

If the God we hope in is loving and good, why has He so long tolerated wickedness and suffering?

Please realize this is not religious material. If your goal is membership and approval by some religious group, this might not be for you! If, however, you believe in a God who is good and want to learn more about him using the Bible, it's precisely for you. [Are you marked](#) as one who will gain life?^(HH) What does that even mean?^(CC) Do we *need* to know what the Bible promises? This Book can help you realize and appreciate: The Bible is easy to understand!

Ins-TL



(HHH)

This booklet is available for personal use to read or print (using adobe reader) at:

justbibletruth.com/WhyWickedness.pdf

God sent his son to teach us everything we need to know, including why wickedness has been tolerated. The message Jesus brought is easy to understand.^(G) What Jesus was sent to teach^(D) & ^(E) & ^(F) has, however, taken 6000 years in its revelation.^(N) Though some will say otherwise, there is no single sentence or few word explanation that can reveal God's purpose, or grant you faith in his promises.^(DDD) It only seems reasonable that it does require some small effort on your part to understand, and then, for you to have faith based in a Bible understanding of *how* your deliverance will happen. If you want to feel truly safe and secure, probably for the first time in your life, put forth the effort to meditate on the scriptures presented in this small booklet. The material consists of over 70% scriptures. If you become familiar with these relatively few scriptures, you can understand the theme of the Bible and be set free of religious lies and half-truths.^(F) You can gain the greatest reward^(H) you can imagine: Life-giving truth is freely available for all who will simply express faith to accept that gift from God.

If God is our good and all powerful Creator, why do we see such horror and suffering in this world?

Most every person has asked why God has allowed wickedness. Why did their loved one have to die, or, why did they suffer some atrocity. Why is there just so much hate, hurtfulness and vicious cruelty? Lack of a satisfactory answer for such questions is the reason many people have scoffed at the very existence of God. One of the great failings of religion is they don't have the answer. Some religions even blame God.

It seems religion (being distinct and very different from Christianity) has failed mankind because they don't understand two basic things: The first thing we all need to realize is the answer to our questions about the purpose and value of life, including why wickedness has been tolerated, has already been told us by God's son.^A Many or even most churches claim to understand their need for Jesus: They claim to know Jesus Christ to be God's messenger and their personal Savior.^B The point they all seem to miss is that Jesus's simple message is not brought to or for large groups or sects of men and women, and, it is never delivered *to us by* any of such groups (except, of course, when or if they actually read the Gospels to us). Jesus's message is personal and is for individual persons. It is delivered by Christ himself to each one of us, all throughout the earth, if we are looking for truth. Most importantly, it is delivered by Jesus only and in direct response to each person's effort to actually read his words. That process begins with God, as He looks through the earth and sees every person who is looking for him.^C He then gives each one of them the opportunity to demonstrate they are truth seekers: He does

^A [Hebrews 1:2a & 3b CEV](#) (1:1 God long ago spoke through prophets) ...But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us... **3** ... After the Son had washed away our sins, he sat down at the right side of the glorious God in heaven.

^B [John 12:44 CEV](#) In a loud voice Jesus said: Everyone who has faith in me also has faith in the one who sent me.

^C [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...

that by directing all righteous persons to Jesus's teachings (like is being done for you right now). Then, it rests with you; as it does with each one of us. We demonstrate who we really are by making the wise choice to sit at Jesus's feet; learning what he was sent to teach by becoming familiar with the Gospels.^D It is only to such "truth seekers," however, that Jesus will add *his* help to that of his Father: Jesus gives the "spirit of truth" to help the righteous learn and understand. That helper from Jesus, that spirit of truth, will also help us *make use* of God's teachings to gain eternal life.^E **Consider this warning: It seems Jesus's gift of the "spirit of truth" will not be given to those who look for, or who feel the need for, approval by any sect of men. That is because following men actually means trying to follow that group's religious sectarian doctrine instead of obeying the teachings of Christ.**^(OO) The words of Christ set us free of being deceived,^F by helping us understand the whole (or theme) of the

^D **John 6:44 ALT** "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father having sent Me draws [*or, drags*] him, and I will raise him up in the last day.

^E **John 14:23-29 GW** Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will go to them and make our home with them (become their friends). (24) **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 (shrink with fear). (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.

^F **John 8:28-32 GW** So Jesus told them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you'll know that I am the one and that I can't do anything on my own. Instead, I speak as the Father taught me. (29) Besides, the one who sent me is with me. He hasn't left me by myself. I always do what pleases him." (30) As Jesus was saying this, many people believed in him. (31) 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."**~

Bible.⁶ Freedom from being misled, freedom to truly know our Creator, is the gift of God^h delivered by Christ.^l To understand that protection, you

John 7:15-18 GNB The Jewish authorities were greatly surprised and said, "How does this man know so much when he has never been to school?" (16) Jesus answered, "What I teach is not my own teaching, but it comes from God, who sent me. (17) Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know whether what I teach comes from God or whether I speak on my own authority. (18) Those who speak on their own authority are trying to gain glory for themselves. But he who wants glory for the one who sent him is honest, and there is nothing false in him.

⁶ **Luke 10:21-22 GW** In that hour the Holy Spirit filled Jesus with joy. Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from wise and intelligent people and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you. (22) "My Father has turned everything over to me. Only the Father knows who the Son is. And no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son is willing to reveal him."

^h **Matthew 13:44 YLT** `Again, the (knowledge of the) reign of the (kingdom of the) heavens is like to treasure hid in the field, which a man having found did hide, and from his joy goeth, and all, as much as he hath, he selleth, and buyeth that field.^(QQ)

^l **1 Corinthians 1:17-31 GW** (17) Christ didn't send me to baptize. Instead, he sent me to spread the Good News. I didn't use intellectual arguments. That would have made the cross of Christ lose its meaning. (18) The message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved. (19) Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise. I will reject the intelligence of intelligent people." (20) Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the persuasive speaker of our time? Hasn't God turned the wisdom of the world into nonsense? (21) The world with its wisdom was unable to recognize God in terms of his own wisdom. So God decided to use the nonsense of the Good News we speak to save those who believe. (22) Jews ask for miraculous signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, (23) but our message is that Christ was crucified. This offends Jewish people and makes no sense to people who are not Jewish. (24) But to those Jews and Greeks who are called, he is Christ, God's power and God's wisdom. (25) God's nonsense is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (26) Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. (27) But God chose what the world considers

must grasp the simple theme of the Bible which runs from Genesis to Revelation. Don't think that is too hard for you to do. Just realize: Jesus actually *is* the theme of the Bible! His teachings are the reason for rest of the Bible.^(K) Religionists want to make you think it is hard to learn what the Bible teaches. They are lying or ignorant... Just read and re-read the four short Gospels. God made the Bible easy to understand:^(G) Jesus was sent to teach you what you need to know to accept God's gift of life.^J Jesus applies his spirit to help us, based on our effort to study what he said. **Start by realizing: The whole of the Bible exist for the purpose of directing us to Christ.^K Then note: What Jesus came to teach is recorded in those 4 short Gospels.** We can get to know Christ personally, and

nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. (28) God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises-what it considers to be nothing-in order to destroy what it considers to be something. (29) As a result, no one can brag in God's presence. (30) You are partners with Christ Jesus because of God. Jesus has become our wisdom sent from God, our righteousness, our holiness, and our ransom from sin. (31) As Scripture says, "Whoever brags must brag about what the Lord has done."^J **John 6:26 & 32~38 GW** Jesus replied to them, "I can guarantee this truth: You're not looking for me because you saw miracles. You are looking for me because you ate as much of those loaves as you wanted (they were seeking to be fed with no interest in being made clean). (32) Jesus said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Moses didn't give you bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) God's bread is the man who comes from heaven and gives life to the world." (34) They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread all the time." (35) Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to [*learn from*] me will never become hungry, and whoever believes in me will never become thirsty... (37) Everyone whom the Father gives me^(D) will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me. (38) I haven't come from heaven to do what I want to do. I've come to do what the one who sent me wants me to do.

^K **Galatians 3:23-26 ALT** But before faith came, we were being guarded [*or, being kept in protective custody*] under [*the*] Law, having been confined to the faith about to be revealed. (24) Therefore, the Law has become our tutor [*to lead us*] to Christ, so that by faith we should be justified [*or, declared righteous*]. (25) But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (26) For you are all sons [*and daughters*] of God by means of faith in Christ Jesus.

come to understand him, by recognizing our need to read the Bible Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (over many times). You can't depend on the teachings of men, and yes, that does include us. Men will deceive you.^L Even if they don't mean to, they will mislead you in their own ignorance or misunderstanding of truth. Jesus, however, is perfect. He knows exactly what you need to know. **The great difference between this booklet and other religious materials is this: We freely admit our one and only purpose and goal is to direct you to read the Gospels of Christ for yourself. We're not offering you our approval!** Other people *can help* direct you to Christ, but, most then fail to comprehend that once they have done that, they are done. They are finished because they are just like all the rest of us: They too are trying to understand what Christ taught. So... Directing others to the words of Jesus is all any of us have to give. We must be cautious never to form new groups or to follow any doctrine we establish. Rather, we must become part of the group Jesus started 2000 years ago: By following his teachings. If you comprehend that, that knowledge will lead you to sit personally at Jesus's feet by reading the Gospels. If we can help you recognize that simple need, our job is done. **All those who gain an understanding of their need for the teachings of Christ, and then study and apply his words, are being brought together as brothers and sisters in Christianity.^(SS) We're all just students! Jesus Christ is our lone teacher and mediator.^M** All true

^L **Matthew 24:23-28 BBE** Then if any man says to you, See, here is the Christ, or, Here; do not put faith in him; (24) For there will come up false Christs, and false prophets, who will do great signs and wonders; so that if possible even the saints might be tricked. (25) See, I have made it clear to you before it comes about. (26) If, then, they say to you, See, he is in the waste land; go not out: See, he is in the inner rooms; put no faith in it. (27) Because as in a thunderstorm the bright light coming from the east is seen even in the west; so will be the coming of the Son of man (what Jesus did as recorded in the Gospels has illuminated the whole earth). (28) Wherever the dead body is (Jesus's body or remains are the teachings he left us), there will the eagles come together.

