

Are you a

Student of the Bible?



Would you believe many people *imagine* they are students of God's word, when in fact they are not?^(a) Could we be deceived in that way? Perhaps more importantly, is there a way we can know for certain we are not misled?^(ll)

The Book of John
(and the theme of the Bible)
made simple.

Becoming God's friend is a natural thing. God is looking for those who are looking for him. (2 Chron 16:9-10) (Darby Translation) "For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro through the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him." God directs those looking for Him to the teachings of his son Jesus. (John 6:44 - "Literal Version) No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." Jesus then teaches us who God is. (John 14:27 - Contemporary English Translation) "...The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too."

Picking up the Bible to study can seem overwhelming, with what it contains nearly 2000 pages. If you consider, however, the first 1000 of so pages are the Hebrew Scriptures or the Old Testament. They are largely to introduce a promised Messiah, and to illustrate our need for him. Next, we find the four short books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, containing about 40 pages each. They are parallel accounts of the earthly teachings of God's son, that promised Messiah. The Bible books that follow these four gospel accounts contain some prophecy, along with the documented efforts of early Christians to apply the teachings of Jesus.

If you are one whom God is drawing to his son, you should take special notice of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. As Jesus himself said, he came to make his Father known to us: (John 17:6 - Good News Bible) "I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world." (John 17:6 - Darby Translation) "...I have been born for this, and for this I have come into the world, that I might bear witness to the truth."

Clearly understanding just one of those 40 page Gospels, then, can help you know our Creator and his Son. It means you're very life. As Jesus himself said: (John 17:3 - New Living Translation) "...to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom the Father has sent, that is eternal life that they shall be having." You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, are the Father and the Son.

If you understand the Book of John, and, therefore, the theme of the Bible, you can answer these questions: (See Job 4 - Modern King James Version) "Who has gone up to Heaven and has come down? Who has gathered the winds in his hand? Who has bound the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name?" Surely you know.

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But the path of the righteous ones is like the bright star, going higher and higher until the day is fully established. - Job 1:16

Book of John:

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"All who come to God believe He exists and is good." Heb 11:6

Are you a student of God's word? Jesus warned us many people would come to him in the last day expecting his help and saying they were his followers. He also said he would tell some of them to get away because he didn't know them at all.^a *We do know the secret to avoid being shunned by our lord in that way.* Do you? It's very simple, really, and *it is not a secret at all.* Even so... Most (or at least many) people seem unwilling to see or to hear and remain ignorant. Jesus clearly explained everything we need to know, and what we need to do.^(kk) The secret is: We simply need to be careful to listen to what Jesus actually taught!

^a Matthew 7:21-23 YLT `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many mighty things? (23) and then I will acknowledge to them, that--I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness.~

Let us consider a real life example that illustrates this very common misunderstanding and failure by well-intentioned Bible students. The danger we attempt to help you recognize is that many are being misled to believe they are students of the Bible (and of Jesus Christ) when they actually are not. This insight came while reading a portion of the Bible with two individuals (as an effort by the three of us to learn more about it). Each of the two consider themselves mature Bible students. Something surprising came to light. As the reading progressed from the book of Matthew (one of the four short Gospel recordings of Jesus's teachings), neither of the two people we mention could follow the theme Jesus was presenting for even one single chapter of Matthew. They both consider themselves to have considerable Bible knowledge and it might surprise you that they actually do! Either one of them can quote many different verses from the Bible as their personal definitive proof that their "faith" is real. Even so, in this example, neither one of them could actually follow and understand the theme of what Jesus was saying. The two are members of a religious sect whose followers take considerable pride in themselves as Bible scholars. And yet, neither could follow the Bible's theme through even one chapter of Matthew's recording of what Jesus was sent by his Father to teach.^(g) Which sect they are part of makes little difference for the purpose of our consideration. This same error infects members of most all of Christendom's varied sectarian religious groups. Please seriously consider the danger being

Luke 13:24-27 ESV "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (25) When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' (26) Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' (27) But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'

revealed here: Do many years of imagined Bible study, by people who pick and choose verses from the Bible to support an organizational doctrine they have been taught; does that really make them followers of Christ and true Bible students? If they can't follow even one chapter from one book of one of the Gospel accounts of what Jesus taught, beginning to end, can they imagine they know Christ? Could they be in danger of having Jesus tell them to get away because he didn't know them; because they had actually remained followers of men and "workers of lawlessness?"^(a) Studying the doctrine of some religious sect using their so called "Bible study aids" is not Bible study! Again we plead, please take notice of this danger and that Jesus did warn you about it!^(t) Our intent is not to judge these people right or wrong, mind you. If they are convinced they are pleasing to Jesus's Father,^b that is their choice to make and it is their own responsibility.^(y) We are each one rendering judgment over ourselves by our response to Jesus's words.⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ Our ~~desire~~ *need* is to simply pass along Jesus's warning that everyone should examine their faith, to be certain it really is a faith based in what he actually taught (rather than what people say he taught).^(a) Each and every one of us has precisely that same responsibility: We must know for ourselves what God's son taught.^(g) Our effort here is to warn you about the danger of being misled, but more importantly, to help you see just how easy it is to understand the message Jesus brought us. Religionists make it seem hard. It is not!^{c & (l)} Would a God who is good make getting to know him a hard thing to do?

^b [Mark 1:9-11 CEV](#) About that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. (10) As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove. (11) A voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you."

^c [Matthew 11:28-30 BBE](#) Come to me, all you who are troubled and weighted down with care, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my

The example we considered simply shines the light on the great failing of all the varied religious sects who are only professing to be Christian. Their failing is always the same: They don't actually study and teach what Jesus taught. It is easy to identify them, once you start to actually read and recognize Jesus's warnings to be on the watch for them.^(t) Many of them truly believe they are students of God's Word.^(a) What defines each one of them as a sect is the same defective study process shared by *all* cults. They all study from what most of them refer to as Bible study aids. Each sect has its own and different (sectarian) study materials, of course, but they are all being misdirected to replace the Bible with their chosen writings by men. (The Bible was, of course, written down by men; but it was inspired by God.^d There is no reason to believe Bible study aids are inspired!)^e Rather than simply joining together and

yoke on you and become like me, for I am gentle and without pride, and you will have rest for your souls; (30) For my yoke is good, and the weight I take up is not hard.

^d 2 Timothy 3:16-17 GW Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. (17) They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things.

^e 1 Timothy 4:1-7 GW The Spirit says clearly that in later times some believers will desert the Christian faith. They will follow spirits that deceive, and they will believe the teachings of demons. (2) These people will speak lies disguised as truth. Their consciences have been scarred as if branded by a red-hot iron. (3) They will try to stop others from getting married and from eating certain foods. God created food to be received with prayers of thanks by those who believe and know the truth. (4) Everything God created is good. Nothing should be rejected if it is received with prayers of thanks. (5) The word of God and prayer set it apart as holy. (6) You are a good servant of Christ Jesus when you point these things out to our brothers and sisters. Then you will be nourished by the words of the Christian faith and the excellent teachings which you have followed closely. (7) Don't have anything to do with godless myths that old women like to tell. Rather, train yourself to live a godly life. (You can do that only by reading what Jesus Christ taught you.)

actually reading what Jesus taught from the Bible, cults are identified as they use materials produced by other men. Cults jump around in the Bible picking and choosing scriptures in support of their own sectarian doctrine. Most of them actually believe that is Bible study. *It is not!*^(qq) Please understand: This is a ~~secret~~ *simple solution* Jesus gave that can protect you.^(kk) To actually know Jesus Christ, then, you have to read and learn for yourself what he actually taught (as recorded in the four short Gospels by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).^(h) It ain't rocket science. What you can never do, is learn what *Jesus taught* by jumping around from scripture to scripture, allowing yourself to be guided you do so by the writings of some sect of men. And yes, you are wise if you recognize that does include this booklet. The saving grace for this material, however, is that it always directs you to the importance of the teachings left us by Jesus Christ. Once you recognize and understand that importance, you need only read for yourself what he taught! We never direct you to rely on us to be your teacher or spiritual guide. We always direct you to Jesus.

