



## Do you know Christ?

We might know him as a baby in a manger, or hanging on a cross (or stake) as he gave his life for ours. Do we know him as God's appointed king, examining the earth to do away with badness? Do we understand he is educating people to escape the destruction overwhelming mankind? The more important question: Are we known *by* Jesus? Does he know who you are?

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# Do **you know** Christ Jesus?

Do you have Christian maturity? <sup>1</sup>



*"A Gathering of Eagles"* ©  
Luke 17:30&37

As you consider your answer to that question, would you take time to deliberate on something Jesus said? What he said should make us all, every single one of us, seriously evaluate our answer? Jesus said concerning "the last day," or "judgment day": (Matthew 7:22, 23) 22 Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?' 23 And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. Jesus also said: (Luke 13:24-28) 24 "Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to get in but will not be able, 25 when once the householder has got up and locked the door, and you start to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Sir, open to us.' But in answer he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' 26 Then you will start saying, 'We ate and drank in front of you, and you taught in our broad ways.' 27 But he will speak and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!' 28 There is where your weeping and the

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 5:7-14 God's Word [GW] During his life on earth, Jesus prayed to God, who could save him from death. He prayed and pleaded with loud crying and tears, and he was heard because of his devotion to God. (8) Although Jesus was the Son of God, he learned to be obedient through his sufferings. (9) After he had finished his work, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. (10) God appointed him chief priest in the way Melchizedek was a priest. (11) We have a lot to explain about this. But since you have become too lazy to pay attention, explaining it to you is hard. (12) By now you should be teachers. Instead, you still need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word. You need milk, not solid food. (13) All those who live on milk lack the experience to talk about what is right. They are still babies. (14) However, solid food is for mature people, whose minds are trained by practice to know the difference between good and evil.

gnashing of your teeth will be, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves thrown outside."

In both those scriptures, Jesus referred to the people who approached him as being "workers of lawlessness" or "workers of unrighteousness." They spoke to him as persons who knew him and were expecting his favor. They no doubt believed they were upright. Instead of receiving his blessing, they were condemned. If these scriptures don't make you reflect on who you are in your inner person, the person Christ Jesus sees you to be, it might not speak well of you!<sup>2</sup> Jesus is talking in Mat. 7 and Luke 13,<sup>(pg-1)</sup> about men and women who felt justified in approaching him, actually thinking (or maybe just wishing) they were about to receive his help. The fact they were rejected by Jesus, and told he didn't know them at all, should lead us all to reflectively answer the question: Does Christ know *me*?

Jesus made it clear what it means to know him: [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." One translation renders verse 31 as "*if you remain in my word, you are really my disciples.*" Jesus made clear our knowing the truth, and thus "being set

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<sup>2</sup> [James 1:22-27 Good News Bible](#) Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. (23) If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. (24) They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. (25) But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice--you will be blessed by God in what you do. (26) Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself. (27) What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.

free,” was based on our remaining in (or abiding by) what he taught. That same responsibility falls to me, and to you as well!

In seeking Christian maturity, it often helps to consider excerpts from the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament – OT). The Bible says the Jewish Law Code (given as a part of that OT) serves as a tutor leading to the Christ.<sup>3</sup> The Law helped mankind recognize our need for the Messiah (since no imperfect man could follow the Law completely), and the OT prophecies helped identify him when he arrived. The OT also provides a record of the ancestry of the Messiah. We can actually think of the whole of the Hebrew Scriptures, then, as a tutor leading to the Christ. In Genesis 3:15, after our first parents joined Satan in giving birth to rebellion and sin, God promised He would raise up a seed from the woman<sup>4</sup> who would crush Satan’s head.<sup>5</sup> At the conclusion of the OT, in the first four Bible Books of the Christian Greek Scriptures (or New Testament - NT), Jesus appeared and presented himself (in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) as that promised Jewish Messiah; the one promised to crush Satan’s head.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Galatians 3:22-25 Contemporary English Version But the Scriptures say that sin controls everyone, so that God's promises will be for anyone who has faith in Jesus Christ. (23) The Law controlled us and kept us under its power until the time came when we would have faith. (24) In fact, the Law was our teacher *[or tutor]*. It was supposed to teach us until we had faith and were acceptable to God. (25) But once a person has learned to have faith, there is no more need to have the Law as a teacher.

<sup>4</sup> John 5:27 CEV And he *[God]* has given his Son the right to judge everyone, because he is the Son of Man.

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 3:15 Bible in Basic English 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.

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:8 Analytical Literal Translation The one practicing sin is from the Devil, because the Devil *[has been]* sinning from *[the]* beginning. For this *[reason]* the Son of God was revealed, so that He should destroy the works of the Devil.

In evaluating our relationship with Christ, and whether we *really* know him, one of the enlightening stories from the Old Testament is about a man who thought he knew King David of old. To understand this Bible example, we must first know a little about who David was. The ancient nation of Israel was prominently used by God as the ancestors of the coming Messiah.<sup>(Jn 4:20 on pg 32)</sup> For a period of time, God selected men to govern Israel who sat representatively on his throne. God anointed those kings to rule his nation of people (and thereby the whole earth). David was the second of those earthly kings. Although David committed some grave and serious sins, he was known as a man of outstanding faithfulness during most all of his life. Fourteen generations<sup>7</sup> before King David, to one of his forefathers, God had expanded and clarified the Messianic promise He gave at Genesis 3:15.<sup>(5)</sup> He pledged to faithful Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed by means of Abraham's seed.<sup>8</sup> The primary seed of Abraham, the individual who would bless all the peoples of the earth was, of course, Christ Jesus.<sup>9</sup> Christ was born through Eve and Abraham and through the line of King David twenty eight generations<sup>(7)</sup> after David. The rule of King David proved a blessing to God's nation. By helping people from other nations come to know Jehovah,<sup>10</sup> David blessed all those nations as well. On a

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 1:17 GW So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 generations from David until the exile to Babylon, 14 generations from the exile until the Messiah.

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 22:18 BBE And so your [Abraham's] seed will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth, because you have done what I have asked you to do.

<sup>9</sup> Galatians 3:8-9 CEV Long ago the Scriptures said that God would accept the Gentiles because of their faith. That's why God told Abraham the good news that all nations would be blessed because of him. (9) This means that everyone who has faith [*in Christ*] will share in the blessings that were given to Abraham because of his faith.

<sup>10</sup> Psalms 83:18 Darby That they may know that thou alone, whose name is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth.

Isaiah 26:4 Literal Version - LITV Trust in Jehovah forever, for in Jah Jehovah is everlasting strength.

Jehovah is the self-given divine name of God. It was recorded over 6000 times in the Old Testament record covering the 4000 years

smaller scale, then, than what Jesus Christ would do, the prophecy to Abraham was fulfilled in King David. It was because of David's great loyalty that God promised the coming Messiah would be through his seed. Some scholars refer to Jesus as the Greater David, since God had said He would appoint one to sit on David's throne forever.<sup>11</sup> Luke made clear it is Christ Jesus who is the one appointed to sit forever on David's throne.<sup>12</sup> King David loved the truth. That is to say, he loved God's

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before Christ was born. Some translators have omitted the name of God from their work, often replacing it with "LORD" in all caps. If you see LORD in the Bible text, it indicates it should read Jehovah. You should know God's name!

Please visit: [justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html](http://justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html)

<sup>11</sup> [Isaiah 9:7 LITV](#) There is no end to the increase of *His [Christ's]* government and of peace on the throne of David, and on His kingdom, to order it, and to sustain it with justice and with righteousness, from now and forever. The zeal of Jehovah of Hosts will do this.

<sup>12</sup> [Luke 1:32-33 English Standard Version](#) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Word.<sup>13</sup> Our king Christ Jesus also loves the truth.<sup>14</sup> A reasonable question for us to ask ourselves is this, do we love the truth?<sup>15</sup> Can you

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<sup>13</sup> Psalms 119:97-112 ESV Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. (98) Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. (99) I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. (100) I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. (101) I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. (102) I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. (103) How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (104) Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. (105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (106) I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. (107) I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD [*Oh, Jehovah*], according to your word! (108) Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD [*Oh, Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>*], and teach me your rules. (109) I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. (110) The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. (111) Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. (112) I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

<sup>14</sup> Luke 4:16-19 ALT And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And He entered, according to His custom, on the day of the Sabbaths into the synagogue, and He stood up to read aloud [*the Scriptures*]. (17) And a scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. And having unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it had been written: (18) "[*The*] Spirit of [*the*] LORD [*Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>*] [*is*] upon Me, on account of which He anointed Me to proclaim the Gospel to poor [*ones*]; He has sent Me to heal the ones having been broken [*in*] heart [*fig., who have become despondent within themselves*], to proclaim deliverance to captives and recovery of sight to blind [*ones*], to send away [*ones*] having been oppressed with deliverance, (19) To proclaim [*the*] acceptable year of the LORD [*Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>*]." [*Isaiah 61:1,2*]

<sup>15</sup> John 14:15-17 Gods Word "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. (17) That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.



really say you know Jesus Christ if you don't? Do you recognize, and are you able to share, the same wondrous joy Jesus had in his expression at John 10:29:<sup>16</sup> His soul stirring expression that what his Father had given him is "greater than all other things"? Jesus said his Father gave him an assignment, and that everything his Father had was his.<sup>17</sup> What was

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<sup>16</sup> John 10:24-29 GNB when the people gathered around him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? Tell us the plain truth: are you the Messiah?" (25) Jesus answered, "I have already told you, but you would not believe me. The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf; (26) but you will not believe, for you are not my sheep. (27) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. (29) What my Father has given me is greater than everything [*or is greater than all other things*], and no one can snatch them away from the Father's care.

