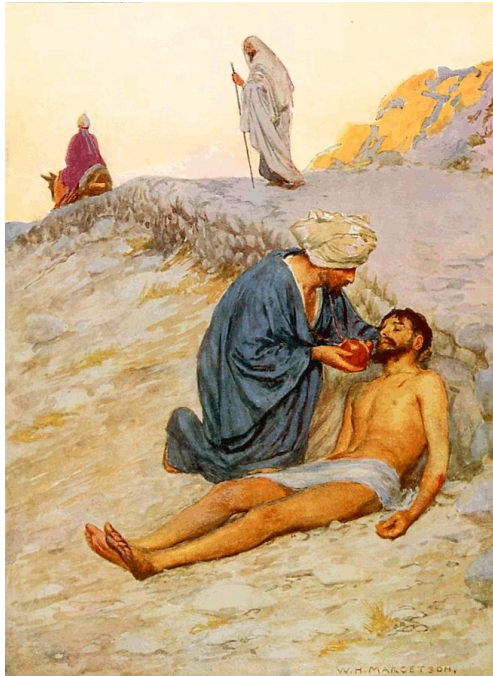


Be a Good Neighbor!



Do you think it's important to be kind to other people? Is that part of your worship? Jesus Christ taught it's how we treat other people that really reflects *who we are* in our own heart.^{(1) & (3)} He also said learning to be a good neighbor means your very life.⁽³⁸⁾

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Do you know what the Bible teaches about being kind to others (about being neighborly)? Jesus said the whole of the Bible actually exists to teach us exactly that: how to be good neighbors.⁽²⁾

A young man approached Christ some 2000 years ago and asked him what God's most important commandment was. Jesus said the man needed simply to love God and to love his neighbor as himself.¹ Jesus also said everything contained in the Bible is for the purpose of teaching us to love God and neighbor.² The young man, however, wanting to feel justified in his existing religious course of life, went on to ask Jesus who really was his neighbor. Jesus explained being a good neighbor, or having love for others, amounts to the visible expression of what is in our heart as we extend kindness and help to others when we recognize they need

¹ Luke 10:25-28 ALT And look! A certain lawyer [*teacher of the law of Moses*] stood up, testing Him and saying, "Teacher, [*by*] having done what, will I inherit eternal life?" (26) But He said to him, "What has been written in the Law? How do you read [*it*]?" (27) Then answering, he said, "'You will love the LORD your God with your whole heart [*fig., your entire inner self*] and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole understanding,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" [*Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18*] (28) Then He said to him, "You answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

² Matthew 22:34-40 CEV After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together. (35) One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, (36) "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?" (37) Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. (38) This is the first and most important commandment. (39) The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself." (40) All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.

it.³ The man asking Jesus this question was a Jew. Now the Jews looked down on Samaritans as a lower caste people. [The Samaritans were Jews who were mixed race and could not trace their heritage back to Abraham.] So... In the example Jesus gave this young Jewish man,⁽³⁾ he chose a Samaritan as the man who demonstrated loving kindness. Extending kindness to others, when done out of love, is not based on who the person is or on what they represent. True love transcends human bigotry.

Now that we have considered Jesus's Bible example teaching us what or who a good neighbor is,^{(1) & (3)} let us also examine a real life example of a "really bad neighbor." As we do so, please consider how someone can imagine themselves righteous in God's eyes even when they are showing hatred for others. A bad neighbor is simply any person who doesn't care about other people. A *really bad neighbor* is a person who doesn't care about others, and, is actually able to imagine he is made righteous by the act of showing hatred for others. A Bible example of a really

³ Luke 10:29-37 GNB But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (30) Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. (31) It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. (32) In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. (33) But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. (34) He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. (35) The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'" (36) And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?" (37) The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

bad neighbor is Saul of Tarsus. Saul is unusual because he was a man who manifest some of the most vile and hateful actions ever taken, but, he also demonstrated outstanding loving-kindness toward others. Saul appears in the Bible record shortly after Jesus was resurrected to heaven.⁴ As one of the religious leaders of Jesus's day, Saul was full of hate for those not sharing what he was convinced was "the one true faith," and, he was busying himself with persecuting Jesus's followers.⁵ One of Jesus's early followers was a man named Stephen. Saul, acting as a Pharisee, stood in charge of those putting Stephen to death.⁶ In the Bible

