

- **Notation... Filename (video script): MaintainBalance.pdf**

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1. Looking at a brief summary of the Bible, the book recounts about 6000 years from the creation of Adam and Eve until our day in time.

Δ It teaches us to know personally our Creator and Father, while it largely ignores many unrelated issues; such as whether and when dinosaurs existed in the years before mankind. While there are many things the Bible doesn't explain, what it does teach in detail are the things we need to know to accept God's protection and his gift of life. To simplify understanding the Bible, we can break our 6000 year history into three roughly 2000 year periods, or eras, of time.^A The Bible explains that Adam and Eve, shortly after their creation, joined a rebellion against God when they were lied to and told God was withholding something good from them. They were told God was a liar and bad. Genesis 3:15^(EE) explains how God next promised the unborn descendants of Adam and Eve, who were still in Garden of Eden, He would raise up a descendant of Eve who would destroy the enemy that incited their rebellion. That first period of man's history might be referred to as the Edenic Promise era. During that era, faithful men and women lived in hope of that promise made to Eve in the Garden. Noah lived near the end of that era, and mankind had already devolved into violence and badness so completely that Noah was apparently the last righteous man alive. God ended that violent world using a flood to destroy the people causing it. In that way, He protect the future of humanity through Noah and his family. Marking the end of that first era, then, and the first division of the Bible's history at about 2000 years after Adam, Abraham was born as an outstanding man of faith. At that time God reaffirmed and clarified his Edenic contract when He promised Abraham the avowed seed of Eve would also be one of *Abraham's* descendants. Abraham's seed would destroy God's enemy and God added that he would bring God's blessings to all of humanity.^(II) Abraham then became father to the Jewish nation and God used them as his chosen people in their day. Their nation was used to provide God's Laws to humankind which, in turn, brought some stability. That was no doubt in part to prevent mankind from being overwhelmed by violence and badness, so quickly and completely, once again. The second era, then, might be thought of as the period when mankind hoped in God's promise to Abraham: That God would bless all the earth using Abraham's seed. Jesus's birth, then, marked the end of that second era and was about 4000 years from Adam. Jesus was born as both the seed of Abraham, and the previously promised seed of the woman. Miraculously, he was also the son of God. Jesus also marked the beginning of the third era: Faithful mankind have since lived by hope

and faith in the teachings brought by God's promised seed. They live in hope based on the ransom sacrifice of Christ. Now, in our day, as our calendar system attests, we have arrived at the end of the third 2000 year period. We are now about 2000 years past the birth of Christ, and 6000 years from Adam. The Bible indicates it is time for another change in the unfolding revelation of the kingdom of God's promised deliverance. We have entered, or are entering, the fourth era of mankind's existence: The era of Christ Jesus as King of all creation.^(TT) You should begin to think about how very fortunate you are: While Jesus's first appearance was 2000 years ago, his return in kingdom power is for our day. It is a grand day to be alive!

Δ Now, I very much doubt you can believe all I have just told you, without considering some additional scriptures along with some reflection. How could you really? What I just told you is a tiny recap of the Bible's entire record of the 6000 years long effort by God to recover his lost creation. It is the revelation of the theme of the Bible. We all need to understand how Jesus Christ is the Bible's theme. And, if the Bible is true, you can surely understand its knowledge is far and away the most important thing in life. My name is Murray Cummings and my desire is to help you evaluate whether building true faith in the promises of God is reasonable. Also, we should all want to verify we understand what having faith really amounts to. We will consider why, since the Bible is actually so simple, its understanding has been hidden; and, who is responsible for hiding it. As you consider what is being said, remember, this video's sole purpose is to help you realize how easy it is to understand the Bible, and to help you recognize its theme. Just like most everyone alive, I hope, my desire is to do good and to help other people. I want to find happiness in doing so, of course, and I need a real hope for our future. How, though, can any of us do that? How can we find real happiness in a world that seems to be falling apart? How can we maintain our balance and well-being in the midst of an *insane* world? After over half a century of searching, I believe I have found, or maybe I have just been able to appreciate, the answer. (Sadly, wisdom is reserved for the old. Don't be deceived, if you are a young person, you can't possibly be wise. I am 70 years old, and, assuming they haven't wasted their years chasing wine and merriment, I can't possibly be as wise as someone who is 90. As ♦ Psalms 119:97-100^B brings out, however, there is a way to cheat the rule requiring age for wisdom. You need simply to make the wise choice to study God's word.) ♦ James explained how to be happy in chapter 1, verses 22-25.^C Those who support the truth and JustBibleTruthDotCom have produced this video^D to help us all, both to understand *why* the world is the way it is, and to encourage a foundation of faith that can surround and protect us both now and forever. In that way, the truth become an internal fountain springing up waters of life. We will also consider a most wonderful promise by our Creator you might not have heard. If I reflect back on things I wish I might change about my life, the greatest harm done me is there was

no one, some 50 or 70 years ago, to tell me the things I am now telling you. Please do listen! This is very important; and, like the woman at the well, there is no cost beyond some small effort on your part. On the screen of the device you are watching, I will be using a website named JustBibleTruth.com to display scriptures in support of what I say. Remember, as you move forward with your examination of the Bible: Whatever you are able to learn as a real and comforting truth now, will always be true. That defines truth!

Δ Sadly, one truth all reasonable persons must recognize is we live in a world that has lost its collective mind. Nearly everyone is self-servingly polarized and attached to some group or moral ideology. Most of those people are self-righteously set to judge as wicked, or even to demonize or do harm to, everyone they feel has failed their test of righteousness. Most have no interest in trying to understand or even consider the point of view held by others. People have aligned themselves according to race, moral cause, political party, gang affiliation, language, gender bias, and even more so, by religion.

Δ It can make one afraid even to express a point of view. If someone expresses the opinion some of the minorities making up a small percentage of the population are being protected beyond what is reasonable, causing reverse discrimination against others, some individuals will label them racist and hateful. If, on the other hand, they state it is horrible how minorities have been treated in the past and we all need to help, they are labeled bleeding heart liberals who don't understand things have to be paid for and that others are being hurt when special treatment is given minorities. The truth is, they are all right when viewed from their own perspective. And, the problem with that is that everyone's point of view is defective. God is the only one who can sort it all out and make it right. And that is the point we make. That is exactly what God is doing. It is being done for you personally, in your simple choice of whether to put faith in the teachings of God's son. Jesus's words help you to sort of look down from above the infectious rage about the unfolding drama of our earthly lives. God's word helps you understand you don't have to take sides to judge or hate anyone. The Bible helps you realize we are all judging ourselves by our choices. You remain safe only if you express kindness while telling everyone who will listen about the things Jesus Christ said. You have your own fish of faith to fry, so to speak. You never need worry about how someone else is cooking theirs. Worrying about and judging the actions of others is, as they say, pharisaical. Pharisaical is a term coined to denote judgmental false worship. Set yourself free of being misled in that way: Listen to Christ!

Δ Please just consider: If people can be led to believe they are God's chosen people, while they flock together and judge outsiders lost to God, there is no end of the harm they ~~can~~ will do. We live in a world

largely comprised of religious people. It is exasperating to deal with the hostility oozing from this world, and to remain positive, or to try and move forward in life. As ♦ Ecclesiastes 7:7^E says, continued oppression drives even wise people into madness. As Jesus foretold would happen in ♦ Mathew 24:12,^(HH) the loss of love resulting from mankind's having refused God's counsel has given birth to the hatred permeating this world. That hate oppresses everyone, and, that oppression is driving us all toward being unreasonable. It is noteworthy the Apostle John said at ♦ 1 John 5:19,^F the world we live in is under the influence of the Devil. That often unrecognized influence by Satan, then, is the cause of this world's confusion and suffering. We need to take a fresh look at what Satan's influence really is, and where it is coming from. Take comfort in considering the danger, however. Just as it was in the time of Noah,^(OO) God has provided deliverance for all who will hear. Shouldn't we all desire to know and understand what that deliverance looks like? After all, how can we possibly have faith in what we do not know?

2. This video, then, is for students of life who don't want to remain blind to what is real and important.

As Paul wrote to the Hebrews in chapter 5, verses 11-14 (BBE): "Of whom [*or, about Jesus Christ*] we have much to say which it is hard to make clear, because you are slow of hearing [*or, you have become dull in your hearing*]. (12) And though by this time it would be right for you to be teachers, you still have need of someone to give you teaching about the first simple rules of God's revelation; you have become like babies who have need of milk, and not of solid food. (13) For everyone who takes milk is without experience of the word of righteousness: he is a child. (14) But solid food is for men [*and women*] of full growth, even for those whose senses are trained by use to see what is good and what is evil." Against that scriptural and real world backdrop of our need to "train our senses," then, to recognize what is good and evil, we will consider some additional Bible verses that provide understanding and hope in the midst of this world's harshness! Our reflection on these scriptures presupposes a Creator who is good, and, because of that goodness,^G we can trust He would have reached out to help mankind. This is for people who believe the Bible to be the method by which our Creator has spoken to us, or, are at least willing to consider if that could be the case. We want to help everyone understand: **The Bible is not a lucky charm or idol to be kept on a shelf! The Bible is God's provision for our understanding life.** Our intent is to provide a summary or outline view to assist in understanding why God inspired the Bible, and, how we can use it to learn. A simple overview of why the Bible exists and how to use it, makes understanding the Scriptures an easy thing. **I promise you something: If you make the effort to pause this video, so as to read and get the sense of each of the scriptures provided, you will then be able to pick up one of the Gospel books by Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and**

read it through with understanding. Understanding the Bible will set you free of any dependence on human thinking or interpretation. We will also consider how that *freedom in Christ is the most important thing in life!*

Δ One early point to understanding the Bible starts with taking note of what it says in ♦Hebrews 1:1 and 2.^H God there explains He has spoken to mankind many times and in many ways during the years since Adam.^I But in these last days, it goes on, He has spoken to us by means of his son.

Δ God has spoken to mankind only twice since Jesus started his teaching work about 2000 years ago. In ♦Matthew 3:16 & 17,^J when Jesus was starting his preaching tour and had just been baptized by John, God spoke from heaven to say Jesus was his son and had his approval. Then, just before Jesus's sacrificial death, ♦Luke records in 9:34 and 35^K that God once again spoke from heaven to say Jesus was his approved son. This time, however, God specifically added the command that we must *listen to Jesus*. From those scriptures, as well as scriptures such as ♦John 5:30^L and ♦12:49^M and ♦10:31-36,^N we should all clearly understand we must listen to Jesus Christ as the son of God. We must listen to Jesus because he is the one specifically sent by his Father to teach us what we need to know. You must listen to *Jesus because God explicitly told you to do so*. The teachings of Christ are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

3. If the scriptures considered help you appreciate the wisdom in listening to the son of God, you should next give special attention to something Jesus himself said in ♦Matthew 7:15.^O Christ there warned we should be on the watch for false prophets that come in sheep's covering, but inside are destructive and devouring wolves. He followed that warning with *comforting words*, as he explained we can recognize those fake and deceitful Christians by the fruits they produce.