<sup>17</sup> John 6:38-40a GNB because I have come down from heaven to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (39) And it is the will of him who sent me that I should not lose any of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them all to life on the last day. (40) For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life"...

John 17:17 American Standard Version Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:6-8 ALT "I made Your name known to the people whom You have given to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and Your word they have kept. (7) "Now they have known [*or, have come to understand*] that all [*things*], as many as You have given to Me, are from You. (8) "Because the sayings which You have given to Me, I have given to them. And they received [*them*], and they truly knew [*or, came to understand*] that I came forth from You. And they believed that You sent Me.

John 17:6-8 ALT "I made Your name known to the people whom You have given to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and Your word they have kept. (7) "Now they have known [*or, have come to understand*] that all [*things*], as many as You have given to Me, are from You. (8) "Because the sayings which You have given to Me, I have given to them. And they received [*them*], and they truly knew [*or, came to*

Jesus talking about, then, when he said what the Father had given him was “greater than all other things”? The very *most-great* thing given Jesus was the opportunity to glorify his Father’s name!<sup>18</sup> Jesus said he came to make his Father’s name known.<sup>19</sup> He said it was his purpose in life.<sup>20</sup> He said his food (or what sustained him) was to do his Father’s will.<sup>21</sup> Long ago, Satan told all creation God was a liar and that He was

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*understand]* that I came forth from You. And they believed that You sent Me.

John 16:15 GW Everything the Father says is also what I say. That is why I said, 'He [*the spirit of truth the Father will send*] will take what I say and tell it to you.'

<sup>18</sup> John 12:27-28 ESV "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (28) Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

John 7:18 BBE The man whose words come from himself is looking for glory for himself, but he who is looking for the glory of him who sent him--that man is true and there is no evil in him.

<sup>19</sup> John 17:25-26 CEV Good Father, the people of this world don't know you. But I know you, and my followers know that you sent me. (26) I told them what you are like, and I will tell them even more. Then the love that you have for me will become part of them, and I will be one with them.

<sup>20</sup> John 18:37 BBE Then Pilate said to him, Are you then a king? Jesus made answer, You say that I am a king. For this purpose was I given birth, and for this purpose I came into the world, that I might give witness to what is true. Every lover of what is true gives ear to my voice.

John 17:3-5 CEV Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent. (4) I have brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you gave me to do. (5) Now, Father, give me back the glory that I had with you before the world was created. Jesus had a life with his Father before he was miraculously transferred to become the Christ.

See: [justbibletruth.com/IsJesusGod.html](http://justbibletruth.com/IsJesusGod.html)

<sup>21</sup> John 4:34 CEV Jesus said: My food is to do what God wants! He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that he gave me to do.

bad. Satan said God was withholding good things from his children.<sup>22</sup> We have all been groaning and suffering under the consequences of those lies ever since.<sup>23</sup> The opportunity for Jesus to clear his Father's name of the reproach the liar brought on it, then, is the gift that is "greater than all other things."<sup>(16 – Jn 17:29)</sup> Jesus, in turn, gives you (us all) the opportunity to share in that work of exposing the lies Satan used to attack our Father and to smear his great name.<sup>24</sup> The opportunity to personally know and have a relationship with our heavenly Father<sup>25</sup> through your faith in his firstborn son,<sup>26</sup> *that* is what is available to you

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<sup>22</sup> Genesis 3:1-5 Darby And the serpent was more crafty than any animal of the field which Jehovah Elohim had made. And it said to the woman, Is it even so, that God has said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; (3) but of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, and ye shall not touch it, lest ye die. (4) And the serpent said to the woman, Ye will not certainly die; (5) but God knows that in the day ye eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and ye will be as God, knowing good and evil.

<sup>23</sup> Romans 8:18-22 GW I consider our present sufferings insignificant compared to the glory that will soon be revealed to us. (19) All creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal who his children are. (20) Creation was subjected to frustration but not by its own choice. The one who subjected it to frustration did so in the hope (21) that it would also be set free from slavery to decay in order to share the glorious freedom that the children of God will have. (22) We know that all creation has been groaning with the pains of childbirth up to the present time.

<sup>24</sup> John 17:7-8 BBE Now it is clear to them that whatever you have given to me comes from you: (8) Because I have given them the words which you gave to me; and they have taken them to heart, and have certain knowledge that I came from you, and they have faith that you sent me.

<sup>25</sup> John 16:26-27 CEV You will ask the Father in my name, and I won't have to ask him for you. (27) God the Father loves you because you love me, and you believe that I have come from him.

<sup>26</sup> Colossians 1:15 BBE Who is the image of the unseen God coming into existence before all living things [*or the firstborn of all creation - ALT*];

through Jesus's teachings.<sup>27</sup> Share it by simply talking with others about what you learn from the Bible.

Back to using David's example so as to be certain we know Jesus Christ. David was a good king and the nation prospered under his forty year rule. Him being an outstanding king over Jehovah's<sup>(10)</sup> nation of people makes it easy to understand why God would use him as a prefigure of our king Christ Jesus. That knowledge also helps us understand why we can wisely look to the example we herein consider in David's life, to help us understand how some people will approach Jesus only to be condemned. It can help us understand how those people could imagine they knew Jesus, when by his own words, they clearly did not.

To really comprehend and benefit from this Bible drama surrounding David, we also need to know King Saul. Saul ruled before David as the first king of Israel. Both kings were specifically chosen and anointed by Jehovah as kings over his nation.<sup>28</sup> Saul started out as an excellent king,

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<sup>27</sup> Matthew 11:27 CEV 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.

<sup>28</sup> 1 Samuel 9:16-17 Modern King James Version Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin. And you shall anoint him *to be* leader over My people Israel, so that he may save My people out of the hand of the Philistines. For I have looked on My people because their cry has come to Me. (17) And when Samuel saw Saul, Jehovah said to him, Behold the man of whom I spoke to you! This *one* shall reign over My people.

1 Samuel 10:1 MKJV And Samuel took a vial of oil and poured on his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because Jehovah has anointed you for a leader over His inheritance?

1 Samuel 16:11-13 MKJV And Samuel said to Jesse, Are all the young men here? And he said, There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he keeps the sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here. (12) And he sent and brought him in. And he *was* ruddy, with beautiful eyes and good form. And Jehovah said, Arise, anoint him. For this is he. (13) And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of Jehovah came on David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

but later became arrogant and disrespectful of God. Finally, he used his moral freedom to make himself bad and he was rejected by Jehovah.<sup>29</sup> Proving himself the opposite of Saul, David became more and more faithful to Jehovah throughout his entire life.

David first appears on the Bible scene while Saul was still ruling. It was during a war between Israel and the Philistine Nation (who worshipped false God's and tried to destroy Israel). As a young man, David was sent by his father to carry supplies to his brothers serving in the army. They were drawn up for battle and it was while David was present the Philistine giant, Goliath, came out to taunt the battle lines of Israel. Goliath asked what champion Israel would bring forth to do battle with him. David was shocked that no one replied. David viewed this spiritual enemy of the God he had come to know and worship as a mere dog. (Remember: David served Jehovah as a Jew, and God had clearly identified that Jewish nation to be his servants. God helped his people fight against the enemies of that arrangement, because it was his method to produce the Messiah and thereby bless all of humanity. Those days of physical war against God's enemies by his servants are past. Christianity has been established and it is very different. Christians do not kill God's enemies, or even judge who they are. You will understand that if you make effort to learn what Jesus taught – if you really do know him!) David said *he* would strike Goliath down. David's killing of Goliath put him in good stead with King Saul, and he became Saul's attendant.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> 1 Samuel 15:26 MKJV And Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you, for you have rejected the Word of Jehovah, and Jehovah has rejected you from being king over Israel.

<sup>30</sup> 1 Samuel 17:1-58 CEV The Philistines got ready for war and brought their troops together to attack the town of Socoh in Judah. They set up camp at Ephes-Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. (2) King Saul and the Israelite army set up camp on a hill overlooking Elah Valley, and they got ready to fight the Philistine army that was on a hill on the other side of the valley. (3) (SEE 17:2) (4) The Philistine army had a hero named Goliath who was from the town of Gath and was over nine feet tall. (5) He wore a bronze helmet and had bronze armor to protect his chest and legs.