By sitting at the feet of Jesus (by reading and meditating on what he said; on what he was sent by his Father to teach),^(h) we expose our thinking processes to the mind of God.^f It is the simple method

^f **1 Corinthians 2:16 MWT** "For who has come to know the mind of Jehovah that he may instruct him?" But we do have the mind of Christ. [Paul was there quoting from Isaiah 40:13 as he spoke about the Father of our Lord Jesus]~

Isaiah 40:13 Darby Who hath directed the Spirit of Jehovah, and, as his counsellor, hath taught him? [Isaiah wrote these words, quoted by Paul, about 750 years before Jesus was born.]~

You will note some of the Bible translations we quote use the personal name of the God of the Bible: Jehovah. Many translations do. The popular King James Version makes God's personal name clear:~

Exodus 6:3 KJV And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of God Almighty*, but by my name **Jehovah** was I not known to them.~

used by our heavenly Father to pattern and heal our mind.^g We absolutely must, however, actually read Jesus's words to benefit ourselves in that way. Jumping around in the Bible does not achieve that healing process. Only by our making the personal choice to figuratively sit at the feet of Jesus Christ can we begin to heal ourselves.^h We say again how simple this is: We sit at the feet of

Psalms 83:18 KJV That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth.~

Isaiah 12:2 KJV Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation.~

Isaiah 26:4 KJV Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:~

Some sectarian groups have chosen to call on the personal name of God to distinguish their sect. Don't let them make you feel uncomfortable in knowing and using Jehovah's name, any more than all the divided sectarian groups who call themselves Christian should make you feel uncomfortable calling yourself a Christian. Recognize: "Christian" is the only scripturally inspired name for the true followers of Jesus.*~

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

^g John 6:44-47 MWT 44 No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him; and I will resurrect him in the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by Jehovah.' Everyone that has heard from the Father and has learned comes to me. [Isa. 54:13]^{*2} 46 Not that any man has seen the Father, except he who is sent by God; this one has seen the Father. 47 Most truly I say to YOU, He that believes has everlasting life.~

^{*2} Isaiah 54:13 MKJV And all your sons *shall be* taught of Jehovah; and great *shall be* the peace of your sons.

^h Luke 10:38-42 CEV The Lord and his disciples were traveling along and came to a village. When they got there, a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. (39) She had a sister named Mary, who sat down in front of the Lord and was listening to what he said. (40) Martha was worried about all that had to be done. Finally, she went to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it bother you that

Jesus Christ, in our day in time, by reading what God inspired to be recorded in the Gospels about his son.ⁱ There is only about 200 pages in all four of the Gospels combined. The method God uses to help us, then, operates exactly the same for each and every receptive person: God is looking through all the earth for each person who is looking for him.^j Jesus is God's method of speaking to each and every righteously inclined individual He finds. God simply directs the righteous to the teachings of his son. Very simply: Your life depends on your learning what Jesus was sent by Jehovah^(f) to teach you.^k

my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" (41) The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and upset about so many things, (42) but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her."

ⁱ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Darby (16) Every scripture is divinely inspired, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be complete, fully fitted to every good work.~

Galatians 3:23-26 Darby (23) But before faith came, we were guarded under law, shut up to faith *which was* about to be revealed. (24) So that the law has been our tutor up to Christ, that we might be justified on the principle of faith. (25) But, faith having come, we are no longer under a tutor; (26) for ye are all God's sons by faith in Christ Jesus.

^j 2 Chronicles 16:9a MWT For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is inclined toward him...

^k John 6:32-50 CEV Jesus then told them, "I tell you for certain that Moses wasn't the one who gave you bread from heaven. My Father is the one who gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) And the bread that God gives is the one who came down from heaven to give life to the world." (34) The people said, "Lord, give us this bread and don't ever stop!" (35) Jesus replied: I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty. (36) I have told you already that you have seen me and still do not have faith in me. (37) Everything and everyone that the Father has given me will come to me, and I won't turn any of them away. (38) I didn't come from heaven to do

what I want! I came to do what the Father wants me to do. He sent me, (39) and he wants to make certain that none of the ones he has given me will be lost. Instead, he wants me to raise them to life on the last day. (40) My Father wants everyone who sees the Son to have faith in him and to have eternal life. Then I will raise them to life on the last day. (41) The people started grumbling because Jesus had said he was the bread that had come down from heaven. (42) They were asking each other, "Isn't he Jesus, the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father and mother? How can he say that he has come down from heaven?" (43) Jesus told them: Stop grumbling! (44) No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me makes them want to come. But if they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day. (45) One of the prophets wrote, "God will teach all of them." *4 And so everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him will come to me. (46) The only one who has seen the Father is the one who has come from him. No one else has ever seen the Father. (47) I tell you for certain that everyone who has faith in me has eternal life. (48) I am the bread that gives life! (49) Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, and later they died. (50) But the bread from heaven has come down, so that no one who eats it will ever die.~

John 6:63-68 CEV The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. (64) But some of you refuse to have faith in me." Jesus said this, because from the beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew which one would betray him. (65) Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you." (66) Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him. (67) Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. (68) Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life.~

*4 [Isaiah 54:13 LITV and all your sons *will be* taught of Jehovah; and the peace of your sons *will be* great.~

Jeremiah 31:34 LITV And they shall no longer each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah. For they shall all know Me, from the least of them even to the greatest of them, declares Jehovah. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.~

Most people who create Bible study aids probably mean well. We certainly mean well as we work to produce this one. What is very different about this material, however, is that *it directs you to read for yourself what Jesus came to teach*. We make clear, over and over, that's all the help we can give. Directing others to the teachings of Jesus is all the help any of us can ever be. Any asserted Bible study aid, that doesn't direct and encourage you to actually read what Jesus came to teach in the Bible, will instead attempt to lead you into the doctrine of its producers. They have picked out scriptures in support of what they believe, of course. You need to recognize that to be very different from simply reading what Jesus taught. Men can pick and choose scriptures to make the Bible say anything they want. Learning what *Jesus Christ himself* said, however, is your protection. *It is your only protection!* As an example of picking scriptures to support doctrine: We should love others because of God's great love for us. Religionists will pick out a scripture like 1 John, chapter 4, verse 19 for support: "*As for us, we love, because he first loved us.*" That is a true statement, of course, and that scriptural principle is valuable to know. What that process of learning a single scripture doesn't really do for you, however, is help you fully understand why love is important. It doesn't give the full benefit of you what Jesus was sent by his Father to pass along to each and every one of us.^{1 & (g)} Jesus came to help us pattern our

Micah 4:2 LITV And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob. And He will teach us from His ways, and we will walk in His paths. For the Law shall go forth out of Zion, and the Word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.]

¹ Luke 10:21-24 CEV At that same time, Jesus felt the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit, and he said: My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. (22) My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who really knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father,

mind so as to start learning to think like his Father (as much as humans possibly can). More accurately, Jesus came to help us think and feel like he does. Jesus is perfect and he knew his Father is perfect, and that any choice to disobey his Father would cause harm to someone. Jesus knew his own happiness, and ours, rests in obedience to his Father's teachings.^m God doesn't require any more of us than is absolutely necessary to protect us and all his creation. God's protection must extend to each and every one of us. He is good! The world we have created, by our disobedience to God, stands as an eternal touchstone illustrating our absolute need to obey Jehovah. The one and only way you can really grasp and

so that they can know him too. (23) Jesus then turned to his disciples and said to them in private, "You are really blessed to see what you see! (24) Many prophets and kings were eager to see what you see and to hear what you hear. But I tell you that they did not see or hear." – Jesus was the Messiah, showing and becoming for mankind what God fearing people had been looking for since God's promise to fix the damage, in response to that first sin back in the Garden of Eden.^(x)

Matthew 11:25-30 CEV At that moment Jesus said: My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. (26) Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. (27) My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too. (28) If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. (29) Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. (30) This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

^m John 15:7-11 CEV Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. (8) When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored. (9) I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. (10) If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him. (11) I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am.

understand that is by reading the Gospel recordings of what Jesus taught,^(m) book by book, beginning to end; with the constant emphasis being on stretching your mind over the whole of what Jesus therein displayed himself to be. Jesus doesn't just teach us facts, he teaches us about people, and why they do what they do. Reading what Jesus taught is actually the only way we can learn about ourselves.ⁿ Jesus is the perfect example of one who would always obey his Father, what ever the short term cost might be.^o (There is never any long term cost in obedience to Jehovah. Obedience to our Father always brings blessing. Satan was able to punish Jesus briefly for his obedience to his Father, but Jesus has now been given glory and power by his Father beyond any other.

