the writings of 'Confucius', a wise man of China in 551-479 B.C., and like *Hinduism* and *Buddhism*, by education and the practice of moral ethics a person may become a *superior man* in their inner nature. Confucianism promotes traditional practices of Chinese religion while practicing its system of ethics in government, education, religion, family, and friendship. Confucianism boasts of over six million adherents world-wide, mostly Asians.

Mormonism does not consider itself as another 'Christian' denomination of the Protestant movement, but like most religions, they claim to be the only true one on Earth. This religion is founded upon the doctrine of Joseph Smith in the 1840's in New York. It has two major divisions: the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, based in Utah; and the *Community of Christ* in Missouri, plus many other smaller sects.

Beyond Belief

Mormonism claims to follow the Bible, but is translated in view of their *Book of Mormon* and their scripture *Doctrine and Covenants*. Mormonism believes in polytheistic GODS and deny the Trinity.

The gods were once human and 'evolved' into god-hood status. They deny the virgin birth, but Christ and Lucifer are spirit brothers of their father *Elohim*. Jesus was begotten by sexual intercourse between their "father god" and earned his salvation status while on Earth. Mormonism's second leader, Brigham Young stated:

"Jesus our Elder Brother was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden [Adam], who is our Father in Heaven." [from *Journal of Discourses*, Vol 1, page 51, 1852]. Later, Young wrote: "Now remember from this time forth, and for ever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost... if the Son was begotten by the Holy Ghost, it would be very dangerous to baptize and confirm females, and give the Holy Ghost to them, lest he should beget children..." [*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 15, page 770, 1853].

Mormons believe Christ's atonement allowed them "to earn" their individual salvation. They believe, like Jesus, they will become a god in the after life, and by sex with many spirit wives, they will produce many spirit children. Joseph Smith was claimed to be connected to Freemasonry. The secret rituals in the higher levels of the Mormon Church and teachings are similar to Masonic rituals.

Jehovah Witnesses also believe they are the only true religion of the "one faith" mentioned in Ephesians 4:5. This religion was founded on Bible interpretations of Charles T. Russell, being first incorporated in 1884, also in New York. Evidence reveals that Russell was a 'mystic' and member of the Masonic *Knights Templar*, (see references). After Russell, they were led by Joseph (Judge) Rutherford, but now are controlled and follow the strict edicts of the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.* This corporate based religion is run by a small "Governing Body" of men who instruct its followers through the *Watchtower* publications, and claim that Bible Scripture alone is insufficient to understand the things of God. Therefore, their followers are forbidden to think for themselves in view of the Bible, but submit to the teachings of the *Watchtower Society* teachings. The "Governing Body" controls its members with the fear of being 'dis-fellowshipped' (shunned even by friends and family), if they question its teachings or break one of many rules like reading any religious material not published by the "Governing Body", or celebrating Christian holy days such as Christmas.

They are *monotheistic*, recognizing only one supreme entity they call *Jehovah*, not believing in the Holy Trinity, nor a literal Hell or Lake of Fire. They also disbelieve that Jesus was resurrected in a physical body, and the Holy Spirit is not an entity but a 'force'.

The Search For Truth

They claim the Jews are no longer *Jehovah's* chosen people, and the 144,000 chosen from the twelve tribes of Israel in Revelation who are in heaven, were 'worthy' witnesses selected between 1914 and 1935, and shall rule over the rest of their followers who are the ones to 'inherit' the Earth.

They earn their 'worthy' salvation status by proselytizing their neighborhoods hoping to find interested 'subscribers' to their publications, that supports their corporation.

The difficulty that Christians find in conversing with followers of "Christian cult" based religions is they will appear to agree to most things Christians say, but the average Christian is generally ignorant of how these people interpret the MEANING of Scripture. Even the term "new age" is defined as a *semantic revolution*. The interesting thing about these last two religions, (and several others), is that research reveals these were created by 'Illuminists' (Illuminati secret societies), which is why their teachings are similar. Were these deliberate creations to divide Christians? The original Webster's dictionary of 1828 contains this definition:

ILLUMINA'TI, "The name given to certain associations of men in modern Europe, who combined to overthrow the existing religious institutions, and substitute reason, by which they expected to raise men and society to perfection."

What is **emphasized** by illuministic doctrine and those involved in the UNIFICATION of the world's religions, is the commonality of MORAL ETHICS and the common understanding that 'LOVE' is the answer to the existence and management of man. This is the IDEAL of the spirit of *Liberalism* that is increasingly being manifested in the hearts of people.

This ideal is the OUTWARD APPEARANCE of those who are moving toward a ONE WORLD SOCIAL ORDER. This is what Judaism has attempted to achieve in its 3000 years of existence but have miserably failed to do so. However, Jesus Christ said the problem is in the HEART, in the spirit. Except a person is (in-truth) BORN AGAIN, they **cannot** resurrect their own self to a LOVE made PERFECT, (1 Jn 4:16-21).

**“AND IF IT SEEM EVIL UNTO YOU TO SERVE THE LORD,
CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE;
WHETHER THE GODS WHICH YOUR FATHERS SERVED THAT WERE ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE FLOOD, OR THE GODS OF THE AMORITES,
IN WHOSE LAND YE DWELL:
BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.”
(Joshua 24:15)**

Beyond Belief

Every cognitive soul decides in some way to settle the question of God and Christ in their heart, whether they are aware of it or not. The Bible claims every human soul is born into CONDEMNATION, a sentence unto eternal ruin, (Jn 3:16-18), due to the fall of Adam, (Rom 5). A condition that can only be healed through spiritual rebirth from a 'dead' human spirit, to the Spirit of LIFE of God that is in Christ Jesus. This is the MEASURE and the MAIN difference between TRUE Biblical Christianity and ALL religions and 'isms' of the world. Most of the religions listed proclaim they are the ONLY ones of TRUTH. If that is so, then which one? They cannot all be right, BUT they can all be wrong! How can we know for sure?

The genuine Jesus Christ of the Holy Bible, who is testified as the CREATOR of all that is, commands that EVERY SOUL has to SEARCH for the TRUTH until it is found , because it is well hidden from man. In addition to the proprietary claims of the ONE TRUE GOD and CREATOR of all things, and that the Holy Bible is the DIVINE INSPIRED WORD of God, is the promise of the gift of ETERNAL LIFE, which comes to the TRUE seeker via an EXPERIENTIAL SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION of the LORD HIMSELF, (Jn 14:18-24; 1 Peter 1:13-14). God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah saying:

“FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END.”

“THEN SHALL YE CALL UPON ME, AND YE SHALL GO AND PRAY UNTO ME, AND I WILL HEARKEN UNTO YOU.”

“AND YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.”

(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

There is no religion in the world, (including latter-day Christianity) that has THE TESTIMONY of a LITERAL MANIFESTATION of our Creator who brings the saving Grace of God to His obedient seeker, only TRUE New Testament Christianity. NONE, no not one. There are many such verses of Scripture.

“AND THIS IS THE RECORD, [TESTIMONY] THAT GOD HATH GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.”

**"HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE;
AND HE THAT HATH NOT THE SON OF GOD
HATH NOT LIFE."** (1 John 5:11-12)

Out of all religions and beliefs, Jesus Christ is the ONLY ONE that fulfilled all the law and legal parameters God laid down in His Word for REDEMPTION out of condemnation, because He is a just God who loves His creation enough to save it (Jn 3:16). That is why NO religion and their doctrines offer the gift of eternal LIFE based upon the bestowment of the supernatural LOVE of God, (1 Jn 3;1).

**"HE IS NOT THE GOD OF THE DEAD,
BUT THE GOD OF THE LIVING:
YE THEREFORE DO GREATLY ERR."**
(Mark 12:27)

Therefore, all who are under the religions of the world remain in spiritual DEATH, as Jesus says here: "THEY DO GREATLY ERR". So why do not more people seek after this God of TRUTH?

**"FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD
SHALL BE SAVED."**

"HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?"

**"AND HOW SHALL THEY PREACH, EXCEPT THEY BE SENT?
AS IT IS WRITTEN, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEM THAT PREACH
THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, AND BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"**

**"BUT THEY HAVE NOT ALL OBEYED THE GOSPEL.
FOR ESAIAS SAITH, LORD, WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"**
(Romans 10:13-16)

Herein lies the KEY. Religions are propagated from generation to generation, and for the most part are isolated from exposure to the doctrines of other beliefs. Why do you think it is always Christians who are persecuted and even killed in a number of foreign countries?

Beyond Belief

Like father-like son and so on it goes. This is why some faiths send forth missionaries throughout the world, particularly the various Christian denominations. Even when the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is heard and accepted by the MANY Christians, His doctrine to find true salvation is not OBEYED. We will explore this later.

◆ ANTICHRIST RELIGIONS

"AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD:

**AND THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST,
WHEREOF YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT SHOULD COME;
AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD."**

(1 John 4:3)

**"FOR MANY DECEIVERS ARE ENTERED INTO THE WORLD,
WHO CONFESS NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH.
THIS IS A DECEIVER AND AN ANTICHRIST."**

(2 John 1:7)

**"WHOSOEVER TRANSGRESSETH,
AND ABIDETH NOT IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST,
HATH NOT GOD.**

**HE THAT ABIDETH IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST,
HE HATH BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON."**

**"IF THERE COME ANY UNTO YOU, AND BRING NOT THIS DOCTRINE,
RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, NEITHER BID HIM GOD SPEED:"**

**"FOR HE THAT BIDDETH HIM GOD SPEED
IS PARTAKER OF HIS EVIL DEEDS."**

(2 John 1:9-11)

When Christ came, so did the "spirit of antichrist". Greek for 'ANTICHRIST' is *antichristos* (an-tee'-khris-tos), and the word study reveals it means: **an opponent of the Messiah; to be opposite, instead of, in the place of, a substitute.**

The prefix *anti* (an-tee'), is mostly used in composition to denote contrast, in other words not necessarily a COPY or one who MIMICS Jesus. Which modern Bible prophecy teachers interpret as one who will come and deceive the world that he is Christ returned. But here it essentially relates to ANY SPIRIT that opposes Christ in word or deed.

**"FOR YE HAVE HEARD OF MY CONVERSATION IN TIME PAST
IN THE JEWS' RELIGION,
HOW THAT BEYOND MEASURE
I PERSECUTED THE CHURCH OF GOD, AND WASTED IT:"**

**"AND PROFITED IN THE JEWS' RELIGION
ABOVE MANY MY EQUALS IN MINE OWN NATION, BEING MORE EXCEEDINGLY
ZEALOUS OF THE TRADITIONS OF MY FATHERS." (Galatians 1:14)**

Before Apostle Paul's conversion to Christianity, he was a Pharisee, a member of the most devout sect of Judaism, (Acts 26:5). To this day, Judaism has the spirit of antichrist. According to the New Testament testimony. In fact, ALL religions of the world have the spirit of antichrist BECAUSE they have not the "DOCTRINE of CHRIST", even if they use His name, therefore their "deeds are evil". Because what **agreement** does Christ have with 'BELIAL' (2 Cor 6:15), or one who believes in Christ have with those who do not?

This is why genuine Christianity is considered 'intolerable' and poses a threat to the Marxist move for "world peace". The DOCTRINE OF CHRIST is NOT only teaches how God sent His only Son and shed His blood for us, but INCLUDES everything that Jesus taught and commanded for His people to understand and do.

**"AND WE KNOW THAT WE ARE OF GOD,
AND THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS."**

**"AND WE KNOW THAT THE SON OF GOD IS COME,
AND HATH GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING,
THAT WE MAY KNOW HIM THAT IS TRUE,
AND WE ARE IN HIM THAT IS TRUE, EVEN IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.
THIS IS THE TRUE GOD, AND ETERNAL LIFE."**

**"LITTLE CHILDREN,
KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS. AMEN."
(1 John 5:19-21)**

Read this carefully and understand the depths of what it says. How do they know Christ IS COME? Because they have been given 'UNDERSTANDING'. The word here is *dianoia* (dee-an'-oy-ah), and means: **deep thought**.

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We will find in the study "*The Bible Puzzle*" this is a spiritual understanding that must be GIVEN, as it confirms here. Then notice that this supernatural opening of the mind is not salvation itself, but is given that they MAY KNOW God and Christ which IS ETERNAL LIFE. Then notice that John ends this with a warning.

The term "LITTLE CHILDREN" is the double use of *teknion* (tek-nee'-on), which means: **Christian converts**. Why would John warn new Christian converts to stay away from IDOLS? Because an IDOL represents not only any heathen religion or belief created by the imagination, **but also to worship Christ FALSELY**. If you search out the New Testament in the view of understanding it, you will realize the name of Christ can be honored while perverting His doctrine and disavowing all His commands on how to FIND LIFE.

Modern Christian doctrines ALSO OPPOSE CHRIST BY denying His commands on how to find life, thereby not abiding in the doctrine of Christ and therefore having not God.

This is why John said:

"THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS."

6. CHRISTIAN DEFINED

This Section on defining 'Christian' proves to be absolutely necessary because the idea of becoming or being a Christian means different things to many people of the various denominations. For example, the *Southern Baptist* believe there is no such thing as an 'unsaved' Christian. Or in *Catholicism*, a person's salvation is only through the Catholic Church, which they believe is the only bonafide Church sanctioned by Christ. Therefore, the overall conception within Christianity is that only the visible Churches are synonymous with salvation and the Kingdom of God. As the old saying goes: "to get right, you get saved and get Churched". But, is this true? What does Scripture say makes a Christian? What is a Christian in view of the New Testament? Is everyone who decides to become a Christian SAVED, whether a member of a particular Church or not? These are all CRUCIAL questions, because the fate of your soul will depend on understanding this simple, taken-for-granted concept.

Since the perception of what a Christian is appears to be abstract, then we are going to limit the definition to Scripture only and the literal word meanings. We are going to find a very definitive and SHOCKING view of what the essence of the word 'CHRISTIAN' means. We will begin with Scripture and the origin of the word.

**"...AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT A WHOLE YEAR
THEY [THE DISCIPLES] ASSEMBLED THEMSELVES WITH THE CHURCH,
AND TAUGHT MUCH PEOPLE.**

AND THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED

CHRISTIANS

FIRST IN ANTIOCH."

(Acts 11:25-26)

The context of the word 'CHURCH' here is defined: **a Christian community of members.** But in the New Testament perspective it simply means "**called out ones**", referring to those who enter into the 'body' of Christ. The word 'CHRISTIAN' is *Christianos* (khris-tee-an-os'), and is simply defined: **a follower of Christ.** We see here the word "**Christ-ian**" is a world-given name that specifically refers to **a member of Christ followers –the disciples.**

In modern times, it means any person that has performed the rituals necessary (according to their denomination), for being accepted into the Christian faith. In other words, a CONVERT to the Christian **religion.** Webster even applies the term to one who is a citizen of a Christian nation (such as America). However, in view of New Testament doctrine of the Scriptures themselves, it has a more literal but deeper meaning as we probe further. Biblically, 'CHRISTIAN' is just another word for a DISCIPLE of Christ. Therefore,

Christian = A Disciple of Christ.

So, in order to fully understand what 'Christian' means, we must understand what 'disciple' means. Greek for 'DISCIPLES' is *mathetes* (math-ay-tes'), meaning: **a learner, PUPIL.** And the root word means: **to understand.**

The word is found only once in the Old Testament, speaking in view of Christ, (Isa 8:16), and in Hebrew is *limmuwd* (lim-mood'), meaning: **instructed, accustomed, learned, taught.** The root word is *lamad* (law-mad'), and in essence means: **expert, skillfully taught.** It gives the idea that a true disciple is one who learns and understands Christ's skillful teaching. Jesus said that every 'scribe' (a learner-disciple) is **INSTRUCTED INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,** (Mat 13:52).

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The word 'INSTRUCTED' in that verse is *matheteuo* (math-ayt-yoo'-o), the root word is used for 'disciple', and is defined: **to become a pupil; to disciple, i.e. enroll as scholar; be a disciple, instruct, teach.** The KEY definition of disciple is 'PUPIL', and the best definition we find is in the *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*:

pu·pil, (from Latin: *pillus*, meaning: **ORPHAN**) One learning under the close supervision of a teacher; in *Civil or Roman Law*: a person under the age of puberty orphaned or emancipated, and under the care of a guardian.