⁴ Romans 8:31-34 ALT What then will we say about these [things]? Since God [is] for us [or, on our side], who [is] against us? (32) The [One] who indeed did not spare His own Son, but [who] handed Him over on behalf of us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give to us all [things]? (33) Who will bring a charge against [the] chosen ones of God? God [is] the One justifying [or, declaring righteous]. (34) Who [is] the one condemning? Christ [is] the One having died, but rather also, having been raised up, who is also at [the] right hand of God, who also intercedes on our behalf.

⁵ Philippians 3:5-6 ESV circumcised on the eighth day, of the people [nation] of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew [born] of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; (6) as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Acts 26:4-5 BBE All the Jews have knowledge of my way of life from my early years, as it was from the start among my nation, and at Jerusalem; (5) And they are able to say, if they would give witness, that I was living as a Pharisee, in that division of our religion which is most regular in the keeping of the law.

⁶ Acts 7:51-60 ESV [Stephen's response] "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (52) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One [Jesus Christ], whom you have now betrayed and murdered, (53) you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." (54) Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. (55) But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right

account of Stephen's murder, witnesses recounted that his face appeared as that of an angel.⁷ That likely means his face emitted rays, or glowed in some way.⁸ His appearance, along with the eloquent witness Stephen gave before his tormentors was irrefutable. Even still, disregarding the evidence that Stephen was righteous, Saul led the religious mob in stoning Stephen to death. **This is the point we want you to take from considering this example: Saul was able to imagine himself righteous and serving God even as he killed upright Stephen.**⁽¹⁴⁾ Thus... Saul provides an example of a *really bad neighbor!* Saul felt no compassion to tolerate the life of Stephen, and, he felt no remorse over his death. After he killed Stephen, Saul continued his wicked course of attacking the followers of Christ.⁹ Now we come to something

hand of God. (56) And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (57) But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. (58) Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. (59) And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (60) And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.~

Acts 8:1 BBE And Saul gave approval to his death...

⁷ Acts 6:13-15 ALT [During Stephen's trial] And they put [forward] false witnesses, saying, "This man does not cease from speaking blasphemous words against the holy place [i.e. the temple] and the Law! (14) "For we have heard him saying that this Jesus the Nazarene will tear down this place and will change the customs which Moses handed down to us." (15) And looking intently at him, all the ones sitting in the High Council saw his face like [the] face of an angel.

⁸ Matthew 28:2-3 BBE And there was a great earth-shock; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, rolling back the stone, took his seat on it. (3) His form was shining like the light, and his clothing was white as snow:

⁹ Acts 9:1-2 BBE But Saul, still burning with desire to put to death the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, (2) And made a request for letters from him to the Synagogues of Damascus, so

that might seem inconsistent in this Bible drama. Saul, this man acting without compassion against the innocent followers of Jesus, is reached out to by Christ to become his follower.¹⁰ Why

that if there were any of the Way there, men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Acts 9:3-22 GNB As Saul was coming near the city of Damascus, suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. (4) He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?" (5) "Who are you, Lord?" he asked. "I am Jesus, whom you persecute," the voice said. (6) "But get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do." (7) The men who were traveling with Saul had stopped, not saying a word; they heard the voice but could not see anyone. (8) Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but could not see a thing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. (9) For three days he was not able to see, and during that time he did not eat or drink anything. (10) There was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. He had a vision, in which the Lord said to him, "Ananias!" "Here I am, Lord," he answered. (11) The Lord said to him, "Get ready and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying, (12) and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again." (13) Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and about all the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem. (14) And he has come to Damascus with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who worship you." (15) The Lord said to him, "Go, because I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel. (16) And I myself will show him all that he must suffer for my sake." (17) So Ananias went, entered the house where Saul was, and placed his hands on him. "Brother Saul," he said, "the Lord has sent me---Jesus himself, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He sent me so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (18) At once something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again. He stood up and was baptized; (19) and after he had eaten, his strength came back. Saul stayed for a few days with the believers in Damascus. (20) He went straight to the synagogues and began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God. (21) All who heard him were amazed and asked, "Isn't he the one who in Jerusalem was