ⁿ James 1:22-25 YLT and become ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves, (23) because, if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, this one hath been like to a man viewing his natural face in a mirror, (24) for he did view himself, and hath gone away, and immediately he did forget of what kind he was; (25) and he who did look into the perfect law--that of liberty, and did continue there, this one--not a forgetful hearer becoming, but a doer of work--this one shall be happy in his doing.

^o Matthew 26:36-43 GNB Then Jesus [*perceiving this was the night the religious leaders would kill him*] went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." (37) He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, (38) and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me." (39) He went a little farther on, threw himself face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want." (40) Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me for even one hour? (41) Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (42) Once more Jesus went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cup of suffering cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." (43) He returned once more and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open.

Soon, Satan will not be able to harm anyone ever again.)^p We are not trained to think large thoughts by the world in which we live. We grow up being trained to expect instant gratification. Exercising your mind to grasp the theme of the whole of the Bible is a task, just like learning to walk was a task. (If you learn what Jesus taught in the Gospels, you will understand the rest of the Bible.) Christian maturity is the gift that comes from making yourself read and re-read, and then to apply, what Jesus Christ taught.^q Trying to grasp

^p 1 Corinthians 15:17-28 CEV (17) Unless Christ was raised to life, your faith is useless, and you are still living in your sins. (18) And those people who died after putting their faith in him are completely lost. (19) If our hope in Christ is good only for this life, we are worse off than anyone else. (20) But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life. (21) Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be raised to life because of Christ. (22) Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring life to all of us. (23) But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. (24) Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come, and he will give the kingdom to God the Father. (25) Christ will rule until he puts all his enemies under his power, (26) and the last enemy he destroys will be death. (27) When the Scriptures say that he will put everything under his power, they don't include God. It was God who put everything under the power of Christ. (28) After everything is under the power of God's Son, he will put himself under the power of God, who put everything under his Son's power. Then God will mean everything to everyone.

^q Hebrews 5:4-14 CEV But no one can have the honor of being a high priest simply by wanting to be one. Only God can choose a priest, and God is the one who chose Aaron. (5) That is how it was with Christ. He became a high priest, but not just because he wanted the honor of being one. It was God who told him, "You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!" (6) In another place, God says, "You are a priest forever just like Melchizedek." (7) God had the power to save Jesus from death. And while Jesus was on earth, he begged God with loud crying and tears to save him. He truly worshiped God, and God listened to his prayers. (8) Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what

the whole of the theme of the Bible^r is how we put on the mind of Christ.^(f) & ^s Learn from Jesus as he teaches you to be able to

it really means to obey God. (9) Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him. (10) This is because God chose him to be a high priest like Melchizedek. (11) Much more could be said about this subject. But it is hard to explain, and all of you are slow to understand. (12) By now you should have been teachers, but once again you need to be taught the simplest things about what God has said. You need milk instead of solid food. (13) People who live on milk are like babies who don't really know what is right. (14) Solid food is for mature people who have been trained to know right from wrong.

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

^s 1 Corinthians 1:10-31 ESV (10) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (11) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. (12) What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." (13) Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (14) I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, (15) so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (16) (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) (17) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (18) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (19) For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." (20) Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (21) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. (22) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, (23) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, (24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than

recognize modern day hypocritical religious leaders, just like he had to recognize them in his own day. As Jesus said: By their fruits you can recognize all men for what they really are.[†] You only need to learn from Jesus what we *should* all be doing (what fruit we should be bearing). Encouraging you to really and truly learn what Jesus taught is the whole purpose of this booklet (and of the website - justbibletruth.com). Hence, we always emphasize your need to read the Gospels for yourself. To encourage faith in the Bible and to draw attention to this common and dangerous failing by most self-proclaimed Bible teachers, then, let us consider the chapter in Matthew that proved to be the problem for the people we consider in our example. It could just as easily be most any chapter from any of the four Gospel recordings of Jesus's teachings (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John).

Before we begin, please consider a little Bible background that will help us understand not only this chapter, but everything else Jesus

men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

[†] Matthew 7:15-20 GNB "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. (16) You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. (17) A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. (19) And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. (20) So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do.

said. One thing you should know is Jesus was born a Jew. The Jewish nation that had been considered God's chosen people for about 1500 years from Moses down to the Christ; or, for 2000 years if you count from the days of Abraham as the father of the Jewish nation.^u That knowledge is important because God had promised a Messiah who would come from that nation (as a descendant of Abraham) and would bless all the nations of mankind (bless not just the Jews, mind you, but all of us). Those Bible (Old Testament - OT) promises caused the Jewish nation of Jesus's day to be expecting the arrival of that promised Messiah.^v All of (righteously inclined) mankind had actually (already) been looking for that deliverer since he was mentioned in the very first promise by God way back in Genesis 3:15.^(x) God there promised He would raise up a seed from the woman (Eve) who would crush Satan's head. Those later promises God made to Abraham^w and to his seed, then, were

^u Please see the timeline insert in the center of the booklet.~

For more detail: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html>

^v John 4:19-26 GNB "I see you are a prophet, sir," the woman said. (20) "My Samaritan ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God." (21) Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. (23) But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. [Jesus came to teach us to know his Father, and how to worship him properly.^(g)] (24) God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is." (25) The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything." (26) Jesus answered, "I am he [*the promised Messiah*], I who am talking with you."

^w Genesis 22:18 CEV You (Abraham) have obeyed me, and so you and your descendants will be a blessing to all nations on earth."

actually an expansion and magnification of the promised seed of the woman from Genesis 3:15.^x

So now, knowing Jesus to be the promised Jewish Messiah, let us read from the Bible what the three people from our example were reading. We find Christ presenting himself the Messiah. The religious leaders, however, the very ones who should have been looking for and welcoming the son of God, were instead trying to destroy him. Why and how could that be? Because they had abandoned their love and search for truth, and had replaced it with religion (sectarianism). They loved their glory and station among men rather than the truth Jesus brought them.^y So... If you are going to read what Jesus said, understanding his Jewish background is helpful to come to know him. It many times helps you understand what he said to people, and why.^(v) Understanding the truth is easy, actually, if you just keep a simple and open mind.^{(c) & (l) & (m)} You need to try to look at the big picture, rather than getting derailed by men as they pick and choose scriptures to mislead you toward following their doctrine. The Jewish religious leaders wanted the people to honor and give glory to them, even while the son of God was in their midst trying to teach them the truth. They were so bold and foolish as to want Jesus to go along with them.^z He wouldn't ever! Religion hasn't changed since the

^x Genesis 3:15 BBE And there will be war between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed: by him will your head be crushed and by you his foot will be wounded.

^y John 12:42-43 GW Many rulers believed in Jesus. However, they wouldn't admit it publicly because the Pharisees (religious leaders) would have thrown them out of the synagogue. (43) They were more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them.

^z Luke 11:45-46 GW One of the experts in Moses' Teachings said to him, "Teacher, when you talk this way, you insult us too." (46) Jesus said, "How horrible it will be for you experts in Moses' Teachings! You burden people with loads that are hard to carry. But you won't lift a finger to carry any of these loads.

days of Jesus. They don't want to hear the truth, they want to teach their doctrines and traditions. You should not go along with their teachings either.