—**Syn.** PUPIL, DISCIPLE, SCHOLAR, STUDENT. A **PUPIL** is one under the close supervision of a teacher, either **because of youth or of specialization in some branch of study.** **A DISCIPLE is one who follows the teachings or doctrines of a person whom he or she considers to be a master or authority.** **SCHOLAR**, once meaning the same as PUPIL, is today usually applied to one who has acquired wide erudition in some field of learning. A **STUDENT** is a person attending an educational institution or someone who has devoted much attention to a particular problem.

The more one studies the depths of God's Word the more evident ALL these definitions apply to TRUE CHRISTIANITY of the New Testament Church. Note that the word '**pupil**' in the original sense means: **ORPHAN**, one who is FATHERLESS and under the guardian care of another. This concept is so blatantly obvious according to Christ's *doctrine of adoption* where the 'Fatherless' become GENUINE SONS OF GOD. It will be proven that conversion to Christianity IS NOT regeneration of the spirit. Belief IS NOT re-birth. Therefore, by definition:

**A CHRISTIAN = A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST = A PUPIL OF CHRIST
= AN ORPHAN (WITHOUT THE HEAVENLY FATHER)
= UNSAVED FOLLOWER OF CHRIST**

**"THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM,
IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD,
THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED;"**

**"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." (John 8:31-32)**

This statement by the Lord verifies the literal word definition of 'CHRISTIAN'. Jesus was sent to the Jews to bear witness of the TRUTH. The Jews in this passage were BELIEVERS in Christ, hearing Him teach in the Temple. This made them DISCIPLES of Christ, (but not the 12 chosen disciples). Jesus tells these followers that they must CONTINUE in His Word to be disciples INDEED.

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The word 'CONTINUE' is *meno*, and means: **to stay in a given state, relation or expectancy; to abide, to dwell in, endure, remain in, stand, to tarry.** What are they to remain in? His 'WORD', which is *logos*, and in this context means: **Jesus' sayings, what Christ taught, His doctrine.** The word 'INDEED' is *alethos* (al-ay-thoce'), and means: **surely, of a truth, or in truth.**

It is imperative we understand what is being revealed here. These are 'believers' in Christ, whom Jesus acknowledges as disciples (Christians). But they are NOT yet disciples (Christians), in TRUTH. As Jesus said in Matthew, they must CONTINUE in His Word and be instructed into the Kingdom of Heaven. These are not yet FREE from the bondage of sin, (Jn 8:33-36), they are still in their sins. This means they are unregenerate disciples of Christ, UNSAVED CHRISTIANS. Judas Iscariot was a chosen disciple of Christ, was He a saved Christian? (Jn 17:11-12).

The world's concept of a "saved Christian" is one who has undergone CONVERSION to Christ. To suggest that being a converted Christian who is not a 'saved' Christian, is to question the validity of every Christian denomination's doctrines. This will be explored further in the next sections. Now read the following passage carefully, and see how it relates to what we have discovered thus far.

**"FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD,
THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD."**

**"FOR YE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR;
BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED
THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION,
WHEREBY WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER."**

**"THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT,
THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD:"**

**"AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND
JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST;
IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM,
THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER."
(Romans 8:14-17)**

Remember that a true literal 'Christian' is a spiritually ORPHANED PUPIL of Christ, one that is yet 'adopted' by God the Father. Notice this describes those that are no longer under the BONDAGE of the FEAR of death, but

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have RECEIVED the "Spirit of Adoption". The word 'ADOPTION' is *huiothesia* (hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah), meaning: **the placing as a son, i.e. adoption (figurative Christian sonship in respect to God).**

Once an ORPHAN has been LEGALLY adopted, they are no longer FATHERLESS and no longer an orphan. They become a legal heir of their Father's estate. They call him 'Father'. This is one of the MYSTERIES of the Gospel, and yet it is all done legally in accordance to God's laws.

We are to be adopted into the family (kingdom) of God through spiritual union with Christ. The legal 'RIGHT' to establish adoption into the family of God was purchased by Jesus Christ via the law of "kinsman-redeemer", (Leviticus 25:47-50). This is where His blood shed on His cross was not only an **atonement payment** for our forgiveness of sins, but also was a **redemption purchase** over mankind and the world. Since He now owns us, we must RECKON ourselves to Him. Despite the salvation doctrines of WIDE GATE Christianity, in order to qualify for the obtaining of adoption, (i.e. given the free gift of Grace), we must OBEY Christ on HOW to be BORN AGAIN. He told us there is a STRAIT GATE to enter into, and the WAY is NARROW. This is the same command as PICKING UP OUR CROSS and FOLLOW Him to Calvary and beyond. (This is extensively studied in the series *A Study of Redemption*).

The NARROW WAY is the search to find the LIVING CHRIST, all the while God brings us down into a spirit-soul type of death that is fully experiential. It is the CHASTISEMENT of God that is one of the main distinguishing differences between a TRUE vs. FALSE Christianity.

**"FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH,
AND SCOURGETH EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVETH."**

**"IF YE ENDURE CHASTENING, GOD DEALETH WITH YOU AS WITH SONS;
FOR WHAT SON IS HE WHOM THE FATHER CHASTENETH NOT?"**

**"BUT IF YE BE WITHOUT CHASTISEMENT,
WHEREOF ALL ARE PARTAKERS,
THEN ARE YE BASTARDS, AND NOT SONS."**

(Heb 12:6-8)

The word 'CHASTISEMENT' is *paideuo* (pahee-dyoo'-o), and is defined: **to train up a child, i.e. educate, or by implying discipline by punishment, chasten, instruct, learn, teach.** Notice this is essentially the same as DISCIPLE and PUPIL. This also must be the 'instruction' into the kingdom

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that Jesus mentioned. The word 'ENDURE' is *hupomeno* (hoop-om-en'-o), meaning: **to stay under, i.e. remain; fig. to undergo, i.e. bear trials, have fortitude, persevere, take patiently, SUFFER.**

This does NOT sound like the immediate *anon* with great joy salvation of the modern Christian Churches. But it IS the testimony of Christianity of the Scriptures.

Note that EVERY SON that God receives MUST undergo this TRIAL of faith. Also notice this implies ADOPTED SONS, not "NEW BORN" who are not weaned from the MILK, but those who can accept STRONG MEAT. In CONTRAST, anyone who does NOT ENDURE God's instruction and correction in doctrine, DO NOT BECOME LEGITIMATE ADOPTED CHILDREN, BUT ARE 'BASTARDS', ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN BORN OF A 'DIFFERENT' SPIRITUAL FATHER. The word 'BASTARDS' is *nothos* (noth'-os), which is: **a SPURIOUS or illegitimate son, a bastard.** Random House defines 'spurious' as: 1. not genuine, authentic, or true; not from the claimed, pretended, or proper source; counterfeit. 2. having a similar appearance but a different structure. 3. **OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH; BASTARD.** Therefore:

SPURIOUS = BASTARD SON = PRETENDED = FALSE CHRISTIAN.

**"A BASTARD SHALL NOT ENTER
INTO THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD;
even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into
the congregation of the LORD."
(Deuteronomy 23:2)**

**"And A BASTARD shall dwell in Ashdod,
[Ashdod means: OPPRESSION AND DEATH]
and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines."
[Philistines means: SELF-INDULGENT]
(Zec 9:6)**

One does not have to be a Theologian to see there is something vastly different in how the Holy Bible perceives Christianity. Thus far is manifested the key to Biblical Christianity which is the instruction in Bible doctrine. This is the context of *Part 3 – The Bible Puzzle*.

BY DEFINITION, A TRUE BIBLICAL NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN:

1. Begins as an 'orphan' (without God), Rom 8:14-16, Gal 4:4-7;
2. Devotes to the search for the truth of the Word of God, 2 Tim 2:15;

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3. Follows the teachings (doctrine) of Christ ONLY, John 10:4-5;
4. Under the supervision and instruction of God (a pupil), Isa 28:26;
5. One who obtains knowledge and deep understanding of the Word, Luke 6:47-48;
6. Continues in doctrine until the revelation of Christ, Isa 30:20, Jn 14:21-24;
7. Waits until adopted as a Son of God and joint heir with Christ, (Rom 8:14-17).

7. A HOUSE DIVIDED

Jesus said that "**EVERY HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF SHALL NOT STAND**", [Mat 12:24; Lu 11:17). Every major religion of the world is divided into opposing sects. In fact, the word 'SECT' in Biblical Greek is the word for 'heresy' and means: **disunited**. This includes modern Christianity, which has two major divisions: *Catholicism* and *Protestantism*, plus smaller groups of *evangelicals* and *independents*. Each of these divisions are further divided into denominations (sects).

The denominations consist of various numbers of 'Churches'. Within some of those Churches disagreements often arise that cause splits, and a new Church or denomination is formed elsewhere. **Why all the division?** It is important that we explore the root cause of this in view of Scripture.

**"FROM WHENCE COME WARS AND FIGHTINGS AMONG YOU?
COME THEY NOT HENCE, EVEN OF YOUR LUSTS
THAT WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS?"**

**"YE LUST, AND HAVE NOT: YE KILL, AND DESIRE TO HAVE,
AND CANNOT OBTAIN: YE FIGHT AND WAR, YET YE HAVE NOT,
BECAUSE YE ASK NOT."**

**"YE ASK, AND RECEIVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK AMISS,
THAT YE MAY CONSUME IT UPON YOUR LUSTS."**
(James 4:1-3)

For many centuries Christian Catholics and Protestants of Ireland war and kill each other in the name of Christ. There is no difference between that ongoing bloodshed vs. a "petty squabble" among a few members of a small community Church. The root cause is the same.

The word for 'LUST' here is *epithumeo* (ep-ee-thoo-meh'-o), which does not necessarily mean "sexual lust" but: **to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise), to covet, desire**. This is a desire of our heart (spirit) that manifests in the outer FLESH man of our minds.

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This is another confirmation that 'Christian' relates to an unregenerate follower of Christ, who are led by desires of the flesh, and not of the Spirit. James went on to say the spirit that dwells in us, lusts to ENVY. The Apostle Paul spoke of this same problem within the Church at Corinth:

"AND I, BRETHREN, COULD NOT SPEAK UNTO YOU AS UNTO SPIRITUAL, BUT AS UNTO CARNAL, EVEN AS UNTO BABES IN CHRIST."

"I HAVE FED YOU WITH MILK, AND NOT WITH MEAT: FOR HITHERTO YE WERE NOT ABLE TO BEAR IT, NEITHER YET NOW ARE YE ABLE."

"FOR YE ARE YET CARNAL:

FOR WHEREAS THERE IS AMONG YOU ENVYING, AND STRIFE, AND DIVISIONS, ARE YE NOT CARNAL, AND WALK AS MEN?"

(1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

The word 'CARNAL' is *sarkikos* (sar-kee-kos'), and is defined: **pertaining to flesh, unregenerate**. The root word *sarx*, means: **flesh, the body as the symbol of what is external, human nature with its frailties and passions, carnal minded**. The word for 'BABES' is *nepios* (nay'-pee-os), figuratively meaning: **a simple-minded person, an immature Christian**. Paul is chastising these immature CHRISTIANS, members of a CHRISTIAN CHURCH, who are NOT YET SAVED. In *Part 3*, it will be shown by Scripture that MILK is a metaphor for the basic principles of the faith. Bible verses that give COMFORT and COMPASSION to needy souls. Words of God that please the flesh. Paul knew they could NOT tolerate the MEAT of strong doctrine, (Isa 28:9, 2 Tim 3:3). They could not digest it in their minds, knowing they would have 'choked' on it, and spit it out.

IF you study out the doctrines, it will be clear this is what happens to the LAST-DAY Churches of the "Laodicean Age", the unregenerate Christians that Christ ejects out of His Body. This is why Christians become so easily involved in all manner of sins. This is why there is DIVISION within the entire Body of Christ. Until we all come into the UNITY of the faith, and the BOND of perfection, which is authentic spiritual union with Christ and the bestowment of God's *agape* love, MANY Christians will remain OFFENDED in Christ.

"AND BLESSED IS HE, WHOSOEVER SHALL NOT BE OFFENDED IN ME."

(Matthew 11:6)

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This verse from Matthew is not relating to people's emotional 'offense', the word does not mean what you may first assume it means. The Random House dictionary defines 'OFFEND' as: **to irritate, annoy, or anger; cause resentful displeasure in; to affect disagreeably**. But, that is not what the original Greek here means, which is why a *Strong's Concordance* with Lexicon is so important, (more on this in Part II, *The Published Word*).

The Biblical Greek for 'OFFENDED' is *Strong's* no. G4624, *skandalizo* (skandal-id'-zo), from which we get the English word "scandalize"; and is defined:

to entrap, i.e. trip up; figuratively stumble or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure. This now gives a totally different perspective of Jesus' warning here. Do you understand what Jesus is saying?

Jesus, the Son of the living God brought the Gospel (the good news of reconciliation and redemption of mankind) to the world through Him. However, the Gospel message –Christ's doctrine, has the POTENTIAL to **entice** people to **stumble** at His Word and **trip them up** and they fall into **apostasy**. Not necessarily to fall away from Christ altogether but to worship Him falsely. This Section gives much Scriptural evidence of that concept, and it will be obvious that the New Testament teaches there are **two opposing forms of Christianity**. The perversion of Christ's doctrine has infiltrated the Body of Christ as a whole, and is found in all denominations, once you know how to recognize it. Because of Christian APATHY, the enemy of Christ has been allowed to penetrate its watchmen and divide the House of God. Therefore according to Jesus' own statement, modern Christianity WILL eventually FALL to the spirit of ANTICHRIST.

The first major division to define is CATHOLICISM itself.

Cath•o•lic, (*Random House* dictionary), [from Greek *katholikós* meaning general, universally];

1. of or pertaining to a Catholic church, esp. the Roman Catholic Church.
2. *Theology*:
 - a. (among Roman Catholics) claiming to possess exclusively the notes or characteristics of **the one, only, true, and universal church** having unity, visibility, **indefectibility**, apostolic succession, universality, and sanctity: used in this sense, with these qualifications, **only by the Church of Rome**, as applicable only to itself and its adherents and to their faith and organization; often qualified, especially by those not acknowledging these claims, by prefixing the word *Roman*.
 - b. (among Anglo-Catholics) noting or pertaining to the conception of the church as the body **representing the ancient undivided Christian witness**, comprising all the orthodox churches that have kept the apostolic succession of bishops, and **including** the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, Church of Sweden, the Old Catholic Church (in the Netherlands and elsewhere), etc., also pertaining to the Western Church.

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cath·o·lic,

1. **broad** or wide-ranging in tastes, interests, or the like; having sympathies with all; **broad-minded**; **liberal**.
2. universal in extent; involving all; of interest to all.

Notice the HOUSE DIVISION within the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, with each claiming to be the true representative Church of Christ on Earth. Which one is it, or is it neither? Because one has no real authority over the other.

Both are obviously based on tradition of "early Church fathers" and are similar in their beliefs. The latter was disunited from the first. Both believe salvation is only through their Church.

The Apostle Paul was commissioned by Christ Himself to evangelize the Gentiles, (Gal 2:7-8). Paul in Colossians 2:8-23, listed a number of negative things that are practiced within *Catholicism*. Things like "voluntary humility" relates to *Monks* and *Nuns*; worshipping the spirits of angels, saints, and "Mother Mary"; holding (seizing) the HEAD of the Church as a VICAR (substitute) of Christ's office; subjection to ceremonial RULES of marriage or celibacy, how to worship, what to eat, wear, and fasting, etc. Plus, Jesus gave this command:

Matthew 23:

- 8 But **be not ye called RABBI** [MY MASTER]: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
- 9 And **call no man your FATHER upon the earth** [Father/Pope]: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- 10 **Neither be ye called masters** [MY TEACHER]: for one is your Master, even Christ.

This certainly relates to both *Judaism* and *Catholicism*. Jesus also commanded us to not swear oaths, (Mathew 5:33-37), which include the secret societies, especially *Freemasonry* whose HEAD of the lodges (temples) are called "worshipful master", who also hold the 33rd degree of the *Masonic* rite (rituals). Now see how God feels about religion from the prophet Isaiah's message to Israel:

ISAIAH 1:

- 12 **When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?**
- 13 **Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.**

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14 **Your** new moons and **your** appointed feasts **my** soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; **I am weary to bear them.**

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, **I will hide mine eyes from you:** yea, **when ye make many prayers, I will not hear:** your hands are full of blood.