would Christ choose one behaving so wickedly to serve God? Even though Saul's actions were as terrible as any person could imagine, we can know Saul's heart must have been upright because of the very fact that Jesus selected him to become his follower. Jesus converted murderous Saul to Christianity, and, known from then forward as the Apostle Paul, he was used to write more books of the Bible than any other man. The question that remains is this: How could a man who was sincerely trying to serve God have been so wicked in his actions? The answer is really simple! And, if you put forth the effort to understand, the answer provides you a great protection you might not otherwise even know you need!⁽²⁶⁾ Even though he was very religious, Saul was a "worker of lawlessness" because he had been misled by the teachings of unrighteous religious men. The men he followed claimed to be servants of God and teachers of the Law of Moses (and of the Hebrew scriptures) but they were not! We know they were not because those very scriptures contained prophecies that indicated the coming Messiah.¹¹ When Jesus presented himself as the Messiah their scriptures promised, they should have recognized and welcomed him. Rather, it was those self-righteous religious zealots who actually killed Christ, as well as directing Saul to kill Stephen. Saul was not only a member of that clan, he was a Pharisee (a sect of the Jewish religious leaders – literally meaning "Separated Ones; Separatists."). After Saul's conversion to Christianity, however, Saul/Paul served Christ faithfully for the rest of his life.¹² A sobering question in the mind of each person

killing those who worship that man Jesus? And didn't he come here for the very purpose of arresting those people and taking them back to the chief priests?" (22) But Saul's preaching became even more powerful, and his proofs that Jesus was the Messiah were so convincing that the Jews who lived in Damascus could not answer him.

¹¹ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf>

¹² 1 Timothy 1:1 BBE Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, by the order of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope;~
1 Timothy 1:12-16 GNB I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for

should be this: Is religion still deceiving people the same way they did in Paul's day? Yes, yes, yes...⁽¹⁵⁾

False religious teachers, along with their recruitment activities, are still rampant in our world.^{13 & (15)} A man recently filmed himself cutting the head off another man (a living man). Then, he proudly and arrogantly published the video for all the world to witness his great faith in the God he proudly professed. You should realize the terrible danger that is both real and responsible for such activity.⁽⁵⁰⁾ **Religion is very dangerous! And... Religion is completely different from Christianity.** The difference is simple: Religionists follow other men while Christians follow, well, Christ (of course). The problem we illustrate is that it can be hard to follow Christ if you aren't cautious to avoid being deceived by religionists. **Please take note, however, Jesus Christ did give you clear warning about religion.**⁽¹⁵⁾ Some of the men and women who cause harm to other people, or who support those who do

considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him, (13) even though in the past I spoke evil of him and persecuted and insulted him. But God was merciful to me because I did not yet have faith and so *[remained ignorant and]* did not know what I was doing. (14) And our Lord poured out his abundant grace on me and gave me the faith and love which are ours in union with Christ Jesus. (15) This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the worst of them, (16) but God was merciful to me in order that Christ Jesus might show his full patience in dealing with me, the worst of sinners, as an example for all those who would later believe in him and receive eternal life.

¹³ Matthew 7:15-20 GNB "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. (16) You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. (17) A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. (19) And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. (20) So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do.

so, have been tricked to imagine they are serving God by their acts of violence and hate.¹⁴ Some claim to actually believe God will bless them for such activity. How can people be so completely deceived? They are deceived in exactly the same way Paul was! It has been happening since Jesus left. About three or four hundred years after Jesus was resurrected, the apostate Christian Church (religion) was already active. Their activities brought to birth what is today referred to as the Dark Ages^(* - page 2) as they actually hid the Bible from common people. Just as modern day religion still does, those apostate but self-proclaimed Christians did unimaginable things to other men and women. Starting about 300 or 400 AD, they force-converted large groups of mankind to what they imagined to be "Christianity." They used the point of a sword to "encourage" them. As a conversion and/or disciplinary tool, they devised machines to bring about the most horrible and drawn out methods of killing people they could conceive. Those they rendered judgment over were then executed by religious leaders using those methods; in public for all to see. Sometimes they took days to torture someone to death. It was alright (actually good) in their mind, though, because they were killing people they arrogantly judged to be enemies of God. During those Dark Ages, apostate Christianity became the world government when they joined with Rome to create the supposed "Holy Roman Church State." History allows us to look back and see what "the church" did to mankind during those dark years. [It took about 1000 years before the church's true identity started being exposed and the Dark Ages began to evaporate into the light of truth. That light was brought by the common language translations of the Bible (done by ex-members who recognized