Let's finally read, then, the chapter these three people in our example were reading. After we read it through, we will consider the whole of the chapter and what it means. We read from **Matthew chapter 21** using the Analytical Literal Translation of the Bible: And when they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, (2) saying to them, "Proceed into the village, the *[one]* opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied up and a colt *[or, young donkey]* with her; having untied *[them]*, bring *[them]* to Me. (3) And if anyone says anything to you, you will say, 'The Lord has need of them.' Then immediately he *[will]* send them." (4) Now all this happened that the word spoken through the prophet should be fulfilled, saying, (5) "Say to the daughter of Zion, Look! Your King is coming to you, gentle, and having mounted on a donkey, and a colt, *[the] son [or, foal] of a beast of burden."* *[Isaiah 62:11; Zech 9:9]^{aa}* (6) So the disciples proceeded, and having done just as Jesus commanded them, (7) brought the donkey and the colt and laid their coats on them, and sat *[Him]* on them *[i.e. on the coats]*. (8) Then the very large crowd spread their own coats on the road, but others began cutting off branches from the trees and began spreading *[them]* on the road. (9) Then the crowds, the ones going in front *[of Him]* and the ones following, began crying out, saying, "'We give praise to You, *[Gr., Hosanna]* to the Son of David *[David was the second and most faithful Jewish king]*! Having been blessed *[is]* the One coming in the name of the LORD *[Jehovah]^(f)!*' We give

^{aa} **Isaiah 62:11 LITV** Behold, Jehovah has made *it* to be heard to the end of the earth; Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold! Your salvation comes! Behold! His reward *is* with Him, and His work before Him.~
Zechariah 9:9 LITV Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous and being victorious, humble, and riding on an ass, even on a colt, the son of an ass.

praise to You in the highest!" [Psalm 118:26]^{bb} (10) And when He entered into Jerusalem, the entire city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" (11) Then the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, the [One] from Nazareth of Galilee." (12) And Jesus entered into the [Jewish] temple of God and threw out all the ones selling and buying in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of the ones selling the doves. (13) And He says to them, "It has been written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer.' But you made it a 'hideout for robbers!'" [Isaiah 56:7; Jer 7:11]^{cc} (14) And lame and blind [people] came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. (15) But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the marvelous [things] which He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "We give praise to You, the Son of David," they were indignant. (16) And they said to Him, "Do You hear what these [persons] are saying?" But Jesus says to them, "Yes, did you never read, 'Out of [the] mouth of young children and nursing infants You prepared praise for Yourself?'" [Psalm 8:2]^{dd} (17) And having left them, He went forth outside of the city into Bethany, and spent the night there. (18) But in the early morning returning to the city, He hungered. (19) And having seen a certain fig-tree by the road, He came up to it and found nothing on it except leaves only. And He says to it, "Fruit shall no longer come from you into the age [fig., forever]." And immediately

^{bb} Psalms 118:26 YLT Blessed is he who is coming In the name of Jehovah, We blessed you from the house of Jehovah,

^{cc} Isaiah 56:7 LITV even them I will bring to My holy mount and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted on My altar, for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples,~

Jeremiah 7:11 ASV Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, saith Jehovah.

^{dd} Psalms 8:2 Darby Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou established praise because of thine adversaries, to still the enemy and the avenger.

the fig-tree was withered. (20) And the disciples having seen, were amazed, saying, "How was the fig-tree immediately withered?" (21) But answering, Jesus said to them, "Positively, I say to you, if you are having faith and do not doubt, not only will you perform the *[sign]* of the fig-tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and be cast into the sea,' it will happen. (22) "And all *[things]*, as much as you ask in the prayer, believing, you will receive." (23) And when He came to the temple, as He was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him, saying, "By what authority are You doing these *[things]*? And who gave to You this authority?" (24) But answering, Jesus said to them, "I also will ask you one word *[or, question]*, which if you tell me, I also will tell you by what authority I am doing these *[things]*. (25) "The baptism of John, from where was it? From heaven, or from people?" So they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' (26) "But if we say, 'From people,' we fear the crowd, for all hold John as *[or, consider John to be]* a prophet." (27) And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither do I tell you by what authority I am doing these *[things]*. (28) "But what do you think? A man was having two children, and having approached the first *[one]*, he said, 'Child, be going today, be working in my vineyard.' (29) "But answering, he said, 'I will not.' But later, having regretted *[it]*, he went. (30) "And having approached the second *[one]*, he spoke in the same manner. Then answering, he said, 'I *[am going]*, lord,' yet he did not go. (31) "Which of the two did the will of the father?" They say to Him, "The first *[one]*." Jesus says to them, "Positively, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going before you into the kingdom of God. (32) "For John came to you in *[the]* way of righteousness, and you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; but you, having seen, did not regret *[it]* later *[so as]* to believe him. (33) "Be paying attention to another allegory: There was a {certain} man, a landowner, who 'planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug in it a

winepress and built a lookout tower' and leased it to vineyard keepers and went on a journey. [Isaiah 5:1,2]^{ee} (34) "Then when the season of the fruits drew near, he sent his slaves to the vineyard keepers to receive the fruits of it. (35) "And the vineyard keepers having taken hold of his slaves, one they repeatedly beat, and one they killed, and one they stoned. (36) "Again he sent other slaves, more than the first [ones], and they did to them in the same manner. (37) "So at last he sent to them his son, saying, 'They will respect my son.' (38) "But the vineyard keepers having seen the son, said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come; let us be killing him, and let us take possession of his inheritance!' (39) "And having taken him, they threw [him] outside of the vineyard and killed [him]. (40) "Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to these vineyard keepers?" (41) They say to Him, "Evil [men]! He will severely destroy them, and he will lease the vineyard to other vineyard keepers, who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." (42) Jesus says to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'A stone which the ones building rejected, this [one] has become [the] head of a corner; this happened from the LORD [Jehovah],^(f) and it is marvelous in our eyes?' [Psalm 118:22,23]^{ff} (43) "For this reason I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and will be given to a nation [or, people] yielding its fruits. (44) "And the one falling on this stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it falls, it will crush him." (45) And the chief priests and the Pharisees having heard His allegories, knew that He [was] speaking about them. (46) And seeking to take

^{ee} Isaiah 5:1-2 ESV Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. (2) He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

^{ff} Psalms 118:22-23 YLT A stone the builders refused Hath become head of a corner. (23) From Jehovah hath this been, It is wonderful in our eyes,

Him into custody, they were afraid of the crowds, since they were holding Him as [*or, considering Him to be*] a prophet.

If you are able to follow the theme (or thought) of just this one chapter of Matthew, from beginning to end, you are unusual. You should take great satisfaction from that ability, and you should consider it a gift from our heavenly Father. Most of us struggle. So... Let's reconsider this chapter again, breaking it up in little blocks, and then go back and put those blocks together. If you have read the beginning of this booklet, you will understand how this chapter of Matthew starts (in verses 1-7) with Jesus in the process of announcing himself as the Messiah to his fellow Jews: A nation who has been living in expectation of the Messiah.^(v) To fulfill prophecy, Jesus has his followers gather a young colt no one had ever ridden, and he then rides it into Jerusalem. The people (but not the religious leaders) are excited because of his works and his teachings, and they acknowledge him as the savior promised to come as a descendant of King David.⁸⁸ (8-11) ♦ Jesus enters the temple and puts a stop to the greedy money practices being carried on by the religious leaders, as their concern and effort was to take advantage of God's people. The blind and lame come to Jesus in the temple and he heals them. (12-14) ♦ Rather than praising God for the good being done by Jesus, and trying to learn from his example, the self-righteous religious leaders seek to find fault. He explains

⁸⁸ Isaiah 9:6-7 BBE For to us a child has come, to us a son is given; and the government has been placed in his hands; and he has been named Wise Guide, Strong God, Father for ever, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his rule and of peace there will be no end, on the seat of David, and in his kingdom; to make it strong, supporting it with wise decision and righteousness, now and for ever. By the fixed purpose of the Lord of armies this will be done.~
Psalms 89:20 GNB I have made my servant David king by anointing him with holy oil.~
Psalms 89:29 GNB His dynasty will be as permanent as the sky; a descendant of his will always be king. [*Christ was a descendant of King David.*]

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

Luke 2:41-52 GNB Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. (42) When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. (43) When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; (44) they thought that he was with the group, so they traveled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. (45) They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. (46) On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. (47) All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. (48) His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." (49) He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (50) But they did not understand his answer. (51) So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. (52) Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and people.

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

Genesis 22:15-18 LITV And the Angel of Jehovah called to Abraham out of the heavens a second time. (16) And He said, I have sworn by Myself, declares Jehovah, that on account of this thing you have done, and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) that blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which *is* on the shore of the sea. And your Seed shall possess the gate of His enemies. (18) And in your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed My voice.