16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 **Learn to do well; seek judgment, RELIEVE THE OPPRESSED, JUDGE THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW.**

These verses literally condemn the practice of the ritualistic religion of Judaism. When Jesus Christ came He brought a whole new program called the NEW COVENANT. Notice what the Lord tells them He does want, which relates to the PURE RELIGION that was shown previously.

"BUT I CERTIFY YOU, BRETHREN, THAT THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS PREACHED OF ME IS NOT AFTER MAN."

"FOR I NEITHER RECEIVED IT OF MAN, NEITHER WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST." (Gal 1:11-12)

Notice what this statement implies. Remember, the Apostle Paul was a Pharisee, the most devout sect of the Jew's religion. A Pharisee was taught by their own learned elders, and were the officers and teachers in the synagogues. They spent the majority of their life studying *Torah* law, the Psalms, and the Prophets in view of the "ORAL TRADITION" of previous Rabbis. Without question, they were the authority in all matters of judgment of the law. But here we see that Paul did not actually understand the TRUTH of the scriptures, because the GOSPEL of the Lord Jesus Christ is based upon the TRUE ESSENCE of the word of God. It is a MYSTERY except to those to whom it is revealed. It requires a diligent search for the true doctrine through a one-on-one teacher-student relationship, (Isa 28:9).

"COME NOW, AND LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAITH THE LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
(Isaiah 1:18)

"FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL, AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF THE JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART."

(Hebrews 4:12)

The power of reason is the basis of philosophy and Theology. The Lord is encouraging us to use the cognitive and volitional powers of our mind to bring us to the regenerative condition of being "born again". We first CONVERT to His Word, then the HOPE is that we SHALL BE SAVED and forgiven of our sins.

By what method does God use to do that? His Word, the Holy scriptures. The word 'QUICK' is *zao* (dzah'-o), which means: **LIFE**. This is confirmed by Jesus, (Jn 6:63). The phrase "DIVIDING ASUNDER" is one Greek word *merismos* (mer-is-mos'), and is mysterious in that it means: **a separation, or gift**. Its root words means: **to disunite and bestow; to divide and to get an allotment or share**.

TRUE SALVATION, (according to the Word of God), is the FREE GIFT of the BESTOWMENT of the Divine *agape* love of God, through spiritual union with Christ Jesus our Lord. It is an experiential experience, not by a shallow "faith only Gospel". And the word 'DISCERNER' is *kritikos* (krit-ee-kos'), which means: **decisive ("critical")**; and its root means: **a judge, to distinguish, decide (mentally or judicially); call in question, sentence to think**. Again, Jesus stated that our judgment will indeed be by the words (doctrine) that He spoke, (Jn 12:48). Therefore as we will see, there are TWO OPPOSING Christianities, the MANY disunited Christians of various sects, vs. FEW Christians who are united by the common bond of the *agape* love of God that is IN Christ Jesus. One is carnal, of the flesh, and the other is of the Spirit. This is a GREAT MYSTERY, (Eph 5:32, Col 2:2). MANY are called, but FEW are chosen.

8. THE MANY REJECTED

The comparison of a true vs. false Christianity is first revealed in the famous "sermon on the mount" in Mathew chapters 5,6, and 7. In attempting to understand Scripture, it is important to note the entire context of the passage being read. Who is speaking? Who are they speaking to? What is the subject, and what is literally being said? And a most important consideration which is often overlooked, what does the key words mean in the original spoken language? As you will see, this is very important in seeking understanding of Scripture.

***"AND SEEING THE MULTITUDES,
HE [JESUS] WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN: AND WHEN HE WAS SET,
HIS DISCIPLES CAME UNTO HIM:"***

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**"AND HE OPENED HIS MOUTH,
AND TAUGHT THEM, SAYING," (Matthew 5:1-2)**

In the previous chapter, Jesus had begun preaching the Gospel and healing all manner of diseases. Preaching in the synagogues and countryside He had begun accumulating multitudes of followers from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judaea, and from beyond Jordan, (Mat 4:25). These multitudes had become DISCIPLES of Christ in the true Scriptural sense. **They dropped everything and left their daily lives behind and followed Him wherever, to HEAR His instruction –His DOCTRINE.** Jesus began His sermon by giving the attributes of a child of God, then the application of the LAW within their hearts.

What is expected of a Christian, not only of their actions but also how it was to be a reflection of their HEART, which is what His NEW COVENANT is all about, (Heb 8:10). The New Testament Bible IS this new 'covenant' of a NEW HEART, of a NEW SPIRIT within that God promised Israel would come, (Ezek 36: 25-27). This Spirit is the Spirit of LIFE of God's Divine *agape* love, because God's AGAPE LOVE is the ONLY THING that fulfills the law, (Rom 13:10). This Spirit is IN Christ, (1 Jn 5:11-12), and must be BESTOWED upon a seeking Christian by God, (1 Jn 3;1), through SPIRITUAL UNION at the revelation of Christ to His true disciples, (Jn 14:21-23).

Now, we come to the finale of Jesus' sermon in Matthew 7, where He reveals (by commandment) how to enter into the New Covenant, which is also the entering into the Kingdom of God. Chapter 6 ended with the command of Christ to FIRST SEEK for God's Kingdom and His righteousness, (Mat 6:33). Since Jesus was speaking to His disciples (Christians), then that can only mean they have neither found or entered into the Kingdom, nor possess the righteousness of Christ. Again, confirming the definition of Christian. Then, Jesus follows in chapter 7 with a command on how we are to 'ENTER' into this New Covenant, and makes the DIVISION between a TRUE vs. FALSE Christianity.

**"ENTER YE IN AT THE STRAIT GATE:
FOR WIDE IS THE GATE, AND BROAD IS THE WAY,
THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION,
AND MANY THERE BE WHICH GO IN THEREAT:"**

**"BECAUSE
STRAIT IS THE GATE, AND NARROW IS THE WAY,
WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE,**

AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT." (MAT 7:13-14)

Jesus first gives the clear command to "ENTER YE IN". The sacred English 'YE' is the plural of YOU, and He is addressing the multitudes of His Christian disciples. What are they to enter into? The overall context of the sermon on the mount concerns the Kingdom of God, and here Jesus reveals the entrance has a GATE. Then Jesus contrasts TWO OPPOSING WAYS His followers will go. Now, the modern Christian religions interpret this as: the "strait gate" represents Christianity vs. the wide gate is the world; or that this command is for the Jews only because the Church was not born until the Pentecost celebration following Jesus' resurrection.

If you truly believe one of those interpretations, and do not care to consider all the Scripture to the contrary, then read no further and waste your time. Otherwise, allow the Lord to reveal the truth to you, **for the fate of your soul depends on it.**

We see there are TWO opposing gates, TWO opposing ways that He presents to His Christian disciples. The WIDE gate leads to destruction and the Strait gate leads to life. The word 'WIDE' is *platus* (plat-oos'), which means: **spread out, i.e. broad, wide.** It comes from the word *plasso* (plas'-so), which is: **to mould, i.e. shape or fabricate, form.** Random House defines 'fabricate' as: **to make by art or skill and labor; construct, to make by assembling parts or sections; to devise or invent (a lie); TO FAKE; forge (a document, signature, etc.).** The word 'forgery' is very telling, an is defined: **the crime of falsely making or altering a writing by which the legal rights or obligations of another person are apparently affected... the production of A SPURIOUS WORK that is claimed to be genuine.**

In the study of false Christian Prophets, we find this is exactly what Peter said they do. The 'WAY' is concealed in their teachings by contradicting Christ's doctrine and omitting all the pertinent facts on HOW ONE IS SAVED. Greek for 'BROAD' is *euruchoros* (yoo-roo'-kho-ros), and essentially means: **free and open space, unconfined, void.** The root word is very interesting and is *chora* (kho'-rah), defined: **through the idea of empty expanse;** and compares to G5117 which figuratively means: **a condition; specifically a scabbard.**

A 'scabbard' is a safety covering for an undrawn sword, to conceal its cutting edge, and we saw where the Scriptures are likened to a "two-edge" sword, (Heb 4:12). Therefore, the BROAD WAY conceals the intended effect of God's Word. Random House defines 'BROAD' as: **not limited or narrow; of extensive range or scope; LIBERAL; TOLERANT.** We saw earlier where 'CATHOLIC' is also defined: **broad-minded, liberal.** Whereas 'LIBERAL' is

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defined: **favorable to progress or reform, as in political or religious affairs; favoring or permitting freedom of action, esp. with respect to matters of personal belief or expression; open-minded or tolerant, esp. free of or not bound by traditional or conventional ideas, values, etc.; not strict or rigorous; free; NOT LITERAL.** Webster's 1828 dictionary defines it as: **Licentious; free to excess.**

Now compare this to:

lib·er·al·ism, [*Random House*], **a movement in modern Protestantism** that emphasizes freedom from tradition and authority, **the adjustment of religious beliefs to scientific conceptions**, and the development of spiritual capacities.

hu·man·ism, [*Random House*], 4. *Philosophy*: **a variety of ethical theory** and practice that emphasizes reason, scientific inquiry, and human fulfillment in the natural world and **often rejects the importance of belief in God.**

Now we can see why Jesus said this WAY leads to DESTRUCTION, which means: **damnation, eternal ruin.** It is THE MANY that "go in" this fabricated GATE WAY of the new covenant, but only FEW who actually "enter in" the true STRAIT WAY. We will find this contrast all through the New Testament.

Greek for 'MANY' is *polus* (pol-oos'). and means: **much (in any respect), mostly, largely, abundant, altogether, common, a great deal.** It compares to *pleistos* and *pleion*, which is: **the largest number, the major portion, the greater part.**

In contrast to this is the NARROW WAY that only FEW enter into. The word 'NARROW' is *thlibo* (thlee'-bo) in the Greek, which means: **to crowd, afflict, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble.** It is akin to *tribos*, meaning: **a rut or worn track or path.** This is NOT the tribulations we encounter in the world, or forms of Christian persecution, but is the result of God's instruction and chastisement of the WAY.

The word 'WAY' is *hodos* (hod-os'), and means: **a road by implying a progress, a mode or means, a journey, highway.** This WAY has a definite beginning point and a known destination. Any journey is temporary, having distance and taking TIME, it is NOT INSTANT.

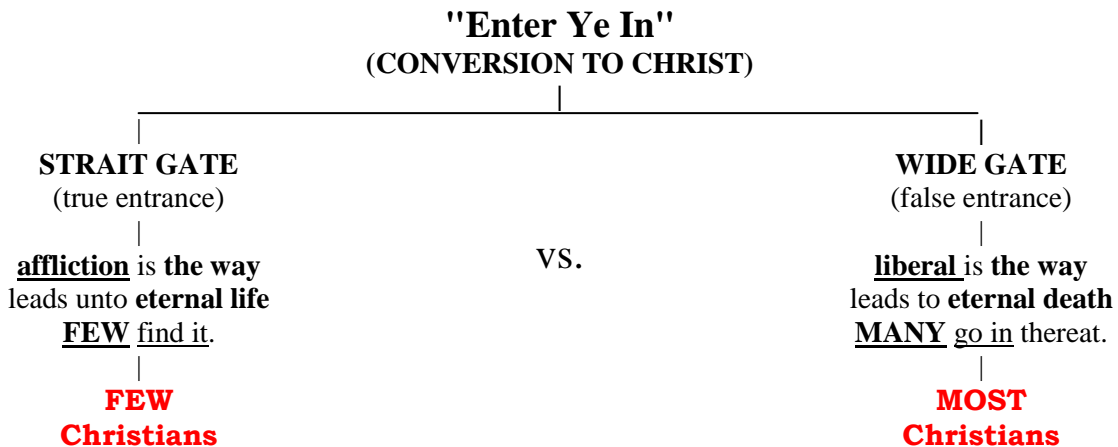
The False Teachers tell us: "simply believe in your heart and say the *sinner's prayer*, and you are saved, just believe it!". Jesus said it takes great enduring PATIENCE, (Lu 8:15). The word for 'FEW' is *oligos* (ol-ee'-gos), meaning **puny in number, few, a little, small.** This is a hard saying and difficult to accept, however its true both in Word and deed.

*"Then said one unto him,
LORD, ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?
And he said unto them,"*

**"STRIVE TO ENTER IN AT THE STRAIT GATE:
FOR MANY, I SAY UNTO YOU, WILL SEEK TO ENTER IN,
AND SHALL NOT BE ABLE." (Luke 13:23-24)**

The MANY do not represent the general population of the world as some believe, but are the MAJORITY that SEEK to enter into the New Covenant, and are not able.

These are Christians, which will become much more obvious as we proceed. It is only FEW Christians that will be, in truth SAVED. All who respond to the call of God enter into Christianity through CONVERSION, then Jesus gives two choices:



Thus far, we have CONVERSION to Christianity and entering into one of two GATES. One is the TRUE way that leads to eternal LIFE that is in Christ Jesus, the other leads to eternal DEATH. Notice two things about Jesus' command: (1) these GATES and WAYS represent conversion, not regeneration; and (2) the true WAY has a FINDING, which implies a search vs. the false WAY that does not have a finding.

The 'finding' is the LIFE in Christ, which is regeneration –born again. The word 'CONVERSION' simply means to turn yourself, and there is nothing in its etymology that means spiritual 're-birth' or SAVED. Modern Christianity claims the proofs of *conversion*, are the proofs of *regeneration*. The two are totally opposite acts which are a strait gate and narrow way apart from each other.

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A few scholars suspect a difference, but are apparently lost in the common salvation doctrines of modern Christianity. One of the most authoritative books on Bible doctrine today says this concerning CONVERSION: (emphasis added)

"In Christian circles, *conversion and regeneration* are treated as being the one and same experience. They are used as interchangeable terms. But although the two events are closely related and cannot exist apart from each other, there is yet a clearly marked doctrinal distinction between them proving that a closer study should not be ignored. ...there is no New Testament doctrine so grossly misunderstood as the new birth." [*All the Doctrines of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyer, pg. 176-177]

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO THE HUMAN SOUL THAN SALVATION, AND YET IT IS THE MOST GROSSLY MISUNDERSTOOD DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE! WOULD THE SALVATION DOCTRINE OF CHRIST BE THE MAIN TARGET OF SATAN'S DECEPTION UPON CHRISTIANITY? IF A CLOSER STUDY SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED, THEN WHY WOULD A RENOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR, WHO REALIZES THIS BEFORE PUBLISHING AN AUTHORITATIVE BOOK ON BIBLE DOCTRINES, IGNORE SUCH A STUDY?

**"BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS,
WHICH COME TO YOU
IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING,
BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES."**
(Mat 7:15)

Why would Jesus insert this warning following the command to enter the STRAIT GATE? The word 'BEWARE' is *prosecho* (pros-ekh'-o), which means: **to hold the mind towards, i.e. pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to being aware.** And "FALSE PROPHETS" in the Greek is *pseudoprophetes* (psyoo-dop-rof-ay'-tace), and is defined: **a SPURIOUS prophet, i.e. pretended foreteller or religious impostor.** It is the combination of two words meaning: **deceiving** and **inspired speaker.**

Jesus is warning us to watch out for PSUEDO-CHRISTIAN preachers, teachers, and evangelist. That they have all the outward appearance of being genuine Christians 'called' by God to lead and minister to His flock. But, inwardly they are full of 'ravening', i.e. EXTORTION. We find an appropriate meaning of 'extortion' is H6233 '*osheq* (o'-shek), found in Ezekial 22:12, which simply means: **a thing deceitfully gotten.**

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They FLEECE THE FLOCK by taking souls for Satan, and STEAL tithes and offerings from those in real need. These are obviously *theologians* and 'inspired' laymen who represent the spiritual leaders of the WIDE GATE Christian faith.

Then Jesus goes on to give CLUES by the use of metaphors, on how they may be recognized, saying: "**Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them**". The interesting thing is the root word for 'FRUITS'. It is the same root word for 'RAVENING' which was defined in the previous verse. Scripture often uses the word 'TREE' as an epithet for man. FRUIT is what a tree produces that is typically used to satisfy hunger. But the underlying truth here is HOW can you know their fruit is GOOD, if you do not understand the truth of Bible doctrines yourself?