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The chest armor alone weighed about one hundred twenty-five pounds. He carried a bronze sword strapped on his back, (6) (SEE 17:5) (7) and his spear was so big that the iron spearhead alone weighed more than fifteen pounds. A soldier always walked in front of Goliath to carry his shield. (8) Goliath went out and shouted to the army of Israel: Why are you lining up for battle? I'm the best soldier in our army, and all of you are in Saul's army. Choose your best soldier to come out and fight me! (9) If he can kill me, our people will be your slaves. But if I kill him, your people will be our slaves. (10) Here and now I challenge Israel's whole army! Choose someone to fight me! (11) Saul and his men heard what Goliath said, but they were so frightened of Goliath that they couldn't do a thing. (12) David's father Jesse was an old man, who belonged to the Ephrath clan and lived in Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons: (13) the oldest was Eliab, the next was Abinadab, and Shammah was the third. The three of them had gone off to fight in Saul's army. David was Jesse's youngest son. (14) (SEE 17:13) (15) He took care of his father's sheep, and he went back and forth between Bethlehem and Saul's camp. (16) Goliath came out and gave his challenge every morning and every evening for forty days. (17) One day, Jesse told David, "Hurry and take this sack of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers at the army camp. (18) And here are ten large chunks of cheese to take to their commanding officer. Find out how your brothers are doing and bring back something that shows that they're all right. (19) They're with Saul's army, fighting the Philistines in Elah Valley." (20) David obeyed his father. He got up early the next morning and left someone else in charge of the sheep; then he loaded the supplies and started off. He reached the army camp just as the soldiers were taking their places and shouting the battle cry. (21) The army of Israel and the Philistine army stood there facing each other. (22) David left his things with the man in charge of supplies and ran up to the battle line to ask his brothers if they were well. (23) While David was talking with them, Goliath came out from the line of Philistines and started boasting as usual. David heard him. (24) When the Israelite soldiers saw Goliath, they were scared and ran off. (25) They said to each other, "Look how he keeps coming out to insult us. The king is offering a big reward to the man who kills Goliath. That man will even get to marry the king's daughter, and no one in his family will ever have to pay taxes again." (26) David asked some soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this

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Philistine and stopping him from insulting our people? Who does that worthless Philistine think he is? He's making fun of the army of the living God!" (27) The soldiers told David what the king would give the man who killed Goliath. (28) David's oldest brother Eliab heard him talking with the soldiers. Eliab was angry at him and said, "What are you doing here, anyway? Who's taking care of that little flock of sheep out in the desert? You spoiled brat! You came here just to watch the fighting, didn't you?" (29) "Now what have I done?" David answered. "Can't I even ask a question?" (30) Then he turned and asked another soldier the same thing he had asked the others, and he got the same answer. (31) Some soldiers overheard David talking, so they told Saul what David had said. Saul sent for David, and David came. (32) "Your Majesty," he said, "this Philistine shouldn't turn us into cowards. I'll go out and fight him myself!" (33) "You don't have a chance against him," Saul replied. "You're only a boy, and he's been a soldier all his life." (34) But David told him: Your Majesty, I take care of my father's sheep. And when one of them is dragged off by a lion or a bear, (35) I go after it and beat the wild animal until it lets the sheep go. If the wild animal turns and attacks me, I grab it by the throat and kill it. (36) Sir, I have killed lions and bears that way, and I can kill this worthless Philistine. He shouldn't have made fun of the army of the living God! (37) The LORD [*Jehovah*] has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears, and he will keep me safe from the hands of this Philistine. "All right," Saul answered, "go ahead and fight him. And I hope the LORD [*Jehovah*] will help you." (38) Saul had his own military clothes and armor put on David, and he gave David a bronze helmet to wear. (39) David strapped on a sword and tried to walk around, but he was not used to wearing those things. "I can't move with all this stuff on," David said. "I'm just not used to it." David took off the armor (40) and picked up his shepherd's stick. He went out to a stream and picked up five smooth rocks and put them in his leather bag. Then with his sling in his hand, he went straight toward Goliath. (41) Goliath came toward David, walking behind the soldier who was carrying his shield. (42) When Goliath saw that David was just a healthy, good-looking boy, he made fun of him. (43) "Do you think I'm a dog?" Goliath asked. "Is that why you've come after me with a stick?" He cursed David in the name of the Philistine gods (44) and shouted, "Come on! When I'm finished with you, I'll feed you to the birds and wild animals!" (45) David answered: You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But

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I've come out to fight you in the name of the LORD [Jehovah] All-Powerful. He is the God of Israel's army, and you have insulted him too! (46) Today the LORD [Jehovah] will help me defeat you. I'll knock you down and cut off your head, and I'll feed the bodies of the other Philistine soldiers to the birds and wild animals. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a real God. (47) Everybody here will see that the LORD [Jehovah] doesn't need swords or spears to save his people. The LORD [Jehovah] always wins his battles, and he will help us defeat you. (48) When Goliath started forward, David ran toward him. (49) He put a rock in his sling and swung the sling around by its straps. When he let go of one strap, the rock flew out and hit Goliath on the forehead. It cracked his skull, and he fell facedown on the ground. (50) David defeated Goliath with a sling and a rock. He killed him without even using a sword. (51) David ran over and pulled out Goliath's sword. Then he used it to cut off Goliath's head. When the Philistines saw what had happened to their hero, they started running away. (52) But the soldiers of Israel and Judah let out a battle cry and went after them as far as Gath and Ekron. The bodies of the Philistines were scattered all along the road from Shaaraim to Gath and Ekron. (53) When the Israelite army returned from chasing the Philistines, they took what they wanted from the enemy camp. (54) David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he kept Goliath's weapons in his own tent. (55) After King Saul had watched David go out to fight Goliath, Saul turned to the commander of his army and said, "Abner, who is that young man?" "Your Majesty," Abner answered, "I swear by your life that I don't know." (56) "Then find out!" Saul told him. (57) When David came back from fighting Goliath, he was still carrying Goliath's head. Abner took David to Saul, (58) and Saul asked, "Who are you?" "I am David the son of Jesse, a loyal Israelite from Bethlehem."

1 Samuel 18:1-5 CEV David and Saul finished talking, and soon David and Jonathan [Saul's son] became best friends. Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself. (2) From that time on, Saul kept David in his service and would not let David go back to his own family. (3) Jonathan liked David so much that they promised to always be loyal friends. (4) Jonathan took off the robe that he was wearing and gave it to David. He also gave him his military clothes, his sword, his bow and arrows, and his belt. (5) David was a success in everything that Saul sent him to do,



Over the years that followed, Saul chose to make himself bad by turning away from Jehovah. During that time, Saul's love for David turned first to jealousy and then to hatred. For years after that, Saul hunted David like an animal trying to kill him. On two different occasions, during those years of being hunted, David had opportunity to kill Saul. Although David was having to flee from Saul, and David had publicly cried out in front of the armies of both he and Saul that Jehovah would strike Saul down for seeking David's life, David would not personally do him harm.

<sup>31</sup> "How could I thrust out my hand against the anointed of Jehovah,"

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and Saul made him a high officer in his army. That pleased everyone, including Saul's other officers.

<sup>31</sup> **1 Samuel 24:2-15 MWT** <sup>2</sup> And Saul proceeded to take three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and to go looking for David and his men upon the bare rocks of the mountain goats. <sup>3</sup> At length he came to the stone sheepfolds along the road, where a cave was. So Saul came in to ease nature, while David and his men were in the parts of the cave farthest back, sitting down. <sup>4</sup> And David's men began to say to him: "Here is the day on which Jehovah does say to you, 'Look! I am giving your enemy into your hand, and you must do to him just as it may seem good in your eyes.'" So David rose up and quietly cut off the skirt of the sleeveless coat that belonged to Saul. <sup>5</sup> But it came about afterward that David's heart kept striking him for the reason that he had cut off the skirt that belonged to Saul. <sup>6</sup> Hence he said to his men: "It is unthinkable, on my part, from Jehovah's standpoint, that I should do this thing to my lord, the anointed of Jehovah, by thrusting out my hand against him, for he is the anointed of Jehovah." <sup>7</sup> Accordingly David dispersed his men with these words, and he did not allow them to rise up against Saul. As for Saul, he rose up from the cave and kept going on his way. <sup>8</sup> So David rose up afterward and went out from the cave and called out after Saul, saying: "My lord the king!" At this Saul looked behind him, and David proceeded to bow low with his face to the earth and prostrate himself. <sup>9</sup> And David went on to say to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of man, saying, 'Look! David is seeking your hurt'? <sup>10</sup> Here this day your eyes have seen how Jehovah gave you today into my hand in the cave; and someone said to kill you, but I felt sorry for you and said, 'I shall not thrust out my hand against my lord, for he is the anointed of Jehovah.'" <sup>11</sup> And, my father, see, yes, see the skirt of your sleeveless coat in my hand, for

David asked, "and come away unharmed" (or "remain innocent")?<sup>(32)</sup> -  
note 1\_Sam\_26:9] David loved Jehovah, and he trusted in God to deal with wicked Saul. That does not mean David hid or ignored Saul's sin, however. David did not pretend Saul was not wicked in his actions. David told everyone Jehovah would strike Saul down for his wickedness, but again, David would not personally do him harm! This was likely because David still loved Saul and hoped he would heed David's warning and turn back from his bad way.<sup>32</sup> (David thus manifest the Christian

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when I cut off the skirt of your sleeveless coat I did not kill you. Know and see that there is no badness or revolt in my hand, and I have not sinned against you, while you are lying in wait for my soul to take it away. <sup>12</sup> May Jehovah judge between me and you; and Jehovah must take vengeance for me from you, but my own hand will not come to be upon you. <sup>13</sup> Just as the proverb of the ancients says, 'From the wicked ones wickedness will go forth,' but my own hand will not come to be upon you. <sup>14</sup> After whom has the king of Israel gone out? After whom are you chasing? After a dead dog? After a single flea? <sup>15</sup> And Jehovah must become judge, and he must judge between me and you, and he will see and he will conduct the legal case for me and judge me [to free me] from your hand."