Δ What fruitage, or evidence of who they really are, was Jesus warning us to look for? He explained his true followers would be doing his Father's will,^(GG) while the wolves in sheep's covering would not. He said some of those wolf-Christians would even be sincere, and, that we can realize they are sincerely wrong. We can see they are sincere because he said they would come to him expecting help, and we can know they are wrong because he said they would be rejected for being wicked; even while asserting they had taught in his name. How could they be deceived in that way? **Simple... They had deceived themselves. They were and are deceived because they are not hearing that one simple command by God that we must listen to his son. Listening to Jesus must, of course, include hearing and learning from his warning about false prophets. Much of this world has been misled by false prophets, many of them**

claiming to be Christians, and they don't even realize what has happened to them. As you read the Gospels, just pay attention to how frequently the religious leaders questioned and accused Jesus about first one of their doctrines, and then another. *Instead of taking their opportunity to listen to and learn from the son of God, who was performing miracles in their midst, they were endlessly trying to justify the doctrinal beliefs their group had placed confidence in.* Religion hasn't changed down through the centuries. They still try to worship according to their own teachings, while they assert they are following the teachings of God. Then, they are left to expend their energies trying to defend their untruth. So... As God commanded, we must be careful to listen to Jesus Christ alone. Jesus said in the first verses of ♦ Matthew 23,^P we must not listen to or appoint other men and women as our teachers, and especially not as our leaders. He taught in ♦ Matthew 15:9^Q not to listen to the doctrine of humans, even those who are sincere and mean well. The followers of human doctrines will, most all of them, be promising what they are teaching is what Jesus taught. ***You do understand, don't you, professing their teachings to be Christ's teachings is what makes them false prophets?*** Always remember: If what you are listening to isn't coming out of Jesus's own mouth, it isn't, or might not be, what he taught. *You can safely listen to Jesus Christ only by reading the Gospels for yourself!*

4. *Break* In continuing our discussion about false prophets, then, failing to direct others to read the words of Christ is a common failure among religious wolves. It is one of their distinguishing bad fruitages.

Δ Please now understand the stark contrast between religion and Christianity. All the religious people of this world are really the wolves in sheep's covering Jesus warned about. They are all marked by teaching, and often even believing, we must follow them and their chosen sect. They are all convinced our spiritual direction must be aligned with their group's religious doctrine. Just always ask yourself, are you studying the Bible when you meet with them, or are you actually studying materials produced by their group. They each one claim studying their own group materials is Bible study, of course, because they have a few scriptures scattered through their writings. Don't be deceived! As brought out in Matthew 4:5-7,^R even Satan quotes scripture. Simply put, if you aren't actually reading the Bible, with emphasis on Christ's teachings, it isn't Bible study. Now, if you are wise, you realize that could also apply to what you are being told right here. The reason you can know this is safe, however, is because JustBibleTruth.com warns you to read one of the Gospels as soon as you finish this material, or any other material from the website. Follow up this video by reading Jesus's words to verify for yourself this *is* what he taught. There are some modern easy to read English translations of the Gospels on the website.^S

5. We can see over the course of history; men have gathered, and continue to gather, having ideas to accomplish great things. Human imperfection always corrupts those efforts. Their groups or institutions always become entities motivated by self-preservation and self-protection, while their lofty ideals are crushed under greed and self-interest. Thus, greed causes drug manufactures who no doubt started out trying to help people, to raise prices on old medications many times over so they actually kill people who can't afford them. Religious organizations seem the worst offenders, as they use the world's trust to abuse even our little children. Only the words of Christ can stop that perverted process. As examples, please consider 3 modern day religious groups.

Δ Beyond the conclusions we draw from the facts presented, our attempt is to mention only what these religious groups say about themselves. First thing we note about these groups is their teachings can't all be right. We can know they can't all be right because each group asserts the other 2 are lost to God and headed toward being destroyed or tormented forever. If you are a member of one of the groups we mention, your knee jerk reaction will be to take offense and stop listening. Please don't turn away! Please do listen. And then, *verify what is said by reading the words of Christ!* Remember, as ♦ John brought out in chapter 7, verses 45-49,^T the religious leaders actually told people not to listen to Jesus 2000 years ago. Religion hasn't changed their tactics. If I am lying about what Jesus said, you will know that in the light of his teachings. If I am not lying, well, don't you want to know that? (Jesus's teachings and, in some cases secular history, will show if what I say is true or if I am lying.) Each group we mention shares a professed faith in Christ. Each one starts with declaring you must accept Jesus as your lord and savior. Then, however, each group goes on to add their own specific guidelines about what following Christ looks like, or, *how* you must follow him. **Our 1st example...** As perhaps the earth's largest religious group, the Catholics teach they are God's only true servants in our day. They take great pride in their history since they believe the Apostle Peter was the first Pope. They teach Peter led the early church after Christ died, and then, they assert Papal authority was passed by Holy Spirit from Peter to the second Pope, and then from Pope to Pope down through the centuries. They believe all must look to the Pope for spiritual direction and enlightenment. They believe the Pope knows he *is the Pope* by the activity of Holy Spirit. The rest of us, however, must just trust him to be who he says. They believe their organizations great works and wealth, as manifest in their elaborate churches, hospitals and schools, serve as proof they are God's chosen

people. In the Catholic mindset and doctrine, no one may question or doubt the teachings of “the Pope” under penalty of excommunication by the church; which they teach also means rejection by God. That history they take such pride in makes them responsible for the Dark Ages, during the time their church hid the Bible from mankind in the dead language of Latin.^(A) They hid the Bible so it could only be read or copied by their own internally trained religious scholars. That allowed them complete control over the message people heard. The recorded history of their group also shows them responsible for the inquisition, where many thousands were publicly tortured to death in the most horrible ways imaginable. People were tortured by the church for asserted crimes against the faith. Finally, their declared history makes them responsible for the so called “Christian Crusades,” where hundreds of thousands were killed or “converted” to Catholicism at the point of a sword. Do you really want their history to be your history in God’s eyes? They should by now be warning all their little children all over the world, weekly and always during their meetings, to cry out in the midst of them if they have been or are being touched by some clergyman. It is not satisfactory that abusers are simply stripped by the church of their title and prominence, while the sect wickedly proclaims justice has been served. **The 2nd example...** Jehovah’s Witnesses teach they are God’s only true servants in our day. They believe they are blessed by God with having a small sub-section of their group they refer to interchangeably as the “Faithful and Discreet Slave” or “The Anointed.” They teach their “Slave class,” in similar fashion to the Pope for Catholics, is appointed or “anointed” by God’s Holy Spirit to stand in for Christ in behalf of their group. They worship those professed “anointed” individuals by requiring blind faith in their authority to reveal and define scripture for the sect. The “anointed” proclaim they know who they are by power of Holy Spirit. The rest of us, however, have to “just trust them” to be who they claim. They teach all the literature their group produces is “spiritual food” from God. They assert no one may question or doubt the “new spiritual food” being produced by “the Anointed” under penalty of disfellowshipping. In their belief, of course, being disfellowshipped by their group also means being rejected by God. They are dangerous because many of their members actually believe they are Bible students. They take great pride in believing they are God’s chosen because they have more Bible knowledge than other sects. Their sectarian doctrine does have enough of the Scriptures mixed in so it has fooled even some sincere Bible students for years. (A book entitled “30 Years a Watchtower Slave” was written by one of their members many years ago.) Finally, though, truthful individuals will have to realize, like all other religious sects, the leaders among Jehovah’s Witnesses have placed group doctrine above the Bible by demanding obedience to the sect’s writings. Just like others who have

sacrificed their children's innocence to a far too perverted priesthood, JW's will disfellowship and largely disown even their own children at the word of their elders. Those elders render such judgments through abject obedience to their "faithful and discreet slave" class. How much better for them all if they taught people to seek the approval of Christ and his Father through following the Gospels. No "spiritual food," beyond the Gospels of Christ, can be accepted by any true Christian. **3rd example...** The Episcopal Church teaches they are God's only true servants in our day. They declare in their writings: "We believe first and foremost that we can best come to know God, our Creator, through a relationship with his son, Jesus Christ." Isn't that a wonderful declaration of faith? There is an old saying, however, that a lie rides to its greatest damage on the back of truth. So... Note how they go on to modify their wonderful true expression of faith, by next directing you away from reading the Gospels. They follow their wonderful introduction with: "The clearest statement of what we believe is to be found in The Apostles Creed (of about 390 AD) and the Nicene Creed (from about 325 AD)." They teach everyone must share belief in their doctrine of faith, which faith they also declare is based on those creeds, or be condemned by the church. In their mind, of course, being condemned by the church also means being rejected by God. We purposely selected the Episcopalians because most of the different named sects among Christendom also express belief in one or both of those 1700 year old religious creeds. Those creeds thus form the basis for each group's doctrine. As the Episcopal literature continues: "Those [creeds or] "short statements of faith are held to be true by billions of people around the world today." Because of that asserted common basis of faith shared with "billions" of others, Episcopalians provide an illustrative example for most all of the modern churches who claim to be Christian. What do those ancient "creeds" so many have chosen to follow really amount to? They are the writings by groups who gathered about 300 and 400 years after Christ died to "define" Christianity according to "their" understanding. Christ defined Christianity according to "his" understanding! He did so in the Gospels. The creeds Episcopalians follow are *not* part of the inspired word of God. All those billions among the religious groups who believe in a doctrine based on the Nicene and Apostles creeds have, by accepting those creeds as the basis of their faith, replaced the inspired Gospel teachings of Jesus with their own doctrine. In their own words, *the clearest statement of what they believe is to be found in those creeds*. Please just consider how much better it would be if they simply said the clearest statement of what they believe is to be found in the Gospel recordings of Christ.

△ One thing the teachings of Christ do not provide, is support for any sect's efforts to *distinguish them* as the particular group others need to follow. And your obeisance, can't you see, is what they are all after!

Each religious group wants you to worship their sect by becoming “their” follower. We often hear religious clergymen proclaim actions and life styles are acceptable to God when even the practicers themselves know their actions are condemned in God’s word. As they persuade followers to turn from reading the Gospels of Christ, by following their doctrinal teachings to seek the approval of their priests and elders, they actually embolden people to believe they have outsmarted God. Religion always makes people arrogant and judgmental. They believe, after all, they are blessed by God and each member views their membership and group approval to be their proof of God’s blessing. Their perverted and abusive priests and elders and ministers will grow ever more bold in their badness; as they become drunker and drunker on the power and prominence God sent his son to warn people not to give them.^(P) If you want to be part of a group who will pat you on the back while they whisper in your ear how wonderful and important you and your contributions are, any religious sect will do. For that matter, so will any gang. If, however, you seek the truth, you must look to Christ Jesus and to him alone.