How can you understand the truth without digging deep into the Word of truth and allowing God Himself to teach you Scriptural doctrine, particularly the doctrine of salvation. How would you TEST for the "spirit of error". How can you OBEY the command of Jesus to BEWARE of these deceivers without possessing proper awareness which requires three essential elements? (1) understanding of Bible doctrines acquired by dedicated personal study, prayer and divine revelation; (2) being spiritually awake and circumspect; (3) asking God for the gift of discernment. Only then can these people be easily and quickly be recognized, otherwise if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. Jesus continues with His discourse, making a clearer distinction between the two forms of Christianity.

**"NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD,
SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN;
BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER
WHICH IS IN HEAVEN."**

**"MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, LORD, LORD,
HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN THY NAME?
AND IN THY NAME HAVE CAST OUT DEVILS?
AND IN THY NAME DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS?"**

**"AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM,
I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME,
YE THAT WORK INIQUITY." (Matthew 7:21-23)**

Who are these people that Jesus calls the **MANY**? The phrase "IN THAT DAY" relates to JUDGEMENT DAY when WE ALL stand before Jesus Christ

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in JUDGEMENT. These people called Jesus LORD. Only Christians call Jesus 'Lord', (1 Cor 12:3). How can we be sure? Just look at what they say: they PROPHESED in the name of Jesus, which is defined: speaking under 'inspiration'; to foretell events, usually by some type of revelation such as dreams and visions or knowledge of Bible prophecy.

In the name of Jesus they cast out demons, which means they had a POWER Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is one of the nine gifts listed in 1st Corinthians 12:7-11. In fact all three things listed here are spiritual gifts. They performed all sorts of WORKS and miracles in Jesus' name. Jesus said those who BELIEVE in His name could do all those things, (Mrk 16:17). Even in the occult it is long been known that evil spirits can duplicate many types of miracles, (Exodus 7:9-12), except the casting out of devils, (Mat 12:24-28).

The MANY believed and had great FAITH in Jesus, therefore they obviously were converted to Christianity and underwent the basic rituals such as a "profession of faith" to follow Christ. They must have undergone a water Baptism and the laying on of hands to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. They totally committed themselves to do the works of Christ. They obviously were NOT the average "pew-warming" Christian who worships the Lord on Sundays and Holy days. These were wholly given to the Christian faith and the GREAT COMMISSION to spread the Gospels. They had to know that one MUST be BORN AGAIN to be saved from eternal damnation.

It is only the hard hitting evangelical Christians that display the power gifts of God. These were obviously on the front lines of spiritual warfare fighting against Satan and his unclean spirits. Notice that Jesus did not deny they did not do any of those things. THAT IS NOT THE POINT. Yet, in their utter shock and speechless amazement, Jesus REJECTED THEM forever. Why? They obviously believed they were saved by the Grace of God, because that is what Christianity is all about. Before analyzing Christ's response to these MANY Christians, let's summarize the listed or provable facts:

1. They underwent CONVERSIONS by making a profession of faith, such as a sinner's prayer;
2. They obviously BELIEVED and had FAITH in Jesus, TRUSTING in His name;
3. They obviously had a 'relationship' with Jesus and were positive they were saved (regenerated);
4. They must have been accepted by the Churches of Christ;
5. They were obviously preachers, teachers, or evangelists of the Word of God;
6. They must have undergone the water Baptism as outlined in Mark 16;
7. They obviously had a power Baptism of the Holy Spirit;
8. They could boast of performing genuine MIRACLES in the name of Jesus;
9. They believed they were OBEDIENT to Christ and performing in the GREAT COMMISSION.

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There are not many Christians today who could present such an impressive portfolio. Anyone, even a non-Christian, would look at such a person and revere them as a model Christian and the praise of God. Not once in their Christian walk does it appear that these Christians suspected they were NOT SAVED. How could this happen on such a GRAND SCALE? Because from the context of Matthew 7, these represent the overall majority of Christianity. They had to be under a STRONG DELUSION based upon a doctrinal difference of serious error in the area of CHRISTIAN SALVATION.

Finally, we need to consider Jesus' response because make no mistake about it, these were dedicated Christians who are sent away to the fires of eternal judgment by the Lord that bought them. Note that Jesus waits till the day of judgment to reveal the truth to them. From another New Testament translation by a Greek language scholar and professor at Moody Bible Institute, Kenneth S. Wuest, we read in Matthew 7:23...

***"AND THEN I WILL DECLARE IN A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THEM,
I NEVER CAME TO KNOW YOU
EXPERIENTIALLY,
BE GOING AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO ARE WORKING THE LAWLESSNESS."
(Matthew 7:23, Wuest Expanded New Testament)***

The word 'KNOW' in this context relates to how Adam KNEW his wife Eve, and conceived a son, (Gen 4:1). The chosen Church of Christ is called His 'BRIDE' in scripture. Here Jesus obviously uses that word to indicate SPIRITUAL UNION. Not ONCE in the lives of the MANY did Jesus enter into Spiritual union with them, which is the Spiritual rebirth, regeneration. That is the only basis given for their rejection. He did not say He once knew them, but they fell away into apostasy. They were NEVER in their Christian lives in truth SAVED. They were NEVER "disciples indeed". As Christ sends them away forever, He called them workers of **iniquity**, quoting Psalm 6:8.

The word 'INIQUITY' is *anomia* (an-om-ee'-ah), which means: **illegality, i.e. violation of law or unrighteousness**. It is the combination of two words which mean: **not of the law**. This does not mean these people were involved in all types of criminal behavior.

But it means these people did all their Christian works in unrighteousness, they were illegitimate (bastard) Christians, they were **not of the New Testament law** of Divine *agape*.

***" [AGAPE] LOVE WORKETH NO ILL TO HIS NEIGHBOUR:
THEREFORE [AGAPE] LOVE***

IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW."

(Romans 13:10)

Now we are back to the core issue between God and man. Since God's LAW is ONLY fulfilled by *agape* love, then what type of love did these people do their works in? Without the bestowed knowledge of *agape* in their hearts, this automatically caused to be in ERROR in their Theology. They obviously did not understand what salvation truly is or how it is obtained. **They obviously did not do the WILL of God**, or OBEY Christ's command to enter the STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY of the search for the living Christ. They obviously did not understand the NEW COMMANDMENT Jesus brought that we are to *agape* love as He *agape* loved, (Jn 13:34). They must have made the same ASSUMPTION that Peter made and thought **their phileo love** was the same as **the agape love of Jesus**, (Jn 21:15-17). This mistake cost the MANY their LIFE FOREVER. And further more,

YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE THAT TYPE OF CHRISTIAN.

We find confirmation of Jesus' assessment of their works in the Old Testament:

**"HAVE ALL THE WORKERS OF INIQUITY NO KNOWLEDGE?
WHO EAT UP MY PEOPLE AS THEY EAT BREAD,
AND CALL NOT UPON THE LORD."**

**"THERE WERE THEY IN GREAT FEAR:
FOR GOD IS IN THE GENERATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS."**

**"YE HAVE SHAMED THE COUNSEL OF THE POOR,
BECAUSE THE LORD IS HIS REFUGE." (Psalms 14:4-6)**

The MANY of Matthew 7 obviously called upon the name of the Lord, but did NOT call upon Him "in TRUTH", (Ps 145:18-19). These must represent those who Jesus said they call Him "**Lord, Lord**", but do not do what He said, (Lu 6:46). They SHAMMED the SHAMED. The word 'SHAMED' in this context means: **disappointed, confused**; and 'POOR' is '*aniy* (aw-nee)', defined: **afflicted, humble, lowly, needy**.

These CONSUME God's Fatherless (Christians) who are in affliction by misleading them from the truth. Note the key attribute that these leading servants of God have no knowledge. Then Jesus further defines the difference between these SPURIOUS Christians vs. the TRUE:

**"AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU:
DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY."**

**"THEREFORE
WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE,
AND DOETH THEM,
I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN,
WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK:"**

**"AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME,
AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE;
AND IT FELL NOT: FOR IT WAS FOUNDED UPON A ROCK."**

**"AND EVERY ONE THAT HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE,
AND DOETH THEM NOT,
SHALL BE LIKENED UNTO A FOOLISH MAN,
WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND:"**

**"AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME,
AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE;
AND IT FELL: AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT."
(Matthew 7:23-27)**

Notice as in Jesus' command in verses 13 and 14, there are two similar but opposing groups here. Both groups HEAR what Jesus said, which means they either read it and/or heard it preached. The wise had to have been given UNDERSTANDING of Jesus' sayings because they also go and DO what He said to do. The foolish group HEARS Jesus, but does not DO what is required of them, and the fact Jesus called them 'FOOLISH' reveals they really did not understand what Jesus taught.

The **rain**, **floods**, and **winds** can be proven to represent the teaching of various forms of false doctrines, (either Christian or secular) that the world is inundated with, (Eph 4:13-15). The significant thing here is that BOTH GROUPS build-up their own SPIRITUAL HOUSE, their 'temple' for God to dwell in. But the FOOLISH Christians all FALL and drown in perdition, (Song 8:7; 1 Tim 6:9-10).

Since it is important that this concept of two opposing forms of Christianity is repeatedly taught in the New Testament, let's take a brief look at Luke's version of Jesus' parable to further understand the difference between the MANY vs. the FEW of Matthew 7 to further verify what happened.

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**"AND WHY CALL YE ME, LORD, LORD,
AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?"**

**"WHOSOEVER COMETH TO ME, AND HEARETH MY SAYINGS,
AND DOETH THEM, I WILL SHOW YOU TO WHOM HE IS LIKE:"**

"HE IS LIKE A MAN WHICH BUILT AN HOUSE,

AND DIGGED DEEP,

AND LAID THE FOUNDATION ON A ROCK:

***and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house,
and could not shake it:***

***for it was founded upon a rock."* (Luke 6:47-48)**

From Scripture we find that this HOUSE is our "spiritual house" within our bodies, (1 Peter 2:5).

Paul revealed that there is no greater FOUNDATION can a man lay than Jesus Christ, (1 Cor 3:11, 10:4). Notice that in order to lay a good foundation, the person must DIG DEEP. The word study on 'DEEP' means: **profound, not superficial; difficult to understand, mysterious such as a deep allegory.** Therefore, when any teaching is presented, the one whose understanding in Christ goes DEEP, **THEN** there is something substantial to compare to, standing FIRM in the truth of Christ's doctrine and not prone to FALL into a feigned faith. Finally, Matthew ends that chapter with this most overlooked remark:

**"AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN JESUS HAD ENDED THESE SAYINGS,
THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED**

AT HIS DOCTRINE:"

"For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

(Matthew 7:28-29)

The word 'DOCTRINE' is *didache* (did-akh-ay'), which simply means: **instruction, that which has been taught.**

The Doctrine of Christ is not only what modern Christianity teaches about the historic Jesus and His passion on the cross, but more importantly it is **WHAT HE TAUGHT and COMMANDED.** This short discourse of Scripture in Matthew 7, like many Scriptures, has GREAT DEPTH.

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The essence of understanding of what He said here is repeated a number of times, in various ways throughout the New Testament. This passage of itself proves there are two opposing divisions with Christianity, one representing the overall Majority of Christians who have a shallow understanding, vs. only FEW who KNOW the depths of Christ's doctrine and mysteries by OBEYING what He said to do. BUT, to further establish this truth, it will also be proven that a major portion of the New Testament teaches this throughout its pages.

We will begin with a couple of Bible prophecies that warned this situation of Christianity would come. The first is a prophetic parable of Jesus.

**"BUT HE THAT IS AN HIRELING, AND NOT THE SHEPHERD,
WHOSE OWN THE SHEEP ARE NOT, SEETH THE WOLF COMING,
AND LEAVETH THE SHEEP, AND FLEETH:
AND THE WOLF CATCHETH THEM,
AND SCATTERETH THE SHEEP."** (John 10:12)

Remember Jesus said to **BEWARE** of the WOLVES who have all the appearance of true sheep –true Christians. The shepherd of the sheep is of course Jesus Christ. Therefore, the 'HIRELING' represents His servants who come into service AFTER Christ leaves His flock, during the "Church age". These Christian leaders LEAVE Jesus' sheep because when they see the false Christian leaders creep in, it says they 'FLEETH' , which is defined: **to run away, implying to shun**. Instead of standing their ground and opposing the FALSE CHRISTIAN TEACHERS, they give them up to find greener pastures. Then notice that the wolf 'CATCHETH' them. The word is *harpazo* (har-pad'-zo), the same root word for 'ravening' in Matthew 7:15. This confirms these are the false Christian preachers, teachers, and evangelists who TAKE Christ's followers away from him by their BAD FRUIT. The word 'SCATTERETH' is very revealing. It is Strong's no. G4650, *skorpizo* (skor-pid'-zo), which does mean: **to dissipate, i.e. (figuratively) put to flight**; but is also defined: **to waste, BE LIBERAL**.

Allegorically it is G4651, which is: **a 'scorpion', (through the idea of penetrating)**; and the root word is *skopos*, (from which we derive the words 'scope' or 'skeptic'), and is further defined: **through the IDEA OF CONCEALMENT; a watch. by implying a goal or mark**.

Like the fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood, these wolves enter in covertly to devour their prey, except they ain't dressed like Grandma and this is no fairy tale. This is DEAD SERIOUS. These are the ones who convert God's people to the WIDE GATE and LIBERAL WAY OF CHRISTIANITY.

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**"FOR I KNOW THIS, THAT AFTER MY DEPARTING
SHALL GRIEVOUS WOLVES
ENTER IN AMONG YOU,
NOT SPARING THE FLOCK."**

**ALSO OF YOUR OWN SELVES SHALL MEN ARISE,
SPEAKING PERVERSE THINGS,
TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM."**

(Acts 20:29-30)

Now we have Apostle Paul giving the same warning to the Christian Elders of the Church at Ephesus, one of the seven Churches in the book of Revelation. 'GRIEVOUS', is defined: **weighty, i.e. burdensome, grave**. Random House defines 'weighty' as: **having or exerting influence, power, etc.; influential: a mighty merchant; significant, serious, grave, consequential**. Peter also related to these people as 'merchandisers'. This is the nature of these liberal minded Christians and how they were able to take charge of the Christian movement.

The word 'PERVERSE' is *diastrepho*, (dee-as-tref-o), and the definition is very revealing to what it represents. It is the combination of two Greek words: from G1223, meaning: **THROUGH**, and G4762 meaning: **CONVERSION**. 'PERVERSION' is defined: **to distort, i.e. (fig.) misinterpret, or corrupt, pervert, turn away**. This is what we saw earlier concerning how IN Christian circles of influence, CONVERSION is treated as being the same as REGENERATION! To "DRAW AWAY" is one word *apospao*, (ap-os-pah'-o) from G575 and G4685; **to drag forth, i.e. (literally) unsheathe (a sword), (with a degree of force implied)**. These Christian preachers and teachers forcibly steal these souls from the TRUTH of Christ by using the Word of God! This is NOT some obscure group of Christians falling prey to some Christian cult. The Church of Ephesus was a MAJOR branch of Christ's Churches of Asia, who took this warning with so much ZEAL, that they left off from the priority of the "first work" of *agape* and focused on exposing false Christian prophets, (Rev 2:1-7).

**"BUT THERE WERE FALSE PROPHETS ALSO AMONG THE PEOPLE,
EVEN AS THERE SHALL BE
FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU,**

WHO PRIVILY SHALL BRING IN DAMNABLE HERESIES,
even denying the Lord that bought them,
and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

"AND MANY SHALL FOLLOW THEIR PERNICIOUS WAYS;
BY REASON OF WHOM
THE WAY OF TRUTH
SHALL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF."