<sup>32</sup> 1 Samuel 26:1-25 CEV Once again, some people from Ziph went to Gibeah to talk with Saul. "David has a hideout on Mount Hachilah near Jeshimon out in the desert," they told him. (2) Saul took three thousand of Israel's best soldiers and went to look for David there in Ziph Desert. (3) Saul set up camp on Mount Hachilah, which is across the road from Jeshimon. But David was hiding out in the desert. When David heard that Saul was following him, (4) he sent some spies to find out if it was true. (5) Then he sneaked up to Saul's camp. He noticed that Saul and his army commander Abner the son of Ner were sleeping in the middle of the camp, with soldiers sleeping all around them. (6) David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Joab's brother Abishai, "Which one of you will go with me into Saul's camp?" "I will!" Abishai answered. (7) That same night, David and Abishai crept into the camp. Saul was sleeping, and his spear was stuck in the ground not far from his head. Abner and the soldiers were sound asleep all around him. (8) Abishai whispered, "This time God has let you get your hands on your enemy! I'll pin him to the ground with one thrust of his own spear." (9) "Don't kill him!" David

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whispered back. "The LORD [Jehovah] will punish anyone who kills his chosen king *[or, who has thrush out his hand against the anointed of Jehovah and remained innocent]*. (10) As surely as the LORD [Jehovah] lives, the LORD [Jehovah] will kill Saul, or Saul will die a natural death or be killed in battle. (11) But I pray that the LORD [Jehovah] will keep me from harming his chosen king. Let's grab his spear and his water jar and get out of here!" (12) David took the spear and the water jar, then left the camp. None of Saul's soldiers knew what had happened or even woke up—the LORD [Jehovah] had made all of them fall sound asleep. (13) David and Abishai crossed the valley and went to the top of the next hill, where they were at a safe distance. (14) "Abner!" David shouted toward Saul's army. "Can you hear me?" Abner shouted back. "Who dares disturb the king?" (15) "Abner, what kind of a man are you?" David replied. "Aren't you supposed to be the best soldier in Israel? Then why didn't you protect your king? Anyone who went into your camp could have killed him tonight. (16) You're a complete failure! I swear by the living LORD [Jehovah] that you and your men deserve to die for not protecting the LORD's chosen king. Look and see if you can find the king's spear and the water jar that were near his head." (17) Saul could tell it was David's voice, and he called out, "David, my son! Is that you?" "Yes it is, Your Majesty. (18) Why are you after me? Have I done something wrong, or have I committed a crime? (19) Please listen to what I have to say. If the LORD [Jehovah] has turned you against me, maybe a sacrifice will make him change his mind. But if some people have turned you against me, I hope the LORD [Jehovah] will punish them! They have forced me to leave the land that belongs to the LORD [Jehovah] and have told me to worship foreign gods. (20) Don't let me die in a land far away from the LORD [Jehovah]. I'm no more important than a flea! Why should the king of Israel hunt me down as if I were a bird in the mountains?" (21) "David, you had the chance to kill me today. But you didn't. I was very wrong about you. It was a terrible mistake for me to try to kill you. I've acted like a fool, but I'll never try to harm you again. You're like a son to me, so please come back." (22) "Your Majesty, here's your spear! Have one of your soldiers come and get it. (23) The LORD [Jehovah] put you in my power today, but you are his chosen king and I wouldn't harm you. The LORD [Jehovah] rewards people who are faithful and live right. (24) I saved your life today, and I pray that the LORD [Jehovah] will protect me and keep me safe." (25) "David, my

spirit toward Saul even before he had the benefit of Christ's teachings. In this way David gave Saul every opportunity to repent and change. Saul could not have remained ignorant of his own bad course in the light of David's loving attitude toward him. That's what Jesus came to do for everyone, convict them of their sin. As he said: (John 15:22) "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin." It is important for us to understand, we can help

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son, I pray that the Lord will bless you and make you successful!"  
Saul went back home. David also left,

people in that same way, by simply displaying love toward them<sup>33</sup> and speaking truth to them.<sup>34</sup>)

Finally, King Saul went up in battle against the Philistines and an archer's arrow found him. Fatally wounded, and in fear his enemies would find him alive and abuse him, Saul asked his armor bearer to put him to

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<sup>33</sup> Matthew 5:43-48 LITV You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor" and hate your enemy; [*Lev. 19:18\**] (44) but I say to you, Love your enemies; bless those cursing you, do well to those hating you; and pray for those abusing and persecuting you, (45) so that you may become sons of your Father in Heaven. Because He causes the sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on the just and unjust. (46) For if you love those loving you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? (47) And if you only greet your brothers, what exceptional *thing* do you do? Do not the tax-collectors do so? (48) Therefore, you be perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.

*\*[Leviticus 19:18] LITV You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am Jehovah.*

Romans 12:17-21 BBE Do not give evil for evil to any man. Let all your business be well ordered in the eyes of all men. (18) As far as it is possible for you be at peace with all men. (19) Do not give punishment for wrongs done to you, dear brothers, but give way to the wrath of God; for it is said in the holy Writings, Punishment is mine, I will give reward, says the Lord. [*Deu. 32:35-36\**] (20) But if one who has hate for you is in need of food or of drink, give it to him, for in so doing you will put coals of fire on his head. (21) Do not let evil overcome you, but overcome evil by good.

*\*[Deuteronomy 32:35-36 - LITV (35) Vengeance and retribution belong to Me; in due time their foot will slip; for the day of their calamity is near, and the things prepared are hurrying for them. (36) For Jehovah will bring His people justice; and He shall have compassion on His servants, for He sees that their power is gone, and only the imprisoned and abandoned remain.]*

<sup>34</sup> Ephesians 4:25 LITV Therefore, putting off the false, "speak truth each with his neighbor," because we are members of one another.

death. When the man refused, Saul fell upon his own sword and killed himself.<sup>35</sup>

Now we get to the purpose of considering this drama, and to the actions by the man we want to consider. Three days after Saul's death, a young man came to King David to report. Possibly hearing about, or even having witnessed what happened to King Saul, and knowing how Saul had hunted David for many years seeking to kill him, this young man thought his knowledge of those facts also meant he knew David. He emboldened himself to tell David a lie, no doubt believing it would gain him David's favor. He said Saul had been mortally wounded, and had asked the young man to put him to death. The young Amalekite then told David he had heeded Saul's request and killed him. Before acting against him, David asked the man who he was. This might have been an opportunity for the young man to plead ignorance for what he had done. Still imagining (wrongly) he knew King David, however, the young man proudly volunteered he was an alien resident of Israel. As a resident, he should have known the Law Code and how important it was when a man was anointed as king of Israel directly by Jehovah God. David then ordered one of his attendants to strike the young man down; because he had testified out of his own mouth he had definitely put the anointed of Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup> to death.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> 1 Samuel 31:1-5 GW When the Philistines were fighting against Israel, the men of Israel fled from the Philistines and were killed in battle on Mount Gilboa. (2) The Philistines caught up to Saul and his sons. They killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. (3) The heaviest fighting was against Saul. When the archers got him in their range, he was badly wounded by them. (4) Saul told his armorbearer, "Draw your sword! Stab me, or these godless men will come, stab me, and make fun of me." But his armorbearer refused because he was terrified. So Saul took the sword and fell on it. (5) When the armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him.

<sup>36</sup> 2 Samuel 1:1-16 MWT And it came about after Saul's death, and when David himself had returned from striking down the Amalekites, that David continued to dwell at Ziklag two days. <sup>2</sup> And it came about on the third day that, look! a man was coming from the camp, from Saul, with his garments ripped apart and dirt

This young man thought he knew King David, but he learned, at the cost of his very life, he only knew David from his own perspective. He didn't really know David at all! He had heard the things people had told him about David. He imagined that meant he knew him. The man should not have made the leap to think he really knew David because of what he

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upon his head; and it came about that when he came to David, he at once fell down to the earth and prostrated himself. <sup>3</sup> And David proceeded to say to him: "Where do you come from?" at which he said to him: "From the camp of Israel I have escaped." <sup>4</sup> And David went on to say to him: "How did the matter turn out? Tell me, please." To this he said: "The people have fled from the battle and also many of the people have fallen so that they died, and even Saul and Jonathan his son have died." <sup>5</sup> Then David said to the young man that was telling him: "How do you really know that Saul has died and also Jonathan his son?" <sup>6</sup> At this the young man that was telling him said: "I unexpectedly chanced to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul supporting himself upon his spear; and, look! the charioteers and the mounted men had caught up with him. <sup>7</sup> When he turned back and saw me, then he called me, and I said, 'Here I am!' <sup>8</sup> And he went on to say to me, 'Who are you?' at which I said to him, 'I am an Amalekite.' <sup>9</sup> Then he said, 'Stand, please, over me and definitely put me to death, for the cramp has seized me, because all my soul is yet in me.' <sup>10</sup> So I stood over him and definitely put him to death, for I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. Then I took the diadem that was upon his head and the bracelet that was upon his arm, that I might bring them to my lord here." <sup>11</sup> At this David took hold of his garments and ripped them apart, and so did all the men also that were with him. <sup>12</sup> And they began to wail and weep and fast until the evening over Saul and over Jonathan his son and over the people of Jehovah and over the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. <sup>13</sup> David now said to the young man that was telling him: "Where are you from?" to which he said: "I am the son of an alien resident, an Amalekite." <sup>14</sup> Then David said to him: "How was it that you did not fear to thrust your hand out to bring the anointed of Jehovah to ruin?" <sup>15</sup> With that David called one of the young men and said: "Go near. Smite him." Accordingly he struck him down so that he died. <sup>16</sup> David then said to him: "The bloodguilt for you be upon your own head, because your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I myself definitely put the anointed of Jehovah to death.'"