^M **Matthew 23:1-12 Darby** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, (2) saying, The scribes and the Pharisees (religious leaders) have set themselves down in Moses' seat (or, in modern times, on the seat of Christ): (3) all things therefore, whatever they may tell you, do and keep. But do not after their works, for they say and do not, (4) but bind

Christians realize none of us are lords or ladies among our fellow Christians. No Christian will accept a title among men.^(M)

What about our original question: Where does pain and suffering come from and why has it been tolerated? God created our first parents and placed them in the Garden of Eden some 6000 years ago.^N That seems like a long time from our present human perspective, with our current reduced 70 or 80 year lifespan. It is not, however, a long period from God's point of view.^O It won't seem a long time for us either, when we are thousands of years old (as God intended). To understand the Bible, we have to set aside the tunnel vision cause by our 80 year life span: **We need to identify the process of God's deliverance for his creation, announced and started in Genesis, and only now being finalized in the revelation of our day.**

Suffering was introduced to mankind by the sin of our first parents: Adam and Eve. One of God's spirit sons used our Creator's gift of moral freedom to make the wilful choice to become bad. He chose to desire, and then he tried to steal, what did not belong to him. Satan wanted to be outside God's control, and, he wanted the worship of the humans for

burdens heavy and hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of men, but will not move them with their finger. (5) And all their works they do to be seen of men: for they make broad their phylacteries (scripture containing cases) and enlarge the borders *of their garments*, (6) and love the chief place in feasts and the first seats in the synagogues, (7) and salutations in the market-places, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. (8) **But *ye*, be not ye called Rabbi [*teacher*]; for one is your instructor, and all *ye* are brethren.** (9) And call not *any one* your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, he who is in the heavens. (10) **Neither be called instructors, for one is your instructor, the Christ.** (11) But the greatest of you shall be your servant. (12) And whoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled, and whoever shall humble himself shall be exalted.

^N See insert or visit: justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html

^O [2 Peter 3:8 Coverdale](#) Dearly beloved, be not ignoraunt of this one thinge, how that one daye is with the LORDE as a thousande yeare: and a thousande yeare as one daye.

himself.^P To obtain what he made the bad choice to desire, he lied and cajoled Adam and Eve into disobeying a direct command from God. Satan told Eve she would be better off if she disobeyed God and ate from the one tree He held back for himself. Satan lied and told Eve it was God who was actually the liar, because she *wouldn't really die* like God had said she would. He told her she would be better off apart from obeying God. Satan didn't care that he was killing Eve with his lie!

That's all fairly easy for most of us to understand. **The question, however, that normally arises from that Bible knowledge is this: Why didn't God put a stop to it immediately? Why didn't He just kill Satan and Adam and Eve? Why do we have to suffer because of *their* sin?** The simple answer is that God did take action right away to undo the damage they did. We just have to be wise enough to consider the Bible's explanation of what that action is. We must not be upset because He didn't do what we think He should. We also need to realize: Killing them immediately would not have been a good solution. We need to comprehend that God's perfect solution has taken time to be revealed and worked out because so many issues are involved. We are now about 6000 years from the day of Adam^(N) and the action God took immediately after their sin (to fix what the rebels did) is only now being finalized. God's solution is perfect because it is the final solution for all of creation and for all eternity. It is so wonderful to comprehend that words fail to convey the joy in beholding it... Exert yourself to see!^(BB)

If we are to truly love God, we need to understand the wisdom in his perfect solution to undo the results of sin! Remember too: There has never been any doubt for even one second about the outcome. God knew, you see, that because his creative works were perfect, much of his creation would prove faithful to him when given knowledge and understanding. He knew they would choose to follow him simply because He is good. The proof that humanity is good needed to grow from, and

^P [Matthew 4:8-9 GNB](#) Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. (9) "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me."

thus to demonstrate, the good God created in Adam and Eve. What God could not know, however, and perhaps the biggest reason for time being given for his solution to be revealed is this: He could not know which ones among us would prove faithful. He couldn't know who would prove faithful because he gave us moral freedom to choose whether we are upright and good, or selfish and wicked. Since that choice is really ours to make, He can't know what we will choose until we actually do decide. That choice resides in our hand alone, and, we can't even make the choice until we are first educated to truth. Educating us is one reason his patience is so important: If you have a doll that says I love you when you pull its string, it's a cute toy but certainly not love. If you have a child that loves you freely from his or her own heart, that is a very big deal. That's what God gave us by means of our moral freedom, the opportunity to express love as his sons and daughters. We are not his puppets. He has given us freedom to become his friends!^Q He couldn't give us such power, however, without that gift also allowing for some to choose to abuse it. Some people will suggest we are trying to limit God by asserting he can't foresee our moral choices. We do not, however, limit God by acknowledging he can not lie. He placed that limit on himself by never being a liar. We are foolish not to recognize that limit. We can't truly love God if we don't know He will never lie to us. It's not wrong either, to acknowledge God limited his ability to see our choices by giving us the right to choose good or bad. It is that gift of moral choice that allows us the opportunity to become his friends.^R It is also one reason wickedness

^Q **James 2:23 ALT** And [so] was fulfilled the Scripture, the one saying, "But Abraham believed [or, trusted] God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called a friend of God. [Gen 15:6; Isaiah 41:8]~

Genesis 15:5-6 MKJV And He brought him (Abram) outside and said, Look now toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, So shall your seed be. (6) And he believed in Jehovah. And He counted it to him for righteousness.~

Isaiah 41:8 MKJV But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed [grandson] of Abraham, My friend;

^R **Deuteronomy 30:19-20 LITV** (19) I call Heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, that you may live, you and your

has been tolerated for 6000 years: If God could foresee what choices we are all going to make, and thereby know where we will each be in a few thousand years, love would dictate He end pain and suffering by just looking ahead and moving us there instantly; employing something similar to the resurrection (which He will use to bring Abraham and his other friends back to life).⁵ The very fact God has patiently waited for us to make our choices, including bad ones, indicates He cannot foresee what those choices will be. Remember too: We are sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, born after they sinned. We only exist because He was patient with them in our behalf.

Still though, why has the solution to the sin of our first parents taken 6000 years to reveal itself? Remember as you consider the answer: The outcome for the good of creation has never been in doubt.

Right after Adam and Eve joined Satan in rebellion against God's rulership, God said He would raise up a seed of the woman who would crush Satan's head.[†] (For more detail, read the first 3 chapters of Genesis.) In other words: God promised He would provide a deliverer for mankind. That promised descendant of Eve would prove to be Christ

seed, (20) to love Jehovah your God, to listen to His voice, and to cleave to Him. For He is your life, and the length of your days *so that you may* live in the land which Jehovah has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give it to them.

⁵ [Luke 14:14b CEV](#) ... But God will bless you and reward you when his people rise from death [*are resurrected*].

[†] [Genesis 3:11-15 BBE](#) And he said, Who gave you the knowledge that you were without clothing? Have you taken of the fruit of the tree which I said you were not to take? (12) And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree and I took it. (13) And the Lord God said to the woman, What have you done? And the woman said, I was tricked by the deceit of the snake and I took it. (14) And the Lord God said to the snake, Because you have done this you are cursed more than all cattle and every beast of the field; you will go flat on the earth, and dust will be your food all the days of your life: (15) **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.**

Jesus. Jesus was not only the “son of man,”^U by being born of Eve through Mary, but also the son of God because Mary was overshadowed by the spirit of God to become pregnant.^V Therefore, immediately after the sin of Adam and Eve, God *did* take action. He pronounced his judgment by choosing, on that very day, that his *faithful* son would become the one to execute judgment against Satan^(T) (and the rest of the unfaithful among Creation).^W To accomplish his purpose to help every

^U **Matthew 16:13-17 GW** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (14) They answered, "Some say you are John the Baptizer, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (15) He asked them, "But who do you say I am?" (16) Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" (17) Jesus replied, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! No human revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven revealed it to you.~

John 5:25-27 GW "I can guarantee this truth: A time is coming (and is now here) when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who respond to it will live. (26) The Father is the source of life, and he has enabled the Son to be the source of life too. (27) "He has also given the Son authority to pass judgment because he is the Son of Man.

^V **Luke 1:31-35 GW** You will become pregnant, give birth to a son, and name him Jesus. (32) He will be a great man and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. (33) Your son will be king of Jacob's people forever, and his kingdom will never end." (34) Mary asked the angel, "How can this be? I've never had sexual intercourse." (35) The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy child developing inside you will be called the Son of God.

^W **Acts 10:36-42 GW** God sent his word to the people of Israel and brought them the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ. This Jesus Christ is everyone's Lord. (37) You know what happened throughout Judea. Everything began in Galilee after John spread the news about baptism. (38) You know that God anointed Jesus from Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went everywhere and did good things, such as healing everyone who was under the devil's power. Jesus did these things because God was with him. (39) We can testify to everything Jesus did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. People hung him on a cross and killed him, (40) but God brought him back to life on the third day. God didn't show him (41) to all the people. He showed Jesus to

person who would accept help, God gave his chosen son complete independence: Jesus was given not only judgment, but also life within himself.^x Christ was given complete autonomy so he no longer requires God to sustain his life. Christ was thus given precisely what Satan tried to steal: Absolute freedom. **Christ will soon use that freedom, along with his great power, to execute God's enemies** and to restore the paradise his Father created in the Garden.^y **Then, and this is very important,**

witnesses, apostles he had already chosen. We apostles are those men who ate and drank with Jesus after he came back to life. (42) He ordered us to warn the people, 'God has appointed Jesus to judge the living and the dead.'