"AND THROUGH COVETOUSNESS SHALL THEY
WITH FEIGNED WORDS MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU:
whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not,
and their damnation slumbereth not." (2 Pet 2:1-3)

And now we have the Apostle Peter with the same message. The word "FALSE TEACHERS", is *pseudodidaskalos* (psyoo-dod-id-as'-kal-os), and in the Greek it is: a **SPURIOUS teacher, i.e. propagator of erroneous Christian doctrine.** There is no question these are CHRISTIAN PREACHERS AND TEACHERS within main stream Christianity. Note the word 'SPURIOUS' again. Random House defines 'spurious' as: **of illegitimate birth, A BASTARD.** Their testimony of being BORN AGAIN, is false. They did not enter into the Kingdom of God legally, therefore they worked INIQUITY. It has the same connotation as 'ravaging' wolves. Again, we find in the New Testament:

"BUT IF YE BE WITHOUT CHASTISEMENT,
WHEREOF ALL ARE PARTAKERS,
THEN ARE YE BASTARDS, AND NOT SONS."
(Hebrews 12:8)

"BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF [AGAPE] LOVE
THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
THE SONS OF GOD:
THEREFORE THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT, BECAUSE IT KNEW HIM NOT."
(1 John 3:1)

Do you see the overwhelming harmony of all this so far? Like the Christians at Ephesus, these people did not DO the first work of obtaining the real *agape* love of God, to become the 'SONS' of God. But they claim they did because the Bible says so, but not according the Lord that "bought us". They did not do the will of God. They did not OBEY Christ. They entered

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into the WIDE GATE, and did not undergo the chastisement that God requires of every adopted son He receives. Like the Christian Church of Ephesus, except they REPENT, they are lost and HELL BOUND.

Peter confirms these are the MANY, the majority of Christians, who FOLLOW these *spurious* Christian Theologians and lay-persons who teach Christ crucified. How do we know what they teach? Because notice Peter said they DENY the Lord that BOUGHT them. The word 'DENY' means: **to contradict**. Anyone can promote Christ, while contradicting what He said. The term "bought us" relates to Christ redemptive work of the cross. These refuse to reckon with their redeemer. It is proved in later study, that the shedding of Christ's blood was both a **payment** for the sins we commit, and a **purchase** of the right to free us from the spirit of death and sin, **IF** we reckon ourselves to Him by OBEYING His doctrine. The word 'FOLLOW' means: **to follow out; figuratively to imitate, obey, yield to**.

Why do these follow and imitate their liberal ways? Because they are 'ravening', and enter into Christianity privily, by stealth. They are not detected by the overall Christian body because of disobedience to Christ's command to **BEWARE** of them. Therefore, they bring in "damnable heresies". There is only one heresy that will DAMN the soul:

FALSE SALVATION DOCTRINE.

They deceive their prey with "FEIGNED WORDS". The word 'FEIGNED' is *plastos* (plas-tos'), meaning: **moulded, artificial, false**. It is same root word used for 'WIDE' in Matthew 7:13.

*They preach the doctrine of Christ crucified, but **THE 'WAY'** they say to be saved by by the shed blood **IS FALSE**; it is bad fruit they feed the flock. Therefore they "speak evil of the way", the **STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY**. They omit the commands of Christ for genuine salvation. They contradict Jesus when he told us we have to pick up our own cross and undergo a baptism of spiritual death before we can be given the new life that is **IN him**. And this **LIFE** is only found at **THE END** of the narrow way.*

*"And Jesus answered and said unto them,
TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU."*

*"FOR **MANY** SHALL COME **IN MY NAME**, SAYING, I AM CHRIST;
AND SHALL DECEIVE MANY."*

(Mat 24:4-5)

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This again is a command to "take heed" which essentially means the same as BEWARE. Here we find the MANY do come "in the name of Jesus". These do not claim they are Christ, the Messiah, Jesus warned of those elsewhere in that chapter.

The phrase "IN MY NAME" is *onoma* (on'-om-ah), and in this context means: **authority, in the character of**. These are "Christ-like" preachers and teachers of the Gospel who come as ambassadors of Christ and DECEIVE MANY. This is His FIRST SIGN of Matthew 24, that is called the "Olivet discourse", which are sequential prophecies that takes place prior to His RETURN. The word 'DECEIVE' in this verse is *planao* (plan-ah'-o), which means: **to CAUSE TO roam from safety, truth, or virtue; go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way**. We saw where 'seduce' means: to "draw away disciples after them". Since the majority follow these false Christian leaders, especially in the last days, does that not testify of two similar but opposing forms of Christianity?

**"LITTLE CHILDREN, IT IS THE LAST TIME:
AND AS YE HAVE HEARD THAT ANTICHRIST SHALL COME,
EVEN NOW ARE THERE MANY ANTICHRISTS;
WHEREBY WE KNOW THAT IT IS THE LAST TIME."**

**"THEY WENT OUT FROM US,
BUT THEY WERE NOT OF US; FOR IF THEY HAD BEEN OF US,
THEY WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE CONTINUED WITH US:
BUT THEY WENT OUT, THAT THEY MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST
THAT THEY WERE NOT ALL OF US."**

(1 John 2:18-19)

The phrase "the last time" refers to an 'AGE', known as the "age of the Gentiles" or "Church Age", as it is often called. The word 'ANTICHRISTS' is *antichristos*, and is defined: **an opponent of the Messiah**. Now since Messiah Jesus said the way to the TRUTH that is IN Him is through the STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY of the CROSS; and the MANY are deceived by false Christian preachers and teachers, which OPPOSES the WAY of the TRUTH, then what does that make the 'spirit' of the MANY Christians?

**BEWARE, THE ANTICHRIST SPIRIT
IS THE MANIFESTATION OF LIBERALISM.**

◆ THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

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Earlier we briefly looked at the Church of Ephesus of the seven Churches of revelation.

Some scholars believe these seven Churches (spiritually) represent seven periods of time within the Church age. Regardless, we must consider the last Church mentioned in that group, the Church of Laodicea.

*"And unto the angel of **THE CHURCH** OF THE **LAODICEANS** write..."*

***"I KNOW THY WORKS, THAT THOU ART NEITHER COLD NOR HOT:
I WOULD THOU WERT COLD OR HOT."***

***"SO THEN BECAUSE THOU ART LUKEWARM,
AND NEITHER COLD NOR HOT,
I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH."***

(Revelation 3:14-16)

First, it is important to realize that this is another major CHRISTIAN CHURCH that is being condemn by Christ Himself. The Greek for "CHURCH" is *ekklesia* (ek-klay-see'-ah), and is: **called out, a religious congregation... a Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven, an assembly of believers, a church.**

And it is worthy to note that the name 'LAODICEA' means: "**people of judgment**". We must understand what is going on with these people to AVOID the same mistake they made. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "LUKEWARM" in this context as: "**Not ardent; not zealous; cool; indifference; as lukewarm obedience; lukewarm patriots, Rev iii.**" Random House says its synonyms are: "**halfhearted, cool, apathetic**"; and defines 'indifferent' as: **1. without interest or concern; not caring; apathetic. 2. having no bias, prejudice, or preference; impartial; disinterested. 3. neither good nor bad in character or quality; AVERAGE.** And Webster, (under 'apathy') states: "**In the first ages of the church, the Christians adopted the term to express a contempt of earthly concerns.**" Of course 'halfhearted' Scripturally represents a divided spirit of good and evil which represents the unregenerate fallen nature of mankind.

Jesus referred to this as a non-single 'eye' of how we perceive things, (Matt 6:21-34). The Lord Himself states here that He WILL 'spue' them out. He did not say might, maybe, or if. But, He WILL (in the future). The word 'SPUE' is *emeo* (em-eh'-o), and simply means: **to vomit**. To vomit means the body REJECTS something that is FOUL or TOXIC.

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It is a natural reflex to emit something that is disgusting or harmful to the body's well being. The BODY of Christ is His visible CHURCH upon earth. The 'MOUTH' is often used as an epithet in Scripture that represents one or many who represent a body of people, the spokespersons, the leaders, etc., (Rev 13:5). The reason these people obviously will not repent is because they are "PAST FEELING". Their mind and spirit is set, become hardened.

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, IN THE VANITY OF THEIR MIND,"

***"Having the understanding darkened,
BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD
THROUGH THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN THEM,
BECAUSE OF THE BLINDNESS OF THEIR HEART:"***

***"WHO BEING PAST FEELING
HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES OVER UNTO LASCIVIOUSNESS,
TO WORK ALL UNCLEANNESS WITH GREEDINESS."***

"BUT YE HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST;"

(Eph 4:17-20)

The phrase "PAST FEELING", is *apalgeo* (ap-alg-eh'-o), meaning: **to grieve out, i.e. become apathetic--be past feeling**. This sounds like the Church of Laodicea. These people have LEARNED all about Christ. The Greek for 'LEARNED' here is the root word for DISCIPLE. These people are the unregenerate followers of Christ – Christians. They follow their preachers and teachers, but "their Christ" is of their VAIN IMAGINATION, a form of IDOLATRY that John warned against, (I Jn 5:21). They have utterly given themselves over to LASCIVIOUSNESS, what Jude called a PERVERTED GRACE, (Jude 1:4). The word "GREEDINESS" means a lot more than being 'stingy'. It is *pleonexia* (pleh-on-ex-ee'-ah), and means: **avarice, fraudulency, extortion, covetous practices, greed**. Avarice is the love of money, materialism. Their Christian works are for self gain, to build up their pride and pockets by fraud and extortion. They follow and imitate their ravenous WOLF leaders. They are involved in a Christianity that promises both material blessings as well as forgiveness of sins and guaranteed entrance to eternal heaven. Remember, the Church of Laodicea was one of the seven major Church bodies in all of Asia.

That means that one of the original Apostles of Christ must have established that Church, and most likely the Apostle Paul. Wycliffe is considered an outstanding Christian pre-reformation scholar that produced the FIRST English translation of the New Testament Bible, where we find an Epistle (letter), that Paul wrote to the Church of Laodicea, (mentioned in

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Colossians 4:15-17). The verse is translated from the original "Middle-English":

**"FOR NEITHER THE VAIN SPEAKING
OF SOME UNWISE MEN HATH LED YOU,
THE WHICH WOULD
TURN YOU FROM THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL,
THAT IS PREACHED OF ME."
(Paul's epistle to the Laodiceans 1:4, Wycliffe Bible of 1380)**

From this we have confirmation of the obvious, that Laodicea's problem began with FALSE PROPHETS having crept into their church as LEADERS of the Christian faith and caused them to TURN from the WAY of the TRUTH. Like the warning of Peter, these do not turn away from Christ, they are Christians who have turned from Christ's commands of how to find life and to watch out for false teachers. Next is revealed that these Laodiceans were CONVERTED to Christianity, but NOT BORN AGAIN.

**"BECAUSE THOU SAYEST,
I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS,
AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING;
AND KNOWEST NOT
THAT THOU ART WRETCHED,
AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND,
AND NAKED:" (Revelation 3:17)**

People generally SAY what they believe, that is in their hearts. These BELIEVE that since they are blessed in their material needs, it is evidence they are IN the Grace of God. It is a strong delusion, because Jesus reveals that they DO NOT KNOW THEIR TRUE CONDITION. Do a word study on all these attributes of WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, AND BLIND, and how they are used in Scripture and you will find they are conditions of an unregenerate spirit. THESE ARE CONVERTED, BUT NOT REGENERATED CHRISTIANS, WHO DO NOT REALIZE THEY ARE NOT BORN AGAIN, **BUT THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE.**

**"I COUNSEL THEE TO BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE,
THAT THOU MAYEST BE RICH;
AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT THOU MAYEST BE CLOTHED,
AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR;
AND ANOINT THINE EYES WITH EYESALVE,**

THAT THOU MAYEST SEE."

**"AS MANY AS I [PHILEO] LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN:
BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE,
AND REPENT."
(Revelation 3:18-19)**

These verses are so full of spiritual insight that an entire study could be written on it. The "gold tried in the fire" is the test of faith and endurance that comes in the NARROW WAY, (1 Pet 1:7). The RICHES Christ speaks of is FAITH, (James 2:5). The type of faith that causes you to hunger and thirst for understanding of the Word, that propels you through the NARROW WAY, that is OBEDIENT unto DEATH of YOUR CROSS. The white raiment represents the robe of RIGHTEOUSNESS, (Isa 61:10), that is given to the regenerated SAINTS of God, (Rev 19:8).

To "anoint thine eyes" is the opening of the understanding by the Holy Spirit and the *Key of David*, (Jn 16:13; Rev 3:7, Lu 24:45) Notice Jesus used *phileo* love here instead of *agape* love. Like Peter, do you know why? This rebuke and chastening also comes in the NARROW WAY of the CROSS, that is given to EVERY child of God that He receives, (Heb 12:6). What these words mean reveals WHY we must undergo God's REBUKE and CHASTENING. The word 'REBUKE' means: **to tell a fault, to convict and convince, to confute**. Random House defines 'confute' as: **1. to prove to be false, invalid, or defective; disprove. 2. to prove a person to be wrong by argument or proof. 3. to bring to naught; to CONFOUND**. The word 'CHASTEN' means: **to train up a child, educate or discipline by punishment, to chastise, instruct, learn, teach**.

And again Random House's definition is: **1. to inflict suffering upon for purposes of moral improvement; chastise. 2. to restrain; subdue. 3. to make chaste in style. —Syn. 1. discipline, punish, humble, purify, simplify**. Many modern Christians will shake their fist and say "that is a WORK of trying to clean-up yourself in order to be saved, YOU JUST COME AS YOU ARE AND GOD FORGIVES YOU OF YOUR SIN". Notice how the word 'discipline' is similar to 'disciple'. ***The Narrow way IS NOT us "cleaning up the flesh", but God's way of REMOVING THE LIES that has influenced and darkened our perception of truth,*** (Ps 119:27-31).

To bring us down bit by bit to a spirit-soul type of death (separation of heart and soul, Heb 4:12), to humble us to a point where we realize we are guilty and doomed to eternal ruin and prepares us for the final REVELATION of the presence and revealing of the secret of God: His *agape* love, (Ps 25:14).

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When in that condition, which is fully experiential, (Ps 34:18), THEN Christ manifests Himself to us, (Isa 30: 20, Jn 14:21-23) and brings the REAL Grace of God to the saving of our soul FOREVER, (1 Pet 1:13]. Jesus warns them to REPENT. By this we know that CONVERSION is NOT the REPENTANCE that God requires. This is not just for the Church of Laodicea, but a warning to ALL SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION, A BOOK WRITTEN TO AND FOR THE CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AGE, THAT THEY REPENT A BIBLICAL REPENTANCE THAT IS ONLY FULLY REALIZED WHEN TRUE SALVATION OCCURS AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE OBEDIENT SEEKING BELIEVER.

**"BUT WOE UNTO YOU THAT ARE RICH!
FOR YE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR CONSOLATION."**

**"WOE UNTO YOU THAT ARE FULL! FOR YE SHALL HUNGER.
WOE UNTO YOU THAT LAUGH NOW!
FOR YE SHALL MOURN AND WEEP."
(Luke 6:24-25)**

These verses are a mysterious reflection of Psalm 37 and compare to the latter-day Laodicean Churches. These statements may not seem significant to the 'average' Christian, but they become very evident to the Christian undergoing the chastisement of God in the NARROW WAY. These appear very blessed, while those in the 'WAY' often feel like the forgotten of God as Christ must have felt while hanging on his cross.

How can an entire established Christian church believe they are saved when they are not, and shall be rejected by the Lord at judgement? The Church of Laodicea is unrefuted proof that an entire Christian body of believers can ignorantly accept FALSE SALVATION DOCTRINE as being true, and be emitted from the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a sure Bible testimony of an opposing form of Christianity. This is not about 'losing' your salvation; this is about you believing in an ideal that says you are saved when in reality you are not, and was never really saved, only to find out after it is too late.

By now, the marked distinction between a disobedient false Christianity of the MANY vs. the obedient FEW should be very clear, unless you are in self-denial.

So the question now should be, how can these people use the same Bibles and word lexicons and MISS the TRUTH of the Gospel? Or are these Scriptures representing the Christian type 'CULTS' where in the addition the

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Holy Bible they have another 'inspired' word such as the *Book of Mormon* or the *Watchtower Bible And Tract Society*?

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles gives insight to this. Remember, our focus is main stream Christianity, not Christian type cults.