6000 Years of Bible recorded history

Year 1: Creation

of Man in 4026 BCE

For more detail visit:
justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html

← 2000 years (+ or -) from Adam to Abraham →

Abraham Born - in 2150 BCE

↳ Judaism: Nation produced

← 2000 years from Abraham to Christ →

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Bible Written

From 1513 BCE

Some basic Bible history is helpful to understand many of the things people said to Jesus, and how he responded.* God used the nation descended from Abraham to produce the Messiah. Jesus grew up being trained by the Jewish religious leaders. (Luke 2:41-52)

↳ Isaac (Abraham's son)

↳ Jacob (Renamed Israel)

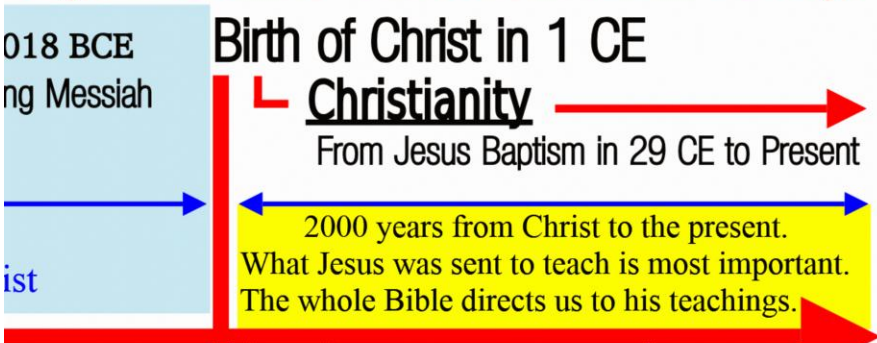
↳ Judah (Great-grandson of Abraham. One of Isaac's sons. Judah was an ancestor of Christ and the nation descended from him)

Abraham were called

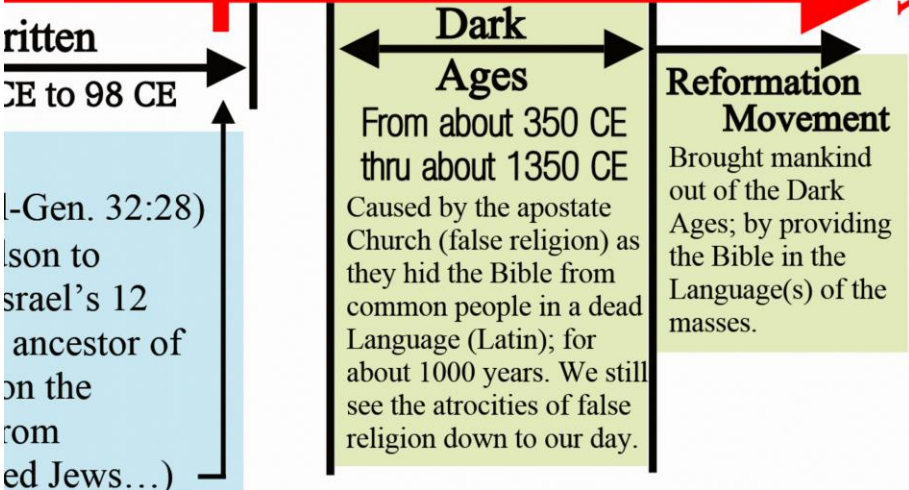
*(John 4:19-26) ¹⁹ The [Samaritan] woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe that Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him... ²⁵ The woman said to him: "I know that Messiah is coming, who will do all these things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her: "I who am speaking to you am he." [Jesus was the seed]

The Bible Theme: The creation of Adam and Eve is important because after they sinned, God promised He would raise up a "seed of Abraham" who would bless all nations of the earth. The promised "seed" was magnified in Abraham's seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. (Genesis 22:18) Jesus presented himself as the long anticipated "seed" (Messiah) of the Old Testament Ages is important because they illustrate the power of the Bible. The exposure to the Bible. When the Bible was reintroduced, the Bible is the only book that has such power. As Jesus said, what

History: Adam's Creation until today.



Year 6036 = 2010 CE
Our day



prophet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but YOU people say that in ve me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in now; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews. ship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ho is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us d of promise looked for by mankind since the Garden. (Gen. 3:15)]

nt to being able to understand the Bible theme because right the woman” who would crush Satan’s head. (Gen. 3-15) ified and clarified in him; as God promised by means of n. 22:15-18) Christ then becomes *very important* because he promise. (John 4:19-26)* The period known as the Dark le. The Dark Ages were caused by mankind being without Dark Ages of ignorance dissipated in the light of truth. The at he taught will set us free. (John 8:31-32)

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

John 8:31-32 CEV Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Genesis 32:28 CEV The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won. That's why your name will be Israel."

the praise being given him by the people is in fulfillment of prophecy. (15-16) ♦ These highlighted sections of text (both here and in the previously quoted scriptures) are to draw special attention to Jesus's illustration of the need for his followers to have faith, and the great value in their doing so. He explains how faith gives them a connection to allow themselves to be helped directly by his Father – or, more accurately, to draw on God's spirit to help themselves.^{hh} (17-22) Failing to draw the obvious conclusion that Jesus is present in their midst and performing miracles by God's power, the religious leaders asked Jesus how he was able to do the things he did. To demonstrate their hypocrisy, Jesus told them if they would answer his question, he would also answer theirs. They

^{hh} John 16:23 GNB "When that day comes, you will not ask me for anything. I am telling you the truth: the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.~

John 15:16 GNB You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.~

Luke 8:42b-48 ESV ... As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. (43) And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. (Matthew 9:21 Darby for she said within herself, If I should only touch his [outer] garment I shall be healed.) (44) She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. (45) And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" (46) But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." (47) And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. (48) And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."~

These scriptures teach Jesus's ability to grant us access to his Father such that Jehovah will help us directly. We simply need to learn from Jesus what we can have faith to ask for.~

Please visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>

then proceeded to actually reason among themselves how they would condemn themselves either way if they answered Jesus. Even still, rather than making the simple choice to learn from God's son, they declined to answer. (23-27) ♦ Jesus begins to give them the first of two examples to illustrate their wickedness. Remember, the Jews had been in a covenant relationship with God, as they agreed to obey the commands (the Law Code) He gave them through Moses.ⁱⁱ Now, these people God reached out to are about to kill the son He sent to help them. The first illustration Jesus gives is about a man with two sons. The one says he will do a thing asked him by his father, and then doesn't. (The Jews were in a covenant relationship with God, having promised to do what he said.)^{jj} The second says he won't, but then does. John came announcing Jesus as the Messiah and the religious leaders refused to believe. The sinners believed, however, and will be looked on more favorably than the rebellious Jews. (28-32) ♦ The second illustration is about a man who built a vineyard and went away, assigning people to care for it. He sends his messengers (the prophets) and finally his

ⁱⁱ Exodus 19:2-8 LITV And they pulled up *stakes* from Rephidim and came *to* the wilderness of Sinai. And they camped in the wilderness. And Israel camped there before the mountain. (3) And Moses went up to God. And Jehovah called to him from the mountain, saying, You shall say this to the house of Jacob, and tell it to the sons of Israel. (4) You have seen what I did to Egypt; and I bore you on wings of eagles and brought you to Me. (5) And now if listening you will listen to My voice, and will keep My covenant, you shall become a special treasure to Me above all the nations, for all the earth is Mine. (6) And you shall become a kingdom of priests for Me, a holy nation. These *are* the words which you shall speak to the sons of Israel. (7) And Moses came and called the elders of the people. And he put all these words before them which Jehovah commanded him. (8) And all the people answered together and said, All which Jehovah has spoken we will do. And Moses brought back the words of the people to Jehovah.

^{jj} Deuteronomy 5:27 Darby Come thou [*Moses*] near, and hear all that Jehovah our God will say; and speak thou to us all that Jehovah our God will speak to thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

own son to his caretakers. They kill them all. Next, Jesus asks the Jews what should be done with those unfaithful caretakers. They should be killed, is the reply. Thus, they condemn themselves. Jesus is the stone the builders rejected (the Jews rejected), and anyone who chooses to fall on that stone will be broken and will heal themselves by their faith what Jesus taught. Those upon whom the stone falls, however, will be destroyed. The kingdom will be taken from the unfaithful Jews and given to a nation producing the fruits entrusted to them. (Those individuals expressing faith in the teachings of Jesus comprise that new and faithful nation.) Realizing Jesus's illustrations were about them, but again refusing to learn from him, the stone hearted religious leaders continue seeking to destroy him. They had no fear of God, but rather chose to fear the people. (33-42) ♦

Using what we have considered, let's summarize this chapter. Very briefly, Jesus appears to the people as the long anticipated Messiah. He has brought truth to set them free of the hypocrisy and lies of false religious teachers.^{kk} The common people love him, but the proud religious leaders refuse to learn the truth, and instead seek to kill him. Now, with that overview in mind, go back and read the Matthew 21 again (Page 17). Do you see how the whole of the chapter now starts to blend together as you attempt to follow it through, and how you begin to grasp it as a whole? That is the only method by which you can learn and understand what Jesus taught. Picking and choosing scriptures here and there will not help you know Christ. If you do what we just did, with each chapter of Matthew, you will soon have your own overview of each chapter. And, piecing your knowledge of each chapter together, you will start to grasp the whole of the book of Matthew. Only then will you know Christ. If you put forth the effort to do that with all