¹⁴ John 16:1-4 ESV "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. (2) They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. (3) And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. (4) But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

what the apostate church actually was) in 1300 to 1400 AD. The apostate church had kept the Bible hidden from common men and women for that 1000 years, by keeping it in the dead language of Latin. A lay person having possession of a Bible was punishable by death. The Churches priesthood attended special schools to learn to read the Latin Bibles. Their religious schools also taught them how to use the Bible to manipulate people – which was the extent of what the apostate church really wanted their priesthood to know about it. Some members who learned the truth from the Bible, however, the truth the church was trying to keep hidden, openly protested against the dark churches sins - thus making themselves Protestants. Most of those Protestants who broke from the church’s doctrine and started new groups, however, soon abandoned the Bible and returned to following some other doctrine dreamt up by men. (That is the great failing of group worship. Christianity is the worship of God through personal faith in the teachings of Christ Jesus; *by individuals.*) The reformation (or Protestant) movement did, however, make the Bible available to the masses. It was all leading to our day in time.^(* - page 2) Most anyone who has an interest in truth can gain access to a Bible today.] Because of the historical record of her crimes, exposing the true hatred of that ancient false church, modern day sects of the self-proclaimed “Christian” religions have learned to present an appearance of being more tolerant.⁽¹³⁾ They claim to promote love and peace. Behind their facade, however, most of them still maintain shunning, disfellowshipping, or excommunication practices. By those judgments,⁽²⁰⁾ they cause as much emotional harm to people they judge wicked as our modern laws allow. If you live in a nation with laws affording a measure of religious freedom, you should thank God you are being protected from sectarian religious zealots. We see all the hundreds of thousands of people religious groups are killing where no such governmental protections exist. Even in “protected nations,” however, religion still destroys marriages and even separates children from parents: Doing so by disfellowshipping or excommunicating them. People have killed themselves after being

judged wicked by some of these groups. Even for religious sects who don't practice those modern "shunning" forms of torture, their very process of public membership approval is in itself a judgment that non-members are lost to God, or, that they don't measure up in God's judgment. Who do they really imagine they are, to think they can judge who is Christian and who is not? They judge and divide people by means of those caste systems of membership appointments. Many of them teach non-members are unworthy of life. If a sincere and good hearted man like Paul could have been deceived by false religion, to the point of actually taking self-righteous pride in the murder of innocents, what can protect you against being deceived? How can you be sure you haven't already been misled? Constantly examining whether you are a good neighbor is one thing that can help protect you. If you are being led by a group who will cut off someone's head, you should know you are not being helped to be a good neighbor (a Christian). That's pretty obvious to most people, right?⁽¹³⁾ If, however, you are being urged to join in sectarian judgments against others, you are all the same being radicalized away from what Jesus taught. Their veiled hatred, manifest in the judgment of exclusion against those they don't approve or bless as members, can be harder to spot as being bad because modern religions have gotten better at hiding who they really are.¹⁵ We