^x **John 5:20-27 BBE** For the Father has love for the Son and lets him see everything which he does: and he will let him see greater works than these so that you may be full of wonder. (21) In the same way, as the Father gives life to the dead, even so the Son gives life to those to whom he is pleased to give it. (22) The Father is not the judge of men, but he has given all decisions into the hands of the Son; (23) So that all men may give honour to the Son even as they give honour to the Father. He who gives no honour to the Son gives no honour to the Father who sent him. (24) Truly I say to you, The man whose ears are open to my word and who has faith in him who sent me, has eternal life; he will not be judged, but has come from death into life. (25) Truly I say to you, The time is coming, it has even now come, when the voice of the Son of God will come to the ears of the dead, and those hearing it will have life. (26) For even as the Father has life in himself, so he has given to the Son to have life in himself. (27) And he has given him authority to be judge because he is the Son of man.

^y **Isaiah 11:1-12 LITV** And a Shoot goes out from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch will bear fruit out of his roots. (2) And the Spirit of Jehovah shall rest on Him; *He will have* the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. (3) And He is made to breathe in the fear of Jehovah. But He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears. (4) But He shall judge the poor in righteousness, and shall decide rightly for the meek of the earth. And He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and He shall cause the wicked to die with the breath of His lip. (5) And righteousness shall be the encircler of His loins, and faithfulness the encircler of His reins. (6) And the wolf shall live with the lamb; and the leopard shall lie with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy shall lead them. (7) The cow

Christ will re-submit himself to his Father's rule.² Do you see how that solution is so very perfect? When the enlightened and powerful Christ makes the free will choice to submit to his Father, it will forever prove beyond any doubt our Creator's rulership is perfect and without any possibility of improvement. If there were even the tiniest thing wrong with God's rulership, Christ would not choose to re-submit to his Father's rule. It took 4000 years from Adam to the birth of Christ,^(N) as God went about the process of selecting the righteous men and women who

and the bear shall feed, their young shall lie together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) And the infant shall play on the hole of the asp; yea, the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper's den. (9) They shall not do evil, nor destroy in all My holy mountain. For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea. (10) And it shall be in that day, the Root of Jesse stands as a banner of peoples; nations shall seek to Him; and His resting place shall be glory. (11) And it shall be in that day, the Lord shall again set His hand, the second time, to recover the remnant of His people that remains, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Ethiopia, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the coasts of the sea. (12) And He shall lift up a banner for the nations, and shall gather the outcasts of Israel, and gather those dispersed from Judah, from the four wings of the earth.

² **1 Corinthians 15:20-28 GNB** (20) But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. (21) For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. (22) For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ. (23) But each one will be raised in proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him. (This is also when those alive will never die at all.)^(CCC) (24) Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. (25) For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. (26) The last enemy to be defeated will be death. (27) For the scripture says, "God put *all* things under his feet." It is clear, of course, that the words "all things" do not include God himself, who puts all things under Christ. (28) But when all things have been placed under Christ's rule, then he himself, the Son, will place himself under God, who placed all things under him; and God will rule completely over all.

became the ancestors of the promised messiah. Then, Christ brought us God's message.^(A) It took another 2000 years until Christ's return to bring an end to the tribulation^(AA) our rebellion has created. It is the perfect solution because it takes all things into consideration: For paradise (eternal peace and happiness) to exist, every person needs to know beyond all doubt that God must be obeyed. Everyone must understand his rulership is perfect and that any disobedience will bring only harm!

So... After 6000 years, we can see the result of humankind's having lived apart from God's direction. During our existence in rebellion, which God wisely tolerated (temporarily), we have created the world we live in. As we did so, we have also produced the tribulation^(AA) of our time. We have detonated nuclear devices in the earth and in its atmosphere, creating and releasing poisons that shouldn't even exist. We have pumped out and burned untold billions of barrels of oil, both adding to the polluting of our environment, and, very possibly, causing the unprecedented seismic activity and climate change happening today. Man has killed and abused his fellow man until hatred is rife in the earth. It has become so bad there is a purposeful effort by much of humanity to terrorize their brothers and sisters in Adam. By the accumulation of all that evidence, actually comprised of our very existence, sane and wise persons can now see whether Satan was telling the truth when he told Eve she would be better off without God's direction for her life. World conditions have gotten so bad, it is even as Jesus said: If these days were not cut short, no flesh would be left alive.^{AA}

^{AA} [Matthew 24:3-22 CEV](#) Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him in private and asked, "When will this happen? **What will be the sign of your coming (or your presence) and of the end of the world (system)?**" (4) Jesus answered: Don't let anyone fool you. (5) Many will come and claim to be (or to represent) me. They will say that they are the Messiah, and they will fool many people. (6) You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. (7) Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. People will starve to death, and in some places there will be earthquakes. (8) But this is just the beginning of troubles. (9) You will be arrested, punished, and even killed. Because of me, you will be hated by people of all nations. (10)

All these proofs are observable by anyone who will just open their eyes and see: We must make the choice to open our eyes by shining the Bible's light on creation. God provided the Bible to give us the ability to see what is real.^{BB} Please just see: What mankind has created in the 6000

Many will give up and will betray and hate each other. (11) Many false prophets will come and fool a lot of people. (12) Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others. (13) But if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved. (14) When the good news about the kingdom (of Christ) has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come. (15) Someday you will see that "Horrible Thing" in the holy place, just as the prophet Daniel said. Everyone who reads this must try to understand! (The horrible thing standing in the holy place refers to all the religious sects that claim to represent Christ, but then don't direct people to actually read his teachings!) (16) If you are living in Judea at that time, run to the mountains. (17) If you are on the roof of your house, don't go inside to get anything. (18) If you are out in the field, don't go back for your coat. (Don't imagine anything in this world can or will help you.) (19) It will be a terrible time for women who are expecting babies or nursing young children. (20) And pray that you won't have to escape in winter or on a Sabbath. (21) This (tribulation) will be the worst time of suffering since the beginning of the world, and nothing this terrible will ever happen again. (22) **If God doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones, he will make the time shorter.**~

Habakkuk 2:3-4 CEV At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting-- it will happen! (4) "I, the LORD, refuse to accept anyone who is proud. Only those who live by faith are acceptable to me."~

Habakkuk 2:12-15 CEV You're doomed! You built a city on crime and violence. (13) But the LORD All-Powerful sends up in flames what nations and people work so hard to gain. (14) Just as water fills the sea, the land will be filled with people who know and honor the LORD. (15) You're doomed! You get your friends drunk, just to see them naked.

^{BB} **2 Kings 6:11-17 Darby** And the heart of the king of Syria was troubled because of this thing; and he called his servants, and said to them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? (12) And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. (13) And he said, Go and see where he is, and I will send

years since Adam, the horrors Satan has created really,^{cc} will stand in history as an eternal touchstone. **Our very existence proves beyond question that any disobedience to our Creator cannot be tolerated. No one will ever again be allowed to cause the kind of suffering our world has seen.** If anyone ever again raises their head to defy our heavenly Father, they will immediately be destroyed. The rest of us can wisely say “Amen!” to their death; because we have lived in the world disobedience to our Creator brings. **Our being able to understand that truth is the direct result of the time allowed by God for his perfect solution to reveal itself; including the human suffering we have created.** Assuming your belief these Bible facts are true, that **knowledge leaves you with the need to identify who you are as a person, both to God and yourself!** If you are being drawn by God to understand and know him, how will He personally help you? By what method or manner can you survive the tribulation destroying humankind? **What promises can the faithful look to and hope in for our future and our deliverance? Who you make the choice to listen to for the answer to those questions means your very life.** Politicians tell us we need to look to them and to their wonderful solutions. Every clergyman or sectarian religious group you listen to will tell you being an approved member of their sect is your only hope. They each want you to listen to and follow them as they give you their rules or doctrine about how things will be made better. What is most dangerous about religionists and/or politicians, lies in their ability to draw you into

and fetch him. And it was told him saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. (14) And he sent thither horses and chariots, and a great host, and they came by night and surrounded the city. (15) And when the attendant of the man of God rose early and went forth, behold, an army surrounded the city, with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? (16) And he said, Fear not, for they that are with us are more than they that are with them. (17) And Elisha prayed and said, Jehovah, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see. And Jehovah opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

^{cc} **1 John 5:19-21 CEV** We are certain that we come from God and that the rest of the world is under the power of the devil. (20) We know that Jesus Christ the Son of God has come and has shown us the true God. And because of Jesus, we now belong to the true God who gives eternal life. (21) Children, you must stay away from idols (religion).