had heard other people say about him. If he was going to thrust himself into a personal relationship with powerful King David, he should have been serious about being certain he really did know him. Before we were even born, we were all propelled into such a relationship with our king Christ Jesus. It is a relationship that requires we know him intimately in order to live. Like the young Amalekite man, we are responsible to be sure we aren't just thinking we know Jesus based on what others have told us about him. Such self-proclaimed educators may be well intentioned, and completely wrong!<sup>(71)</sup>

Do you consider, then, the importance of evaluation whether you really and truly know our king? Do you understand what it requires on your part to be certain you *do* know him? Those individuals Jesus talked about, those who would approach him saying they had cast out demons in his name and ate and drank in front of him while he taught in their broad ways, they thought they knew him. They didn't!!! (Luke 13:26-27-pg-1)

How could they have deceived themselves so? That's an easy answer. They didn't know what the Bible teaches<sup>37</sup> and they weren't obedient to it. They hadn't really given attention to what Jesus taught. They were only involved in all the turmoil surrounding his teachings. That is what modern day religion is doing to their members. They find ~~young~~ any people who are sincerely interested in learning about God, and then steer them aside to being concerned with membership in one of their sectarian groups. Membership in any of such groups is useless at best! You must personally seat yourself at Jesus's feet and listen to what *he* taught.<sup>38</sup> Don't waste your time with the teachings of men. You should,

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<sup>37</sup> Mark 12:24 GNB Jesus answered them, "How wrong you are! And do you know why? It is because you don't know the Scriptures or God's power.

<sup>38</sup> 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 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!



of course, evaluate us by that same standard. Please prove that what we say comes directly from the Bible.<sup>39</sup> What Jesus actually taught is contained in the four short Bible books by Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Apostle John. Read them! Sit at Jesus's feet by reading those books over and over; until you are really familiar with what he taught. Then, YOU will know Christ Jesus; and you will know you know him. When someone claims Jesus said some thing or the other, you will be able to say "Amen!" Or, be able to ignore ignorant speech when there is no Bible support.<sup>40</sup>

Bible knowledge sets any person who possesses it free of the malicious and deceitful intentions of others, as well as helping them overcome their own weaknesses and sinful inclinations. Knowledge of truth sets us all free, if we will simply listen to what Jesus taught and then do our best to live accordingly.<sup>(Jn 8:31-32 on page 2)</sup> Don't imagine you know what Jesus taught if you haven't personally put forth the effort to read his teachings for your-own-self! The poet Maya Angelou asked why the caged bird sings. "It doesn't sing because it has the answer. It sings because it has a song" she said. This was no doubt her beautiful expression to help understand or explain some of the pain surrounding us. The teachings by Jesus provide us *all* a song *which is the answer*, the perfect and everlasting answer.

This is the greatest story ever told, about the greatest war ever fought. It is about the only truly righteous war of history; the *only war at all*,

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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."

<sup>39</sup> Acts 17:11 GNB The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true.

<sup>40</sup> Galatians 1:8-9 ALT But even if we or an angel out of heaven shall himself be proclaiming a gospel to you besides [*or, contrary to*] what we proclaimed to you, let him be accursed [*Gr., anathema*]! (9) As we have forewarned and now say again, if anyone shall be proclaiming a gospel to you besides [*or, contrary to*] what you received, let him be accursed!

really. And here you are,<sup>41</sup> fighting right in the middle of it. It is not a war in the human sense, as there was never any doubt as to the outcome.<sup>42</sup> The only thing in question is your (our) personal allegiance. You are deciding you are a person who loves righteousness to see good days,<sup>(Ps 34:12-16 pg 42)</sup> a person of loving kindness toward others; or, you are deciding you are worthless. You are making that choice and demonstrating who you are by your response to what Jesus came to teach.<sup>(69)</sup> Deciding you don't care enough<sup>43</sup> about him and his gift to

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<sup>41</sup> Ecclesiastes 8:8 Darby There is no man who hath control over the spirit to retain the spirit; and no one hath control over the day of death; and there is no discharge in that war, neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

<sup>42</sup> EIsaiah 55:6-11 MWT <sup>6</sup> Search for Jehovah, YOU people, while he may be found. Call to him while he proves to be near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked man leave his way, and the harmful man his thoughts; and let him return to Jehovah, who will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will forgive in a large way. <sup>8</sup> “For the thoughts of YOU people are not my thoughts, nor are my ways YOUR ways,” is the utterance of Jehovah. <sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than YOUR ways, and my thoughts than YOUR thoughts. <sup>10</sup> For just as the pouring rain descends, and the snow, from the heavens and does not return to that place, unless it actually saturates the earth and makes it produce and sprout, and seed is actually given to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it.\*

\* Revelation 19:11-13 ALT (11) And I saw heaven having been opened. And look! A white horse, and the One sitting on it is being called Faithful and True, and He judges and wages war in righteousness. (12) Now His eyes *[are]* like a flame of fire, and on His head *[are]* many royal bands *[or, diadems]* having names having been written *[on them]*, and a name having been written *[on them]* which no one knows, except Himself, (13) and having been clothed with a robe having been covered with *[or, dipped in]* blood, and His name is called, The Word *[or, the Expression of the Logic]* of God.

<sup>43</sup> Ezekiel 9:3-6 GNB Then the dazzling light of the presence of the God of Israel rose up from the winged creatures where it had been,

examine what he said is one decision to make. That is a very bad choice. Choose wisely!<sup>44</sup> His message is a simple and beautiful solution to all our problems. It is the Bible truth!

An intertwined fact we are well served to understand: Organizations don't worship God. It is individuals who worship God! (Some will, of course, then assert all followers of Christ *do indeed* comprise an organization. That is true only in the sense they make themselves part of, or join themselves to, God's organization in heaven. Or, put another way, they have joined the organization Jesus started 2000 years ago, Christians.) Our point is this: No memberships among groups of men represent those loved by God. Approved membership judgments rendered by men are the supreme manifestation of class distinction (sectarianism). In the mind of those who render such judgments, their memberships judge between those who are loved by God (or at least those who are approved by him) and those who are not. It is the opposite of the teaching by Christ Jesus to "let him who is without sin cast the first stone."<sup>45</sup>

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and moved to the entrance of the Temple. The LORD [Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>] called to the man dressed in linen, (4) "Go through the whole city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the forehead of everyone who is distressed and troubled because of all the disgusting things being done in the city." (5) And I heard God say to the other men, "Follow him through the city and kill. Spare no one; have mercy on no one. (6) Kill the old men, young men, young women, mothers, and children. But don't touch anyone who has the mark on his forehead. Start here at my Temple." So they began with the leaders who were standing there at the Temple.

<sup>44</sup> Deuteronomy 30:15-18 GNB (15) "Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, between life and death. (16) If you obey the commands of the LORD [Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>] your God, which I give you today, if you love him, obey him, and keep all his laws, then you will prosper and become a nation of many people. The LORD [Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup>] your God will bless you in the land that you are about to occupy. (17) But if you disobey and refuse to listen, and are led away to worship other gods, (18) you will be destroyed..."

<sup>45</sup> John 8:1-11 CEV but Jesus walked out to the Mount of Olives. (2) Then early the next morning he went to the temple. The

While are considering David and Saul, there is another wicked example set by a man who lived at the same time they did. Doeg was a man in the court of King Saul, during the period Saul was trying to kill David. Depraved King Saul accused his servants with conspiring to help David. (David, however, meant no harm to Saul.) Doeg volunteered to Saul that he had seen High Priest Ahimelech help David. Though Ahimelech was innocent of any wrong, helping David only because he knew him to be the servant of Saul, Saul killed him. To curry favor with Saul, Doeg put to death not only Ahimelech and his family, but all the priests of the priestly city of Nob.<sup>46</sup> Note that while the other servants of Saul feared

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people came to him, and he sat down and started teaching them. (3) The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses brought in a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who wasn't her husband. They made her stand in the middle of the crowd. (4) Then they said, "Teacher, this woman was caught sleeping with a man who isn't her husband. (5) The Law of Moses teaches that a woman like this should be stoned to death! What do you say?" (6) They asked Jesus this question, because they wanted to test him and bring some charge against him. But Jesus simply bent over and started writing on the ground with his finger. (7) They kept on asking Jesus about the woman. Finally, he stood up and said, "If any of you have never sinned, then go ahead and throw the first stone at her!" (8) Once again he bent over and began writing on the ground. (9) The people left one by one, beginning with the oldest. Finally, Jesus and the woman were there alone. (10) Jesus stood up and asked her, "Where is everyone? Isn't there anyone left to accuse you?" (11) "No sir," the woman answered. Then Jesus told her, "I am not going to accuse you either. You may go now, but don't sin anymore."

<sup>46</sup> 1 Samuel 21:7-10 Darby (Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before Jehovah; and his name was Doeg, the Edomite, chief of the shepherds that *belonged* to Saul.) (8) And David said to Ahimelech, And is there not here under thy hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, for the king's business was urgent. (9) And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of terebinths, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if thou wilt take that, take it; for there is no other save that here. And David said, There

the true God and refused Saul's unholy command to assault the priests of Jehovah, Doeg was pleased to do so; killing not only them but their wives and children. Doeg had no fear of Jehovah or of displeasing him.