¹⁵ [Matthew 24:14-27 CEV](#) When the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come. (15) Someday you will see that "Horrible Thing" [that causes desolation standing] in the holy place, just as the prophet Daniel said.* Everyone who reads this must try to understand! (16) If you are living in Judea at that time, run to the mountains. (17) If you are on the roof of your house, don't go inside to get anything. (18) If you are out in the field, don't go back for your coat. (19) It will be a terrible time for women who are expecting babies or nursing young children. (20) And pray that you won't have to escape in winter or on a Sabbath. (21) This will be the worst time of suffering since the beginning of the world, and nothing this terrible will ever happen again. (22) If God doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones, he will make the time shorter. (23)

are not implying people should not be judged at all. We just all need to understand it is God is judging everyone, and how He is doing it: We are each one of us, individually, judging our-ourselves by our response to what Jesus taught.⁽⁶⁵⁾ **Jesus** there **said** (in Mat 24:15) **we would be able to see** (by being discerning) **the “Horrible Thing causing desolation standing in a holy place.”** **False religion stands in a “holy place” by pretending to teach what God wants us to know – most even claim to teach what Jesus taught.** Really, however, what they are still doing is hiding the Bible from their sheep. Rather than keeping the Bible hidden in a dead language, however, today’s religionists hide the Bible in plain sight: By glorifying what they call Bible study aids. They keep their flock’s Bibles out of use as they brainwash them to follow along in their own organizationally produced writings, deceiving them to believe that is studying the Bible.⁽²²⁾ They do use the Bible to pick and choose scriptures they have selected in support of their doctrine, of course. **Studying the Bible, however, means actually reading the Bible.** Is that really *too* hard to understand? The same applies to this booklet. You can’t be sure you aren’t being deceived as you read this booklet. The great difference is this: We encourage that you first read the booklet (noting well over half of it is comprised of scriptures), and then, read one of the Gospels to see if this isn’t precisely what Jesus was teaching. That’s how you can know you aren’t being deceived. And... It’s the

Someone may say, "Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!" But don't believe it. (24) False messiahs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones. (25) But I have warned you ahead of time. (26) If you are told that the Messiah is out in the desert, don't go there! And if you are told that he is in some secret place, don't believe it! (27) The coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning that can be seen from east to west. Matthew 24:28 ASV Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. (Jesus’s carcass, or remains, are his teachings - his word. His true followers gather around his remains by reading the teachings he left us.)~

* Daniel 11:31 CEV He will send troops to pollute the temple and the fortress, and he will stop the daily sacrifices. Then he will set up that "Horrible Thing" that causes destruction.

one and only way you can really know you are safe! We all need to learn what Jesus spent his time, and his very life, teaching. We can't really do that jumping around in the Bible picking this scripture and that. Read the Gospels through! **The apostate churches have thus made themselves the "Horrible Thing causing desolation,"⁽¹⁶⁾ because their false and sectarian teachings only cause division and hatred and destruction.** Your protection lies in your simply learning for yourself what Jesus taught. It's not hard, but, you do have to be careful. The judgmental teachings of apostates were already starting to appear while Jesus was still alive on earth.¹⁶ Some of his followers came to him, asking him to rebuke a man because the man was using Jesus's name but wasn't "following after them." Jesus warned them not to be judgmental that way.¹⁷ Each one serves

¹⁶ 1 John 4:1-3 GNB My dear friends, do not believe all who claim to have the Spirit, but test them to find out if the spirit they have comes from God. For many false prophets have gone out everywhere. (2) This is how you will be able to know whether it is God's Spirit: anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ came as a human being has the Spirit who comes from God. (3) But anyone who denies this about Jesus does not have the Spirit from God. The spirit that he has is from the Enemy of Christ; you heard that it (the apostasy) would come, and now it is here in the world already.~

2 Thessalonians 2:3-7 GW (3) Don't let anyone deceive you about this in any way. That day cannot come unless a revolt takes place first, and the man of sin, the man of destruction, (the "Horrible thing causing desolation") is revealed. (4) He opposes every so-called god or anything that is worshiped and places himself above them, sitting in God's temple and claiming to be God. (5) Don't you remember that I told you about these things when I was still with you? (6) You know what it is that now holds him back, so that he will be revealed when his time comes. (7) The mystery of this sin is already at work. But it cannot work effectively until the person now holding it back gets out of the way.

¹⁷ Mark 9:38-40 CEV John said, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But he wasn't one of us [*or wasn't following after us*], and we told him to stop [*the beginnings of apostate and judgmental sectarian thinking*]." (39)

God in their own way.¹⁸ As long, of course, as their service is based in their personal knowledge of the teachings of Jesus.¹⁹ Their service to Jesus's teachings is what unifies them. We must

Jesus said to his disciples: Don't stop him! No one who works miracles in my name will soon turn and say something bad about me. (40) Anyone who isn't against us is for us.

¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 GNB (14) For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. (15) If the foot were to say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. (16) And if the ear were to say, "Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. (17) If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? (18) As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. (19) There would not be a body if it were all only one part! (20) As it is, there are many parts but one body. (21) So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Nor can the head say to the feet, "Well, I don't need you!" (22) On the contrary, we cannot do without the parts of the body that seem to be weaker; (23) and those parts that we think aren't worth very much are the ones which we treat with greater care; while the parts of the body which don't look very nice are treated with special modesty, (24) which the more beautiful parts do not need. God himself has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honor to those parts that need it. (25) And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. (26) If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. (27) All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.~

Philippians 2:12 ALT 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,

¹⁹ John 6:65-68 CEV Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you." (66) Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him. (67) Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. (68) Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life.

recommend that everyone be very careful about joining with any sect in rendering judgment others are wicked.²⁰ So... **We say pray again and always, simply read for yourself what Jesus Christ taught** (contained in the four short Gospels penned by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). **Become a Christian by personally following what you know Jesus's taught!**

People who care about other people are by nature nice people. They naturally try not to do anything that will harm others. They not only don't harm other people, however, they try to help. In the mind of those who are egotistically selfish and/or religious, such "nice" people are silly and weak, or even stupid. Self-centered people believe everyone is just like them. So... They think when people don't behave like them, it is because those people are just not capable of being "cunning and conniving" like they are.⁽⁵²⁾ When such un-neighborly people can band into a sect of religionists (or form any group really) they become very dangerous. When they share the sectarian conviction they are a part of God's chosen and true followers, or that they are among the "wise and righteous people who are *helping* society," they feel free to express their hatred of everyone who is not like them.

²⁰ 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 GNB (1) You should think of us as Christ's servants, who have been put in charge of God's secret truths [*the teaching of Jesus*]. (2) The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master. (3) Now, I am not at all concerned about being judged by you or by any human standard; I don't even pass judgment on myself. (4) My conscience is clear, but that does not prove that I am really innocent. The Lord is the one who passes judgment on me. (5) So you should not pass judgment on anyone before the right time comes. Final judgment must wait until the Lord comes; he will bring to light the dark secrets and expose the hidden purposes of people's minds. And then all will receive from God the praise they deserve.~
Matthew 7:1-3 GNB "Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, (2) for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. (3) Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?

Such thinking is an insidious and infectious disease.²¹ Kind hearted people are drawn toward groups, however, because we all want to be liked and to have friends. We all want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Also, we are drawn to sects because most of those groups call God's and/or Christ's name over their group. Most of them pretend to be upright and kind. Most also claim to be Bible students and followers of Jesus. Some of them are *really good* at enticing potential good neighbors to membership.²² Members are then gradually encouraged to follow group teachings and to express judgment and hatred against non-members, all in the name of the God their cult claims to worship. Just knowing and using God's and/or Jesus's name is not a protection.²³ **Jesus said we have to hear, *and to do***, what he

²¹ **2 Timothy 2:15-18 GW** Do your best to present yourself to God as a tried-and-true worker who isn't ashamed to teach the word of truth correctly (by following and teaching only what Jesus Christ taught).⁽⁴⁸⁾ & ⁽³⁸⁾ (16) Avoid pointless discussions. People who pay attention to these pointless discussions (the teachings of other men) will become more ungodly, (17) and what they say will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are like that. (18) They have abandoned the truth. They are destroying the faith of others by saying that people who have died have already come back to life. (Jesus said there would be a resurrection "in the last day" – not at the time of death. That idea is a continuation of the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus, not of Jesus Christ).

²² **Matthew 23:15 YLT** `Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye go round the sea and the dry land to make one proselyte, and whenever it may happen--ye make him a son of gehenna (a trash dump outside ancient Jerusalem where fires were kept burning continually) twofold more than yourselves.