supporting one of their causes. Many of the nations of our world have been or are being destroyed by religious wars fought by people supporting some *man's* cause. In the few functioning nations that remain, minorities organize to get themselves special notice (sometimes by resorting to terroristic violence). They seek (what often amounts to ignorant) support for this wronged or abused race (or ethnic group), or for this or that persecuted life style. They proclaim love dictates you support even practices condemned in God's word. For the sake of their own notoriety, the media will sometimes represent such minority views as truth. Others believe such protest causes a gross overrepresentation of the minorities being supported in prominent jobs and positions of authority (as compared with that group's percentage of population). Unqualified people receive, and then are able to keep, positions they don't deserve. Non-minorities are thus being discriminated against. Both sides are right from their own skewed perspective. All zealot's lack, however, any respect for those with opposing views. They thus promote hate and are destroying their own nations from within! If you choose to join such a mob, and they harm or kill someone in their alleged efforts to make the world better, you are responsible in God's sight. **No matter how many men approve such actions, Jesus did teach you better!**^(M) Some cults and sects apply great peer pressure to force you to join; sometimes even threats. They all claim they serve God, of course, and some probably believe their own propaganda. But... They are really just gangs who threaten and harm and condemn non-members. They are all just part of Satan's world.^(CC) If they weren't that, they would be "Christians." That's all there is to be!^(PP) Don't become deceived to imagine you can fix these problems. The love learned through Christ, and then displayed to others, is and can be the only solution. Explain to those encouragine you to join them that you worship God through faith in his son: That the only group you can join is the group Jesus started 2000 years ago. Tell them you are made a member of Christianity by simply reading and obeying the Gospels, and then, by openly expressing your faith in Jesus. Make no mistake: The only lasting help you can be to anyone is in assisting them to realize they too should follow Christ! Avoid joining sects like the plague. One sure sign of false teachers is saying the Bible says something without giving you chapter and verse to verify. All

sects are deceived to imagine your leaving their group (church) is the same as leaving Christ. Don't be swallowed up by their ignorance or badness!^(L) Read your Gospels. Can you expect God to protect and help you if you don't bother to learn and follow what He sent his son to teach?^(J) & ^(G) Besides, rules and doctrines of men never help. All doctrines accomplish is to make everyone angry at the men and women trying to tell them what to do. Even God's perfect law couldn't make people righteous.^{DD} Christ has the ability to tell everyone what they need to hear to cause them to desire to change within their own heart. It's not magic, however: They have to actually read what he said. **So... The only choice you can make, and the very same choice we actually *are all making*, is whether you will listen to other men or to Christ.**^(AA) If you choose to believe in Christ, it also means you should expect life to get worse for those whose hope is in this old world system:^(BBB) You should expect things to go badly for them because, in choosing to support the works of men, they have abandoned God's solution. **Expect the tribulation of these days to get worse because Jesus said our worsening conditions would be a sign of his presence. And, *he said* conditions would get worse until his kingdom puts a stop to this old world system.**^(AA) **No faith will be required when that happens! Will you, however, be protected between now and then? As you see our current world system continue to fall apart, don't despair! Jesus's kingdom is making life better for**

^{DD} [Acts 13:38-39 CEV](#) My friends, the message is that Jesus can forgive your sins! The Law of Moses could not set you free from all your sins.

(39) But everyone who has faith in Jesus is set free.~

[Romans 4:13-16 CEV](#) God promised Abraham and his descendants that he would give them the world. This promise wasn't made because Abraham had obeyed a law, but because his faith in God made him acceptable. (14) If Abraham and his descendants were given this promise because they had obeyed a law, then faith would mean nothing, and the promise would be worthless. (15) God becomes angry when his Law is broken. But where there isn't a law, it cannot be broken. (16) Everything depends on having faith in God, so that God's promise is assured by his great kindness. This promise isn't only for Abraham's descendants who have the Law. It is for all who are Abraham's descendants because they have faith, just as he did. Abraham is the ancestor of us all.

those who are listening and obeying.^{EE} Christ's kingdom is likely starting (or has already started) to protect those who have faith to love and follow him.^(John 11:26 on pg 28) Those with faith in teachings of men, however, will die in their sins!^{FF} Don't fear that we, as all religions do, are about to suggest you look to and trust us. We are not recommending ourselves as your hope any more than we do other men and women. We encourage that your only hope and protection lies in your faith in the words of Jesus. So, you don't need to trust us... You need only read the Gospels and thereby listen to and trust in Christ!

If you are a person who has faith to understand the Bible, you should recognize that is only because God has selected you. If you are a humble and sincere person who is simply looking for God, know He is looking for you, and, He has found you.^(C) If He has identified you as one who will accept his help, He is even now drawing you to the teachings of his son.^(D) By your response to Jesus's words, you are being marked in your forehead for life (by faith in those teachings), or, you are choosing

^{EE} [Luke 21:25-28 GNB](#) "There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. (26) People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. (27) Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud (initially hidden to the eyes of those without faith) with great power and glory. (28) When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near."

^{FF} [John 8:23-25 GNB](#) Jesus answered, "You belong to this world here below, but I come from above. You are from this world, but I am not from this world. (24) That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. And you will die in your sins if you do not believe that 'I Am Who I Am'." (25) "Who are you?" they asked him. Jesus answered, "What I have told you from the very beginning."^(U)

against life!^{GG} Personal faith in Christ is the mark for salvation.^{HH} [*This scripture, and several others we quote, makes promises to Israel, or to*

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

^{HH} **Ezekiel 8:17-9:11 GNB** The LORD said to me, "Mortal man, do you see that? These people of Judah are not satisfied with merely doing all the disgusting things you have seen here and with spreading violence throughout the country. No, they must come and do them right here in the Temple and make me even more angry. Look how they insult me in the most offensive way possible! (18) They will feel all the force of my anger. I will not spare them or show them any mercy. They will shout prayers to me as loud as they can, but I will not listen to them."~

Ezekiel 9:1-11 GNB Then I heard God shout, "Come here, you men who are going to punish the city. Bring your weapons with you." (2) At once six men came from the outer north gate of the Temple, each one carrying a weapon. With them was a man dressed in linen clothes, carrying something to write with. They all came and stood by the bronze altar. (3) Then the dazzling light of the presence of the God of Israel rose up from the winged creatures where it had been, and moved to the entrance of the Temple. The LORD 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. (7) God said to them, "Defile the Temple. Fill its courtyards with corpses. Get to work!" So they began to kill the people in the city. (8) While the killing was going on, I was there alone. I threw myself face downward on the ground and shouted, "Sovereign LORD, are you so angry with Jerusalem that you are going to kill everyone left in Israel?" (9) God answered, "The people of

*Abraham and Isaac, or to Jerusalem. Those who express faith in Christ are adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham (and of his faithful Jewish descendants).¹¹ So then... All those scriptural promises apply to everyone who puts faith in Christ. The pre-Christian city of Jerusalem represented God's link to mankind in their day; with its temple and his spirit presence in it. Christ expanded God's tie with mankind to include all the faithful throughout the whole of the earth (those who express faith in Jesus). This scripture from Ezekiel,^(HH) then, referring to God's judgment of ancient Jerusalem, foreshadows the judgment of all the earth in our day.] **Please understand what is special about Christ's teachings: Being rich and influential, or powerful, or well educated, or high born in some societies, none of those things have any meaning for salvation.** Being wealthy and powerful might actually be a hindrance.¹¹ God is looking for*

Israel and Judah are guilty of terrible sins. They have committed murder all over the land and have filled Jerusalem with crime. They say that I, the LORD, have abandoned their country and that I don't see them. (10) But I will not have pity on them; I will do to them what they have done to others." (11) Then the man wearing linen clothes returned and reported to the LORD, "I have carried out your orders."

¹¹ **Galatians 3:26-29 GNB** It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. (27) You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. (28) So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. (29) If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.

¹¹ **Matthew 19:16-26 CEV** A man came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to have eternal life?" (17) Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only God is good. If you want to have eternal life, you must obey his commandments." (18) "Which ones?" the man asked. Jesus answered, "Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. (19) Respect your father and mother. And love others as much as you love yourself." (20) The young man said, "I have obeyed all of these. What else must I do?" (21) Jesus replied, "If you want to be perfect, go sell everything you own! Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and be my follower." (22) When the young man heard this, he was sad, because he was very rich. (23) Jesus said to his disciples, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven! (24) In fact, it's easier for

people of integrity who are unselfish and kind hearted, or who want to learn how to be so. That is all He cares about.^{KK} At one point, Jesus drew special attention to the fact that poor people were having the good news preached to them.^{LL} He made that point because the religious leaders didn't care about the poor and the oppressed. The religious leaders were, in fact, responsible for much of the abuse of modest people in Jesus's day:^{MM} Just like religion still is today. Religion will take their last dollar as they promise them God will bless them for giving it to them. **Please do not fail to comprehend: If you have made the choice to become a member of any religious group, and they have persuaded you to believe your pleasing or being blessed by our Creator is tied to them, or to your**

a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." (25) When the disciples heard this, they were greatly surprised and asked, "How can anyone ever be saved?" (26) Jesus looked straight at them and said, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything."

^{KK} **1 Corinthians 1:26-31 CEV** (26) My dear friends, remember what you were when God chose you. The people of this world didn't think that many of you were wise. Only a few of you were in places of power, and not many of you came from important families. (27) But God chose the foolish things of this world to put the wise to shame. He chose the weak things of this world to put the powerful to shame. (28) What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important. (29) God did all this to keep anyone from bragging to him. (30) You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. (31) So if you want to brag, do what the Scriptures say and brag about the Lord.

^{LL} **Matthew 11:2-5 CEV** John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers (3) to ask Jesus, "Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?" (4) Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you have heard and seen. (5) The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People with leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news.

^{MM} **Mark 12:38-40 GNB** As he taught them, he said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law, who like to walk around in their long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace, (39) who choose the reserved seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. (40) **They take advantage of widows and rob them of their homes**, and then make a show of saying long prayers. Their punishment will be all the worse!"

being an approved member of their sect, you are in grave danger. No matter how well intentioned such people might be or what good they imagine they are doing, if they have deceived you to believe you need their approval, it really just means they are trying to control you toward pleasing them. They will have you following them by demanding you listen to and read their sectarian printed material or doctrine, rather than encouraging you to follow Christ (by simply reading the Gospels). Sectarian religion is serving you poisoned Kool-Aid when they warn you should not listen to anyone but them! You can't know your trust is in Christ if some group has convinced you of your need to listen only to them, and often, that you do so without question.^(M) You will see different groups produce beautiful sectarian magazines or books with a representation of Jesus on the cover beckoning you to come to him. They will have a caption saying "Jesus has the answer," or "listen to the great teacher," or something similar. If you read the material, however, you will find they encourage you toward membership in their sect instead of directing you to read the Gospels. They all want you to let them "explain" the Bible to you. That's what Jesus was sent by his Father to do.^(J) You can't serve two masters.^{NN} **Jesus taught a day would come when people would no longer worship God through groups of men, but rather, as individuals and by means of spirit and truth.**^{OO} By direction of God's

^{NN} [Matthew 6:24 CEV](#) You cannot be the slave of two masters! You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve both God and money (all religion is about money).