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is none like that: give it me. (10) And David arose, and fled that day from before Saul, ...

1 Samuel 22:8-19 LITV that all of you have conspired against me, and no one was revealing *in* my ear when my son cut *a covenant* with the son of Jesse? And not one of you is sorry for me, even *to* reveal in my ear that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day. (9) And Doeg the Edomite, even he was set over Saul's servants, answered and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. (10) And he asked for him of Jehovah, and gave provisions to him, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. (11) And the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests in Nob. And they came, all of them, to the king. (12) And Saul said, Now hear, son of Ahitub. And he said, I *am* here, my lord. (13) And Saul said to him, Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse by your giving bread and a sword to him, and to ask of God for him, to rise up against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? (14) And Ahimelech answered the king and said, And who among all your servants *is* as David *the* faithful, and son-in-law of the king; *who* does your bidding, and is honorable in all your house? (15) Have I today begun to ask of God for him? Far be it from me! Do not let the king lay anything against his servant, against any of my father's house, for your servant has known nothing of this, more or less. (16) And the king said, dying you shall die, Ahimelech, you and your father's house. (17) And the king said to the runners that stood by him, Turn and kill the priests of Jehovah, because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew that he was fleeing, and did not reveal *it in* my ear. But the king's servants were not willing to put forth their hand to fall on the priests of Jehovah. (18) And the king said to Doeg, You turn and fall on the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned and fell on the priests and killed eighty five men bearing a linen ephod in that day. (19) And he struck Nob, the city of the priests with the mouth of the sword, from man even to woman, from child even to suckling, and ox, and ass, and sheep, with the mouth of the sword.

His only concern was in being a man-pleaser.<sup>47</sup> He wanted the approval of Saul and Saul's organization. Doeg had (or should have) studied the Bible (the part of the OT they had at that time) just like the other servants of Saul; those upright men who refused Saul's command. Doeg, however, wanted to please Saul's organization with no regard for pleasing God. Even though Saul was Jehovah's anointed King, Doeg was wicked to follow in his unholy course. We must avoid being led along by sectarian groups of men in the same way Doeg chose to be. If such groups actually do mean well, but are ignorant of truth, their good intentions can make them harder to recognize. An intimate and personal knowledge of what Jesus taught is your only protection in identifying false prophets.<sup>48</sup>

Remember, if you give your assertion that members of some "group" are righteous, you do take responsibility for what they are doing. Saul and David lived under the Jewish arrangement with its one set of laws for their whole nation of people. That was replaced by Christianity. In these Christian days, it is not organizations who worship God. Individuals worship God!<sup>49</sup> Organizational worship was exemplified in

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<sup>47</sup> Ephesians 6:5-6 LITV Slaves, obey *your* lords [for earthly masters] according to flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ; (6) not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ doing the will of God from *the* soul,

<sup>48</sup> Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf>

John 8:31-32 MWT . . . "If YOU remain in my word, YOU are really my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and YOU will know the truth, and the truth will set YOU free."

John 8:31-32 GW So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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."

<sup>49</sup> John 4:19-26 CEV The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. (20) My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship." (21) Jesus said to her: Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) You

Judaism. When one among that nation did wrong, under group worship, they were all responsible.<sup>50</sup> It is individuals who worship God acceptably

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Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world. (23) But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth. (25) The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (26) "I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now." Jesus here explained that group worship was being done away with. Individuals Christians worship God based on their personal knowledge of truth. What Jesus came to teach is truth. (John 18:37 - ... For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth...)

<sup>50</sup> Joshua 7:4-26 CEV Joshua sent about three thousand soldiers to attack Ai. But the men of Ai fought back and chased the Israelite soldiers away from the town gate and down the hill to the stone quarries. Thirty-six Israelite soldiers were killed, and the Israelite army felt discouraged. (5) (SEE 7:4) (6) Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes and put dirt on their heads to show their sorrow. They lay facedown on the ground in front of the sacred chest [*the ark of Jehovah or ark of the covenant*] until sunset. (7) Then Joshua said: Our LORD [*Jehovah*], did you bring us across the Jordan River just so the Amorites could destroy us? This wouldn't have happened if we had agreed to stay on the other side of the Jordan. (8) I don't even know what to say to you, since Israel's army has turned and run from the enemy. (9) Everyone will think you weren't strong enough to protect your people. Now the Canaanites and everyone else who lives in the land will surround us and wipe us out. (10) The LORD [*Jehovah*] answered: Stop lying there on the ground! Get up! (11) I said everything in Jericho belonged to me and had to be destroyed. But the Israelites have kept some of the things for themselves. They stole from me and hid what they took. Then they lied about it. (12) What they stole was supposed to be destroyed, and now Israel itself must be destroyed. I cannot help you anymore until you do exactly what I have said. That's why Israel turns and runs from its enemies instead of standing up to them. (13) Tell the people of

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Israel, "Tomorrow you will meet with the LORD [*Jehovah*] your God, so make yourselves acceptable to worship him. The LORD [*Jehovah*] says that you have taken things that should have been destroyed. You won't be able to stand up to your enemies until you get rid of those things. (14) "Tomorrow morning everyone must gather near the place of worship. You will come forward tribe by tribe, and the LORD [*Jehovah*] will show which tribe is guilty. Next, the clans in that tribe must come forward, and the LORD [*Jehovah*] will show which clan is guilty. The families in that clan must come, and the LORD [*Jehovah*] will point out the guilty family. Finally, the men in that family must come, (15) and the LORD [*Jehovah*] will show who stole what should have been destroyed. That man must be put to death, his body burned, and his possessions thrown into the fire. He has done a terrible thing by breaking the sacred agreement that the LORD [*Jehovah*] made with Israel." (16) Joshua got up early the next morning and brought each tribe to the place of worship, where the LORD [*Jehovah*] showed that the Judah tribe was guilty. (17) Then Joshua brought the clans of Judah to the LORD [*Jehovah*], and the LORD [*Jehovah*] showed that the Zerah clan was guilty. One by one he brought the leader of each family in the Zerah clan to the LORD [*Jehovah*], and the LORD [*Jehovah*] showed that Zabdi's family was guilty. (18) Finally, Joshua brought each man in Zabdi's family to the LORD [*Jehovah*], and the LORD [*Jehovah*] showed that Achan was the guilty one. (19) "Achan," Joshua said, "LORD [*Jehovah*] God of Israel has decided that you are guilty. Is this true? Tell me what you did, and don't try to hide anything." (20) "It's true," Achan answered. "I sinned and disobeyed LORD [*Jehovah*] God of Israel. (21) While we were in Jericho, I saw a beautiful Babylonian robe, two hundred pieces of silver, and a gold bar that weighed the same as fifty pieces of gold. I wanted them for myself, so I took them. I dug a hole under my tent and hid the silver, the gold, and the robe." Joshua had some people run to Achan's tent, where they found the silver, the gold, and the robe. (22) (SEE 7:21) (23) They brought them back and put them in front of the sacred chest, so Joshua and the rest of the Israelites could see them. (24) Then everyone took Achan and the things he had stolen to Trouble Valley. They also took along his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys, and sheep, his tent, and everything else that belonged to him. (25) Joshua said, "Achan, you caused us a lot of trouble. Now the LORD [*Jehovah*] is paying you back with the same kind of trouble." The people of Israel then stoned to



in our day! If you involve yourself in group worship, you make yourself responsible for other group members. Among other things Jesus came to teach and do, he came to help us understand that simple truth. In trying to scripturally verify whether that is true,<sup>51</sup> we review another Bible example, this time from the book of John. In John, chapter 4, we find Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman at a well. Jews and Samaritans had different religious beliefs. Born a Jew, Jesus grew up studying the Jewish Law Code and teachings.<sup>52</sup> He well knew Jehovah,<sup>53</sup> the God of Israel, and he was familiar with the Jewish form of worship.

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death Achan and his family. They made a fire and burned the bodies, together with what Achan had stolen, and all his possessions. (26) They covered the remains with a big pile of rocks, which is still there. Then the LORD [*Jehovah*] stopped being angry with Israel. That's how the place came to be called Trouble Valley.

<sup>51</sup> Acts 17:11 GNB The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true.

<sup>52</sup> Luke 2:41-49 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?"

<sup>53</sup> John 17:25-26 ALT "Righteous Father indeed the world did not know You. But I knew You, and these knew [*or, came to know*] that You sent Me. (26) "And I made Your name known to them, and I will make [*it*] known, so that the love [*with*] which You loved Me shall be in them and I in them."

When the woman at the well perceived Jesus had miraculous power, she asked him about *religion*: about his versus hers. At John 4:20 she said to him: "Our forefathers worshipped in this mountain, but you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." To let the woman know his Jewish form of worship was the one that had previously been acceptable to God, Jesus said to her: "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews." (John 4:22) Jesus then went on to explain group worship was coming to an end, as he said to her: "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming and is now, when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you people worship the Father... the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. God is a spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth." (John 4:21 & 23-24) The formalized group worship practiced by his forefathers (and by her forefathers) was being brought to an end. In connection with the Jewish religious leaders killing Jesus, their group worship was ended.<sup>54</sup> It was replaced with a new form of worship carried on by each individual through his or her own personal faith in Jesus. In John 17:11-21,<sup>55</sup> Jesus said something in

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<sup>54</sup> Matthew 23:37-39 GNB "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me! (38) And so your Temple will be abandoned and empty [or your house is abandoned to you]. (39) From now on, I tell you, you will never see me again until you say, 'God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord [*Jehovah*].' " (Psalm 118:26 – Blessed be the one coming in the name of Jehovah...)