Δ Most modern churches have used some variation of these three methods for replacing the teachings of Christ with those of men. As the Wikipedia Encyclopedia defines: “Acceptance or rejection of a creed served to distinguish believers or deniers of a particular doctrine or set of doctrines.” In the midst of all these religious sectarian teachings and doctrines and creeds, we are most pleased to warn you: The Bible teaches no man or group has authority to stand in for Christ or interpret scripture. **Please recognize and understand this simple truth: Christ Jesus came to give the only interpretation of Scripture!** All you need do is actually listen to and really hear Jesus’s words. Christians don’t worry about arguing or defending the doctrines of men. They realize debating religious doctrine is always a painful and endless waste of time. The true followers of Christ are distinguished by the simple fact they read the Gospels, and in so doing, demonstrate their choice to become members of the family of Jesus.^(GG) When JustBibleTruth.com was started, I hoped and even believed people would flock to its teachings in groups. I soon realized that was foolish thinking on my part. While the site has seen about 1000 hits per day from over 150 countries, I believe those are all individuals coming to hear the words of Christ. That’s as it should be! Years ago, people came to Jesus as individuals. Few, if any, came as members of, or being supported by, groups of religious people. In ♦Matthew 9:20-22,^U the woman with the flow of blood came to Jesus as an individual and based on her personal need. Jesus helped her with what she specifically needed as he explained the help she received was based on her personal faith. That woman was unclean under Jewish Law, and that religious group might have stoned her to death for being out in public. The army officer mentioned in ♦Matthew 8:5-13^V also came to Jesus as an individual. He was a Gentile and looked down on by the

religious leaders. Even the two blind men from ♦ Matthew 20:29-34,^W who did approach Jesus together, didn't really come as a group. They were simply men cast together by their common condition and need. The religious people surrounding them told them both to be quiet and quit making a fuss. They each one acted according to their own personal faith, however, as they individually defied the demands of the religious crowd. So... Christ's teachings have helped me realize it was silly to think I, or any assembly of people, can create a new group to worship God by following us and our teachings. That would just create yet another religion! What is rather necessary is for each individual to join the family of Christ by gathering with, or among, the individuals Jesus started to gather some 2000 years ago.^(GG) That simply means reading the Gospels. Each individual Christian comes to Christ when, and only when, they accept the Gospel teachings of Christ as their "only" creed or doctrine. **Please now realize what God has done: He has placed us all on a level playing field. There is no secret, and it is not complicated. No one can do it for you, or really even help, beyond their encouragement to listen to God's command to listen to Christ. We are surrounded by a religious world that exerts constant pressure to control and harm your mind. You must force out their bad influence. Only the words of Jesus can heal your mind and set you free of this world's influence. That is what God has made clear through the teachings of his son in these last days. You must become part of the family of Christ. The only way you can do that is by making a study of the Gospels your life's goal.** As each Christian realizes God's arrangement, they ask God for a good conscience based on their faith in his son. They accept the Spirit of Truth Jesus promised at ♦ John 14:15-26.^X Jesus there stated he would send the Spirit to help his followers recall and understand what he had taught. Christ's followers recognize they have that Spirit of Truth simply because they are able to hear and understand what Jesus said. Christians are part of a group only in the sense they are individuals following the same path to God through their personal faith in his son. Those without the "Spirit of Truth" can't understand Christ.^(FF) So... They just keep hoping in and promoting the doctrines of men. What each religionist is thus doing is endorsing some group instead of Christ. **God's arrangement is wonderful nearly beyond human comprehension! Those who are sincerely searching for God find Christ, and those who aren't, don't.** Christian's worship no man or group because they accept no stand-ins for the son of God. Christians realize it is people promoting the teachings of other men and women who are the very wolves in sheep's covering Jesus warned about. We do realize many of such people sincerely believe in their own group's faith, and that some of them do mean well. Jesus said in ♦ Mark 7:6-8,^Y however, intending to do good while continuing to follow the religious doctrines of men will never be acceptable to his Father.^(O) Can you now see the common failing among all religious people? Do you understand that failing identifies them to be religious rather than Christian? Each religion failed the instant they elevated a man, or a group of men, or the

writings of some ancient group of men, to be replacements for Christ in teaching them about God. They will say that isn't true, of course, but just pay attention when they direct you to follow those men instead of telling you to read the words of Jesus. They will next claim they teach using the same method I am using by directing you to these scriptures. What makes the great and identifiable difference is this: I am not telling you to follow or have faith in me, or in any group, who will then "infuse you with Christianity." What I rather do is encourage you to read the Gospels to see if what I am saying isn't exactly what Jesus taught. What I do is provide you the same warning Jesus himself gave when he explicitly said it was his words, and only his words, that can "infuse you with Christianity." Religious people can never teach that because they need you to believe Christ's teachings are too difficult for you to understand. They will parrot the words that you should follow Christ, of course, but will always add that you must have the help and blessing of their group to know Christ. They can't really teach you to follow Christ because his teachings expose them all for the "wolves" they are.

Δ There is at least one other type of wolf you should to be warned about. Pay for pray ministries have a form of worship that amounts to a modified pyramid scheme. They prey on the greed of many, and on the basic needs of those most impoverished and pitiable among us. They encourage them to send them their last dollar, as they promise God will reward them with hundreds or thousands of times the amount they send. It is a *modified* pyramid because in a normal pyramid, the first few investors can make a lot of money, while the rest are left with a huge loss. It is a modified pyramid because only the wolf who starts the fake Christian movement gets rich. We have seen some of them in the news trying to convince "their followers" to buy them new jet planes.

Δ Do you begin to comprehend the danger of loyalty to religious sects? In the case of all the atrocities committed by religion throughout history, the unity and loyalty individual members feel toward their sect is what has empowered their leaders to inflict that harm. Religion mixed with government is most horrible. Hitler was a liar and without morals. He was also religious, misleading people by promising he was establishing a 1000 year reign to bring about the paradise which the Bible actually promises the 1000 year reign by Christ will bring. Needy or ignorant people believed his baseless and silly promises, apparently because of their desperation, or maybe because he just kept repeating the lies. As the allied forces closed in on the last of his troops, he just kept on promising help was coming and victory was imminent. Down to the last, he surrounded himself with adoring boot polishers who kept telling him how wonderful he was. He didn't seek the best people for a particular job! He only appointed people who would follow his every command without compassion or question. Wicked men, of course, anxiously followed Hitler because they wanted the power and authority he granted those who worshiped him in blind obedience. Down through the centuries,

then, history reveals it is the devotion and loyalty by the supporters of religious leaders that allowed them to burn many thousands of people at the stake during the dark ages. (Some say hundreds of thousands, but no records were kept.) That same sectarian loyalty has helped religious group leaders protect pedophile priests and elders who abused innocent followers for many years. Protect yourself from being infected with the thinking of any religious doctrine: Study the Gospels!

Δ True Christians thus present as the opposite of sectarian religious wolves. Remember, though, all of us were infected with the teachings of religion in our youth. Christians are simply the individuals who have left off continuing as wolves, gaining power to abandon Satan's religious influence by actually listening to and following Christ. One identifying mark of Christians, then, is that they each one teach you to read the Gospels for your own self. All Christians thus demonstrate they recognize God's command to listen to his son.

Δ In defiance of ♦ Matthew 23:8,^(P) religionists appoint themselves or their members grand titles such as priest, pastor, elder, pope, or teacher. Then, they want to direct members of their sect using the individuals with those imagined high titles as their leaders. The Bible does say God provided gifts in men as teachers, as well as other abilities. Those were not titles, however, but gifts used in service to others. Please grasp this simple truth: Not one religious person understands the modest sense of God's command to listen to his son. Their ignorance of that command is the thing keeping them enslaved to religion. The instant they do understand God's one order to listen to Jesus, they gain the opportunity to set themselves free as Christians. Realizing they must listen to Christ makes them see their need to abandon religious doctrines. Each Christian must hear Jesus's warning about false prophets, and then, abandon religion; whether those groups of wolves assert they are Christians or call themselves by some other name.

Δ The scriptures we have considered should help you see, if you make the choice to remain part of any religious sect, you are in grave danger. Jesus said in ♦ Matthew 15:14-22,² this world will hate those who love him. He also said his *true followers* would be identified by their loving-kindness. *All* of these many sectarian and judgmental religious groups can't possibly be servants of Christ. Remember too, the wolves Jesus warned you about will not like you when you stand up for what is right and true. As ♦ 1 Peter 4:1-5^{AA} brings out, their being witness to your making the effort to hear and follow Christ convicts them that they remain religious wolves. They will slander you by telling their followers you have become extreme in your views, or even that you are an apostate, or plagued with a demon of confusion. Following the same tack they took with Jesus, as they attempt to keep people following them and their sect, they must try and discredit all who direct others to Christ.^(T)

Δ For having done nothing more than tell them the truth, religionists hated and killed the son of God. As the Bible explains at ♦ John 19:6-

16,^{BB} the political leaders actually looked for a way to pardon Jesus. *His own religious leaders*, however, told lies and manipulated the politicians and the military to destroy him. That example is important because it sheds light on the joint efforts by the divided religious sects, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees and Samaritans, as they worked together to kill the son of God. Paul took advantage of his knowledge of their sectarian infighting as brought out in ♦ Acts 23:6-9.^{CC} While the 1st century Jewish religious sects had opposing doctrines that caused them to hate and condemn each other, they remained united to destroy the son of God. They remained unified in their hate for Jesus because he exposed them all for the hypocrites and liars they were. Jesus explained they were being misled by religion to follow teachings of Satan, and they killed him for telling them the truth. What the Bible illustrates by the works, or fruits, of those ancient divided religious sects applies to modern religious groups just the same. As Jesus said in Matthew chapter 15, verse 9,^(Q) all religious people are defiled in the very same way: Religionists are each one defiling themselves by following the doctrines and teachings of men rather than God.

Δ Please allow me to share a pretty common example of what religion does to good people. In a religious congregation meeting recently, a man shared his personal experience with his congregation of brothers and sisters. What sect it was doesn't really matter, because they are all exactly alike in this regard. He shared that at his workplace, a man had approached him and told him he noticed the man giving the experience didn't curse or carry on like some of their coworkers. The man said he explained to his coworker that he didn't do those things because he was a member of his particular religious sect. He said his coworker then said: "No, no you're not. I really liked you!" The congregation of his brothers and sisters all had a hearty laugh at his story. They laughed because they all shared the common delusion that their "brother" had been rejected by his coworker because that man was rejecting Christ, and/or, because the story teller is no part of the world. The problem with his little sectarian judgmental anecdote is this: He didn't tell his coworker he tried to be upright because he read the Bible and tried to follow the teachings of Christ. That might have had a completely different result. The workmate likely responded the way he did, because the self-proclaimed Christian man told him his upright behavior was because he was a member of the religious sect he is part of. I laughed at this story as well, but for a completely different reason. They laughed because they think people rejecting their "doctrine," and shying away from membership in their sect, is proof they are righteous. That's what religion always does to people. I laughed because I believe his story demonstrates he and his religious brothers and sisters are just self-righteous enough to imagine someone rejecting their sect is the same as rejecting Christ. Having a very different view from that sect, then, I

believe recognizing false prophets is what Christianity allows people to do. I hope his coworker visits JustBibleTruth.com.

6. Does it seem curious we focus so much attention on Christ and his teachings? Sadly, to many people, it probably does. There is no one else I am aware of who is teaching people to actually read the Gospels and become personally familiar with what Jesus taught. Isn't "that" the thing that should seem strange to you?