^{OO} [John 4:6-26 GNB](#) Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. (7) A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." (8) (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.) (9) The woman answered, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan---so how can you ask me for a drink?" (Jews [look down on Samaritans as a lower caste people and] will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.) (10) Jesus answered, "If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water." (11) "Sir," the woman said, "you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? (12) It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?" (13) Jesus answered, "Those who drink this water will get thirsty again,

spirit, Jesus taught us to understand our need for personal faith in God's truth.^{(F) & (D)} In other words, individual Christians worship God in truth by means of their understanding of the teachings of Christ (because Jesus's words are truth). Those teachings were brought by Jesus at the direction of his Father's holy spirit.^(F) Jesus's followers thus worship in spirit, because God's spirit directed Jesus to them; and then in truth, because of their faith in Jesus's truthful words. And always, they refer to themselves as Christians; never by some sectarian and divisive name chosen by one of the many sects of men.^{PP}

(14) but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life." (15) "Sir," the woman said, "give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water." (16) "Go and call your husband," Jesus told her, "and come back." (17) "I don't have a husband," she answered. Jesus replied, "You are right when you say you don't have a husband. (18) You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth." (19) "I see you are a prophet, sir," the woman said. (20) "My Samaritan ancestors (religious leaders) worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God." (21) **Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem.** (22) You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes (originates). (23) **But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants.** (Offering the worship God sent Jesus to teach us how to give.) (24) **God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is."** (25) **The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."** (26) **Jesus answered, "I am he, I who am talking with you."**

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

You must realize: God wants you to worship him in the way Jesus taught you to worship.^{QQ} Your one and only hope of gaining that understanding is by actually sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ; just like people who followed him did some 2000 years ago. Read the Gospels! No matter what grandiose claims religionists make, no man, woman or group can grant you life! If your only reason for seeking religion is to give you some connection with other men and women, or to have the approval and association with some group of them, any religious sect will anxiously provide you with that “being a part of something” feeling. They will also give their direction for your life. In doing so, you will be receiving your reward in full.^{RR} If what you seek is to know our Creator, however, you

^{QQ} [Matthew 6:9-24 CEV](#) You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. (10) Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven. (11) Give us our food for today. (12) Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others. (13) Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil. (14) If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. (15) But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. (16) When you [*fast*] go without eating, don't try to look gloomy as those show-offs do when they go without eating. I can assure you that they already have their reward. (17) Instead, comb your hair and wash your face. (18) Then others won't know that you are going without eating. But your Father sees what is done in private, and he will reward you. (19) Don't store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. (20) Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. (21) Your heart will always be where your treasure is. (22) Your eyes are like a window for your body. When they are good (seeking Christ), you have all the light you need. (23) But when your eyes are bad, everything is dark. If the light inside you is dark (religious doctrines of men), you surely are in the dark. (24) You cannot be the slave of two masters! You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve both God and [*love*] money.

^{RR} [Matthew 6:1-5 GNB](#) "Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven. (2) "So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already

must read the Gospels. It really is just that simple. God inspired Jesus's teachings to be recorded^(A) in the Gospel Books by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The one and only way we can sit today at Jesus's feet is by reading those Gospel recordings. Your faith in what Jesus said, and your being his friend by gaining familiarity with him through his teachings, is your only hope. Sitting at Jesus's feet is the only means of building faith to be kept alive through the tribulation destroying this world.^{SS} You can't rely on gaining life by having faith in what we tell you Jesus said, or in what any other man or woman tells you he said. To be confident in your hope, you must start by knowing personally what Jesus said. Your hope must be in his Bible promises. The reason you can't rely on other men and women is because we are all just imperfect people like you: Each one of us is making mistakes as we work out our own salvation of faith.^{TT}

Jesus is perfect, however, and tells you exactly what you need to hear.

(received their reward) been paid in full. (3) But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. (4) Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. (5) "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid (rewarded) in full.

^{SS} **Mark 3:31-35 MWt** Then Jesus' mother and brothers stood outside the house and sent in a message asking for him. (32) A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside seeking to speak with you." (33) Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" (34) He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! (35) Whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, my mother."

^{TT} **Philippians 2:12-16 GW** Paul Said: My dear friends, you have always obeyed (the Christ), not only when I was with you but even more now that I'm absent. In the same way continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. (13) It is God who produces in you the desires and actions that please him. (14) Do everything without complaining or arguing. (15) Then you will be blameless and innocent. You will be God's children without any faults among people who are crooked and corrupt. You will shine like stars among them in the world (16) as you hold firmly to the word of life (Christ's teachings). Then I can brag on the day of Christ that my effort was not wasted and that my work produced results.

He is still speaking to us out of the Gospels. Also, the activities of Christ are not hidden in the dark.^{UU} Jesus is paying attention and watching^(A) as you make the effort to learn from him. Based on your effort to draw close by reading his teachings, he will apply his Father's spirit to help you learn and understand. And then, that spirit will help you remember what he said.^{VV} By reading Christ's words, you can be set free of the constraints of ignorance and of the lies of Satan; which does include keeping yourself free of Satan's often well intentioned religious groups.^{WW} Please take note as you read what Jesus said: It was the

^{UU} **Luke 8:16-18 GNB** "No one lights a lamp and covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Instead, it is put on the lampstand, so that people will see the light as they come in. (17) "Whatever is hidden away will be brought out into the open, and whatever is covered up will be found and brought to light. (18) "Be careful, then, how you listen; because those who have something (they learn from Christ) will be given more, but whoever has nothing (in the religious doctrinal teachings of men) will have taken away from them even the little they think they have."

^{VV} **John 14:15-17 GNB** "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit, 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.~

John 16:12-13 GNB "I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. (13) When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come.

^{WW} **John 8:42-51 GNB** Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message. (44) You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies. (45) But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? (47) He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen." (48) They asked Jesus,

religious leaders who put him to death.^{XX} Religion has not changed! Jesus warned you over and over about the danger of groups of religious men and women.^{YY}

As we build faith in Christ's words, he teaches our faith will provide us what we hope for; as long, that is, as our hope is in what God is actually doing.^{ZZ} If you realize that, it should make you want to be sure you know

"Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?" (49) "I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. (50) I am not seeking honor for myself. But there is one who is seeking it and who judges in my favor. (51) I am telling you the truth: whoever obeys my teaching (in the last day) will never die."

^{XX} **Acts 3:13-15 GNB** The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has given divine glory to his Servant Jesus. But you handed him over to the authorities, and you rejected him in Pilate's presence, even after Pilate had decided to set him free. (14) He was holy and good, but you rejected him, and instead you asked Pilate to do you the favor of turning loose a murderer. (15) You killed the one who leads to life, but God raised him from death---and we are witnesses to this.~

John 18:35 CEV "You know I'm not a Jew!" Pilate said. "Your own people and the chief priests brought you (turned you over) to me. What have you done?"

^{YY} **Mark 13:21-23 GNB** "Then, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Look, there he is!'---do not believe it. (22) For false Messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will perform miracles and wonders in order to deceive even God's chosen people, if possible. (23) Be on your guard! I have told you everything ahead of time.

^{ZZ} **(1 John 5:14, 15)** ¹⁴ **And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that, no matter what it is that we ask according to his will, he hears us.** ¹⁵ Further, if we know he hears us respecting whatever we are asking, **we know we are to have the things asked** since we have asked them of him.~

(Matthew 9:29 MWT) Then he touched their [*the blind men's*] eyes, saying: **"According to YOUR faith let it happen to YOU."** ³⁰ And their eyes received sight.~

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

(Matthew 9:19-22) ¹⁹ Then Jesus, getting up, began to follow him; also his disciples did. ²⁰ And, look! a woman suffering twelve years from a flow of blood came up behind and touched the fringe of his outer garment; ²¹ for **she kept saying to herself: "If I only touch his outer garment I shall get well."**

what God is doing? What promises of Jesus and his Father can we believe will come true *for us*? **To know what hope is available for our day, we need to appreciate mankind's hope has been very different depending on when we lived in human history.** If we had lived when Abraham did, for example, our hope would have been in looking forward to the appearance of the promised Messiah.^(N) If we had lived 2000 years later, our hope might have been to speak with Jesus and for him to heal us. Receiving sight after being born blind would have been a wonderful gift! We would then have continued to get old, along with those around us, and we would have died in the Christian hope of the resurrection. Being healed and/or then dying with the promise of the resurrection was the hope Jesus was providing 2000 years ago. It was a better (or more enlightened) hope than they had in Abraham's day. Jesus also demonstrated what God's promised resurrection would be like using the example of a man named Lazarus: **John 11:3-48 & 53 MWT** The sisters (of Lazarus - Mary and Martha) sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick. (4) When Jesus heard this, he said, "His sickness won't end in death. It will bring glory to God and his Son." (5) Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. (6) But he stayed where he was for two more days. (7) Then he said to his disciples, "Now we will go back to Judea." (8) "Teacher," they said, "the people there