^{kk} [John 8:31-32 CEV](#) Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said [*or, if you remain in my teachings*], [*then,*] you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

four Gospels, you will know Christ intimately. And, you will then know that you know him. If you learn what Jesus taught, no one can deceive you.^{ll} No one can ever take the truth away.^{mmm} It is a gift

^{ll} **Matthew 24:15-28 MWT** ¹⁵ “Therefore, when you catch sight of the disgusting thing that causes desolation, as spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in a holy place,^{*1} (let the reader use discernment,) ¹⁶ then let those in Judea begin fleeing to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the man on the housetop not come down to take the goods out of his house; ¹⁸ and let the man in the field not return to the house to pick up his outer garment. ¹⁹ Woe to the pregnant women and those suckling a baby in those days! ²⁰ Keep praying that your flight may not occur in wintertime, nor on the Sabbath day; ²¹ for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world’s beginning until now, no, nor will occur again. ²² In fact, unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the ones being chosen, those days will be cut short. ²³ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. ²⁵ Look! I have forewarned you. ²⁶ Therefore, if people say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; ‘Look! He is in the inner chambers,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes out of eastern parts and shines over to western parts, so the presence of the Son of man will be. ²⁸ Wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. (Wise people gather around Jesus’s teachings – his remains.)

^{*1} **Daniel 11:31-32 BBE** And armies [of liars and false teachers] sent by him will take up their position and they will make unclean the holy place, even the strong place, and take away the regular burned offering and put in its place an unclean thing causing fear. (32) And those who do evil against the agreement will be turned to sin by his fair words: but the people who have knowledge of their God will be strong and do well. – The unclean thing standing in a holy place is the collection of all the false religious sects that are presenting their own teachings in the place of God’s, and each one teaching people it is membership in their respective sect that can help them. That is what the teachings of Jesus help you discern.

^{mmm} **Matthew 6:19-21 GNB** “Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in

from Jehovah.^(f) If you make the effort to learn what Jesus taught, you will see all the modern day sectarian religious leaders for what they really are, in the same way Jesus recognized them in his day.ⁿⁿ (You cannot judge what their heart condition is, of course, but you can know what their teachings are.) Remember: Everyone who teaches anything beyond what Jesus Christ taught, even if they use his name to do so, are actually followers of God's enemy.^{oo} Even if they mean well, if they teach lies, let them be accursed.^{pp} Jesus over and over warned us about them.^{qq} Religionists want to make

and steal. (20) Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. (21) For your heart will always be where your riches are.

ⁿⁿ Matthew 23:33 YLT `Serpents! brood of vipers! how may ye escape from the judgment of the gehenna?

^{oo} Matthew 5:33-37 GNB "You have also heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not break your promise, but do what you have vowed to the Lord to do.' (34) But now I tell you: do not use any vow when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven, for it is God's throne; (35) nor by earth, for it is the resting place for his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (36) Do not even swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. (37) Just say 'Yes' or 'No'---anything else you say comes from the Evil One.

^{pp} Galatians 1:6-9 MWT I am surprised at you! In no time at all you are deserting the one who called you to the grace of Christ, and are accepting another gospel. (7) Actually, there is no "other gospel," but I say this because there are some people who are trying to destroy you. They are trying to change the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel that is different from the one we taught you from Jesus, may he be accursed! (9) We have said it before, and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you a gospel that is different from the one you accepted from Christ, may he be accursed!

^{qq} Matthew 15:1-14 CEV About this time some Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses [*the religious leaders*] came from Jerusalem. They asked Jesus, (2) "Why don't your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do? They don't even wash their hands before they eat." (3) Jesus answered: Why do you disobey God and follow your own teaching? (4) Didn't God command you

to respect your father and mother? Didn't he tell you to put to death all who curse their parents? (5) But you let people get by without helping their parents when they should. You let them say that what they have [*that they could use to help their parents*] has been offered [*promised or tithed*] to God. (6) Is this any way to show respect to your parents? You ignore God's commands in order to follow your own teaching. (7) And you are nothing but show-offs! Isaiah the prophet was right when he wrote that God had said, (8) "All of you praise me with your words, but you never really think about me. (9) It is useless for you to worship me, when you teach rules made up by humans." (10) Jesus called the crowd together and said, "Pay attention and try to understand what I mean. (11) The food that you put into your mouth doesn't make you unclean and unfit to worship God. The bad words that come out of your mouth are what make you unclean." (12) Then his disciples came over to him and asked, "Do you know that you insulted the Pharisees by what you said?" (13) Jesus answered, "Every plant that my Father in heaven did not plant will be pulled up by the roots. (14) Stay away from those Pharisees [*hypocritical religious leaders*]. They are like blind people leading other blind people, and all of them will fall into a ditch."

up rules for you to live by.^{rr} They don't follow their own rules,^{ss} of course, but they try and convince you that you must do so; always asserting obedience to them is the only way you can please God.^{tt}

^{rr} Colossians 2:20-23 MWT If you have died with Christ to the world's way of doing things, why do you let others tell you how to live? It's as though you were not set free by Christ^(kk) and are still under the world's influence. (21) People tell you, "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that! Dress this way and don't wear that!" (22) All of these things deal with objects that are only being used up and consumed anyway. (23) These practices look like wisdom with their self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body. But they have no value for dealing with the constant desires of your corrupt nature. (Only your intimate knowledge of the teachings of Jesus can help you.)

^{ss} Mark 7:7-9 CEV It is useless for you to worship me, when you teach rules made up by humans." [Isaiah 29:13]*³ (8) You disobey God's commands in order to obey what humans have taught. (9) You are good at rejecting God's commands so that you can follow your own teachings!~

*³ Isaiah 29:13-19 CEV The Lord has said: "These people praise me with their words, but they never really think about me. They worship me by repeating rules made up by humans. (14) So once again I will do things that shock and amaze them, and I will destroy the wisdom of those who claim to know and understand." (15) You are in for trouble, if you try to hide your plans from the LORD [*Jehovah*]! Or if you think what you do in the dark can't be seen. (16) You have it all backwards. A clay dish doesn't say to the potter, "You didn't make me. You don't even know how." (17) Soon the forest of Lebanon will become a field with crops, thick as a forest. (18) The deaf will be able to hear whatever is read to them; the blind will be freed from a life of darkness. (19) The poor and the needy will celebrate and shout because of the LORD [*Jehovah*], the holy God of Israel.

^{tt} Matthew 23:1-15 MWT Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. (2) "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees [*the religious leaders*] have seated themselves in the seat of Moses [*are trying to use God's word to judge people*]. (3) So you must obey and follow everything they tell you to do from the Bible; do not, however, imitate their actions, because they don't practice what they preach. (4) They tie onto people's backs loads that are heavy and

Religious leaders also try and convince you the Bible is hard for you to understand. They do that to deceive you into believing you need them to explain or interpret the Bible for you. Jesus came to interpret the the Bible for each one of us, and his teachings are easy to understand. Jesus's teachings are all we need.⁽¹⁾ Become familiar with the barely fifty pages in each of the four Gospel accounts recording what Jesus taught. How easy our God has made it! There is so-o-o much to learn from those four Gospels.

hard to carry [*unscriptural teachings*], yet they aren't willing even to lift a finger to help them carry those loads. (5) They do everything they do to be noticed by people. Look at the fancy things they wear. The straps with scripture verses on them which they wear on their foreheads and arms, and notice how large they make them! Notice also how long are the tassels on their cloaks! (6) They love the best places at feasts and the reserved seats in the synagogues; (7) they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them 'Teacher [*or reverend, or elder, or deacon*].' (8) You must not be called 'Teacher,' because you are all equal and have only one Teacher. (9) And you must not call anyone here on earth 'Father,' because you have only the one Father in heaven. (10) Nor should you allow yourself to be called 'Leader,' because your one and only leader is the Messiah [*or Christ*]. (11) The greatest one among you must be your servant. (12) Whoever makes himself great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be made great. (13) "But how horrible it will be to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you devour the houses of the widows, [*fig., immorally cheat widows' (and estates) out of their property*] and in pretense [*or, with a false show*] are long in your prayers, because of this you will receive more severe judgment [*or, condemnation*]. (14) "How terrible for you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees! You hypocrites! Your lies lock the door to the Kingdom in people's faces. You yourselves don't go in, and those trying to get in you hinder! (15) "How terrible for you, teachers of the Law and religious leaders! You hypocrites! You sail the seas and cross whole countries to win one convert; and when you succeed, you make him twice as much a subject of Gehenna as you yourselves are!