**"I MARVEL THAT YE ARE SO SOON REMOVED
FROM HIM THAT CALLED YOU INTO THE GRACE OF CHRIST
UNTO ANOTHER GOSPEL:"**

**"WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER;
BUT THERE BE SOME THAT TROUBLE YOU, AND WOULD**

**PERVERT
THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST."**

(Galatians 1:6-7)

The key word here is 'PERVERT' which is: **to turn across [cause an opposing twist], i.e. transmute or corrupt**. The Word of God may be perverted in various ways, such as: variation in doctrinal interpretation; or alterations that are typical in most modern Bible translations based upon language differences or semantics; or more typical is having the understanding darkened due to tradition and self conceit. But again, the root meanings relate to CONVERSION. The two words 'ANOTHER' represents two different Greek words. The first in verse 6 is Strong's no. G2087, *heteros* (het'-er-os), defined: **different, altered, strange**.

The other in verse 7 is G243, *allos* (al'-los), meaning: **"else," i.e. different (in many applications)**. In other words, we could say: "unto an altered Gospel: which is not different in many respects". Regardless, these people are TURNING the Christian Church of Galatia away from the TRUTH of the Gospel, just as Paul warned the Church of Laodicea. The entire Book of Galatians is about this re-conversion to a false Christianity. Paul goes on to say that IF anyone (man or Angel from heaven) preach any perverted Gospel, they are accursed. Then Paul furthers qualifies this altered Gospel:

**"FOR DO I NOW PERSUADE MEN, OR GOD?
OR DO I SEEK TO PLEASE MEN? FOR IF I YET PLEASED MEN,
I SHOULD NOT BE THE SERVANT OF CHRIST."**

**"BUT I CERTIFY YOU, BRETHREN,
THAT THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS PREACHED OF ME IS NOT AFTER MAN."**

"FOR I NEITHER RECEIVED IT OF MAN,

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***NEITHER WAS I TAUGHT IT,
BUT BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.***
(Galatians 1:10-12)

Now we have the clue that the altered forms of the presentation of the Gospel is PLEASING to people. A LIBERAL Gospel that attracts people and satisfies their emotions and quiets their restless spirits.

Because the LITERAL TRUE Gospel and doctrine Christ as He taught it does NOT please the flesh, nor quiets the spirit. Notice how Paul Himself was taught. Not by men and their many ideas and written commentaries and Study Bibles, not even by Christian preachers and teachers, BUT by the revelation that comes ONLY in the STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY of the CROSS. The Bible reveals that in reality it is a type of PUZZLE. There is a 'MYSTERY' of the Gospel that each true Christian seeker must find. (More on this in Part 3 – *The Bible Puzzle*).

"But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we."

"FOR SUCH ARE FALSE APOSTLES, DECEITFUL WORKERS, TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES INTO THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST."

"AND NO MARVEL; FOR SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT."

***"THEREFORE IT IS NO GREAT THING IF
HIS MINISTERS ALSO BE TRANSFORMED
AS THE MINISTERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS;
WHOSE END SHALL BE ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS."***
(2 Corinthians 11:12-15)

Again, we find this same problem occurring in the Church of Corinthians and WHO is really BEHIND this spoiling of the Church of Christ. The word 'OCCASION' is defined: **opportunity**. Paul is attempting to EXPOSE the opportunity of these FALSE APOSTLES who glory in their work of harvesting SOULS for the 'KINGDOM'. The word 'APOSTLE' is *apostolos*, and basically is: **an ambassador of the Gospel, he that is sent**.

But "FALSE APOSTLES" is *pseudapostolos* (psyoo-dap-os'-tol-os), and is: **a spurious apostle, i.e. pretended preacher, false teacher**. Jesus warned us of these as we saw earlier, who deceive MANY. They come in His name,

but they were not SENT by the Heavenly Father as workers for His kingdom. They are SENT by THEIR father, the DEVIL to STEAL Christians away from Christ and His kingdom. The Greek for 'MINISTERS' is *diakonos*, meaning: **an attendant, specifically a Christian teacher and pastor, a deacon or deaconess, a servant.**

Make no mistake about it, these are the MANY Christian servants WITHIN the Churches of Jesus Christ who are unknowingly agents of Satan. The Church of Corinth was one most likely established by Paul's sound doctrine, but these 'evil' Christian servants, came in undetected.

They contradicted the truth of Christ's doctrine. They must have "crept in" quickly as Paul departed, before the congregation developed understanding of the Word enough to discern them as in the first group in the parable of the sower. In 1st Corinthians chapter one, Paul had to admonish them because of STRIFE AND DEBATE within the Church. This gave 'OCCASION' and opened the door for Satan to come in and DIVIDE THE HOUSE, thereby spoiling the strength of the unity to make it FALL.

9. THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Now, it has been thoroughly established there ARE false Christian leaders within Christian churches who draw away MANY from the TRUTH of Christ's doctrine. To further show that Jesus knew that this would be such a concern, we find that the majority of His Parables also warn of a FALSE vs. TRUE CHRISTIANITY within the BODY of Christ.

Jesus often spoke in parables which contained HIDDEN truths that are intended only for the elect group of His followers, (Mat 13:10-11). The first obvious parable to show this is the parable of the "wedding garment".

Matthew 22:

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

**2 THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO A CERTAIN KING,
WHICH MADE A MARRIAGE FOR HIS SON,**

**3 AND SENT FORTH HIS SERVANTS TO CALL THEM THAT WERE
BIDDEN TO THE WEDDING: AND THEY WOULD NOT COME.**

The overall context of the parable is the CALL of God the Father (The King), first Israel, then to the Gentiles to enter into the marriage (spiritual union) with His Son (Jesus Christ). This is a 'prophetic' parable of past and future events. He first sent His first servants (the prophets) to the Jews, but they

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would not respond. He then sent others (Jesus and His Apostles), who were spitefully treated and killed.

The King was so angered, He sent for armies (Roman legion in 70 AD) and destroyed the murders (Jewish Pharisees) and burned their city (Jerusalem). Then, He told other servants to go wherever and find whoever would come to the wedding (the Church age of the Gentiles). It is here we will refer to the remaining verses:

**10 SO THOSE SERVANTS WENT OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS,
AND GATHERED TOGETHER ALL AS MANY AS THEY FOUND,**

BOTH BAD AND GOOD:

AND THE WEDDING WAS FURNISHED WITH GUESTS.

**11 AND WHEN THE KING CAME IN TO SEE THE GUESTS,
HE SAW THERE A MAN WHICH**

HAD NOT ON A WEDDING GARMENT:

**12 AND HE SAITH UNTO HIM, FRIEND,
HOW CAMEST THOU IN HITHER
NOT HAVING A WEDDING GARMENT?
AND HE WAS SPEECHLESS.**

**13 THEN SAID THE KING TO THE SERVANTS, [HIS ANGELS]
BIND HIM HAND AND FOOT, AND TAKE HIM AWAY,
AND CAST HIM INTO OUTER DARKNESS;
THERE SHALL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.**

**14 FOR MANY ARE CALLED,
BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN.**

The "many called" in this parable, represents not only those who reject Jesus Christ, but more importantly those who come to Christ FALSELY. The Word 'CALLED' is *kletos* (klay-tos'), and means: **invited, i.e. appointed, or a saint**. Its root word is *klesis*, and is defined: **an invitation, vocation**. This is like any 'call' to service. There are those who respond to the call properly, improperly, or not at all. Those who respond properly, (i.e. learn and DO Christ's doctrine), are the ones 'CHOSEN' by the King.

The word is: *eklektos* (ek-lek-tos'), meaning: **select; by implying favorite; to choose out, the elect**. So what this parable is revealing to us is that all people, (good or bad), who respond to the CALL of God enter the BODY of

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Christ, which is the visible 'flesh' aspect of Christianity. Then, depending entirely upon the obedience to Christ's WAY of finding the wedding garment, God selects them out of the Christian body and they become part of the spiritual BRIDE.

But it is ONLY the FEW who FIND this 'GARMENT', which is *enduma*, meaning: **apparel (especially the outer robe), raiment**. The Lord said through Isaiah it is the GARMENT OF SALVATION, the "robe of righteousness", (Isa 61:10).

And the Bride of Christ the Lamb is to be "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints", (Rev 19:8). But here we find a guest that is not wearing the proper garment. Notice God calls this person: 'FRIEND'. This means he was NOT an enemy of God and Christ. This person obviously associated himself with the Christian family of God in an appropriate way. He represents those who are very sincere moral people with good intentions, acceptable to their fellow Christians. Active and dependable servants of God. These people are like the MANY of Matthew seven who spent their entire Christian lives in service to Christ, but it was in vain. Despite their sincerity, moral behavior, and good Christian works, they wind up REJECTED by the Lord because they entered in the wrong WAY. The Lord was conditionally fond of them, but they obviously did not undergo the chastisement of the narrow way, (Heb 12:6-13).

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you,
**HE THAT ENTERETH NOT BY THE DOOR
INTO THE SHEEPFOLD,
BUT CLIMBETH UP
SOME OTHER WAY,
THE SAME IS A THIEF AND A ROBBER."**
(John 10:1)*

Here is another parable where the message is the same as the previous one. Jesus reveals there are those who enter into the sheepfold (Christianity) IMPROPERLY. The phrase "SOME OTHER WAY" is one Greek word *allachothēn* (al-lakh-oth'-en), meaning: **from elsewhere, some other WAY**. The root word is *allos*, the same word Paul used in referring to 'another' Gospel.

Remember that Jesus gave only TWO WAYS His followers would enter into, the STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY or the WIDE GATE and BROAD WAY. In fact, the word 'DOOR' in this verse is *thura* which is defined: **door or gate**. It will be proven on *Part 3* that these GATES are metaphors for

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DOCTRINE. Either Christ's narrow doctrine with NO deviation that leads to LIFE, or perverse Christian doctrines that lead to eternal ruin, which fabricates "ANOTHER JESUS". An altered Gospel that sounds absolutely correct on its surface. Jesus calls these people "THIEVES AND ROBBERS".

We saw where they distort the call of the Gospel, and "THROUGH CONVERSION" they draw in Christians like themselves. They **rob** them of REGENERATION, and **steal** souls away from Christ.

Through conversion they entered the fabricated gate-way, but at the end of that WAY, there is NO DOOR to the living Christ. They *believed* the false teachers that their conversion to Christianity gave them entrance into heaven.

***"ALL THAT EVER CAME BEFORE ME ARE THIEVES AND ROBBERS:
BUT THE SHEEP DID NOT HEAR THEM."***

***"I AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN,
HE SHALL BE SAVED,
AND SHALL GO IN AND OUT, AND FIND PASTURE."***

***"THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL,
AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY:***

***I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE,
AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY." (John 10:8-10)***

In verse 6, the disciples admitted they did not understand this parable, so Jesus states He IS the 'thura' –the GATE they must enter into. Jesus IS it WORD (the **logos**, Jn 1:1), and the *logos* is doctrine, (Strong's no. G3056). Notice how Jesus consistently contrasts between Himself, (the truth) and these lying, stealing Christian leaders.

Jesus came to bear witness to the TRUTH, these come to bear witness to a LIE. Jesus came to BRING blessing and happiness, these come to STEAL our blessing and happiness. Jesus came that we might have LIFE, but these come to rob us of that LIFE that we might remain in DEATH. Jesus came to BUILD UP the House of God, these come to DESTROY it and lay it waste.

***"WHO THEN IS A FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT,
whom his lord hath made ruler over his household,
TO GIVE THEM MEAT IN DUE SEASON?"***

**"BLESSED IS THAT SERVANT,
WHOM HIS LORD WHEN HE COMETH SHALL FIND SO DOING."**

**"VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU,
THAT HE SHALL MAKE HIM RULER OVER ALL HIS GOODS."**

**"BUT AND IF THAT EVIL SERVANT shall say in his heart,
MY LORD DELAYETH HIS COMING;"**

**"And shall begin to smite his fellow servants,
and to eat and drink with the drunken;"**

**"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him,
and in an hour that he is not aware of,"**

**"AND SHALL CUT HIM ASUNDER,
AND APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE HYPOCRITES:
THERE SHALL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH."**

(Mat 24:45-51)

This parable is also part of the "Olivet discourse" where Jesus was revealing the prophesies of His return to gather together His elect, what modern Christianity calls the 'RAPTURE'. If you can "get past" the false belief that there is no such thing as an UNSAVED Christian, you will see the difference here between the "faithful and wise servant" vs. the "evil servant". First, realize that they are both SERVANTS OF THE LORD. Jesus shows that it is ONLY the FAITHFUL AND WISE that are GIVEN this MEAT at an appointed time. It is also extensively proven in *Part 3* that 'MEAT' is a metaphor for Christ's DOCTRINE. Second, "due season" is in reference to Jesus' COMING and 'them' being BLESSED to find they have been given that doctrine.

The promise of becoming a 'ruler', is one of the attributes of an OVERCOMER, a SAVED Christian, (Rev 2:26-29). To "smite his fellow servants" and "eat and drink with the drunken" are attributes of the false Christian preachers and teachers. The word 'SMITE' is *tupto*, and in this context it figuratively means: **to offend, to wound**. These are the overpowering ones, the RAVENING WOLVES. When Christ comes they are not going to be spiritual awakened to understand the SIGNS and TIME CODES the Lord gives us for His DELAYED coming. The Wolves cause them to **stumble** at the Word and fall into apostasy (untruths).

This is another prophetic parable that reveals that Christianity prior to His return, will be DIVIDED between the true and the HYPOCRITICAL. In fact the terms "cut asunder" along with 'hypocrite' mean: **to BISECT out the**

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pretended ones! Following this is another in the same context of a divided Christianity, particularly at the time of Christ's return. This is known as "the parable of the ten virgins", Matthew 25: 1-12.

This parable is sometimes briefly mentioned in modern Christian circles, but its hidden truth is not taught. The Christian division is implied at the start, and the rest of the parable contains the clues that reveal the difference.

MATTHEW 25:

1 THEN SHALL THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BE LIKENED UNTO TEN VIRGINS, WHICH TOOK THEIR LAMPS, AND WENT FORTH TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM.

2 AND FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE, AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH.

**3 THEY THAT WERE FOOLISH TOOK THEIR LAMPS,
AND TOOK NO OIL WITH THEM:**

4 BUT THE WISE TOOK OIL IN THEIR VESSELS WITH THEIR LAMPS.

5 WHILE THE BRIDEGROOM TARRIED, THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT.

The previous parable compared WISE vs. EVIL servants, this compares WISE vs. FOOLISH virgins. These are All VIRGINS, they represent the two WAYS of Christianity. In this context, 'WISE' refers to: **understanding, sagacious (i.e. having practical sense and discernment)**; in other words, NOT LIBERAL. Opposed to these are the 'FOOLISH', defined: **dull of understanding as if SHUT UP**. Or we could say "closed minded". Otherwise, the only difference between these two is the Foolish had no OIL in their vessels. The 'BRIDEGROOM' is of course Christ, the Son of the Great King.

**6 AND AT MIDNIGHT THERE WAS A CRY MADE,
BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH; GO YE OUT TO MEET HIM.**

**7 THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS AROSE,
AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS.**

Jesus' parables are allegories used to conceal the principle subject. But, to briefly summarize, a good definition of 'MIDNIGHT' in the figurative sense as defined by the Random House dictionary is: **resembling midnight as in**

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darkness; a condition or time of obscurity, ignorance, sinfulness, misfortune. All the Virgins were residing in a time of darkness while the Lord DELAYED His coming. In the MIDST of this darkness, a CRY came forth, a CALL of spiritual awakening, just before dawn. Does this 'CRY' represent the "latter day" rhetoric of Christ's coming and the "end of the age"? This causes a stir within ALL of Christianity.

The word 'AROSE' is *egeiro*, (eg-i'-ro), and means: **to waken, i.e. rouse from sleep; or figuratively from obscurity and inactivity.** All these Christians dust off their Bibles and begin to search to understand the prophecies of Christ's RETURN. The 'LAMP' represents the Word of God, (Ps 119:105). Greek for 'TRIMMED' is *kosmeo* (kos-meh'-o); which is: **to put in proper order, [the study of doctrine].** But here is the deciding difference: the Foolish had NO OIL in their vessels that makes the LAMP give LIGHT. The 'OIL' is *elaion* (el'-ah-yon), **olive oil.**

Olive oil in the Old Testament was required for the *menorah lamp* in the Holy Place of God's Temple to give ILLUMINATION to light the WAY for God's priests, and for ANOINTING, (Exodus 25:6). To 'anoint' someone with oil was the gesture of God's anointing of the Holy Spirit.