22 Jesus turned around and, noticing her, said: "Take courage, daughter; your faith has made you well." And from that hour the woman became well.~ **(Mark 9:23)** Jesus said to him: "That expression, 'If you can'! **Why, all things can be to one if one has faith.**"~ **(Luke 7:2-10)** ² Now a certain army officer's slave, who was dear to him, was ailing and was about to pass away. ³ When he heard about Jesus, he sent forth older men of the Jews to him to ask him to come and bring his slave safely through. ⁴ Then those that came up to Jesus began to entreat him earnestly, saying: "He is worthy of your conferring this upon him, ⁵ for he loves our nation and he himself built the synagogue for us." ⁶ So Jesus started off with them. But when he was not far from the house, the army officer had already sent friends to say to him: "Sir, do not bother, for I am not fit to have you come in under my roof. ⁷ For that reason I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Be on your way!' and he is on his way, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." ⁹ **Well, when Jesus heard these things he marveled at him, and he turned to the crowd following him and said: "I tell YOU, Not even in Israel have I found so great a faith."** ¹⁰ **And those that had been sent, on getting back to the house, found the slave in good health.**

want to stone you to death! Why do you want to go back?" (9) Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in each day? If you walk during the day, you will have light from the sun, and you won't stumble. (10) But if they (the religious leaders who were trying to kill him) walk during the night, they will stumble, because they refuse to see the light (brought by Jesus)." (Jesus was explaining why his followers didn't need to fear the religious leaders – they would stumble as long as God protected Jesus.) (11) Then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I am going there to wake him up." (12) They replied, "Lord, if he is asleep, he will get better." (13) Jesus really meant that Lazarus was dead, but they thought he was talking only about sleep. (14) Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead! (15) I am glad that I wasn't there, because now you will have a chance to put your faith in me. Let's go to him." (16) Thomas, whose nickname was "Twin," said to the other disciples, "Come on. Let's go, so we can die with him." (As Thomas did in this instance, Jesus's disciples sometimes misunderstood him. That's why it is important to read the Gospels over many times: So we don't misunderstand.) (17) When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. (18) Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, (19) and many people had come from the city to comfort Martha and Mary because their brother had died. (20) When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. (21) Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask." (23) Jesus told her, "Your brother will live again!" (24) **Martha answered, "I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised." (25) Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. (26) And everyone who is alive and has faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?"** (27) "Yes, Lord!" she replied. "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world." (28) After Martha said this, she went and privately said to her sister Mary, "The Teacher is here, and he wants to see you." (29) As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went out to Jesus. (30) He was still outside the village where Martha had gone to meet him. (31) Many people had come to comfort Mary, and when they saw her quickly leave the house, they thought she was going out to the tomb to cry. So they followed her. (32) Mary went to where Jesus was. Then as soon as she saw him, she knelt at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (33) When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying, he was terribly upset (34) and asked, "Where have you put his body?" They replied, "Lord, come and you will see." (35) Jesus started

crying, (36) and the people said, "See how much he loved Lazarus." (37) Some of them said, "He gives sight to the blind. Why couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" (38) Jesus was still terribly upset. So he went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. (39) Then he told the people to roll the stone away. But Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days, and there will be a bad smell." (40) Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?" (41) After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. (42) I know that you always answer my prayers. But I said this, so that the people here would believe that you sent me." (43) When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" (44) The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face. Jesus then told the people, "Untie him and let him go." (45) Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and they put their faith in him. (46) Others went to the Pharisees and told what Jesus had done. (47) Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called the council together and said, "What should we do? This man is working a lot of miracles. (48) If we don't stop him now, everyone will put their faith in him. Then the Romans will come and take away our place over our nation."... (53) **Therefore from that day on the religious leaders took counsel to kill him.**

Many put faith in Christ because of his miracle in resurrecting Lazarus. The religious leaders, however, chose to continue to find fault with him. That's what Christ's teachings do to people, you see... The words of Jesus cause each individual to decide what they are in their own heart: When they see themselves in the reflection of Jesus's words,^(MMM) they either defend themselves or they repent! It is only the words that come from Christ's lips that have that power. The most important work in this world is directing people to the teachings of Jesus Christ. A common fault among self-proclaimed religious teachers,^(M) however, lies in their failure to realize their own limitations. Most are not able to grasp that once they direct someone to Christ, beyond some brief effort to help those people *understand* what Jesus taught, they are done. Religionists all desire you to accept their eternal importance in your life. They want you to continue to look up to them for your guidance and for their favorable judgment. That is because what religious leaders are really seeking is your money and/or your worship. Realize: Continuingly looking to some man or

woman for help is a form of worship. Even powerful faithful angels do not want such worship.^{AAA}

Please note a promise by Jesus that introduces a hope that might seem new: It's a hope that should be sought by everyone alive. That hope can be seen in what Jesus said in response to Martha's statement about "the last day." **Martha said she knew her brother would rise in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus confirmed that to be true. He then added that those with faith, and who were still alive at the time she referred to as the last day, would never die at all.** ^(John 11:24-26 above) Jesus was referring to a then future hope. It would for the first time become available to those alive at the time of his presence during his second coming^(Z) & 1 Cor 15:51 on pg 32) as God's appointed king: The hope Jesus promised is the hope of living forever without having to die. And please do realize, we are the generation living in that "last day." Staying alive forever wasn't really a new hope, however; there just had been no reason for it to be understood until it was time for it to be realized. The hope of being preserved alive during the destruction of the wicked was illustrated by both Noah and Lot. The example of those men, in their preservation of the righteous through the destruction of the wicked, was paralleled by Christ to the time of his return.^{BBB} The hope of growing

^{AAA} [Revelation 19:9-10 GNB](#) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Happy are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And the angel added, "These are the true words of God." (10) I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Don't do it! I am a servant together with you and with other believers, all those who hold to the truth that Jesus revealed. Worship God!" For the truth that Jesus revealed is what inspires the prophets.

^{BBB} [Luke 17:26-30 GW](#) "When the Son of Man comes again, the situation will be like the time of Noah. (27) People were eating, drinking, and getting married until the day that Noah went into the ship. Then the flood destroyed all of them. (28) "The situation will also be like the time of Lot. People were eating, drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. (29) But on the day that Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from the sky and destroyed all of them. (30) The day when the Son of Man is revealed will be like that.

young and strong again had also been mentioned in the Book of Job.^{ccc} **Living forever without having to die is the most wonderful hope, and, it is available only to those alive in our day in mankind's history: Those who express faith in Christ can now hope to live forever.** They can hope to live forever right here on earth.^(TTT) Our first parents were placed in the Garden to live forever. We are being returned to the state our first parents were in before they sinned, but with this great difference: Survivors of this tribulation will all have been tested and proved faithful. Paradise will be restored, this time forever.^(TTT) Paul was moved by spirit to speak prophetically about living forever, even if he didn't fully understand what he wrote. Paul said to the Corinthians: **1 Corinthians 15:51-54 GNB** (51) Listen to this secret truth: we (the followers of Christ) shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised (by resurrection), never to die again, and we (the Christians remaining alive – Paul probably didn't realize he would not be part of that group of survivors, but would himself die and need to be resurrected) shall all be changed. (52) (SEE 15:51) (53) For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die (because God has judged them to be among those gaining life). (54) So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: "Death is destroyed; victory is complete!" Once we have been judged worthy of

^{ccc} **Job 33:17-18 & 21-30 GNB** God speaks to make them stop their sinning and to save them from becoming proud. (18) He will not let them be destroyed; he saves them from death itself.~

Job 33:21-30 GNB Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; (22) they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom (of Christ) to set them free." (25) Their bodies will grow young and strong again; (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life (by directing them to Christ), and gives him the joy of living.

the gift of life by our Father, our change and/or our victory is complete.^(Y) His judgment is perfect and his approval means He has come to know who we truly are. It also means we have life eternal. That gift of life can only come to you through your faith in what Jesus said. Even if the whole world says something to the contrary, to have a part in what God is doing, you must start by having faith in what God is doing. That means you must truly know Christ in order to know what God is doing!^{DDD} Read your Gospels and look to Christ as your only teacher!^(M)

We consider one final Bible drama to help us see and understand the wonderful hope available in our day. It is the account of the ancient nation of Israel during the time they wandered in the wilderness 40 years. Their nation was used by God to produce the promised Messiah, because they were the descendants of Abraham.^{EEE} (God's friend

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

These people approached Jesus thinking they knew him. They had actually been deceived by other men. They had not been listening to Christ so as to know and do his Father's will. That also meant he didn't know them. Don't be deceived!

^{EEE} **Deuteronomy 9:1-5 LITV** Hear, O Israel, you shall cross over the Jordan today, to go in to expel nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and walled up to the heavens; (2) a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, Who can stand before the sons of Anak? (3) And know today that Jehovah your God is He who passes over before you as a consuming fire; He will destroy them, and He will bring them down before you; so you shall dispossess them and make them to perish quickly, as Jehovah has spoken to you. (4) Do not say in your heart, when Jehovah your God thrusts them out from before you, saying, Jehovah has brought me in to possess this land for my righteousness. But say, Jehovah dispossesses them from before you because of the wickedness of those nations. (5) *It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you go to possess their land. But Jehovah your God is dispossessing them*

Abraham had been promised that all the earth would be blessed by means of his seed^(UUU) [all such Bible information is history about, and leads us to, the birth of Christ.] At the time the Jews were delivered from slavery in Egypt to enter the land God had promised to give their forefathers, God sent 12 spies into that land of promise. When they returned, only 2 gave a faithful report. The other 10 turned the people away from faith in God's promises. God then made the nation wander in the wilderness 40 years while the unfaithful among them died off. He didn't kill them, mind you, He just didn't protect them. What He did do was preserve the faithful alive so they could receive the reward of entering the land He promised. He kept them young and strong.^{FFF} Of the adult nation that rebelled against God, only the 2 faithful spies and some of the tribe of Levi (all those who were not part of the rebellion) were kept alive to receive God's promises. That historic drama parallels the spiritual wilderness we live in today. The tribulation of our day is getting worse by the hour. If these days were not shortened, no one would

from before you because of the wickedness of these nations; and in order to establish the Word which Jehovah has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

^{FFF} **Joshua 14:6-11 Darby** Then the children of Judah came near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, Thou knowest the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God, concerning me and thee, in Kadesh-barnea. (7) Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me from Kadesh-barnea to search out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. (8) And my brethren that had gone up with me made the heart of the people melt; but I wholly followed Jehovah my God. (9) And Moses swore on that day, saying, The land whereon thy feet have trodden shall assuredly be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever! for thou hast wholly followed Jehovah my God. (10) And now behold, Jehovah has kept me alive, as he said, these forty-five years, since Jehovah spoke this word to Moses, when Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. (11) I am still this day strong, as in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out and to come in.

survive.^{GGG} God will protect, according to his purpose, all those who are faithful to the teachings of his son (like He protected the 2 faithful spies). Soon, Christ will ride forth to cut these days short by putting an end of this wicked system;^{HHH} all the while continuing his protection of those faithful to him.^(HHH) **Please realize and express faith in what God is doing in our day: Faith based in Bible knowledge grants hope of living forever... Learn what Jesus taught and build faith in the promises of God!**

You must start with trust... But who? Do you have anyone in this world you trust completely and without reservation? If you do, you are likely deceiving yourself. We grow up immersed in a world of lies, deceit and half-truths. We learn early in life that no one is truly and completely dependable. If we are favored to have parents who love and care for us, we find there are limits to that love as they are concerned for their own interests as well as ours. Sometimes, they may let us down. Imperfect people are seldom, if ever, completely honest.^{III} That means few have

^{GGG} [Matthew 24:21-22 CEV](#) This will be the worst time of suffering [*tribulation*] since the beginning of the world, and nothing this terrible will ever happen again. (22) If God doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones (the ones being chosen), he will make the time shorter.