<sup>55</sup> John 17:11-21 ALT "And I am no longer in the world, yet these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, so that they shall be one just as We [*are*]. (12) "When I was with them in the world, I was keeping them in Your name [*or I made your name known to them*]. [*Those*] whom You have given to Me I guarded, and none of them was destroyed [*or, lost*] except the son of destruction [*or, the one destined to be lost*], so that the Scripture should be fulfilled. (13) "But now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the

a prayer to his Father that sheds more light on what was about to happen (after he went away). He explained his worshipers would worship the Father directly, as individuals, through their personal faith in him as God's son. They would no longer approach God through *any* group of men. That same Christian arrangement, established by Jesus, remains down to this day!<sup>56</sup> Jesus also said he would leave his followers a helper, the spirit of truth, to aid them in remembering and

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world, so that they shall be having My joy fulfilled [*or, made complete*] in themselves. (14) "I have given to them Your word. And the world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (15) "I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them out of evil [*or, from the evil [one]*]. (16) "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (17) "Sanctify them in Your truth; Your word is truth. (18) "Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world. (19) "And I sanctify Myself on behalf of them, so that they also shall have been sanctified in truth. (20) "But not concerning these only do I ask, but also concerning the ones believing [*or, trusting*] in Me through their word, (21) so that they all shall be one. Just as You, Father, [*are*] in Me and I [*am*] in You, so that they also shall be one in Us, so that the world shall be believing [*or, shall be convinced*] that You sent Me.

<sup>56</sup> John 15:8-16 MWT In this My Father is glorified, that you should bear much fruit; and prove yourselves my disciples. (9) As the Father loves Me, I also love you; continue in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments you will continue in My love, as I have kept My Father's commandments and continue in His love. (11) I have spoken these things to you that My joy may abide in you, and your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I loved you. (13) Greater love than this has no one, that anyone should lay down his soul for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (15) I no longer call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his lord does. But I called you friends, because all things which I heard from My Father I made known to you. (16) You have not chosen Me, but I taught you and planted you, that you should go and should bear fruit, and your fruit remain, that whatever you should ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

understanding what he taught them.<sup>57</sup> If you make the effort to study and apply what Jesus taught, that “spirit of truth” will help you. You don’t have to understand what that “spirit of truth” is. You just have to do what Jesus told you to do.<sup>(1\_Pet\_3:10-12 pg 42)</sup>

The Bible tells us that mere oppression makes even a wise person behave like a crazy person. It also says a bribe destroys the person.<sup>58</sup> Ignorance amounts to spiritual darkness. Keeping people in darkness is the worst form of oppression. Is it any surprise there are so many people acting like crazy persons in our day? If you can keep someone in total darkness, they will accept anything that gives a glimmer of light, even if it is a projector giving off light that depicts what is not real. That is what religions do when they promote their own teachings and claim what they teach comes from Jesus (that their teachings are spiritual food). They project lies and false hopes! The greatest bribe, then, that can be offered to any person is to convince them they make themselves wise before God by joining with some group of men. Such groups usually assert all the lesser and unwise “nonmembers” remain in darkness. The bribe offered is the wisdom which the group asserts its members gain or manifest by joining their sect. That is what modern religions are doing to their sheep! They shine a false light based on their own teachings, and then bribe members by assuring them they manifest godly wisdom by going along with those teachings. Satan doesn't care which group he can keep you joined to, while their leaders whisper

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<sup>57</sup> John 14:15-17 & 26 GNB "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you. (26) The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

<sup>58</sup> Ecclesiastes 7:7 ESV Surely oppression drives the wise into madness [or makes them act like crazy people], and a bribe corrupts the heart.

"Jesus, sweet Jesus," in your ear<sup>59</sup> and promise your membership indicates you are among those being saved.<sup>60</sup> Their approved membership is the important thing for them! They want that to be what is important to you as well. These groups are all holding up broken illuminators of teachings dreamt up by men, while they cry out, "Follow us, we have the sayings that lead you to the door into daylight and life." Remember always, Jesus is the one and only door to light and life!<sup>61</sup> The

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<sup>59</sup> 2 Timothy 4:3-4 GW A time will come when people will not listen to accurate teachings. Instead, they will follow their own desires and surround themselves with teachers who tell them what they want to hear. (4) People will refuse to listen to the truth and turn to myths [*teachings of other men*].

<sup>60</sup> Matthew 7:21-23 YLT `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into [*or under*] 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.

<sup>61</sup> John 1:6-14 GNB God sent his messenger, a man named John, (7) who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. (8) He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. (9) This was the real light---the light that comes into the world and shines on all people. (10) The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. (11) He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. (12) Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. (13) They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father. (14) The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

John 10:1-7 GW "I can guarantee this truth: The person who doesn't enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in somewhere else is a thief or a robber. (2) But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd. (3) The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep respond to his voice. He calls his sheep

only group we can join is the very old group Jesus started some 2000 years ago. Joining is a personal choice made in your own heart to follow Christ Jesus.<sup>(65)</sup> Your only valid membership is your personal knowledge you have done so. Modern groups (and the individuals who comprise them) who rely on memberships seem to be failing to evaluate themselves by Jesus teachings, to see if they really do know him. Reliance on memberships of men is a judgment against non-members.<sup>62</sup>

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by name and leads them out of the pen. (4) After he has brought out all his sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. (5) They won't follow a stranger. Instead, they will run away from a stranger because they don't recognize his voice." (6) Jesus used this illustration as he talked to the people, but they didn't understand what he meant. (7) Jesus emphasized, "I can guarantee this truth: I am the gate for the sheep.

<sup>62</sup> James 4:11-12 MWT <sup>11</sup> Quit speaking against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against law and judges law. Now if you judge law, you are, not a doer of law, but a judge. <sup>12</sup> One there is that is lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But you, who are you to be judging [your] neighbor?

Romans 14:1-13 ALT Now be receiving the one being weak in the faith, not for disputes over opinions. (2) One believes *[it is permissible]* to eat all *[things]*, but the one being weak eats *[only]* vegetables. *[This has to do with meats it had been against the Jewish law code to eat. It has nothing to do with being a vegetarian.]* (3) Stop letting the one eating despise *[or, look down on]* the one not eating; and stop letting the one not eating judge the one eating, for God *[has]* accepted him. (4) Who are you, the one *[to be]* judging another's household servant? To his own master he stands or falls; but he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. (5) One indeed judges *[or, considers]* a day *[to be]* above *[another]* day, but another judges every day *[to be alike]*; be letting each be fully convinced in his own mind. (6) The one honoring *[or, observing]* the day, to *[the]* Lord he honors *[it]*, and the one not honoring the day, to *[the]* Lord he does not honor *[it]*. And the one eating, to *[the]* Lord he eats, for he gives thanks to God; and the one not eating, to *[the]* Lord he does not eat, and he gives thanks to God. (7) For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself. (8) For both if we live, to the Lord we live, and if we die, to the Lord we die. So both

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Most such sects only exist so as to be telling each other how great and favored they are<sup>63</sup> to be Christian members of their group. By doing so, they fail to warn individuals they must “sit at Jesus’s feet”<sup>(38)</sup> and actually learn what he taught. Read the book of John.<sup>64</sup> As *you do so*, ask yourself: Are these groups of men who imagine salvation is tied to membership in their sect, are they listening to what Jesus said *at all*? Do they really know him? If they knew Christ, they would realize their name on a membership list kept by a sect of men has no value. What *does have value* is a new creation: a creature [*person*] made new by choosing to be guided by their personal faith in Christ, that based on their own knowledge of what they know he taught.<sup>65</sup>

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if we live and if we die, we are the Lord's. (9) Because for this [*reason*] Christ also died and rose and lives, so that He should exercise lordship over both dead [*ones – when resurrected*] and living [*ones*]. (10) But why do you judge your brother? Or also, why do you despise [*or, look down on*] your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (11) For it has been written, “[As] I live, says [*the*] LORD [*Jehovah*<sup>(10)</sup>], every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will confess to God.” [*Isaiah 45:23; cp. Phil 2:10,11*] (12) So, consequently, each of us will give an account concerning himself to God. (13) Therefore, let us no longer be judging one another, but rather, judge [*or, determine*] this, not to be putting a stumbling-stone before your brother [*by judging him*], or an offence [*or, occasion for sin*].

<sup>63</sup> John 5:44 GW How can you believe when you accept each other's praise and don't look for the praise that comes from the only God?

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.justbibletruth.com/biblejohn.pdf>

<sup>65</sup> Galatians 6:15 GW Certainly, it doesn't matter whether a person is circumcised or not (whether they are following Jewish Law – worrying about memberships). Rather, what matters is being a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 GW (17) Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. (18) God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. (19) In other words, God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others.