**"HOWBEIT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, IS COME,
HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH:
FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF;
BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK:
AND HE WILL SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME."**
(John 16:13)

The Spirit of Truth IS the Holy Spirit, (Jn 15:26; 14:26), who is given to those who OBEY God, (Acts 5:32). His primary mission is to GUIDE us through the 'WAY' and to give us understanding of BIBLE PROPHECY, **'IF'** He is allowed to.

**8 AND THE FOOLISH SAID UNTO THE WISE, GIVE US OF YOUR OIL;
FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GONE OUT.**
**9 BUT THE WISE ANSWERED, SAYING, NOT SO;
LEST THERE BE NOT ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU:
BUT GO YE RATHER TO THEM THAT SELL,
AND BUY FOR YOURSELVES.**

The FOOLISH realized they are still in darkness. They could not understand the Word at all. They may have had the illumination of the Holy Spirit initially, but their LAMP went out, their APATHY extinguished the Spirit.

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When they asked the WISE for their oil, the reply is quite unexpected. Those that SELL are the MERCHANDISERS, the FALSE PROPHETS of 2nd Peter 2:1-3.

They sold the foolish Virgins another Jesus and another Spirit. The Spirit they accepted caused them to error in the doctrine of salvation, and prophesies of Christ's return.

They believed they could GET the truth from various other sources, and entered the 'sheepfold' by some other WAY, but it cost them dearly.

10 AND WHILE THEY WENT TO BUY, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME; AND THEY THAT WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE MARRIAGE: AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.

11 AFTERWARD CAME ALSO THE OTHER VIRGINS, SAYING, LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US.

12 BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, I KNOW YOU NOT.

13 WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YE KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEREIN THE SON OF MAN COMETH.

There is definitely a SERIOUS lesson to learn here. In response of the CRY of Christ's coming, these Foolish Christians run to the Churches and publications of the False preachers and teachers to FIND TRUTH. In the meantime, Christ comes and gathers His ELECT, the WISE VIRGINS and **SHUTS the door**. Do you get the drift here? After Christ's coming in the clouds to remove HIS faithful and obedient ones, He apparently CLOSES ACCESS TO THE STRAIT GATE AND NARROW WAY, WHICH IS A FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Jesus gives the same answer as in Matthew 7- He does not KNOW these Christians. The disobedient MANY, the unregenerate Christians will obviously realize what has happened and appeal to Christ. But it will be too late, they will be divided from the true sheep.

They will be subject to the WRATH of the LAMB. Like the HYPOCRITES in Christ's first coming, the religious Jewish leaders and teachers, they could

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not DISCERN the time, (Lu 12:56), even though the prophet Daniel revealed the **exact year** of their Messiah's visitation, (Dan 9:21-25).

Why? They were disobedient children who would not understand the law of the Lord. They did not WATCH, meaning: to be SPIRITUAL AWAKE and be given the knowledge of God to KNOW what to watch for. **Nothing has changed**, IT IS THE SAME FOR MANY IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY. The prophet Amos had this to say about the time after Christ shuts the door:

**"BEHOLD, THE DAYS COME, SAITH THE LORD GOD,
THAT I WILL SEND A FAMINE IN THE LAND,
NOT A FAMINE OF BREAD, NOR A THIRST FOR WATER,
BUT OF HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD:"**

**"AND THEY SHALL WANDER FROM SEA TO SEA,
AND FROM THE NORTH EVEN TO THE EAST, THEY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO**

**TO SEEK THE WORD OF THE LORD,
AND SHALL NOT FIND IT."**

**"IN THAT DAY SHALL THE FAIR VIRGINS
AND YOUNG MEN FAINT FOR THIRST." (Amos 8:11-13)**

The Lord reveals through Amos that sometime in the future is this FAMINE. The Hebrew word is *ra'ab* (raw-awb'), and defined: **hunger (more or less extensive), dearth**. Since they diligently SEARCH to HEAR the Word of God and are not able to find it anywhere they go, then we must assume:

- (1) There is a world wide ban on anything pertaining to God or Christ, especially Bibles;
- (2) All forms of media is void of any form of Christian or Judeo publications or broadcasts;
- (3) There are NO Churches or Synagogues representing God and Christ;
- (4) There is no remnant of Godly people left, or if there is, they are silent for fear.

This must be the situation when the Beast is in full power AFTER Christ comes in the clouds, (Mat 24: 29-31; Rev 6:12-17). **Is this HOW Christ will SHUT the STRAIT GATE? By closing the doors of his mouth?** (Micah 7:5) If the Word of God cannot be found, then how can anyone understand how to be saved? By the same token, if the majority of Christians today are under the overpowering influence of FALSE CHRISTIAN TEACHERS, how can they initially understand how to be SAVED?

"FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

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SHALL BE SAVED."

**"HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE
NOT BELIEVED?"**

**AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM
THEY HAVE NOT HEARD?"**

AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?"

**"AND HOW SHALL THEY PREACH,
EXCEPT THEY BE SENT?"**

**AS IT IS WRITTEN, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEM THAT PREACH
THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, AND BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"**

"BUT THEY HAVE NOT ALL OBEYED THE GOSPEL.

FOR ESAIAS SAITH, LORD, WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

(Romans 10:13-16)

"FOR THE TIME IS COME THAT JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN

AT THE HOUSE OF GOD:

AND IF IT FIRST BEGIN AT US, WHAT SHALL THE END BE OF THEM THAT

OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL OF GOD?"

"AND IF THE RIGHTEOUS SCARCELY BE SAVED,

WHERE SHALL THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR?" (1 Peter 4:17-18)

Do you see? You must believe according to the TRUE Gospel of God, (Christ's teaching), which is an OBEDIENT BELIEF that endures to the saving of the soul. How can you believe in the TRUTH except one actually PREACHES the TRUTH of Christ's doctrine. How can they PREACH TRUE doctrine except they actually be SENT by God, and have the Spirit of TRUTH and NOT the spirit of ERROR? When this absence of God's Word happens, how can anyone obey the Gospel? Without the LIGHT of God's Word, how can anyone DISCERN the TIME?

The last parable we are going to consider is Jesus' parable of THE WHEAT vs. THE TARES. This parable is a prime example of how Jesus used metaphors to conceal secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, (Mat 13:34-36). For this study, a number various Bible versions were compared. It was quickly discovered, that the more recent translations could easily give a false impression in the identity of the TARES as compared in the older translations. Jesus first gives the parable in its metaphoric form, then repeats it in view of what the metaphors represent, (Mat 13:24-43).

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To condense this parable study and its word meanings, the first reading will be shown as it is written in the popular *Authorized King James Bible*, verses 24-30. The second (interpretation) is shown here as a composite utilizing the KJV version Bible and the Strong's word definitions in relation to the overall context of Jesus' parables and the teachings of the Apostles.

Matthew 13:

**24 ANOTHER PARABLE PUT HE FORTH UNTO THEM, SAYING,
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKENED UNTO A MAN
WHICH SOWED GOOD SEED IN HIS FIELD:**

**25 BUT WHILE MEN SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED TARES
AMONG THE WHEAT, AND WENT HIS WAY.**

**26 BUT WHEN THE BLADE WAS SPRUNG UP, AND BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT,
THEN APPEARED THE TARES ALSO.**

**27 SO THE SERVANTS OF THE HOUSEHOLDER CAME AND SAID UNTO HIM,
SIR, DIDST NOT THOU SOW GOOD SEED IN THY FIELD?
FROM WHENCE THEN HATH IT TARES?**

**28 HE SAID UNTO THEM, AN ENEMY HATH DONE THIS. THE SERVANTS
SAID UNTO HIM, WILT THOU THEN THAT WE GO AND GATHER THEM UP?**

**29 BUT HE SAID, NAY; LEST WHILE YE GATHER UP THE TARES,
YE ROOT UP ALSO THE WHEAT WITH THEM.**

**30 LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST:
AND IN THE TIME OF HARVEST I WILL SAY TO THE REAPERS,
GATHER YE TOGETHER FIRST THE TARES,
AND BIND THEM IN BUNDLES TO BURN THEM:
BUT GATHER THE WHEAT INTO MY BARN.**

The word 'WHEAT' is often used in the New Testament to represent TRUE Christians. The Greek is *sitos* (see'-tos), which simply means: **grain, especially wheat**. But in contrast, is the 'TARES' which is: *zizanion* (dziz-an'-ee-on), and is defined: **darnel or false grain, tares**. Random House defines 'darnel' as a type of GRASS, not a WEED as many of the modern translations use. Unlike weeds, darnel in its growth stage, is very difficult for the average person to distinguish from a wheat shoot until maturity begins, vs. weeds which are much easier to spot. Both wheat and darnel begins as flat leaf blades of grass, and in maturity produces a stalk that terminates with spikes.

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The difference is the GOOD SEED of the wheat produces favorable GRAINS that are harvested and ground for making BREAD. When the TARES (false grain) begins to mature, its head does not produce the plump ear of grains, but has small round dark and bitter seeds.

A harvest of wheat grains often include these inferior seeds, and must be "separated out" to make GOOD BREAD. You can see why the Lord chose this analogy. When the NEW GROWTH shoots forth, if you pull up a blade of grass, it could be WHEAT that is uprooted by mistake. The word 'ENEMY' is *echthros* (ekh-thros'), and is: **an adversary, especially Satan**. And the word 'DEVIL' is also defined: **a traducer, specifically Satan**. It is interesting in the view of the subject matter that the word 'traducer' means: **to speak falsely**. Greek for [end of the] 'WORLD' is *aion* (ahee-ohn'), and properly means: **an age; a Messianic period**. This is confirmed by the root word *aei* (ah-eye'), which in essence means: **duration [of time]**.

Note how it implies a DELAY to the end of the age, and that MEN are asleep when the enemy came in, showing a harmony among even the various parables. [Mat 25:3]

TRANSLATION COMPOSITE OF MATTHEW 13:

**24 ...THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS COMPARED UNTO JESUS CHRIST,
WHICH SCATTERED HIS CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD:**

**25 BUT WHILE MEN WERE SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP, SATAN CAME AND
SCATTERED ILLEGITIMATE CHRISTIANS AMONG THE TRUE CHRISTIANS,
AND WENT HIS WAY.**

**26 BUT WHEN THE TRUE CHRISTIANS BEGAN TO MATURE,
AND BROUGHT FORTH RIGHTOUSNESS,
THEN SHINED THE ILLEGITIMATE CHRISTIANS ALSO.**

**27 SO THE ANGELS CAME AND SAID TO HIM, LORD, DID YOU NOT SCATTER
YOUR CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD? FROM WHERE THEN HAS IT
ILLEGITIMATE CHRISTIANS?**

**28 JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, SATAN HAS DONE THIS. THE ANGELS SAID
UNTO HIM, WILL YOU THEN THAT WE GO AND GATHER THEM UP?**

**29 BUT HE SAID, NO; PERHAPS WHILE YOU GATHER UP THE ILLEGITIMATE
CHRISTIANS, YOU ALSO OFFEND THE TRUE CHRISTIANS WITH THEM.**

**30 LET THEM BOTH GROW TOGETHER
UNTIL THE END OF THE CHURCH AGE:
AND AT THE TIME OF THE END, I WILL SAY TO THE ANGELS,
GATHER YOU TOGETHER FIRST THE ILLEGITIMATE CHRISTIANS,
AND BIND THEM IN SHACKLES TO BURN THEM IN HELL FIRE:**

AND GATHER THE TRUE CHRISTIANS INTO MY STOREHOUSE.

Why would God allow this to happen? Again it has to do with free will, and the desperate fallen heart of mankind. It was by KNOWLEDGE that mankind fell from the Grace of God, and it is by KNOWLEDGE that mankind must return, (Jn 17:3). Satan is the enemy of God and Israel, and has been the struggle from the beginning. Christianity became a part of Israel through Christ and the New Covenant, (Romans 11). All through the Bible to until this day, is the struggle for Israel to survive the continuous attacks of her enemy through various evil Leaders and forces.

Therefore, doesn't it make perfect sense that the enemy also attacks Christianity from within AND without, just as he has done to Jewish Israel through the ages? So, why would it surprise you to find this out? Whose side are YOU on? There is no neutral ground, Christ said that all people are already condemned as enemies of God, except they believe in Him, (Jn 3:18). A belief that is well qualified by Scripture.

10. THE WILL OF GOD

We saw in Matthew chapter seven where Jesus revealed TWO opposing GATES and pathways His followers will choose to enter into. FEW enter the STRAIT GATE which leads to the FINDING of LIFE that is in Him vs. MANY who enter a (fabricated) WIDE GATE that leads to eternal damnation. These two opposing forms of Christianity were confirmed in many Scriptures and parables of Jesus. We also saw where the underlying theme of the New Testament stresses the importance of the instruction of doctrine.

Because this concept is so essential, we're going to review a few verses that not only shows its importance, but that it is **absolutely required** for Christian salvation.

**"NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD,
SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

BUT HE THAT

DOETH THE WILL

OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." (Matthew 7:21)

The Greek for 'SAITH' is *lego*, which in this context means: **ask, call to, speak to**. This can only refer to those who personally address Jesus Christ in PRAYER, calling Him LORD, because the MANY of Matthew 7 spend their life dedicated in doing the works of Christ.

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These are well established Christians who PRAY to their Lord Jesus Christ, because "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost", (1 Cor 12:3).

"HAVING MADE KNOWN UNTO US
THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL,
ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE
WHICH HE HATH PURPOSED IN HIMSELF:"
(Ephesians 1:9)

Christians typically want to KNOW what God's will is, especially for their lives, while not believing or realizing that God's WILL is a MYSTERY! But for the Christian that receives ADOPTION into the family of God, that will was predestinated, (Eph 1:5). It is to the adopted sons and daughters of God that His will is made manifest.

First through the knowledge and understanding of Christ's doctrine, then by the revelation of Christ when He appears to them, (1 Pet 1:13). The phrase "MADE KNOWN" is *gnorizo* (gno-rid'-zo), meaning: **to certify, declare, give to understand**. That means the MANY obviously did not DO the will of God, because it was not made known to them. This also means that understanding what the will of God is, directly relates to Christ KNOWING us. Therefore, does it not behoove us to make it a priority to find out what the WILL of God is, IF you truly value your soul enough to choose eternal LIFE instead of eternal destruction? So, what IS this will of God that Jesus refers to?

"IF ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL,
HE SHALL KNOW OF THE DOCTRINE,
WHETHER IT BE OF GOD, OR WHETHER I SPEAK OF MYSELF." (John 7:17)

We know from *Part 1* that 'doctrine' means: **instruction**, but more specifically what God Himself teaches us DIRECTLY (one-on-one), through His Word. Is this plain and literal enough? How can KNOWING DOCTRINE be considered SYMBOLIC? Notice how MAN must WILL to DO God's WILL. In reality, it becomes a BATTLE of the WILL, because it is our FREE WILL CHOICE. A preference of the *volitional* part of our mind which is motivated by our *emotional* and *cognitive* parts of our consciousness. That is why Jesus told Peter: "IF you *agape* love me, feed my sheep".

The 'feeding' of Christ's sheep is the WILL of Christ, who came to DO the will of God upon Earth. That WILL relates to the Church feeding Christ's DOCTRINE by instructing His lambs into the Kingdom of God.

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True divine *agape* love of God always seeks to please God, (Jn 8:29; Rom 8:8). How can one feed doctrine to Christ's sheep if they do not first obey and learn it themselves?

"FOR YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE, THAT,
AFTER
YE HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD,
YE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE."
(Hebrews 10:36)

"AND THIS IS THE PROMISE
THAT HE HATH PROMISED US, EVEN
ETERNAL LIFE." (1 John 2:25)

Does your religion, Church, or TV Evangelist teach this? How do you interpret this in view of the "FAITH ONLY" Gospel of modern Christian salvation doctrine? These Christians in Hebrews 10 had been 'illuminated' and enduring a GREAT FIGHT of AFFLICTIONS.