Δ All religionists want to convince you a study of the Bible is just too difficult without their group's help. Looked at in its entirety, the Bible *is* a rather large book recounting mankind's 6000 years since Adam's creation.^(I) As the Book says of itself in ♦Galatians 3:23,^{DD} however, most of what the Bible records is to serve as a tutor leading to Christ. The entire inspired Bible history reveals how God first promised, then produced, and finally presented his promised Savior to the world. The Bible thus amounts to an unfolding explanation of the first promise made by God in ♦Genesis 3:15.^{EE} God there said He would raise up a descendent of the woman who would destroy Satan. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. He is right now destroying Satan by exposing him for what he really is. No person of value wants to follow Satan once they see him illuminated by what Christ taught. In addition to exposing him for the liar he is, Jesus will soon kill Satan. The inspired Bible history, then, teaches us about, and helps us have faith in, Jesus as the judge appointed and sent by God. Now that Christ has arrived, however, we are no longer under the tutor that taught us to expect him. As brought out in ♦John 8:38-41,^{FF} the teachings Jesus brought from God were recorded for us in a small portion of the Bible referred to as the Gospels. The four short Books by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John^(S) are parallel accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus. One Bible translation we reviewed contains 1545 pages in total. All four of its Gospels, however, contain only 154 pages. The teachings of Christ thus make up exactly 1/10th of the Bible. Each Gospel record of Jesus's life is only about 40 or 50 pages long. Don't you see, learning what Jesus taught is not hard?

Δ As Jesus illustrated for us in ♦Mark 3:34 and 35,^{GG} you make yourself part of the family of Christ by reading those Gospels over and over. You can, by making the wise choice to join with those sitting at Jesus's feet, become a member of the family he started gathering to himself some 2000 years ago. That is the only way you can become a follower of Christ. Reading what he said is a real and true safeguard because that is the only way you can be sure you aren't just following men and their religious beliefs. In light of Jesus's many warnings about false prophets, and because he made clear they would each one pretend and even believe they are actually Christians, learning

personally from Christ is your only safe course. Using myself as an example: I truly believe I am teaching you what Jesus taught. Still, even I must realize, it is what *I personally believe* that pours out when I open my mouth. While I have done my level best to align my beliefs with those of Christ, I remain a work in progress. So does everyone else. The only thing any person can say that you can know you are absolutely safe in listening to, then, is when they encourage you to read the words of Christ for yourself. Actually listening to Jesus is the only way you can receive comfort to protect your balance and sanity in the midst of an insane world. Remaining inside the scriptural cocoon these few Bible verses afford, and remembering what is truth is forever, follow this video with a reading of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.^(S) That is the one and only way you can verify what you are hearing is precisely what Jesus taught. Learning what Jesus taught will reinforce your faith in God's promises of good. After reading one of the Gospels, read another! You have eternity in front of you to continue learning from God's only Anointed Teacher! There is a "lot" of information in those four little Gospel Books.

7. Please now allow me a personal observation: If you are inclined to be a righteous person, you are one who is being hurt by the distresses coming on this world. I know that is true because Jesus said in ♦Matthew 24, verses 3 through 28,^{HH} it would be true.

Δ In serving the warning and hope I believe these scriptures afford, I well know and admit there is nothing special about *me – except, I recognize the importance of the truth wrapped up in Christ Jesus*. And that, my dear friend, makes me *very* special! That understanding, that "opportunity" to become special as a personal friend of our Creator, is highlighted in ♦Isaiah 41:8 and Galatians 3:7-29.^{II} That opportunity for friendship with God is freely offered to everyone who will listen and express faith. It is being offered to you right now in your opportunity to consider these scriptures. God is trying to help you. Not in some abstract way off in the distant future, but right now. He is trying to help you survive our dying world system. So... Listen carefully to God's only command to mankind for our day in time: In ♦Mark 9:7,^{JJ} God *commanded you* to listen to his son. So, please... Read the Gospels!^(S)

8. I promised early on the scriptures we have considered could help you have hope.

Δ Please don't confuse my saying you can have hope with saying I think there is something you can do to save this old world system. ~~I believe,~~ ~~no,~~ *The Bible teaches* at ♦John 3:16-21,^{KK} this world has been judged and is being destroyed because of its wickedness. Jesus taught at Luke 13:22-27,^{LL} some people simply have no interest in being obedient to God. In Matthew 24:38-39,^(OO) Jesus said the end of this world would be

similar to the end of the world in the days of Noah. It is like those days in the sense that wicked people must once again be destroyed for peace to exist. This time, instead of an ark, God sent Christ to teach you how to survive. If you desire to help others, you should recognize that the only people you will be able to help are those who will, or even can, hear when you encourage them to listen to Christ. As the Bible brings out in ♦ 2 Chronicles 16:9 and John 6:44,^{MM} people who are looking for God are the only people who are being drawn to Jesus. Only those people will then be able to hear when you tell them about God's command to listen to his son. As Jesus said in ♦ John 8:46-47,^{NN} when people are not able hear what he says, it is because they have chosen to remain under the influence of Satan through his sectarian organizations. Only if they are first seeking God, and then being drawn by God to Jesus, will they be able to hear your encouragement. Then, they can come to God by personally learning what Jesus taught. That is the only way of salvation for any of us. The world as a whole, however, even as Jesus said at ♦ Matthew 24:36-39,^{OO} is being destroyed. You must not imagine you, or any of the efforts by other men and women, can save this world. As ♦ Philippians 2:12^{PP} encourages, save yourself! God promised in ♦ Isaiah 11:1-10,^{QQ} He is restoring paradise to the earth. The revelation of peace and paradise requires that those who won't know Christ must first be destroyed.

Δ That reveals another thing that identifies or marks some people as religious. They teach God isn't destroying the world at all, or even that everything is going to be just fine with this old world system. What they are really doing is asserting the Bible is a fairytale. Some of them will even say we can fix this world by showing love and by being good. Influential people like movie stars, musicians and politicians, often spread that same lie. You hear them say we can "win" because there are more good people than bad and we should just keep showing love for others. They are right to see and appreciate the good in some individuals, and that we should show love for other people. I hope they are even right about there being more good people than bad. They are definitely wrong, however, to imagine they can save the world or stop the destruction and the death of the wicked. If the world could be changed to become righteous, God would have done that instead of promising its destruction. Even God could not fix the world of Noah's day, and he can't fix this one either. God can't fix bad people because He has given each of us the opportunity to express faith to become his free sons and daughters. The choice of whether we are upright is ours alone. Those who wilfully remain ignorant of Jesus's teachings, including his caution at Matthew 24:3-28^{HH} about this world destroying itself, also place themselves among those we are warned about at ♦ 2 Peter 3:4-7.^{RR} Peter there said some people would deny or scoff at Christ's teachings and at his return, while they promise everything is going to be

just fine for everyone. They are all missing the point: It's not about who is good, it's about what is right. Being right means accepting God's directions for our lives because we realize and understand, He alone knows and always does what is good. Even Jesus Christ said at ♦ Luke 18:18-19,^{SS} only God is good. Not that Jesus isn't good, of course, but he realizes his goodness comes from obedience to his Father. ***The abject failure and looming destruction of the world system mankind has built during our 6000 years apart from God's direction and under the influence of Satan, provides the eternal touchstone of proof that God is right and good.*** In order to show himself fair in the extreme, as brought out in ♦ 1 Corinthians 15:19-28,^{TT} God has recused himself from judging and destroying the wicked. He has appointed his son Christ Jesus to render that judgment. Jesus then said people judge themselves by whether they put faith in him as the son of God.^(KK) That makes the judgment against the wicked fair and completely beyond question. Listening to Christ is the only way you can learn what God wants you to know, because listening to Jesus is what God told you to do. Really, how can anyone imagine they are pleasing God if they don't first understand his simple command to listen to Jesus? No matter how good people try to be, or imagine they are, they simply can't know how to treat other people with love and kindness unless they are learning from Christ how to do so. Obeying the son of God is the only way you can judge yourself righteous for life.^(KK) Those who continue to spread hate, as identified in refusing God's counsel to listen to his son, must be destroyed. Otherwise, they will just keep judging and harming the rest of us; often when or because they are sincere and mean well. Some individuals may change by leaving religion in a turning to God through Christ. Those who refuse to abandon religious doctrinal lies, however, will just keep on blowing themselves up to kill women and children they don't even know; because their group told them to. Most religious people pretend to be more civil than those religious terrorists, of course, but they all reveal what God they worship in the judgmental hate they express toward non-members of their sect. **This is the simple truth: Everyone is either being deceived to worship Satan through one of this world's many religions, or they are worshiping God through the teachings of Christ.** That's all the choice there is! Acting as groups, religion will continue to spread hate until God brings an end of them. Some will continue their badness in all sincerity, imagining they are serving God. Please know, there is no excuse for remaining ignorant. Jesus taught us better. And please never doubt, as He said in his teachings: *God is destroying this wicked world.*

Δ There are people who say my message is just too harsh and argumentative to listen to. Mostly, they are the religious leaders or the people who have the best this world has to offer. They want it to continue as it has been. They seem not to care about the suffering of so

much of mankind. And, they seem too silly to realize, without God's protection, that same suffering is coming for them. The people of South Korea have been terrified by what is happening to them (in 2018, as the leader North Korea and the leader of the U.S. bantered nuclear threats back and forth like school children). Wouldn't they be foolish not to be? Make no mistake, however, if a nuclear war breaks out anywhere, no one is immune. Grapes in California, USA, can be measured to be polluted with radiation from the disaster at the Fukushima power plant in Japan. Only God can save us from all the terrible things coming upon this world. My grandson, when he was young and just learning to talk, didn't like discipline. When getting counsel he didn't want to hear, he would say: "Don tel me dat. Don sey dat to me." He was so cute, his sincere mispronunciation always got him a laugh and usually a temporary reprieve from counsel or punishment. He had that same response even when the counsel was to protect his life, as when we told him not to play in the street with his ball. As you contemplate whether this message is harsh, just ask yourself: Do you like this world the way it is? Do you like that nearly half the people of the earth are homeless or suffering malnutrition or starvation; while others live in obscene wealth with multiple immoderate homes and million dollar cars? Do you like that a larger part of humanity is falling into poverty every day? Do you like that powerful men of this world play silly games that often harm or even kill those they are claiming to serve? Do you like living with the knowledge *you* could be harmed by them? Do you like that gang and terroristic violence is spreading like wildfire? Do you like the earth opening up to spray lava or swallow people right out of their home? Do you like that global warming and pollution is turning our rising oceans into cesspools? Please know: God hates it! The simple truth is, those causing this world's problems are destroying themselves along with the rest of us; but God sent his son to teach us how to survive. To build a faith to protect ourselves, people first have to realize what is happening. If you don't speak the truth, you are helping Satan hide what is real as he continues to mislead mankind by persuading them to hope in religious doctrines dreamt up by humans. If you imagine you are above the danger, you are a fool. Remember Saddam Hussein? As one of the richest men alive, he felt his wealth and power placed him above the fray. After trading insults with an American president, we saw him fall from his position of power and wealth to hiding in a hole like a rat. The childish bickering of those two world leaders caused immeasurable harm to hundreds of thousands of people! No one is immune to this dying world except by God's protection. This message is bad and harsh only for those who are wicked. Because of his love for us, as ♦ Acts 17:29-31^{UU} brings out, God has temporarily overlooked our ignorance and badness. Now, though, as the world disintegrates to the point no one would be left alive if God didn't intervene, as promised in

◆ Matthew 24:21 and 22,^V God is providing deliverance for everyone looking for him. As Jesus said in ◆ John 8:24,^{WW} those who refuse to hear God's message will die in their sins. You are God's child! He is telling you through Christ Jesus to bring your ball and come in off the street. It is not harsh; it is the most wonderful message mankind has ever heard!