^{HHH} [Revelation 19:11-16 CEV](#) (11) I looked and saw that heaven was open, and a white horse was there. Its rider was called Faithful and True, and he is always fair when he judges or goes to war. (12) He had eyes like flames of fire, and he was wearing a lot of crowns. His name was written on him, but he was the only one who knew what the name meant. (13) The rider wore a robe that was covered with blood, and he was known as "The Word of God." (14) He was followed by armies from heaven that rode on horses and were dressed in pure white linen. (15) From his mouth a sharp sword went out to attack the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod and will show the fierce anger of God All-Powerful by trampling the grapes in the pit where wine is made. (16) On the part of the robe that covered his thigh was written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

^{III} [1 John 1:8-10 GNB](#) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. (9) But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and

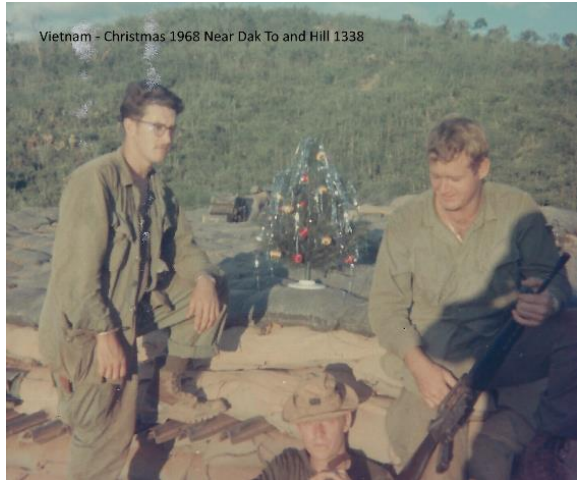
anyone they can truly believe always is, and always has been, totally honest with them. Even if we did have someone who put our needs equal to their own, they would be getting older and weaker. They would not have power to help forever. If you truly believe in other people without reservation, you are considered gullible or a rube by this world. You will quickly find someone who will skin you of everything you have. That is our sad state of reality. Finding ourselves isolated in having to face that

reality is no doubt part of what makes us get sick and old. It is the opposite of a nurturing environment. It is caustic and destructive. It is also the world we have each one been immersed in from birth. We all bear the scars of growing up in this world.



A man had a dream about finding true peace. His dream was related to his service in a war from his youth. He had been talking and sharing photos with some of the men who survived that war with him. He was, at that same time, immersing himself in a study of the Gospel records of

purify us from all our wrongdoing. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us.



Jesus's teachings. His dream, then, may have been his mind's way of reconciling what he was finding in his memories with the knowledge he was gaining from the Gospels. His nation spent a year training him to succeed where they were about to send him. He spent much of that time in classrooms and in



bleachers (used as outside classrooms) listening to other men explain how to survive the conflict he was about to enter. Many of his instructors had already served where he was going. Then, on the ground in the jungle and half a world from home, he survived as half the men of his company were killed or wounded over the course of his 1968 & 69 tour of duty in Vietnam.



In his dream, he was once again in those bleachers preparing to survive a war.^{jjj} He was again surrounded by a group of his fellow combatants, some of them from his past. An old sergeant was present, giving them instructions on how to survive. The teacher of his dream,^(M) however, was very different. The old sergeant had absolute knowledge of what they needed to know, and, he had absolute power to protect them as they followed. When the man awoke from this dream, he felt completely secure and at peace for the first time in memory. He truly felt there was

^{jjj} [2 Corinthians 10:3-5 GNB](#) (3) It is true that we live in the world, but we do not fight from worldly motives. (4) The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons but God's powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds. We destroy false arguments; (5) we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.

nothing to fear. He continued to feel that way only briefly, however, as the reality of this world began to erode his peace.

Would you like to feel truly secure? Well... Take heart! A friend like the teacher from this man's dream is precisely what you can have in Jesus! Faith and trust in Christ is your only source of real peace and hope.^(E) We're not talking about blind faith, however.^(DDD) You must have faith built on your personal knowledge of what Jesus said,^(F) and, on your realization of how logical and sensible his teachings are. Please just wake up to how easy it is to become a friend of Christ. Realize too, it's not about giving things up or making sacrifices. It's about accepting the wondrous gift of life and happiness. Just having knowledge such peace exists is wonderful. Actually maintaining peace by faith, however, day in and day out, is harder. Still... It is available with just a little effort! If you learn what is presented in the few scriptures comprising this booklet, every other scripture you learn will fit in with that truth. Know Christ to be your very real, eternal and absolutely powerful, friend and protector.

Restoring trust is one function of Christianity. By means of faith, you can trust and know Christ is creating a new nation of people who will survive this dying old world system. Our current world has been built up over the course of 6000 years under the influence of Satan.^(N) That terrible system^(CC) is being replaced by Christ's kingdom.^(Z) Christ assures those who follow him they can live forever into the paradise first seen in the Garden of Eden and now being restored.^(Y) Each Christian (each citizen of the new world order) will completely and absolutely trust Christ's Father. And, our God will be able to trust them. We are becoming trustworthy precisely because of the time God has patiently endured mankind's inherited sinful nature: We are all being proved worthy of life by our reaction to how vile this world of the disobedient has become, and, by whether we place faith in God's son.^(HH) There will be no liars, murderers, thieves, gossipers, or people who will harm others in any way who will

live there.^{KKK} Please make no mistake about this: If you want eternal life and true happiness,^{LLL} you must be transforming yourself into a person of

^{KKK} **1 Timothy 1:3-16 MWT** I (Paul) want you to stay in Ephesus, just as I urged you when I was on my way to Macedonia. Some people there are teaching false doctrines (of men), and you must order them to stop. (4) Tell them to give up those legends and those long lists of ancestors, which only produce arguments; they do not serve God's plan, which is known by faith in Christ. (5) The purpose of this order is to arouse the love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith. (6) Some people have turned away from these and have lost their way in foolish discussions. (7) They want to be teachers of God's law through Moses, but they do not understand their own words or the matters about which they speak with so much confidence. (8) We know that the Law is good if it is used as it should be used. (9) It must be remembered, of course, that laws are made, not for good people, but for lawbreakers and criminals, for the godless and sinful, for those who are not religious or spiritual, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, (10) for the immoral, for sexual perverts, for kidnappers, for those who lie and give false testimony or who do anything else contrary to sound doctrine. (11) That teaching is found in the gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that was entrusted to me to announce, the Good News from the glorious and blessed God. (12) I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him, (13) even though in the past I spoke evil of him and persecuted and insulted him. But God was merciful to me because I was ignorant and so did not know what I was doing. (14) And our Lord poured out his abundant grace on me and gave me the faith and love which are ours in union with Christ Jesus. (15) This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the worst of them, (16) but God was merciful to me in order that Christ Jesus might show his full patience in dealing with me, the worst of sinners, as an example for all those who would later believe in him and receive eternal life.

^{LLL} **Revelation 21:5-8 GNB** Then the one who sits on the throne said, "And now I make all things new!" He also said to me, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted." (6) And he said, "It is done! I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end. To anyone who is thirsty I will give the right to drink from the spring of the water of life without paying for it. (7) Those who win the victory will receive this from me: I will be their God, and they will be my children. (8) But cowards, traitors, perverts, murderers, the immoral, those who practice magic, those who

loving-kindness and truth. To be protected by God to enter paradise, you must first become a person who won't destroy paradise when you get there. That means, very simply, you must be a follower of the teachings of God's son.⁽²⁾ The one and only way you can do that is by analyzing yourself in the mirror of Jesus's teachings.^{MMM} Then, you must repent and change from what you are (or were) while you subsisted as a part of Satan's old world system. If you want to live among people you can unquestioningly rely on, you must protect them by becoming such a person yourself. No matter what badness others may promise love will cover, or assert will make acceptable, *you* must listen to Jesus and abandon the things he condemned.^(JJ) You must listen to Jesus and withdraw from memberships in this world's activities.^{NNN} Try and ponder

worship idols, and all liars---the place for them is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (We are all born dead from inherited sin and remain dead in the the sins of our ignorance. Those who accept Christ step from death into life. Those who reject Christ Jesus die the second death, from which there is no resurrection.)

^{MMM} **James 1:22-25 GNB** 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.