The easiest and most meaningful way to examine whether you are a true student of Jesus Christ is to consider if you are a good neighbor.^{uu} How you treat other people is the true manifestation of who and what you are. It is not reflected in how you treat those who are close to you, or in how you treat people when you are in a good mood. It's how you treat everyone you come in contact with, day in and day out, every day. You can't hide it, pretend it, force it, or excuse it! A young man came to Jesus and asked him what the most important commandment was. Jesus told him to love God

^{uu} Visit: justbibletruth.com/BeAGoodNeighbor.pdf ~

Luke 10:25-37 GNB A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" (26) Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?" (27) The man answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" (28) "You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live." (29) But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (30) Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. (31) It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. (32) In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. (33) But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. (34) He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. (35) The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'" (36) And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?" (37) The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

with all his heart and his neighbor as himself. ^w Jesus said everything in the Bible exists for the purpose of teaching that simple lesson. ^{ww} It is foolish to say you love God and are a follower of Christ Jesus if you don't have love for other people. ^{xx} If we really do love God, we will learn and be obedient to what He sent his own son to teach. ^{yy & (l)}

^w Matthew 22:34-40 CEV After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together. (Remember: the religious leaders presented the greatest resistance and threat to Jesus Christ and to the truth he brought...) (35) One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, (36) "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?" (37) Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. (38) This is the first and most important commandment. (39) The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself." (40) All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.

^{ww} Matthew 7:12 GNB "Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.

^{xx} 1 John 4:14-21 CEV God sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We saw his Son and are now telling others about him. (15) God stays one with everyone who openly says that Jesus is the Son of God. That's how we stay one with God (16) and are sure that God loves us. God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. (17) If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the day of judgment. (18) A real love for others will chase those worries away. The thought of being punished is what makes us afraid. It shows that we have not really learned to love. (19) We love because God loved us first. [*We can't really understand love unless we first see it in comprehending what Jehovah^(f) God has done for us.*] (20) But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see? (21) The commandment that God has given us is: "Love God and love each other!"

^{yy} 1 John 5:1-5 GNB Whoever believes that Jesus is the Messiah is a child of God; and whoever loves a father loves his child also. (2)

“Membership love” is a great danger... (By membership love, we mean joining a sect of men and then trying to show love by following them: By giving them money, or by helping them do what they say is right; thus being duped to have faith they are God’s true servants and that they will properly direct your resources and efforts. That is what Jesus came to do!) When Jesus was alive, everyone wanted to be part of some group to worship God.^{zz} Jesus

This is how we know that we love God's children: it is by loving God and obeying his commands. (3) For our love for God means that we obey his commands. And his commands are not too hard for us, (4) because every child of God is able to defeat the world. And we win the victory over the world by means of our faith. (5) Who can defeat the world? Only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

^{zz} John 9:1-41 GNB As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. (2) His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?" (3) Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him. (4) As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work. (5) While I am in the world, I am the light for the world." (6) After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes (7) and told him, "Go and wash your face in the Pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent.") So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing. (8) His neighbors, then, and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" (9) Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No he isn't; he just looks like him." So the man himself said, "I am the man." (10) "How is it that you can now see?" they asked him. (11) He answered, "The man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash my face. So I went, and as soon as I washed, I could see." (12) "Where is he?" they asked. "I don't know," he answered. (13) Then they took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. (14) The day that Jesus made the mud and cured him of his blindness was a Sabbath. (15) The Pharisees, then, asked the

man again how he had received his sight. He told them, "He put some mud on my eyes; I washed my face, and now I can see." (16) Some of the Pharisees said, "The man who did this cannot be from God, for he does not obey the Sabbath law." Others, however, said, "How could a man who is a sinner perform such miracles as these?" And there was a division among them. (17) So the Pharisees asked the man once more, "You say he cured you of your blindness---well, what do you say about him?" "He is a prophet," the man answered. (18) The Jewish authorities, however, were not willing to believe that he had been blind and could now see, until they called his parents (19) and asked them, "Is this your son? You say that he was born blind; how is it, then, that he can now see?" (20) His parents answered, "We know that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. (21) But we do not know how it is that he is now able to see, nor do we know who cured him of his blindness. Ask him; he is old enough, and he can answer for himself!" (22) His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, who had already agreed that anyone who said he believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. (23) That is why his parents said, "He is old enough; ask him!" (24) A second time they called back the man who had been born blind, and said to him, "Promise before God that you will tell the truth! We know that this man who cured you is a sinner." (25) "I do not know if he is a sinner or not," the man replied. "One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see." (26) "What did he do to you?" they asked. "How did he cure you of your blindness?" (27) "I have already told you," he answered, "and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Maybe you, too, would like to be his disciples?" (28) They insulted him and said, "You are that fellow's disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. (29) We know that God spoke to Moses; as for that fellow, however, we do not even know where he comes from!" (30) The man answered, "What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness! (31) We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. (32) Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. (33) Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing." (34) They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin---and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue. (35) When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do

explained he was teaching them to worship God as individuals.^{aaa} Group worship was being brought to an end.^{bbb} The followers of

you believe in the Son of Man?" (36) The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!" (37) Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now." (38) "I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus. (39) Jesus said, "I came to this world to judge, so that the blind should see and those who see should become blind." (40) Some Pharisees who were there with him heard him say this and asked him, "Surely you don't mean that we are blind, too?" (41) Jesus answered, "If you were blind, then you would not be guilty; but since you claim that you can see, this means that you are still guilty."

^{aaa} John 4:19-26 GNB "I see you are a prophet, sir," the woman said. (20) "My Samaritan ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God." (21) Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. (23) But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. (24) God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is." (25) The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything." (26) Jesus answered, "I am he, I who am talking with you."

^{bbb} Mark 7:5-9 GNB So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, "Why is it that your disciples do not follow the teaching handed down by our ancestors, but instead eat with ritually unclean hands?" (6) Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (7) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' (8) 'You put aside God's command and obey human teachings.'" (9) And Jesus continued, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching.~

Jesus do, of course, still comprise a group. It is the most wonderful group of people who have ever lived.^{ccc} The true followers of Christ are not, however, formed or approved (judged) by men. We can never really know if those around us are Christians (are actually in that group), or only pretending to be.^(ll) We don't need to try and

Matthew 23:37-39 ALT "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets and stoning the ones having been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her own chickens under the wings, and you did not want to! (38) "Look! Your house is left to you_p desolate. (39) "For I say to you_p, by no means shall you_p see Me hereafter, until you_p say, 'Blessed [is] the One coming in the name of the LORD!'" [*Psalm 118:26*]*⁵~

*⁵ Psalms 118:26 YLT Blessed is he who is coming In the name of Jehovah, We blessed you from the house of Jehovah,

^{ccc} Philippians 2:1-5 CEV (& 6-15 ESV) Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God's Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. (2) Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. (3) Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. (4) Care about them as much as you care about yourselves (5) and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:~ Philippians 2:6-15 ESV who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (12) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (14) Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

judge who is righteous.^{ddd} All we need concern ourselves with is whether we are in that group!^(ccc) If we are, it is because we have determined to have only one leader and teacher.^(tt) It is our own personal faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ that defines us to be part of the group he started.^{eee} It is only our faith in the promises from the Bible that have power to preserve us alive.^{fff} As you have

^{ddd} John 3:16-21 BBE For God had such love for the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever has faith in him may not come to destruction but have eternal life. (17) God did not send his Son into the world to be judge of the world; he sent him so that the world might have salvation through him. (18) The man who has faith in him does not come up to be judged; but he who has no faith in him has been judged even now, because he has no faith in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the test by which men are judged: the light has come into the world and men have more love for the dark than for the light, because their acts are evil. (20) The light is hated by everyone whose acts are evil and he does not come to the light for fear that his acts will be seen. (21) But he whose life is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his acts have been done by the help of God.