9. Please allow me to share a personal observation I believe is supported in scripture. If I am right about it having scriptural support, of course, it is not my opinion at all. If it is scriptural, it is a teaching of God. You must decide by listening to Jesus.

Δ I have observed that integrity seems a basic requirement for those who seek to serve God. The Bible tells us in ◆ Titus chapter 1 verse 2,^{XX} God can never lie. John said in ◆ 1 John 2:1-5,^{YY} we make ourselves sons and daughters of God by our obedience to him. We must speak only what is true! The Bible also says in ◆ John 8:42-44,^{ZZ} Satan is a liar and the father of all lies. Being a liar is Satan's natural disposition; it is *who* he is. Jesus there said people make themselves children of the devil because they seek his desires. It would follow, then, being a liar makes you a child of Satan. My observation, then, is that lying seems to fracture something inside a person. It makes them feel unworthy because they are made so by lying. Liars can never find happiness in life because they can't really believe they deserve to be happy. If someone loves a person who is a liar, for example, the liar secretly, and probably without understanding why, feels there must be something wrong with the person who loves them. Then, they see no reason to be faithful to what they have perceived to be a defective person. They feel that way because they know they are a liar and unworthy of that person's love. So... Liars can never really appreciate love or any good thing, which leaves them constantly unhappy (if, of course, they don't repent and change). Many of them don't even realize they are unhappy. They fail to know because liars are only able to measure themselves by what other men and women think and say about them. If other people tell them they are doing great, in their fractured mind, they must be doing great. Most fail to even recognize God's view of them. So... They can't comprehend the happiness that comes from friendship with God. Do not be fooled: Happiness and life can come only from obedience to God, and, obedience to God can come only by learning from Christ Jesus.

10. If you are alarmed by the increasing turmoil and lack of integrity and empathy, or even common decency, among the political leaders of this world, you should find hope in two of God's promises.

Regarding the coming destruction of this world system, God promised in ♦ Isaiah 60:21-22^{AAA} that He would speed up that destruction “in its own due time.” God didn’t cause what is happening to us. Our rebellion against God’s directions caused our tribulation, thereby creating a hopeless world. It is a world where few if any young children have any real chance to respect the Bible’s counsel so they can grow up as righteous persons. Many children are abused by religious leaders who spew lies with Bible in hand. God is speeding up the destruction, however, in order to end the suffering the world we have created is causing; He speeds up the dying of this world system to put the wicked out of their misery. So... All the political turmoil we see, as lying and hatred engulfs this world, appears to be the outworking of God’s promise to speed us to the end. Recently, we saw the leader of a huge nation brag on world news that his people have the best prostitutes in the world. Another stated he could shoot someone in the street and his followers would still love him. Still another publicly poisoned and killed his own family members. These are not things they hid to do in secret, mind you. They proudly took those actions for all to see. It is amazing how far mankind has fallen. The modern world’s tribulation is exactly what God could know would happen to us because we abandoned his perfect and good way. So, He is no longer restraining our destruction from moving forward. He allows the wicked freedom, and thus speeds the world to its own destruction, in order to move righteous individuals past that suffering and into his promised paradise. A related promise at ♦ Matthew 24:14,^{BBB} is that the good news of Christ’s Kingdom would be preached throughout the earth for a witness to all the nations, *and then the end would come*. Religion has been hiding God’s simple truth for centuries. That time has ended. The continuing exposure of religion, along with the pressure this world is experiencing, is forcing everyone to reconsider the hope and peace to be found in the words of Christ. As we are told in ♦ Revelation 12:7-11 and 11:15,^{CCC} all nations are thus receiving the witness that Christ is the appointed king of all the earth. The words of Christ take away our ignorance, leaving no one justified in sitting as witness to all the problems of this world. Everyone is forced to realize something is happening, and that the world needs to change. So... The good news of the kingdom has been, and continues to be, preached to all the earth through the words of Christ. The reality and importance of what Jesus said will become ever more distinct for those who are seeking God, as wickedness and tribulation continues to spread through and engulf this world like gangrene. It all reinforces the knowledge that the destruction of this world system is imminent, which also brings the comfort of knowing, the deliverance of the faithful is here as well!

Δ If you look at the world using the words of Christ to illuminate it, you can see it for what it really is. If you refuse to put faith in Christ, you

remain a plaything of the Devil. Satan is a master puppeteer who motivates and drags people about using the lies he and his religious prophets have persuaded much of this world to believe. Only the words of Christ can set you free. If your inner person is built and standing on the rock mass of the Christ, you are immovable. If you are listening to the religious lies of men, you are like a wave of the sea driven here and there by every religious teaching. As one person said: "I listen to one seemingly upright religious person and they appear to make sense, so, I follow them. Then, I listen to another, and end up following them. It leaves me feeling sad and lost and stupid." That confusion and lack of hope is what religion does to people. That is what has happened to each of us to one degree or another. Those feelings of being lost, or even stupid, are absolutely normal in righteously disposed persons who haven't yet realized their need to listen only to God's son. People remain in that hopelessness until they personally determine to follow Christ. Following Christ includes heeding his warning to avoid the sectarian religious teachings of men like the plague they are. As Jesus said in ♦John 8:31-32,^{DDD} following *his* teachings will set us free of being deceived and led about in the way all the world is going. The religions of this world continue to fight and fuss about *almost* everything, while they judge each other lost to God. Just like the ancient religious sects who killed Christ, however, they remain united in working to actually hide the teachings brought by God's son. Even though religions are doctrinally opposed, we actually hear some people encourage: "Attend the church of your choice." Just consider: If any religion can convince you to follow the men their sect has chosen to worship, by reading their religious materials and measuring yourself with their doctrinal yardstick, they have effectively hidden the Bible in plain sight. Although each of the many sects anxiously try, and most promise they can do so, no man or group can provide you freedom from being deceived by the wolves pretending to be sheep. Only Christ has that authority. Even he, however, can only provide freedom if you make the choice to actually read and follow what he taught!

11. These are days of an earth-wide tribulation like mankind has never seen.^(VV) Make no mistake, if what the Bible teaches is true, world conditions will continue to get worse until this system is destroyed by the paradise God is restoring. Our Creator is providing you a real and accessible deliverance by means of your faith in Christ! So... It is now the time for the revelation of one of God's most precious promises:

Δ As wonderfully promised in the Book of ♦Job, chapter 33, verses 14-30,^{EEE} you can now or will soon be able to draw on God's spirit to begin renewing your youthful vitality. Like the revelation of the promises

Abraham spent 100 years hoping for, for some period of time, help will likely be gradual and imperceptible to others; or even to those who are being helped. If God's help for individuals was visible to all, people would flock to Jesus only to get the reward, even as some people followed him to be fed during his first visit. ^{FFF}

Δ We all suffer the same problem: God is perfect and can touch nothing unclean. We are all born unclean by coming through sinful parents. So, Christ was provided to intercede with God for us. If you judge yourself righteous by virtue of your faith in Christ, as stated in Job, you can draw God's spirit to keep you alive and perfect forever. As mentioned several times in the ♦ Bible,^{GGG} you must be born again. We each had our first birth through the spirit (or animation of life) passed from Adam and Eve down to our parents and then to each of us. Adam and Eve had a dying spirit after their sin, so that's what they passed on. We were all born dying. So... We must be born again through the spirit of life from God. That is a process that starts as we first have faith to accept the spirit of truth Jesus promised to send.^(X) That "helper" sent by Jesus assists us to remember and call to mind and make sense of what he taught. That, in turn, orders and heals our mind and helps us build a real faith in the promises of God. As referred to by Jesus in ♦ John 16:23, and stated by Paul in Romans 8:7-11,^{HHH} our faith in what Christ taught then allows God's spirit to dwell in us. God's spirit of life thus replaces Adam's spirit, as God begins to deal with us directly, including keeping us alive forever. We are thus born again as the spirit of life from God replaces Adam's spirit of dying to animate and keep us alive. As ♦ Ephesians 4:21^{III} brings out, the way that happens is you must become new in the force actuating your mind: Like Jesus, you must become guided by your desire to please God, even above your own self. And that, don't you see, is precisely what the teachings of the Christ are for. Seeking what God wants is an easy thing once you allow Christ's teachings to help you understand that you benefit yourself beyond measure by doing so. The only way you can heal your mind and have God's spirit of life is by building faith, not in my words, but in what Christ Jesus taught. As ♦ John 7:38^{JJJ} makes clear, faith in Christ is what gives life from within. Read the Gospels to verify this is all true. Hearing and knowing it was Jesus who taught what you are now hearing is the only way you can prove what is true, and so, gain eternal life. The real life can be obtained only from the spirit of God through personal faith in the words of Christ. For scriptural help to more fully understand what having faith in the teachings of Christ can mean, please read the booklet:

JustBibleTruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf

Or, you can visit the similar interactive webpage at:

Δ *Even though they share a similar name, the webpage and booklet are not identical. If you find encouragement in one, you might like to consider the other as well.*

Δ First and foremost, however, read your Gospels! Each of us will always want and need the teachings of Christ as the only foundation of the growing strength and beauty of our very being. Please remember and ponder this to be the crux of this video: What you believe to be real, inside the secret person of your heart, that is who God sees and knows you to be. That secret person is the manifestation of your real faith. Then, as Jesus promised and in similar fashion to those who received help from him in the first century, your own personal faith will define what will become your reality.^(OO) Building a faith that can preserve you alive in the midst of a dying world is a very important reason for dedicating your life to knowing what Jesus taught. Everyone with any faith in the Bible, of course, wants to understand how our deliverance will be revealed. It may be no more complicated than having a real hope and a true belief everything is going to be alright for you, because you know God sent Jesus to say it will be. What will happen for you will likely be according to *your own personal faith, assuming that faith is built on truth!* Only an intimacy with the teachings of Christ can help you become who you need to be. May God bless and keep you forever, based on your hope and faith in what he sent his son to teach.

◦ Fade to an onscreen display and reading of Job 33:23-28, John 17:3, and finally, Psalms 27:1-14 with God's name.^{KKK}

^b **Psalms 119:92-100 CEV** If I had not found happiness in obeying your Law, I would have died in misery. (93) I won't ever forget your teachings, because you give me new life by following them. (94) I belong to you, and I have respected your laws, so keep me safe. (95) Brutal enemies are waiting to ambush and destroy me, but I obey your rules. (96) Nothing is completely perfect, except your teachings. (97) I deeply love your Law! I think about it all day. (98) Your laws never leave my mind, and they make me much wiser than my enemies. (99) Thinking about your teachings gives me better understanding than my teachers, (100) and obeying your laws makes me wiser than those who have lived a long time.

^c **James 1:22-25 ALT** Now continue becoming doers of *[the]* word (Jesus is referred to in Revelation* as the Word of God), and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, this one has been likened to a man observing his natural face in a mirror, (24) for he observed himself and has gone away, and immediately he forgot what kind of *[person]* he was. (25) But the one having looked into *[the]* perfect law, the *[law]* of liberty, and having continued *[in it]*, this one—not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of work—**this one will be happy in his doing.**

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

^d If you are reading this document, it is the script for a video. The video can be viewed at: JustBibleTruth.com/Videos/MaintainBalance.mp4
The video can also be selected by going to the website JustBibleTruth.com, and clicking the yellow “Video Introduction” tag near the top of the opening screen. Then, simply click the link to the “Maintain Balance” video. This script as a text file is available online at: JustBibleTruth.com/Videos/MaintainBalance.pdf
We attempt to display supporting scriptures on screen in the video, but you might wish to print the script so you can more easily review the referenced scriptures as they are included as endnotes in the file.