Modern research tools along with deteriorating world conditions have combined to produce and focus attention on a brilliant revelation of the teachings of Jesus for our day. The bright light of Bible truth is painful for those men and women who have misapplied the scriptures to mislead their “sheep,” tricking them to imagine they are dependent on cult approval for salvation.<sup>66</sup> Most don’t want those whom they have subjugated to hear the truth. It is also painful for subjects of such groups, those who like it the way it is (or imagine they do). Some like having religious leaders who will tickle their ears<sup>67</sup> by assuring them they are saved and everything is fine, as long, that is, as they remain approved members of the group. They don’t want to be told the simple truth: They need to learn what Jesus taught and to live accordingly.<sup>(59)</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> **2 Peter 2:1-9 GNB** False prophets appeared in the past among the people, and in the same way false teachers will appear among you. They will bring in destructive, untrue doctrines, and will deny the Master who redeemed them, and so they will bring upon themselves sudden destruction. (2) Even so, many will follow their immoral ways; and because of what they do, others will speak evil of the Way of truth. (3) In their greed these false teachers will make a profit out of telling you made-up stories. For a long time now their Judge has been ready, and their Destroyer has been wide awake! (4) God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell, where they are kept chained in darkness, waiting for the Day of Judgment. (5) God did not spare the ancient world, but brought the flood on the world of godless people; the only ones he saved were Noah, who preached righteousness, and seven other people. (6) God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, destroying them with fire, and made them an example of what will happen to the godless. (7) He rescued Lot, a good man, who was distressed by the immoral conduct of lawless people. (8) That good man lived among them, and day after day he suffered agony as he saw and heard their evil actions. (9) And so the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials and how to keep the wicked under punishment for the Day of Judgment,

<sup>67</sup> **2 Timothy 4:3 LITV** For a time will be when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own lusts, they will heap up to themselves teachers tickling the ear;



For those who do love truth, however, our day is a wonderful time to be alive.<sup>68</sup> All the peoples of the earth are being divided into two groups by their response to the words of Christ Jesus.<sup>69</sup> Knowing what Jesus taught helps those who love him see (through eyes of faith) that judgment proceeding right now.<sup>70</sup> The truth Jesus taught will set ~~us~~ you free of being ensnared by men and women, even well-intentioned ones, who remain ignorant of truth.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>

<sup>69</sup> John 12:48 GW Those who reject me by not accepting what I say have a judge appointed for them. The words that I have spoken will judge them on the last day.

Matthew 25:31-34 GW "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) The people of every nation will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. (34) "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Matthew 10:34-39 GW "Don't think that I came to bring peace to earth. I didn't come to bring peace but conflict. (35) I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) A person's enemies will be the members of his own family. (37) "The person who loves his father or mother more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. The person who loves a son or daughter more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. (38) Whoever doesn't take up his cross [*or torture stake*] and follow me doesn't deserve to be my disciple. (39) The person who tries to preserve his life will lose it, but the person who loses his life [*or is willing to lose it*] for me will preserve it. Those who hate the truth will hate those who love it.

<sup>70</sup> Romans 1:16-17 GW I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who believes, Jews first and Greeks as well. (17) God's approval is revealed in this Good News. This approval begins and ends with faith as Scripture says, "The person who has God's approval will live by faith."

<sup>71</sup> Matthew 24:23-24 GW "At that time don't believe anyone who tells you, 'Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' (24) False messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will work

Another common failing among groups of men lies in their convincing members they must suffer now and then be happy later. Jesus said his followers would be happy - now. His teachings would make them happy!<sup>72</sup> He did not say bad things wouldn't happen to those who *do know him*, mind you, but they *would* be happy. If you learn and follow Jesus's teachings, *you* will be happy.<sup>73</sup> If you can greet someone (anyone) and realize you can help them because you have the truth (not that you know everything, mind you, but you do understand Christ's teachings are the source of life), how can you not be happy? If you can know you don't have to fear being misled by them, because you personally know what Jesus taught, how can it not make you happy? When we *truly believe* the sufferings we witness around us (whether happening to us personally, or to others) are temporary, and are being done away with by Christ Jesus,<sup>74</sup> how could we not be happy? Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>

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spectacular, miraculous signs and do wonderful things to deceive, if possible, even those whom God has chosen.

<sup>72</sup> John 15:11 GW I have told you this so that you will be as joyful as I am, and your joy will be complete.

John 14:24-29 GW A person who doesn't love me doesn't do what I say. I don't make up what you hear me say. What I say comes from the Father who sent me. (25) "I have told you this while I'm still with you. (26) However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you. (27) "I'm leaving you peace. I'm giving you my peace. I don't give you the kind of peace that the world gives. So don't be troubled or cowardly. (28) You heard me tell you, 'I'm going away, but I'm coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I'm going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am. (29) "I'm telling you this now before it happens. When it does happen, you will believe.

<sup>73</sup> John 13:16-17 GNB I am telling you the truth: no slaves are greater than their master, and no messengers are greater than the one who sent them. (17) Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice!

<sup>74</sup> Isaiah 11:1-12 CEV Like a branch that sprouts from a stump, someone from David's family will someday be king. (2) The Spirit

So then, don't allow yourself to be deceived or misguided. Realize how very simple it is to protect yourself. Become familiar with what Jesus taught in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (Please note: Each of those little books is only about fifty pages.) In becoming familiar with the Gospels, you will know by means of your own *Bible based* faith that you know Christ Jesus intimately. Knowing Jesus is also to know the theme of the Bible. That is so because Jesus is the theme of the Bible! The Hebrew Scriptures exist in large measure to announce the coming Messiah. The books after the Gospels are the accounts of the early Christian men and women who tried to apply Christ's teachings in their lives. To know Christ, then, is to know the theme of the Bible! Knowing him can come only from sitting at his feet,<sup>(38)</sup> doing so by reading the Gospel accounts of his teachings, over and over and...

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of the LORD [*Jehovah*<sup>(10)</sup>] will be with him to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight. He will be powerful, and he will know and honor the LORD [*Jehovah*]. (3) His greatest joy will be to obey the LORD [*Jehovah*]. This king won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors. (4) The poor and the needy will be treated with fairness and with justice. His word will be law everywhere in the land, and criminals will be put to death. (5) Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes. (6) Leopards will lie down with young goats, and wolves will rest with lambs. Calves and lions will eat together and be cared for by little children. (7) Cows and bears will share the same pasture; their young will rest side by side. Lions and oxen will both eat straw. (8) Little children will play near snake holes. They will stick their hands into dens of poisonous snakes and never be hurt. (9) Nothing harmful will take place on the LORD's [*Jehovah's*<sup>(10)</sup>] holy mountain. Just as water fills the sea, the land will be filled with people who know and honor the LORD [*Jehovah*<sup>(10)</sup>]. (10) The time is coming when one of David's descendants will be the signal for the people of all nations to come together. They will follow his advice, and his own nation will become famous. (11) When that day comes, the Lord will again reach out his mighty arm and bring home his people who have survived in Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the land along the coast. (12) He will give a signal to the nations, and he will bring together the refugees from Judah and Israel, who have been scattered all over the earth.

Best to all who will love life and see good days. (1 Peter 3:10-12) (10) For, "he that would love life and see good days, let him restrain his tongue from what is bad and [his] lips from speaking deception, (11) but let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good; let him seek peace and pursue it. (12) For [the] eyes of Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup> are upon the righteous ones,<sup>75</sup> and his ears are toward their supplication; but [the] face of Jehovah is against those doing bad things." The above words of Peter are his expression of Psalms 34:12-16 LITV: (12) Who is the man who desires life, who loves days in order to see good? (13) Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile; (14) depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (15) The eyes of Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup> are on the righteous; and His ears are open to their cry. (16) The face of Jehovah is against those who do evil, to cut off their memory from the earth.

This, then, *is* what the Bible teaches. We close by quoting Christ Jesus as he said: "Be repentant you people, and have faith in the good news."<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> 2 Chronicles 16:9a Darby (9) For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro through the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him...

<sup>76</sup> Mark 1:14-15 CEV After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. (15) He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here [*in our day, it has arrived and Jesus is subduing in the midst of his enemies\**]. Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

\* Psalm 110:1-3 MWT The utterance of Jehovah<sup>(10)</sup> to my Lord is: "Sit at my right hand Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet." <sup>2</sup> The rod of your strength Jehovah will send out of Zion, [saying:] "Go subduing in the midst of your enemies." <sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force. In the splendors of holiness, from the womb of the dawn, You have your company of young men just like dewdrops.







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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

justbibletruth.com exists to help people come to know Jesus Christ; and to help them realize how easy it is to do that. We have a world full of religious sects, all making it seem hard to understand what Jesus came to teach. That is because they don't know themselves. It was the same with the religious leaders of Jesus's day.<sup>77</sup> & (48) Jesus came to the earth to teach us about his Father<sup>78</sup> (and to provide the ransom of course). Would he do all that, and then allow his teachings to be too hard for us to understand?<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> (Mark 12:24 MWT) <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them: "Is not this why YOU are mistaken, YOUR not knowing either the Scriptures or the power of God?"

<sup>78</sup> (Matthew 11:27-30 MWT) <sup>27</sup> All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all YOU who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh YOU. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon YOU and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and YOU will find refreshment for YOUR souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is kindly and my load is light."

<sup>79</sup> (Mark 10:13-15 Young's Literal Translation) And they were bringing to him children, that he might touch them, and the disciples were rebuking those bringing them, (14) and Jesus having seen, was much displeased, and he said to them, `Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the reign of God; (15) verily I say to you, whoever may not receive the reign of God, as a child--he may not enter into it;'

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