^{NNN} **John 8:3-11 CEV** 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.**

the happiness and peace of knowing you are completely safe, forever. You can know no one will ever lie to you or harm you in any way. That perfect environment is already being created among those with faith.^(SSS) It is a place where you can relax and grow to perfection, and, be happy forever.^(CCC) You can start right now to become a citizen of that new earth society. No man or woman can grant you that gift. You must reach out with your mind and heart to accept it for yourself. You do that by reading the Gospels and becoming a friend of Christ!^(OOO) You must become a Christian! That also means: You must guard yourself against becoming religious by infecting yourself with the doctrines of men. You accomplish that, again, by following Jesus alone.^(OO) As you become a friend of Christ, you become a friend to all other people, but you become family^(SS) to those who are also choosing friendship with Jesus.^(SSS) You can see flashes of light from survivors even now, in their expressions of faith in Christ's teachings. Of course, we must be careful never to imagine we can judge who is gaining life, or, who is not. No matter what good any one of us do on this day, it is only those who endure faithful to the end of Satan's

(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."

^{OOO} **John 15:8-15 MKJV** In this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit (by directing other people to Christ's teachings), so you shall be My disciples. (9) As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; continue in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (11) I have spoken these things to you so that My joy might remain in you and your joy might be full. (12) **This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** (13) No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (14) **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.** (15) **No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

system who will survive into paradise^{PPP} (all those from history who died faithful will then be resurrected as well). You must never seek to be a friend of this world's religion. That's what infected the wife of Lot!^{QQQ} Always note as you learn from Jesus: It was the religious leaders who killed him. Seek out others who love and obey Christ. Our individual task is to build personal faith for life. Soon, if you are a lover of Christ, you will be surrounded by others who are faithful Christian survivors of this tribulation.^(GGG) Please just realize and try to understand: Just like the ark did in Noah's day, and like obedience did in Lot's day,^{RRR} it is your faith in

^{PPP} [Matthew 10:16-22 GNB](#) "Listen! I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. (17) Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. (18) For my sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell the Good News to them and to the Gentiles. (19) When they bring you to trial, do not worry about what you are going to say or how you will say it; when the time comes, (if you have learned what I taught,) you will be given what you will say. (20) For the words you will speak will not be yours; they will come from the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (21) "People will hand over their own brothers to be put to death, and fathers will do the same to their children; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death. (22) Everyone will hate you because of me. **But whoever holds out (faithful to my teachings) to the end will be saved.**

^{QQQ} [Genesis 19:17 & 23-26 LITV](#) (17) And it happened as they led them outside, he said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay in all the plain. Escape to the mountain, lest you be swept away.~ (23) The sun had gone forth on the earth, and Lot came into Zoar (having fled Sodom at God's direction). (24) And Jehovah rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from Jehovah out of the heavens. (25) And He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all those living in the cities, and the produce of the ground. (26) And (Lot's) wife looked back from behind him (likely a sign of her desire for the wicked city they left), and she became a pillar of salt.

^{RRR} [2 Peter 2:1-10 CEV](#) Sometimes false prophets spoke to the people of Israel. False teachers will also sneak in and speak harmful lies to you (misdirecting you to their own writings and doctrine in place of Christ's teachings). But these teachers don't really belong to the Master who paid a great price for them, and they will quickly destroy themselves. (2) Many

the promises of Jesus that will keep you alive!^(CCC) The faithful will find themselves surrounded by people they can completely and absolutely depend on.^{SSS} Those who love and obey the son of God will be the only survivors into paradise.^{TTT} Make the wise choice to become a person of

people will follow their evil ways and cause others to tell lies about the true way. (3) They will be greedy and cheat you with smooth talk. But long ago God decided to punish them (those who chose to follow the course of Satan), and God doesn't sleep. (4) God did not have pity on the angels that sinned. He had them tied up and thrown into the dark pits of hell until the time of judgment. (5) And during Noah's time, God did not have pity on the ungodly people of the world. He destroyed them with a flood, though he did save eight people, including Noah, who preached the truth. (6) God punished the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and this is a warning to anyone else who wants to sin. (7) Lot lived right and was greatly troubled by the terrible way those wicked people were living. He was a good man, and day after day he suffered because of the evil things he saw and heard. So the Lord rescued him (by delivering him from that destruction). (8) (SEE 2:7) (9) This shows that the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their sufferings and to punish evil people while they wait for the day of judgment. (10) The Lord is especially hard on people who disobey him and don't think of anything except their own filthy desires. They are reckless and proud and are not afraid of cursing the glorious beings in heaven.

^{SSS} [Mark 10:28-30 GW](#) Then Peter spoke up, "We've given up everything to follow you." (29) Jesus said, "I can guarantee this truth: Anyone who gave up his home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or fields because of me and the Good News (30) will certainly receive a hundred times as much here in this life. They will certainly receive homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields, along with persecutions. But in the world to come they will receive eternal life.

^{TTT} [Psalms 37:4-15 MKJV](#) Delight yourself also in Jehovah, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. (5) Roll your way on Jehovah; trust also in Him, and He will work. (6) And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your judgment like the noonday. (7) Rest in Jehovah, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of him who practices wickedness. (8) Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret yourself to do evil. (9) For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on Jehovah, they shall inherit the earth. (10) *It is* but a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, you shall search his place, and he shall not be. (11) But the

faith, and live...^(R) Many love to listen when other people talk about the Bible. Such interest can be an indication of their love for God: Of a desire to glean what those people can teach about him. If you love to listen when people talk about the Bible, please understand our simple encouragement: Just make the easy switch to actually listening to God's son.^(A) Simply read the Gospels! If you're tired of feeling like your life isn't, or can't be, everything you want it to be, turn to Christ. The insanity and badness of this world is obviously on the rise. When 650 whales beach themselves in a single day, along with the too many to recount other problems overwhelming this world, sane people must realize we are witnessing the end Jesus warned us about (or that he promised us, depending on your point of view).^(EE) As the problems of this world continue to get worse,^(AA) put your complete faith and trust in Christ. That must begin with knowing what he said. One kind and loving woman encouraged the writer of this booklet by saying it was well thought out. It is... It is well thought out because it is a simple Bible overview. Read your Gospels as you listen to Christ. *Those Gospels; they*, are perfectly well thought out!

meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the overflowing of peace. (12) The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes on him with his teeth. (13) Jehovah laughs at him; for He sees that his day is coming. (14) The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to kill those who walk uprightly. (15) Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

Thumbnail sketch of the Bible's theme: About 6000 years ago, our first parents joined God's enemy in a sinful rebellion.^(N) They inherited death for their disobedience. God immediately promised He would raise up a descendent of Eve to crush Satan's head.^(T) After 2000 years, Abraham was born and became God's faithful friend. God then expanded the Edenic promise by telling his friend that, by means of Abraham's seed, all the nations of the earth would bless themselves.^{UUU} He also told Abraham he and his descendants would inherit a wonderful land of Edenic beauty.^(R) After another 2000 years, Jesus Christ was born as one of the Jewish descendants of Abraham. Jesus was both the son of man^(U) in being a descendant of Eve and of Abraham, and the son of God by miraculous conception.^(V) Being born to imperfect parents, and after they sinned, we were all born having inherited their judgment of death. Jesus sacrificed his own perfect life to buy back our right to eternal life. God resurrected him 3 days later. And, Jesus promised he would return to restore the paradise God promised Abraham.^{(R) & (Y) & (Z)} Jesus and his disciples also taught all those who express faith in Christ are adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham, so as to inherit the promises made to him.^(II) It has been another 2000 years (and 6000 years from Adam) and all the parts of the sign foretold by Jesus (to allow us to identify the time of his return) are in place.^(AA) Express faith in what Christ taught and inherit the promises of God.^{(Y) & (TTT)} "As in the days of Noah, so will the coming of son of man be."^(BBB) Make no mistake: The ark of salvation for our day in time is your faith in what you personally know Christ taught. Read the Gospels. Express faith now and live forever!^(CCC)

^{UUU} **Genesis 22:15-18 GW** Then the Messenger of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time (16) and said, "I am taking an oath on my own name, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not refused to give me your son, your only son, (17) I will certainly bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of their enemies' cities. (18) **Through your descendant all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.**"

The following Bible translations may have been quoted in this document:

ALT - Analytical Literal Translation (1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla)
ASV - American Standard Version (by the American revision committee in 1897).
Coverdale – 1535 James Coverdale
Darby - 1884, 1889 Darby Bible (John Nelson Darby)
DRB - 1899 Douay-Rheims Bible
BBE - 1949, 1964 Bible in Basic English (Cambridge Press)
LITV - Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976-2000 by J. P. Green)
KJV - King James Version (1769)
MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)
Murdock – James Murdock (1851)
MWT - Modern World Translation
Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)
RV - Revised Version (King James Revised Version)
YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

This booklet is available at: justbibletruth.com/WhyWickedness.pdf

This world is comprised of 3 types of people: 1... Those who are looking for a man or woman, or for some group of them, to tell them what is right and how to give life meaning. 2... Those who believe God speaks directly to them;^(A) that they are specially called and/or chosen by God, or are stand-ins for Christ.^{(M) & (L)} Those 2 groups have combined to make up the judgmental religious sects spreading the hate that is destroying our world. Finally, there is a 3rd group. They want to learn what our Creator wants them to know! Each of them is being directed by God to Christ.^{(C) & (D)} Many are watching to find out if that group is huge, or tiny. God has made provision for you to live forever by means of your faith in what He sent his son to teach.^{(F) & (E) & (G) & (I)} Please consider the scriptures herein presented: The spread of love through Christ's teaching is the only fix to humanity's divisive problems. That must happen, however, under an umbrella of protection for the righteous from the wicked. God is providing that protection through Christ. It must also happen unseen to those without faith. If they could see, they would flock to Christ seeking the reward rather than because it is right.^(J) We claim no knowledge or insight beyond the teachings of Jesus. We pray God will open your eyes to see what is real.^(BB)