^e **Ecclesiastes 7:5-7 ESV** It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song *[praise]* of fools. (6) For as the crackling of thorns under a pot *[a quick flash of fire and light with little heat]*, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity. (7) Surely oppression drives the wise into madness *[makes even a wise person act crazy]*, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

^f **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.

^g **Hebrews 11:6 CEV** But without faith no one can please God. We (everyone who approaches God) must believe that God is real and that he rewards everyone who searches for him.

^h [Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV](#) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things...

ⁱ A 6000 year timeline chart of mankind's existence from Adam until our day, and the Bible's influence on us, can be viewed by going to [JustBibleTruth.com](#), and then clicking the picture that links to the **Main Menu**. Then, about 2/3 of the way down the section titled **Studies in the Scriptures**, click **Time Scroll** of Bible events. The timeline scroll can also be viewed by typing [JustBibleTruth.com/DisplayScroll.html](#) into the address bar of your browser.

^j [Matthew 3:16-17 ESV](#) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (17) and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." See also the parallel accounts of this event: [Mark 1:10-11 ESV](#) And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. (11) And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

[Luke 3:21-22 ESV](#) Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

[John 1:32 ESV](#) And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."

^k [Luke 9:34-35 ESV](#) As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. (35) And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

^l [John 5:30 GNB](#) "I can do nothing on my own authority; I judge only as God tells me, so my judgment is right, because I am not trying to do what I want, but only what he who sent me wants."

^m [John 12:48-50 GNB](#) 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."

ⁿ [John 10:31-36 CEV](#) Once again the Jewish [religious] leaders picked up stones in order to kill Jesus. (32) But he said, "I have shown you many good things that my Father sent me to do. Which one are you going to stone me for?" (33) They answered, "We are not stoning you because of any good thing you did. We are stoning you because you did a terrible thing. You are just a man, and here you are claiming to be God!" (34) Jesus replied: In your Scriptures doesn't God say, "You are gods"? [See [Psalms 82:1-7](#) below – God there calls people Gods because of their relative position above other humans. See also [Exodus 7:1](#)] (35) You can't argue with the Scriptures, and God spoke to those people and called them gods. (36) So why do you accuse me of a terrible sin for saying that I am the Son of God? After all, it is the Father who prepared me for this work. He is also the one who sent me into the world.

[Psalms 82:1-8 GW](#) A psalm by Asaph. God takes his place in his own assembly. He pronounces judgment among the gods: (2) "How long are you going to judge

unfairly? How long are you going to side with wicked people?" Selah (3) Defend weak people and orphans. Protect the rights of the oppressed and the poor. (4) Rescue weak and needy people. Help them escape the power of wicked people. (5) Wicked people do not know or understand anything. As they walk around in the dark, all the foundations of the earth shake. (6) I said, "You are gods. You are all sons of the Most High. (7) You will certainly die like humans and fall like any prince." (8) Arise, O God! Judge the earth, because all the nations belong to you.

Exodus 7:1 LITV And Jehovah said to Moses, See, I have made you a god to Pharaoh; and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

^o Matthew 7:15-24 GNB "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. (16) You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. (17) A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. (19) And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. (20) So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do. (21) "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. (22) When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!' (23) Then I will say to them, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!' (24) "So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

^p Matthew 23:1-11 GW Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, (2) "The scribes and the Pharisees [*religious leaders*] teach with [*and claim they have*] Moses' authority. (3) So be careful to do everything they tell you. But don't follow their example, because they don't practice what they preach. (4) They make loads that are hard to carry and lay them on the shoulders of the people. However, they are not willing to lift a finger to move them. (5) "They do everything to attract people's attention. They make their headbands large and the tassels on their shawls long. (6) They love the place of honor at dinners and the front seats in synagogues. (7) They love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have people call them Rabbi. (8) But don't make others call you Rabbi, because you have only one teacher, and you are all followers. (9) And don't call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. (10) Don't make others call you a leader, because you have only one leader, the Messiah. (11) The person who is greatest among you will be your servant.

^q Matthew 15:8-11 ALT "This people draws near to Me with their mouth [*fig., speech*] and honors Me with the lips [*fig., words*], but their heart is far distant from Me. (9) 'But in vain [*or, to no purpose*] do they worship Me, teaching [*as*] teachings [*or, doctrines*], commandments of people.'" [*Isaiah 29:13, LXX*] (10) And having summoned the crowd, He said to them, "Be paying attention, and be understanding. (11) "The [*thing*] having entered into the mouth does not defile the person, but the [*thing*] coming out from the mouth, this defiles the person." (We must always direct other people to read Jesus's words for themselves. If we teach them to follow us, or some group of humans, that is contrary to God's command to listen to his son, and that defiles us.)

^r Matthew 4:5-7 GNB Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, (6) and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, 'God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your

feet will be hurt on the stones.' " (7) Jesus answered, "But the scripture also says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

^s Matthew: JustBibleTruth.com/BibleVerses/Matthew1_0-C-ALT.html

Mark: JustBibleTruth.com/BibleVerses/Mark1_0-C_ALT.html

Luke: JustBibleTruth.com/LukeALT.pdf

John: JustBibleTruth.com/biblejohn.pdf

^t **John 7:45-49 GW** When the temple guards returned, the chief priests and Pharisees asked them, "Why didn't you bring Jesus?" (46) The temple guards answered, "No human has ever spoken like this man." (47) The Pharisees asked the temple guards, "Have you been deceived too? (48) Has any ruler or any Pharisee believed in him? (49) This crowd is cursed because it doesn't know Moses' Teachings." [The religious leaders cursed the people saying they didn't know the Law of Moses. In fact, Moses prophesied about the coming Messiah. Their asserted knowledge of the law should have made them believe in Jesus. As usual, the religious leaders condemned themselves.]

^u **Matthew 9:20-22 BBE** And a woman, who for twelve years had had a flow of blood, came after him, and put her hand on the edge of his robe: (21) Because, she said to herself, if I may but put my hand on his robe, I will be made well. (22) But Jesus, turning and seeing her, said, Daughter, take heart; your faith has made you well. And the woman was made well from that hour.

^v **Matthew 8:5-13 CEV** When Jesus was going into the town of Capernaum, an army officer came up to him and said, (6) "Lord, my servant is at home in such terrible pain that he can't even move." (7) "I will go and heal him," Jesus replied. (8) But the officer said, "Lord, I'm not good enough for you to come into my house. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. (9) I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. I can say to one of them, 'Go!' and he goes. I can say to another, 'Come!' and he comes. I can say to my servant, 'Do this!' and he will do it." (10) When Jesus heard this, he was so surprised that he turned and said to the crowd following him, "I tell you that in all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith! (11) Many people will come from everywhere to enjoy the feast in the kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (12) But the ones who should have been in the kingdom will be thrown out into the dark. They will cry and grit their teeth in pain." (13) Then Jesus said to the officer, "You may go home now. Your faith has made it happen." Right then his servant was healed.

^w **Matthew 20:29-34 GW** As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Jesus. (30) Two blind men were sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" (31) The crowd told them to be quiet. But they shouted even louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" (32) Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. (33) They told him, "Lord, we want you to give us our eyesight back." (34) Jesus felt sorry for them, so he touched their eyes. Their sight was restored at once, and they followed him.

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

John 14:25-26 GW "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. *[The Spirit of Truth Jesus promised to send will not overwhelm you or take control of you. Based on your faith, it will help you remember and understand what Jesus taught.]*

^Y **Mark 7:6-8 GNB** Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (7) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' (8) 'You put aside God's command and obey human teachings.'"

^Z **John 15:14-22 CEV** *[Jesus said:]* And you are my friends, if you obey me. (15) Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me. (16) You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. (17) So I command you to love each other. (18) If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. (19) If you belonged to the world, its people would love you. But you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and that is why its people hate you. (20) Remember how I told you that servants are not greater than their master. So if people mistreat me, they will mistreat you. If they do what I say, they will do what you say. (21) People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me. (22) If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin. *[The kind of fruit we can produce that will last is directing people to Christ. If we are directing people to some religious sect of men, can we really imagine that is the same as directing them to read what Christ taught? Some of the members of religion believe that it is. Don't be deceived by them.]*

^{AA} **1 Peter 4:1-5 ALT** Therefore, Christ having suffered *[or, since Christ suffered]* on our behalf in *[the]* flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same mind *[or, mental attitude]*, because the one having suffered in *[the]* flesh has ceased from sin, (2) so as to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer in the lusts of people, but in *[the]* will of God. (3) For the time of life having past *[is]* sufficient for you to accomplish the desire of the Gentiles, having gone *[fig., lived]* in flagrant sexual immorality, lusts, drunkenness, drunken orgies, drinking parties, and unlawful *[fig., abominable]* idolatries; (4) in which they are surprised *[by]* your not running with *[them]* into the same excess of reckless living, speaking evil of *[you]*, (5) *[they]* who will give an account to the One being prepared to judge *[the]* living and *[the]* dead.

^{BB} **John 19:6-22 GW** When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate told them, "You take him and crucify him. I don't find this man guilty of anything." (7) The Jews answered Pilate, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God." (8) When Pilate heard them say that, he became more afraid than ever. (9) He went into the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus didn't answer him. (10) So Pilate said to Jesus, "Aren't you going to answer me? Don't you know that I have the authority to free you or to crucify you?" (11) Jesus answered Pilate, "You wouldn't have any authority over me if it hadn't been given to you from above. That's why the man who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." (12) When Pilate heard what Jesus said, he wanted to free him. But the Jews shouted, "If you free this man, you're not a friend of the emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king is defying the emperor." (13) When Pilate heard what they said, he took Jesus outside and sat on the judge's seat in a place called

Stone Pavement. (In Hebrew it is called Gabbatha.) (14) The time was about six o'clock in the morning on the Friday of the Passover festival. Pilate said to the Jews, "Look, here's your king!" (15) Then the Jews shouted, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Should I crucify your king?" The chief priests responded, "The emperor is the only king we have!" (16) Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took Jesus. (17) He carried his own cross and went out of the city to a location called The Skull. (In Hebrew this place is called Golgotha.) (18) The soldiers crucified Jesus and two other men there. Jesus was in the middle. (19) Pilate wrote a notice and put it on the cross. The notice read, "Jesus from Nazareth, the king of the Jews." (20) Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. (21) The chief priests of the Jewish people told Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews!' Instead, write, 'He said that he is the king of the Jews.'" (22) Pilate replied, "I have written what I've written."

^{CC} Acts 23:6-9 GNB When Paul saw that some of the group were Sadducees and the others were Pharisees, he called out in the Council, "Fellow Israelites! I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees. I am on trial here because of the hope I have that the dead will rise to life!" (7) As soon as he said this, the Pharisees and Sadducees started to quarrel, and the group was divided. (8) (For the Sadducees say that people will not rise from death and that there are no angels or spirits; but the Pharisees believe in all three.) (9) The shouting became louder, and some of the teachers of the Law who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and protested strongly: "We cannot find a thing wrong with this man! Perhaps a spirit or an angel really did speak to him!"