²³ **Matthew 7:21-24 YLT** `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many mighty things? (23) and then I will acknowledge to them, that--I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness. (24) `Therefore, every one who doth hear of me these words, and

taught;⁽³⁷⁾ not what groups of men want to tell us he taught.

Religious men teach their own doctrine in the place of Christ's teachings.²⁴ That is the simple difference between religion and Christianity.

Religionists judgmentally believe all people should live by the laws of their sect. Christians believe they should learn and follow what Jesus taught, and they learn tolerance of others from him. Jesus said even God's perfect law code was subject to his expressions of love.²⁵ That law was given by God to protect

doth do them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house upon the rock;~

James 2:19 CEV You surely believe there is only one God. That's fine. Even demons believe this, and it makes them shake with fear.

²⁴ Matthew 15:3-11 BBE And in answer he said to them, Why do you, yourselves, go against the word of God on account of the teaching which has been handed down to you? (4) For God said, Give honour to your father and mother: and, He who says evil of father or mother will be put to death. (5) But you say, If a man says to his father or his mother, That by which you might have had profit from me is given [*a gift promised*] to God; (6) There is no need for him to give honour to his father. And [*thus*] you have made the word of God without effect because of your teaching. (7) You false ones, well did Isaiah say of you, (8) These people give me honour with their lips, but their heart is far from me. (9) But their worship is to no purpose, while they give as their teaching the rules of men. (10) And he got the people together and said to them, Give ear, and let my words be clear to you: (11) Not that which goes into the mouth makes a man unclean, but that which comes out of the mouth [*what we say is our source of judgment*].

²⁵ Mark 2:23-28 GNB Jesus was walking through some wheat fields on a Sabbath [*day of worship as prescribed by Law*]. As his disciples walked along with him, they began to pick the heads of wheat. (24) So the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, it is against our Law for your disciples to do that on the Sabbath!" (25) Jesus answered, "Have you never read what David did that time when he needed something to eat? He and his men were hungry, (26) so he went into the house of God and ate the bread offered to God. This happened when Abiathar was the High Priest. According to our Law only the priests may eat this bread---but David ate it and even gave it to his men." (27) And Jesus concluded, "The Sabbath

mankind until the Christ arrived. Jesus was the Messiah sent to help mankind (to teach us what God wants us to know)⁽⁴⁸⁾ far more than the Law. Faith in Christ has become our protection!^(32 – Galatians 3:24) If God's perfect law was replaced or fulfilled by faith in Christ, the modern laws created by cults of men are worthless at best (and mostly destructive). When the teachings of misguided but self-righteous religious men are not being undermined and broken up by the true teachings of Jesus Christ, sects of men are able to gather kind hearted people who will then wholeheartedly assist them in their attack on other righteous men and women. That is what happened to the Apostle Paul in his youth. What false religion can thus cause to happen is for kind-hearted people to be attacking and fighting against other kind-hearted (potentially neighborly) people. Like Paul, those who are deceived and at the same time able to remain self-righteous will cause great harm. Their puppeteers take a seat off to the side and cheer them on. The one controlling them all, of course, is Satan.⁽⁵⁰⁾ Only the teachings of God's son can set you free²⁶ of being led along on the wrong side in this warfare. It is the warfare that is destroying the world as we know it.²⁷

was made for the good of human beings; they were not made for the Sabbath. (28) So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

²⁶ John 8:31-32 GNB So Jesus said to those who believed 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."

²⁷ Ephesians 6:11-17 GW Put on all the armor that God supplies. In this way you can take a stand against the devil's strategies. (12) This is not a wrestling match against a human opponent. We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world. (13) For this reason, take up all the armor that God supplies. Then you will be able to take a stand during these evil days. Once you have overcome all obstacles, you will be able to stand your ground. (14) So then, take your stand! Fasten truth around your waist like a belt. Put on God's approval as your breastplate. (15) Put on your shoes so that you are ready to spread the Good News that gives peace. (16) In addition to all these, take the Christian faith as your shield. With it you can put

Make no mistake then: It is only Jesus who teaches us to be good neighbors. People at the forefront of promoting sectarian religion are hateful men and women who are separating neighbors who are familiar with one another.²⁸ It is absolutely and only your personal knowledge of what Jesus taught that can protect you.²⁹ **It is easy to recognize the true followers of Christ: They are the ones directing you to read for yourself what Jesus taught,** and then encouraging you for doing so.^{30 & (26)} It is the enemies of

out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (17) Also take salvation as your helmet and the word of God as the sword that the Spirit supplies.~

Matthew 5:38-45 GNB "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' (39) But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. (40) And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. (41) And if one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles. (42) When someone asks you for something, give it to him; when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him. (43) "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' (44) But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45) so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil.