^{eee} Acts 11:20-26 BBE But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, when they came to Antioch, gave the good news about the Lord Jesus to the Greeks. (21) And the power of the Lord was with them, and a great number had faith and were turned to the Lord. (22) And news of them came to the ears of the church at Jerusalem: and they sent Barnabas as far as Antioch: (23) Who, when he came and saw the grace of God, was glad; and he made clear to them the need of keeping near the Lord with all the strength of their hearts: (24) For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and a great number were joined to the Lord. (25) Then he went on to Tarsus, looking for Saul; (26) And when he had come across him, he took him to Antioch. And they were with the church there for a year, teaching the people; and the disciples were first given the name of Christians in Antioch.

^{fff} Hebrews 10:35-39 ESV Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. (36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (37) For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; (38) but my righteous

faith in the promises of God, such as those from the book of Job, it will happen for you according to your faith.^{egg} That's what Jesus promised many of the people who came to him for help.^{hhh} Do you

one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." (39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls *[alive]*.

^{egg} Job 33:17-30 GNB God speaks to make them stop their sinning and to save them from becoming proud. (18) He will not let them be destroyed; he saves them from death itself. (19) God corrects us by sending sickness and filling our bodies with pain. (20) Those who are sick lose their appetites, and even the finest food looks revolting. (21) Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; (22) they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." (25) Their bodies will grow young and strong again; (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life, and gives him the joy of living.

^{hhh} Matthew 8:13 GNB Then Jesus said to the officer, "Go home, and what you believe will be done for you." And the officer's servant was healed that very moment.~

Matthew 9:29 GNB Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Let it happen, then, just as you believe!"~

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

Mark 9:22-27 CEV The demon has often tried to kill him by throwing him into a fire or into water. Please have pity and help us if you can!" (23) Jesus replied, "Why do you say 'if you can'? Anything is possible for someone who has faith!" (24) Right away the boy's father shouted, "I do have faith! Please help me to have even more." (25) When Jesus saw that a crowd was gathering fast, he spoke sternly to the evil spirit that had kept the boy from

believe Jesus's promises? Jesus said those alive when he returned (Bible prophecy indicates that is happening in our day in time), and who had faith, would never die at all.ⁱⁱⁱ Do you believe Jesus's promise? Do you start to grasp what having faith in his promises can mean for *you*?^(hh)

God is loving and kind and good.^{jjj} Our first parents disobeyed God, and many of us have continued in their path. Jehovah has patiently allowed our bad course, so we would each one have a chance for life, and so his creation could see the damage that results from not following his counsel. Some of us recognize the problem, and some seem determined to remain head strong, self-willed and disobedient, to the bitter end. If such hateful people were left to

speaking or hearing. He said, "I order you to come out of the boy! Don't ever bother him again." (26) The spirit screamed and made the boy shake all over. Then it went out of him. The boy looked dead, and almost everyone said he was. (27) But Jesus took hold of his hand and helped him stand up.

ⁱⁱⁱ John 11:23-27 ESV Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live [*will be resurrected, just as Jesus was about to demonstrate for Lazarus*], (26) and everyone who lives [*or is alive at the time of Jesus's return*] and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (27) She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

^{jjj} Psalms 73:21-28 CEV Once I was bitter and brokenhearted. (22) I was stupid and ignorant, and I treated you as a wild animal would [*showing no appreciation for its creator*]. (23) But I never really left you, and you hold my right hand. (24) Your advice has been my guide, and later you will welcome me in glory. (25) In heaven I have only you, and on this earth you are all I want. (26) My body and mind may fail, but you are my strength and my choice forever. (27) Powerful LORD [*Jehovah*]^(d) God, all who stay far from you will be lost, and you will destroy those who are unfaithful. (28) It is good for me to be near you. I choose you as my protector, and I will tell about your wonderful deeds.

continue alive, they would kill us all.^(ll) These conditions, brought about by our first parent's disobedience, amount to the spiritual war that rages between those who are righteously inclined and those who love badness.^(x) If you try to express loving concern for others, you most likely don't feel like you fit in among many of the people of this world. You can never really feel loved and cared for. That is because people who are not looking for God have no concept of what love is.^(xx) They think they do, of course, but they don't. They only care about using others to make themselves happy in some way; and then they imagine that to be love. Righteous people sense that, and can never be truly happy amidst such hateful conditions and people.^{kkk} Our current world conditions are the proof to that obvious truth. There is, however, happiness to be found.⁽ⁿ⁾ God holds out hope for us all through our faith in the son He sent. God sent Jesus to help us understand why the world is the way it is, as well as to explain the solution God had recorded for us in the Bible. By our choice to exercise faith in the son of God, we each one judge our-own-self as to whether we live or die.^{lll} Those of

^{kkk} 1 Peter 2:10-12 CEV "Once you were nobody. Now you are God's people [made so by your expressing faith in the son of God, not by joining some sect of men and calling their name on yourself – if you have faith in Christ, you are a "Christian"^(f)]. At one time no one had pity on you. Now God has treated you with kindness. (11) Dear friends, you are foreigners and strangers on this earth. So I beg you not to surrender to those desires that fight against you. (12) Always let others see you behaving properly, even though they may still accuse you of doing wrong. Then on the day of judgment, they will honor God by telling the good things they saw you do.

^{lll} John 12:46-50 BBE I have come as a light into the world, so that no one who has faith in me will go on living in the dark. (47) And if any man gives ear to my words and does not keep them, I am not his judge: I did not come to be judge of the world but to give salvation to the world. (48) He who puts me on one side and does not take my words to heart, is not without a judge: the word which I have said will be his judge on the last day. (49) For I have not said it on my authority, but the Father who sent me gave me orders what to say and how to say it. (50) And I have knowledge that his order is

us alive in this time of the revelation and restoration, will simply keep on living based on our faith in God's promises that we can do so.⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ Those without faith will continue in their self-willed course to death.^{mmm} As for those who have already died, they will be resurrected and given the same choiceⁿⁿⁿ and chance for life that we all have set before us. The only choice you need consider is whether you believe what Jesus Christ said.^{ooo} That choice is the single most important thing in life.^{ppp} Read the four short Gospel

eternal life: so that the things which I say, I say them even as the Father says them to me.

^{mmm} John 8:24-25 CEV That is why I said you will die with your sins unforgiven. If you don't have faith in me for who I am, you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven." (25) "Who are you?" they asked Jesus. Jesus answered, "I am exactly who I told you at the beginning."^(v)

ⁿⁿⁿ John 5:29 GW and they will come out of their tombs. Those who have done good will come back to life and live. But those who have done evil will come back to life and will be judged. (Jesus asked his father to forgive those who killed him because they didn't know what they were doing.*⁶ They were ignorant of truth. People who practiced badness but were ignorant will be resurrected and taught the truth and then judged according to their response, just like we all are.)~

*⁶ Luke 23:33-34 ESV And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. (34) And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

^{ooo} Deuteronomy 30:19-20 GNB (19) I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Choose life. (20) Love the LORD your God, obey him and be faithful to him, and then you and your descendants will live long in the land that he promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

^{ppp} Matthew 13:44-52 CEV The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds treasure hidden in a field and buries it again. A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field. (45) The kingdom of heaven is like what

accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Now, read them again, and again, and...

happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls. (46) After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl. (47) The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a net is thrown into a lake and catches all kinds of fish. (48) When the net is full, it is dragged to the shore, and the fishermen sit down to separate the fish. They keep the good ones, but throw the bad ones away. (49) That's how it will be at the end of time. Angels will come and separate the evil people from the ones who have done right. *[People are being separated by their response to Jesus.]*⁽¹¹⁾ (50) Then those evil people will be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they will cry and grit their teeth in pain. (51) Jesus asked his disciples if they understood all these things. They said, "Yes, we do." (52) So he told them, "Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom *[their old treasure is their Jewish heritage and Law Code, while their new treasure is the teachings of Jesus]."*

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A Gathering of Eagles

Where the carcass (Christ's remains are his teachings) is, there the eagles will gather. - Mat 24:28

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A Gathering Of Eagles
Luke 17:30 & 37 

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

Luke 17:30 BBE So will it be in the day of the revelation of the Son of man.

Luke 17:37 BBE And they, answering him, said, Where, Lord? And he said to them, Where the body is, there will the eagles come together. (What Jesus left us are his teachings [or his remains]. If you are wise, you will be gathered around the Gospels to read [feed] and learn for yourself what Jesus taught.)