^{DD} Galatians 3:22-29 ALT But the Scripture [*Law Code*] confined all under sin, so that the promise shall be given by faith in Jesus Christ to the ones believing. (23) 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. (27) For as many as were baptized [*or, immersed*] into Christ put on [*or, clothed yourselves with*] Christ. (28) There is no Jew nor Greek, there is no slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) Now since you [*are*] Christ's, consequently, you are seed [*fig., descendants*] of Abraham and heirs according to promise.

^{EE} Genesis 3:15 GNB I will make you (the serpent or Satan) and the woman (Eve) hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel." (This is the first mention of God's promised Messiah. The balance of the Bible fills in around this promise.)

^{FF} John 8:38-44 GNB I talk about what my Father has shown me, but you do what your father has told you." (39) They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." "If you really were Abraham's children," Jesus replied, "you would do the same things that he did. (40) **All I have ever done is to tell you the truth I heard from God, yet you are trying to kill me.** Abraham did nothing like this! (41) You are doing what your father did." "God himself is the only Father we have," they answered, "and we are his true children." (42) 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.

^{GG} **Mark 3:31-35 ALT** Then His brothers and mother come, and standing outside they sent [*word*] to Him, calling for Him. (32) And a crowd was sitting around Him. So they said to Him, "Listen! Your mother and Your brothers and Your sisters are outside seeking You." (33) And He answered them saying, "Who is My mother or My brothers?" (34) And having looked around in a circle at the ones sitting around Him, He says, "Look! My mother and My brothers! (35) "For whoever does the will of God, this one is My brother and My sister and mother."

^{HH} **Matthew 24:3-28 MWT** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will this happen? What will be the sign that you are coming again, and when will the world come to an end?" (4) Jesus answered them, "Be careful not to let anyone deceive you. (5) Many will come using my name. They will say, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many people. (6) "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Don't be alarmed! These things must happen, but they don't mean that the end has come. (7) Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (8) All of these are only the beginning pains of the end. (9) "Then they will hand some of you over to those who will torture and kill you. All nations will hate you because you are committed to me. (10) Then many will lose faith. They will betray and hate each other. (11) Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (12) And because there will be more and more lawlessness, most people's love will grow cold. (13) But the person who endures faithful to the end will be saved. (14) "This Good News about the kingdom will be spread throughout the world as a witness to all nations. Then the end will come. (15) "The prophet Daniel said that the disgusting thing that will cause destruction will stand in the holy place. (The disgusting thing causing desolation is a composite of those who teach their own doctrine [lies] in the name of Christ Jesus.) When you see this (let the reader use discernment), (16) those of you in Judea should flee to the mountains. (The mountains of our salvation are God and his son.) (17) Those who are on the roof should not come down to get anything out of their houses. (18) Those who are in the field should not turn back to get their coats. (19) "How horrible it will be for the women who are pregnant or who are nursing babies in those days. (20) Pray that it will not be winter or a day of worship when you flee. (21) There will be a lot of misery at that time, a kind of misery that has not happened from the beginning of the world until now and will certainly never happen again. (22) If God does not cut short the number of those days, no one will be saved. But those days will be reduced because of those whom God has chosen (and drawn to Christ). (23) "At that time don't believe anyone who tells you, 'Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' (24) False messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will work spectacular, miraculous signs and do wonderful things to deceive, if possible, even those whom God has chosen. (25) Listen! I've told you this before it happens. (26) So if someone tells you, 'He's in the desert!' don't go out looking for him. And don't believe anyone who says, 'He's in a secret place!' (27) The Son of Man will come again just as lightning flashes from east to west. (The flashes of truth brought by Christ have illuminated the whole of the earth, like distant lightning flashes. Everyone who hasn't chosen to close their eyes can see.) (28) Eagles will gather where the dead body is. (The remains or body of Christ are his teachings. The faithful are gathered to feed on those teachings. They gain strength for eternal life by doing so.) [Please visit: JustBibleTruth.com/Observations/HowCanFaithHelp.html]

^{II} **Isaiah 41:8 GW** "But you are my servant Israel, *[the sons of]* Jacob, whom I have chosen, the descendant of Abraham, my dear friend.

Galatians 3:7-9 GW You must understand that people who have faith are Abraham's descendants. (8) Scripture saw ahead of time that God would give his approval to non-Jewish people who have faith. So Scripture announced the Good News to Abraham ahead of time when it said, "Through you all the people of the world will be blessed." (9) So people who believe *[in Christ]* are blessed together with *[God's friend]* Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:14 GW Christ paid the price so that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to all the people of the world through Jesus Christ and we would receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:26 GW You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29 GW If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants and heirs, as God promised.

^{JJ} **Mark 9:7 GW** Then a cloud overshadowed them. A voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

^{KK} **John 3:16-21 GNB** For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior. (18) Those who believe in the Son are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. (19) This is how the judgment works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. (20) Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. (21) But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

^{LL} **Luke 13:22-27 ESV** He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. (23) And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, (24) "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (25) When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' (26) Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' (27) But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' (These people were religious and feigned a love for God. They didn't, however, listen to Christ. Because of not listening to Christ, they remained lovers and workers of what is bad.)

^{MM} **2 Chronicles 16:9 GW** The LORD'S eyes scan the whole world to find those whose hearts are committed to him and to strengthen them *[by directing them to his son]*...

John 6:44 ALT "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father having sent Me draws *[or, drags]* him...

^{NN} **John 8:43-47 GW** Why don't you understand *[what I say to you]* the language I use? Is it because you can't understand the words I use? (44) You come from your father, the devil, and you desire to do what your father wants you to do. The devil was a murderer from the beginning. He has never been truthful. He doesn't know what the truth is. Whenever he tells a lie, he's doing what comes naturally to him. He's a liar and the father of lies. (45) So you don't believe me because I tell the truth. (46) Can any of you convict me of committing a sin? If I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me? (47) The person who belongs to God

understands what God says. You don't understand because you don't belong to God."

^{oo} **Matthew 24:36-39 GNB** "No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come---neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. (37) The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. (38) In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; (39) yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes.

Matthew 9:27-30 GNB Jesus left that place, and as he walked along, two blind men started following him. "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" they shouted. (28) When Jesus had gone indoors, the two blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I can heal you?" "Yes, sir!" they answered. (29) Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "**Let it happen, then, just as you believe [or, just as you have faith]!**" --- (30) and their sight was restored...

^{pp} **Philippians 2:12-16 ALT** (12) So then, my beloved, just as you always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, be working out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for [*if you are looking for him,*] God is the One supernaturally working in you both to be desiring and to be supernaturally working for the sake of His good pleasure. (14) Be doing all things without complaints and arguments, (15) so that you shall become blameless and innocent children of God, unblemished in [*the*] midst of a crooked and... perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the universe, (16) holding firmly to [*or, offering*] the word of life, as my right to boast in [*the*] day of Christ, that I did not run [*fig., exert myself*] in vain, nor did I labor in vain.

^{qq} **Isaiah 11:1-10 GNB** The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. [*Christ is a descendant of King David and of Abraham and of Eve.*] (2) The spirit of the LORD will give him [*Christ*] wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the LORD's will and honor him, (3) and find pleasure in obeying him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay; (4) he will judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. At his command the people will be punished, and evil persons will die. (5) He will rule his people with justice and integrity. (6) [*As paradise is restored*] Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. (7) Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. (8) Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake. (9) On Zion, God's sacred hill [*or the earth*], there will be nothing harmful or evil. The land will be as full of knowledge of the LORD as the seas are full of water. (10) A day is coming when the new king from the royal line of David will be a symbol to the nations. They will gather in his royal city and give him honor.

^{rr} **2 Peter 3:2-7 GNB** I want you to remember the words that were spoken long ago by the holy prophets, and the command from the Lord and Savior ^(HH) which was given you by your apostles. (3) First of all, you must understand that in the last days some people will appear whose lives are controlled by their own lusts. They will make fun of you (4) and will ask, "He promised to come, didn't he? Where is he? Our ancestors (the early followers of Christ) have already died, but everything is still the same as it was since the creation of the world!" (5) They purposely ignore the fact that long ago God gave a command, and the heavens and earth were created. The earth was formed out of water and by water, (6) and it was also by water, the water of the flood, that *the old world was destroyed*. (7)

But the heavens and the earth that now exist are being preserved by the same command of God, in order *[for the wicked to again]* be destroyed *[as]* by fire. They are being kept for the day when godless people will be judged and destroyed.

^{ss} [Luke 18:18-19 GNB](#) A Jewish leader asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?" (19) "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. – You may find that some religious people will use this scripture to try and defend their religious doctrine of the trinity. They try and assert Jesus was actually saying he was God. That flies in the face of scriptures like John 8:28-30, where Jesus said he does only what he sees his Father doing, and John 12:50, where he said he speaks only what his Father told him to say. By seeking to defend their sectarian religious doctrine, religionists defile themselves by remaining unable to understand the simple and beautiful teachings of Jesus Christ. Why do they feel compelled to debate and express faith in a doctrine not mentioned in the Bible, and only established 300 or 400 years after Christ died? Don't be sucked into worrying about taking a stand on the doctrines of men. Listen to Jesus by reading the Gospels and you can't go wrong. If you listen to Jesus, the trinity and the other doctrines of men will never even come up.

^{tt} [1 Corinthians 15:19-28 GNB](#) (19) If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world. (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 (the first raised to eternal life – other resurrected individuals [such as Lazarus] died again); then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him. (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 (bringing eternal life to all who will accept it). (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. (Christ's resubmitting himself to his Father renders the eternal judgment that God's rule is perfect.)

^{uu} [Acts 17:29-31 CEV](#) Since we are God's children, we must not think that he is like an idol made out of gold or silver or stone. He isn't like anything that humans have thought up and made. (30) In the past, God forgave all this because people did not know what they were doing. But now he says that everyone everywhere must turn to him. (31) He has set a day when he will judge the world's people with fairness. And he has chosen the man Jesus to do the judging for him. God has given proof of this to all of us by raising Jesus from death.

^{vv} [Matthew 24:21-22 ALT](#) "For then *[there]* will be great tribulation *[or, affliction]*, such as has not been from *[the]* beginning of the world until now, nor never at all shall be. (22) "And if those days were not cut short, no flesh would be saved; but because of the chosen ones *[or, the elect or the ones being chosen and drawn to Christ]*, those days will be cut short.

^{ww} **John 8:24 MWT** That is why I said you will die in your sins. If you don't have faith in me for who I am, you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven."

^{xx} **Titus 1:1-3 CEV** From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I encourage God's own people to have more faith and to understand the truth about religion. (2) Then they will have the hope of eternal life that God promised long ago. And God never tells a lie! (3) So, at the proper time, God our Savior gave this message [*through his son Christ Jesus*] and told me to announce what he had said.

^{yy} **1 John 2:1-6 CEV** My children, I am writing this so that you won't sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us. (2) Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world's people. (3) When we obey God, we are sure that we know him. (4) But if we claim to know him and don't obey him, we are lying and the truth isn't in our hearts. (5) We truly love God only when we obey him as we should, and then we know that we belong to him. (6) If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ. [*A person following the example of Christ can't lie because they know that to be the primary trait of Satan. Do not be deceived, mentioning God in their speech does not make a liar a good person.*]

^{zz} **John 8:42-44 BBE** Jesus said to them, If God was your Father you would have love for me, because it was from God I came and am here. I did not come of myself, but he sent me.