They are being told by the Apostles of Christ, that they have a NEED of patience. That can only mean they are running short on the type of patience that IS REQUIRED FOR AUTHENTIC SALVATION. Because the PROMISE of ETERNAL LIFE only comes **AFTER** the WILL of God is DONE. What WILL is that? To KNOW DOCTRINE. To BELIEVE Christ enough to DO what He told us to DO, **and literally SEE the Son**, (Jn 6:40). This must be the MYSTERY of God's will because the TRUTH of Christ is well hidden in these, (Jn 8:31-32; Ps 25:13).

Since the MANY pray to their Lord Jesus Christ, then they must have said an initial prayer of dedication to Christ at their CONVERSION, such as a "sinner's prayer". But they obviously did not DO the WILL of God to learn doctrine and had SEEN Christ, because at their surprise, their Lord rejects them, and denies them access to the Kingdom, (Lu 13:25-30).

• ***What is the WILL of God in view of salvation?***

1. Only those who DO the will of God enter the Kingdom of Heaven;
2. The will of God is a mystery, and is only made known to the obedient believer;
3. The will of God is to KNOW Christ's doctrine;
4. The will of God is those given to Christ (predestined) and shall not be lost;
5. The will of God is to SEE the Son, (revelation of Christ);

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6. The will of God is to BELIEVE (understand and obey) the Son;
7. The will of God is that His true children shall be resurrected to eternal life.

Once we have established in our mind and heart that the God of the Holy Bible exists, (Heb 11:6), we naturally develop a desire to know about this God. The non-Christian may simply pick up a Bible and read on their own, finding it difficult to understand and even seeming to contradict itself on occasion. We may have innumerable questions, such as what is Christianity all about and why do not all Christians agree? At that point, this is where we should begin to be curious for the truth. ***However, it is also when the new Christian or beginning seeker is the most vulnerable.***

This was implied by Jesus Himself in the *parable of the sower*, (Mat 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15). The parable of the sower in all three Gospel dialogs, Jesus divides the hearers of the Word into four groups: **1. The Way Side; 2. The Stoney Ground; 3. The Thorns; and 4. The Good Ground.**

FOUR is the number for *division*: (i.e. 4 directions, 4 elements; 4 seasons; etc.); it is the number for earth, creation; and the number for governing the world.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER IS ABOUT HEARING AND CORRECTLY RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

"Now the parable is this: **THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD.**" (Luke 8:11)

"...**HE THAT SOWETH the good seed IS THE SON OF MAN;**" (Mat 13:37)

In Matthew 13, verses 1 through 9, Jesus began teaching a multitude of followers with a parable concerning one who sows seed. We will find in the study *The Bible Puzzle* that Jesus intentionally taught in parables to conceal hidden truths to all except His chosen ones, (verses 10-17). Then Jesus later expounded this parable to them –His chosen disciples:

"HEAR YE THEREFORE THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER."

**"WHEN ANY ONE HEARETH THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM,
AND UNDERSTANDETH IT NOT,
THEN COMETH THE WICKED ONE,
AND CATCHETH AWAY THAT WHICH WAS SOWN IN HIS HEART.
THIS IS HE WHICH RECEIVED SEED BY THE WAY SIDE."**
(Matthew 13:18-19)

**4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side,
AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR CAME AND DEVOURED IT UP.**

(Mark 4:4)

The Greek word for word 'HEAR' is *akouo* (ak-oo'-o), which essentially means: **to understand, hearken to**. We may also add that it includes: **to respond correctly to, to OBEY**. The term "WICKED ONE" is identified by Mark as 'SATAN' and Luke as "THE DEVIL". Since this first group hear but do not understand, it is not that they quickly forgot, but they walked away with a false interpretation of what they heard. The major clue here to understand what happens to these people is the 'fowls', who are those that quickly light upon these to distort or discourage the truth they heard. The fowls (or ravens), established what Scripture calls "idols in their hearts" which comes via deceit.

**"BUT HE THAT RECEIVED THE SEED INTO STONY PLACES,
THE SAME IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD,
AND ANON WITH JOY RECEIVETH IT;"**

**"YET HATH HE NOT ROOT IN HIMSELF, BUT DURETH FOR A WHILE:
FOR WHEN TRIBULATION OR PERSECUTION ARISETH
BECAUSE OF THE WORD,
BY AND BY HE IS OFFENDED."**

(Matthew 13:20-21)

This second group receives the Word of God with just enough understanding to instantly receive it with ZEAL. The word 'ANON' is *euthus* (yoo-thoos'), that is: **immediately**; and 'JOY' here means: **cheerfulness, with exceeding joy**. The word 'OFFENDED' is *skandalizo* (skan-dal-id'-zo), meaning: **to entrap, i.e. trip up, stumble or entice to sin, apostasy**. Their understanding remained shallow because they endure only temporarily. What Christ requires of them cause them so much anguish and trouble they begin to disbelieve the literalness of Christ's doctrine which trips them up. Thus they stumble into apostate Christianity or enticed to fall away altogether.

**"HE ALSO THAT RECEIVED SEED AMONG THE THORNS
IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD;
AND THE CARE OF THIS WORLD,
AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES,
CHOKES THE WORD,
AND HE BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL."** (Matthew 13:22)

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This third group are the THORNY ground people. In Hebrew 'THORNS', or 'BRIERS' simply means: **a thorn**, but its root word means: **to hedge about (as with thorns), guard; to protect, attend to; beware, be circumspect, take heed to self, keep self, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save self**. In other words these people guard against any influence, they are careful to what they here and react to. They do not like to change their ways, they are 'set' in their mind and put a defense to guard their mind likened to a hedge of thorns. This may be why they placed a crown of thorns upon Jesus' head. He simply would not conform to the image of His religious accusers. The word "CARES" is *merimna* (mer'im-nah), and is defined: **through the idea of distraction; solicitude**, [uneasy, apprehension]. Here are a few other verses using the metaphor of 'thorns':

***"For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem,
BREAK UP YOUR FALLOW GROUND,
AND SOW NOT AMONG THORNS."
(Jeremiah 4:3)***

***"THE WAY OF THE SLOTHFUL MAN IS AS
AN HEDGE OF THORNS:
BUT THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS MADE PLAIN."
(Proverbs 15:19)***

***"BUT THAT WHICH BEARETH THORNS AND BRIERS
IS REJECTED, AND IS NIGH UNTO CURSING;
WHOSE END IS TO BE BURNED."
(Hebrews 6:8)***

The rich young ruler that came to Jesus and asked what he must do to receive eternal life falls into this group, (Mat 19:16-29). He was a very moral and blessed person who had acquired much wealth, which requires great attention and sacrifice of time.

This 'blessing' brings a secure mental outlook and pleasant living, but it requires much attention to the cares of this world. Then, there are those who do not seem to understand the seriousness of what is at stake. A good example of this is the story/parable of Martha and Mary, (Luke 10:38-42).

Luke 10:

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, WHICH ALSO SAT AT JESUS' FEET, AND HEARD HIS WORD.

40 BUT MARTHA WAS CUMBERED ABOUT MUCH SERVING, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, THOU ART CAREFUL AND TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS:

42 BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL: AND MARY HATH CHOSEN THAT GOOD PART, WHICH SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HER.

Do you see the lesson here? Martha was too busy to humble herself and sit at Jesus' feet and hear His doctrine. Because she was the hostess of her house, she felt obligated to SERVE Jesus in her own WAY. She became totally distracted in order to have Jesus pleased with her much service.

The Greek word for 'SERVING' is *diakonia* (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah), and means: **attendant as a servant of menial duties; or figuratively official service as a Christian teacher and pastor, a deacon or deaconess, minister, servant.** Notice that Mary exercised her WILL to do God's WILL to hear and understand Christ's teaching.

When Martha questions the Lord about Mary's lack of [Christian] service, Jesus gave a mysterious reply that relates to the parable of the talents, (covered in *Part 3*). Mary had chosen to participate in the "good part", and the understanding she received would not be taken away.

**"FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?"**

"OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?"
(Mark 8:36-37)

What priority do we have for the fate of our own soul? In the end, what is more important? Is it a question of disbelief or the obligation to life's responsibilities? Shall these excuse us in the day of judgment?

**"FOR WHICH OF YOU, INTENDING TO BUILD A TOWER,
SITTETH NOT DOWN FIRST, AND COUNTETH THE COST,
WHETHER HE HAVE SUFFICIENT TO FINISH IT?"**
(Luke 14:27-28)

Many a Christian has good 'intension' to build their spiritual house, but they never considered what it REALLY COSTS THEM. They never understood what "DENYING YOURSELF" and picking up YOUR CROSS

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really meant. They refused the will of God to learn deep doctrine and find the TRUTH of GENUINE CHRISTIANITY.

The MAJORITY of Christians relied on SOMEONE ELSE to tell them the WAY of eternal life, but in the end it was too late when thy realized their faith was in error. They could not finish their house to be fit for their Master to enter into.

***"BUT HE THAT RECEIVED SEED INTO THE GOOD GROUND
IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD, AND UNDERSTANDETH IT;
WHICH ALSO BEARETH FRUIT,
and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
(Matthew 13:23)***

Notice it is only the "GOOD GROUND" people that not only HEAR the Word of God, but they also TRULY UNDERSTAND IT. Then notice what it says, they also "BEARETH FRUIT". The fruit this speaks of is the FRUIT of RIGHTEOUSNESS, (Heb 12:11). Jesus is the righteousness of God because Christ is the *agape* love Spirit of God, (Rom 8:38-39). God's divine love is bestowed upon the regenerated seeker through the Spirit of Christ, (1 Jn 3:1).

This testifies that once they understood Christ's doctrine (teaching) they obeyed it from the heart, (Rom 6:17), and continued in His Word till they FOUND the truth, (Jn 8:31-32). Luke's version of this parable states they brought forth the fruit with PATIENCE, (Lu 8:15).

***"But the God of all grace,
who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,
AFTER THAT YE HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE,
MAKE YOU PERFECT, STABLISH, STRENGTHEN, SETTLE YOU."
(1 Peter 5:10)***

***"BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK,
THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE, WANTING NOTHING."
(James 1:4)***

The suffering here relates to the great anguish of the 'WAY' that leads to our perfection, (salvation). Those like the Church of Laodicea, obviously BELIEVED they were perfect because they thought they WANTED NOTHING, not realizing they were spiritually blind and unregenerate.

There is much to learn from this parable, but the main point here is the importance of HEARING and UNDERSTANDING the Word of God that will

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eventually lead us to the ETERNAL LIFE that is IN Christ. That places a LOT of emphasis on studying out the DOCTRINES of the Holy Bible, (what it teaches, especially concerning HOW TO FIND ETERNAL LIFE). That also requires a priority of time and diligent study; a great abiding hope (a tried faith) and much patience; of spiritual awareness and discernment. This Biblical truth will be further established in *Part 3 - The Bible Puzzle*.

There are a number of other parables that reveal the two Christianities, waiting for you to put them in their proper order.

1. **Parables of False Christian Prophets** (Mat 7:15-20; Mat 12:33-37; Mat 15 10-19; Mat 3:8-10; Luke 6:39-45)
2. **Wise vs. Foolish Housebuilder** (Mat 7:22-27; Luk 6: 46-49; Luk 14:27-30)
3. **Parable of the Sower** (Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8)
4. **Parable of the Tares of the Field** (Mat 13:24-30; 13:36-43)
5. **Parable of the Mustard Seed** (Mat 13:31-32; Mar 4:30-32)
6. **Parable of the Treasure of the Field** (Mat 13:44-46)
7. **Parable of the Fishing Net [rapture parable]** (Mat 13:47-50)
8. **The Debt of the Wicked Servant** (Mat 18:21-35)
9. **Hire of Labor for the Vineyard** (Mat 20:1-16)
10. **Two Sons of the Vineyard Owner** (Mat 21:28-32)
11. **Householder and His Vineyard** (Mat 21: 33-41; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18)
12. **Parable of the Wedding Feast** (Mat 22:1-14)
13. **The Wise vs. the Evil Servant** (Mat 24:45-51)
14. **Parable of the Ten Virgins** (Mat 25:1-13)
15. **Parable of the Talents** (Mat 25:14-30)
16. **Return of Christ, the Sheep vs. Goats** (Mat 25:31-46)
17. **Casting Seed into the Ground** (Mark 4:26-29)

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In summary, with courage we began to question the existence of God using the basic principles of *philosophy* and *theology*. This led to the logical conclusion that there is only the choice of harmony through a real personal creator God of vast intelligent power, and a love that man cannot fathom. Or, the only other option is chance, continued chaos and self-destruction as the ultimate result of *humanism*.

We then considered the Bible testimony of God and His Son Jesus Christ. We found the Scriptures reveal that through the Son, the flow of harmony and love continues to flow without end, vs. an endless battle between God, His people, and their enemies. We found that modern Science of the "origin of things" is based upon pure speculation of theories, and an enmity against the acceptance of an intelligent Creator. That the Bible itself supports true provable scientific laws, and contains an accurate foretelling of world events that has and will occur.

We considered that a central truth and divine love of God is void in all of the world's religions. The testimony of a Creation and future prophecies of world events is exclusive to the Holy Bible. How all religions, including Christianity is divided within. We saw the mysterious text of the Scriptures "come alive" to reveal some of its secrets concerning Christ and His Church. Now, the reader has a basic necessary understanding to make a logical and sobering choice of LIFE or DEATH, (Deuteronomy 30:19).

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Glossary of Related Terms and General Definitions:

- **atheism** \ doctrine that there is no deity
Atheist: one who denies the existence of God and rejects all religious faith and practice.
Agnostic: unwilling to accept evidence of revelation and spiritual experience.
Deist: rejects the conception of God as an active ruler and guide, while believing in a supreme being as creator of the universe.
Freethinker: loss of faith and a belief only in the rational and credible.
Unbeliever: loss or lack of spiritual faith without suggesting a substitute for it. Including the indifferent and the apathetic.
Infidel: one belonging to a faith other than one's own, and commonly denotes an enemy of their faith. A common term used by Muslims.
- **Cabalism** \ Jewish theosophy, esoteric doctrine and mysticism of secret societies.
- **Calvinism** \ doctrines of John Calvin, mainly the doctrine of predestination.
- **Catholicism** \ 1. System of Catholic Christianity; 2. Roman Catholicism
- **Christendom** \ same as Christianity
- **Cultism** \ 1. Formal religious veneration: (will-worship); 2. System of religious beliefs and ritual; 4. Faddish devotion to a person and/or their teaching.
- **Gnosticism** \ [from Greek *gnosis*, knowledge], knowledge of spiritual truth attainable by faith and reason alone. Perceived as "secret knowledge" by Christian Gnostics or Freemasons.
- **Humanism** \ doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values; often rejects supernaturalism.
- **Idealist** \ a visionary or impractical person who represents things as they might or should be rather than as they are.
- **Liberalism** \ 1. The quality or state of being liberal, as in behavior or attitude. 2. a political or social philosophy advocating the freedom of the individual, parliamentary systems of government, nonviolent modification of political, social, or economic institutions to assure unrestricted development in all spheres of human endeavor, and governmental guarantees of individual rights and civil liberties.
- **Lutheranism** \ relating to the doctrines of Martin Luther of justification by faith alone.
- **Occultism** \ means: secrete or concealed; the study of hidden and forbidden knowledge; belief or study of supernatural powers and the possibility of subjecting them to human control.
- **Pantheism** \ doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe. Hinduism, Buddhism, Cabalism, Freemasonry, Wicca, New Age, Bahia Faith.
- **Philosophy** \ a pursuit of wisdom; a search for truth through logical reasoning rather than factual observation; physical science.
- **Protestantism** \ 1. Churches deriving from the Reformation claiming justification by faith alone [Lutherism, Calvinism]; 2. Christian not of a Catholic or Eastern Church.
- **Religion** \ 1. Service and worship of God or the supernatural; commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance; 2. Personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices; scrupulous conformity.
- **Science** \ to know; knowledge as an object through study and observation; knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws obtained and tested through scientific method.
- **Supernaturalism**, \ belief in a supernatural power and order of existence.
- **theism** \ belief in the existence of one God viewed as the creative source of man and the world who transcends yet is immanent in the world.
- **Theology** \ rational and systematic interpretation dealing with God and his relation to the world.
- **Theosophy** \ belief about God and the world based on mystical insight; chiefly Buddhism and Brahmanism especially pantheistic evolution and reincarnation.