(43) Why are my words not clear to you? It is because your ears are shut to my teaching.

(44) You are the children of your father the Evil One and it is your pleasure to do his desires. From the first he was a taker of life; and he did not go in the true way because there is no true thing in him. When he says what is false, it is natural to him, for he is false and the father of what is false.

^{aaa} **Isaiah 60:21-22 LITV** And your people *shall all be* righteous; they shall possess the earth forever, a branch of My planting, a work of My hands, to beautify Myself. (22) A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation. I, Jehovah, will hasten it in its time.

^{bbb} **Matthew 24:7-14 GNB** Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famines and earthquakes everywhere. (8) All these things are like the first pains of childbirth. (9) "Then [*some of*] you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. (10) Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another and hate one another. (11) Then many false prophets will appear and fool many people. (12) Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. (13) But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. (14) And this Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all people [*all nations*]; and then the end will come.

^{ccc} **Revelation 12:7-11 CEV** A war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels were fighting against the dragon and its angels. (8) But the dragon lost the battle. It and its angels were forced out of their places in heaven (9) and were thrown down to the earth. Yes, that old snake and his angels were thrown out of heaven! That snake, who fools everyone on earth, is known as the devil and Satan. (10) Then I heard a voice from heaven shout, "Our God has shown his saving power, and his kingdom has come! God's own Chosen One [*Messiah*] has shown his authority. Satan accused our people in the presence of God day and night. Now he has been thrown out! (11) Our people defeated Satan because of

the blood of the Lamb and the message of God. They were willing to give up their lives.

Revelation 11:15 GW When the seventh angel blew his trumpet, there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah [*Christ*], and he will rule as king forever and ever."

DDD John 8:31-32 GNB So Jesus said to those who believed [*put faith*] in him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; **(32) you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

EEE Job 33:14-30 GNB Although God speaks again and again, no one pays attention to what he says. **(15)** At night when people are asleep, (in now past years) God speaks in dreams and visions. **(16)** He makes them listen to what he says, and they are frightened at his warnings. (In these last days, God no longer "makes" us listen to dreams or visions. He has given us the opportunity to listen to his Son.) **(17)** God speaks to make them stop their sinning and to save them from becoming proud. **(18)** He will not let them be destroyed; he saves them from death itself. **(19)** God corrects us by sending (or, allowing because of our disobedience) sickness and filling our bodies with pain. **(20)** Those who are sick lose their appetites, and even the finest food looks revolting. **(21)** Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; **(22)** they are about to go to the world of the dead. **(23)** Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. **(24)** In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." **(25)** Their bodies will grow young and strong again; **(26)** when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. **(27)** Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. **(28)** He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." **(29)** God does all this again and again; **(30)** each one saves a person's life, and gives him the joy of living.

FFF John 6:26-29 CEV Jesus answered, "I tell you for certain that you are not looking for me because you saw the miracles, but because you ate all the food you wanted. **(27)** Don't work for food that spoils. Work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because God the Father has given him the right to do so." **(28)** "What exactly does God want us to do?" the people asked. **(29)** Jesus answered, "God wants you to have faith in the one he sent."

GGG John 3:1-15 GNB There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. **(2)** One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him." **(3) Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."** **(4)** "How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!" **(5)** "I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water [through Adam and Eve] and the Spirit. **(6) A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. (7) Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again.** **(8)** The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **(9)** "How can this be?" asked Nicodemus. **(10)** Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? **(11)** I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. **(12)** You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me, then, when I tell you about the

things of heaven? (13) And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven." (14) As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, (15) so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

John 1:9-14 ESV The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.** (14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 ESV (14) For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; (15) and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (16) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. (17) **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (18) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Galatians 6:15 GW Certainly, it doesn't matter whether a person is circumcised or not. **Rather, what matters is being a new creation.**

1 Peter 1:3-5 GW Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **God has given us a new birth because of his great mercy.** We have been born into a new life that has a confidence which is alive because Jesus Christ has come back to life. (4) We have been born into a new life which has an inheritance that can't be destroyed or corrupted and can't fade away. That inheritance is kept in heaven for you, (5) since you are guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

1 Peter 1:22-25 GW Love each other with a warm love that comes from the heart. After all, you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth. As a result you have a sincere love for each other. (23) **You have been born again, not from a seed that can be destroyed, but through God's everlasting word that can't be destroyed.** That's why Scripture says, (24) "All people [*born of Adam*] are like grass, and all their beauty is like a flower of the field. The grass dries up and the flower drops off, (25) but the word of the Lord lasts forever." This word is the Good News that was told to you.

1 John 3:7-9 ESV Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (8) Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (9) **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed [*or spirit*] abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.**

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

The following verses are important enough to consider from two different translations: **Romans 8:7-11 GNB** And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it. (8) Those who obey their human nature cannot please

God. (9) But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to---if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin (until the promises of Job start keeping people alive). (11) If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.

Romans 8:7-11 CEV Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God's laws. (8) If we follow our desires, we cannot please God. (9) You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God's Spirit, who lives in you. People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them don't belong to him. (10) But Christ lives in you. So you are alive because God has accepted you, even though your bodies must die because of your sins. (11) Yet God raised Jesus to life! God's Spirit now lives in you, and he will raise you to life (or continue your live if you are still alive when paradise is restored) by his Spirit.

Ephesians 4:17-25 CEV As a follower of the Lord, I order you to stop living like stupid, godless people. (18) Their minds are in the dark, and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right, (19) and they are so greedy that they do all kinds of indecent things. (20) But that isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and you heard about him and learned about him. (21) *(You must be made new in the force actuating your mind.)* (22) You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. (23) Let the Spirit change your way of thinking (24) and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. (25) We are part of the same body. Stop lying and start telling each other the truth.

John 7:38 ALT "The one believing [*or, trusting*] in Me, just as the Scripture said, '**Out of his belly [*or, innermost being*] will flow rivers of living water.**' [*no specific OT reference, but for general idea see Isaiah 55:1; 58:11; Ezek 47:1; Joel 3:18; Zech 13:1; 14:8; 1 Cor 10:4; Exodus 17:6; Num 20:8*]

Job 33:23-28 MWT If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him, (24) and he is merciful to him, and says, '**Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom; (25) let his flesh become fresher than in youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigor**'; (26) then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness. (27) The restored man sings before men and says: 'I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me. (28) **He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light.**'

John 17:1-3 GW After saying this, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time is here. Give your Son glory so that your Son can give you glory. (2) After all, you've given him authority over all humanity so that he can give eternal life to all those you gave to him. (3) **This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.**

Psalms 27:1-14 MWT I'd like to close with a reading of words penned by ancient King David. David here expressed a hope shared by all who love our Grand Creator. – The reading of these Bible verses also highlights a sweeping change that effects the whole of the website: JustBibleTruth.com. The change to the website has to do with the fact these verses, as well as many, many others,

contain God's personal name as given to mankind in the original Hebrew language of the Old Testament. God's personal name was recorded in the Old Testament over 6000 times. Doesn't that make using the name of our Creator is something you should consider? Because mankind was warned at Deuteronomy 5:11, and Leviticus 24:16,* against misusing or abusing God's personal name, many modern Jews won't attempt to pronounce the divine name at all. Even though it is found hundreds of times in their Hebrew scriptural text, they will simply say "The Name" when reading a scripture containing God's name. Many who claim to be Christian won't pronounce the name either, often substituting the title "LORD" in all capital letters where God's name was used; while they use "Lord" with only the L capitalized where the actual Hebrew word for Lord was used. Still others have felt free to attempt to translate the Divine Name of the God of the Bible into English, as either "Jehovah" or "Yahweh." Some people represent it in Greek as "YHWH." If you read material or watch other videos on the website, you will note I have previously used the English translation Jehovah to represent God's name. Having gained more knowledge, I no longer feel it is appropriate for me to do that. After discussing the matter with members of the Jewish community who still do pronounce God's name, my best understanding of how to pronounce the Divine Name is Ye^oaVa^h; as in Yea, go team, followed by Vah, like the first two letters of vault - Ye^oaVa^h. Since God's name is four Hebrew letters and Hebrew is written from right to left, while English uses a different alphabet and is written left to right, many computer software programs are incapable of inserting Hebrew text into an English document. Sadly, that is the case with the tools I use to publish the website. That is all just to say there is not a short term solution for changing the thousands of files already up on the JustBibleTruth.com website. You should, therefore, take somewhat the opposite tack from the Jews who read God's personal name and just say "the name" when doing so. When you see "Jehovah," "Yahweh" or "YHWH" on the website, just know it should be יהוה. Please do not imagine I am telling you to pronounce and use God's name! You must decide that for yourself. What I am telling you is what I know about the Name and what I have learned about how other people address the issue of using it. What I explain to you is how I have chosen to do my best to use and show respect for our Creator's personal name. As for me, since He had his name recorded in the original Hebrew Scriptures over 6000 times, it does seem important to use it. I do so pronouncing it as Ye^oaVa^h (יהוה). So then... What follows is a reading from Psalms 27:1-14, as I do my best to honor and use God's personal name just as it was recorded in the original Hebrew text:

You, O יהוה, are my light and my salvation. Of whom shall I be in fear. יהוה is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be in dread. (2) When evil doers approach to eat up my flesh, they being my adversaries and enemies personally, they themselves stumbled and fell. (3) Armies may surround me, but I won't be afraid; war may break out, but I will trust you. (4) One thing I have asked from יהוה, it is what I shall look for: Let me live in your house every day of my life to see how wonderful you are and to pray in your temple. (5) In times of trouble, you will protect me. You will hide me in your tent and keep me safe on top of a mighty rock. (6) You will let me defeat all of my enemies. Then I will celebrate, as I enter your tent with sacrifices of joyful shouting, I will sing and make melody to יהוה. (7) Please listen when I pray! Have pity. Answer my prayer. (8) My heart tells me to pray. I am eager to see your face, (9) so don't hide from me. I am your servant, and you have helped me. Don't turn from me in anger. You alone keep me safe. Don't reject or desert me. (10) Even if my own father and mother should desert me, even יהוה himself would take me up. (11) Teach me to follow, יהוה, and lead me on the right path because of my enemies. (12) Don't let them do to me what they want. People tell lies about me and make terrible

threats, (13) If I had not had faith in seeing the goodness of יהוה in the land of those alive...! (14) Hope in יהוה! Be courageous and let your heart be strong. Yes, trust in יהוה.

* Deuteronomy 5:11, and Leviticus 24:16

Deuteronomy 5:11 CEV Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD (יהוה) your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Deuteronomy 5:11 Darby Thou shalt not idly utter the name of Jehovah (יהוה) thy God; for Jehovah (יהוה) will not hold him guiltless that idly uttereth his name.

Leviticus 24:16 GW But those who curse the LORD'S (יהוה's) name must be put to death. The whole congregation must stone them to death. It makes no difference whether they are Israelites or foreigners. Whoever curses the LORD'S (יהוה's) name must die.

Leviticus 24:16 MKJV And he that blasphemeth the Name of Jehovah (יהוה) shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall surely stone him. And the stranger as well, even as he that is born in the land; when he blasphemeth the Name (יהוה), he shall be put to death.

Know Christ Jesus, and the God who sent him; read the Gospels.