²⁸ Proverbs 16:27-30 GNB Evil people look for ways to harm others; even their words burn with evil. (28) Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships. (29) Violent people deceive their friends and lead them to disaster. (30) Watch out for people who grin and wink at you; they have thought of something evil.

²⁹ Psalms 119:165 GW There is lasting peace for those who love your teachings. Nothing can make those people stumble.

³⁰ Acts 17:10-11 GW Immediately when night came, the believers sent Paul and Silas to the city of Berea. When Paul and Silas arrived in the city of Berea, they entered the synagogue. (11) The people of Berea were more open-minded than the people of Thessalonica. They were very willing to receive God's message,

Christ who condemn you for being bold enough to put the Bible ahead of their organizational study materials and doctrine.³¹

Paul himself worked hard to help us understand the problem we all face. Even after his conversion to Christianity, Paul found it a struggle to do the right thing.⁽³³⁾ He was still inclined to be led along by men who possibly meant well, but were either misled or had no interest in doing things according to Jesus's teachings.³²

and every day they carefully examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true.

³¹ Luke 9:49-50 CEV John said, "Master, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But we told him to stop, because he isn't one of us." (50) "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "Anyone who isn't against you is for you."

³² In this Bible account, the Jewish Law Code had served its purpose to act as a tutor leading to Christ.* The Jewish converts to Christianity should now be putting faith in Christ, which meant they were no longer under Law.* Paul certainly knew that! Some men who may have meant well, enticed Paul to go along and support a ceremonial cleansing, in order to pacify some of the Jews who were still trying to cling to Law. In the aftermath of it all, Paul was beaten and imprisoned. It might be Paul removed himself from God's protection by temporarily and briefly falling away from Christianity, doing so by joining these men. It seems he stumbled and was turning back toward following Law.~

Acts 21:17-33 BBE And when we came to Jerusalem, the brothers were pleased to see us. (18) And on the day after, Paul went with us to James, and all the rulers of the church were present. (19) And when he had said how glad he was to see them, he gave them a detailed account of the things which God had done through his work among the Gentiles. (20) And hearing it, they gave praise to God; and they said to him, You see, brother, what thousands there are among the Jews, who have the faith; and they all have a great respect for the law: (21) And they have had news of you, how you have been teaching all the Jews among the Gentiles to give up the law of Moses, and not to give circumcision to their children, and not to keep the old rules. (22) What then is the position? They will certainly get news that you have come. (23) Do this, then,

But... Even as Paul struggled to do what was right, he did know what the solution was, and is.³³ Your protection is simple: You

which we say to you: We have four men who have taken an oath; (24) Go with these, and make yourself clean with them, and make the necessary payments for them, so that they may be free from their oath: and everyone will see that the statements made about you are not true, but that you put yourself under rule, and keep the law. (25) But as to the Gentiles who have the faith, we sent a letter, giving our decision that they were to keep themselves from offerings made to false gods, and from blood, and from the flesh of animals put to death in ways against the law, and from the evil desires of the body. (26) Then Paul took the men, and on the day after, making himself clean with them, he went into the Temple, giving out the statement that the days necessary for making them clean were complete, till the offering was made for every one of them. (27) And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the Temple, got the people together and put their hands on him, (28) Crying out, Men of Israel, come to our help: this is the man who is teaching all men everywhere against the people and the law and this place: and in addition, he has taken Greeks into the Temple, and made this holy place unclean. (29) For they had seen him before in the town with Trophimus of Ephesus, and had the idea that Paul had taken him with him into the Temple. (30) And all the town was moved, and the people came running together and put their hands on Paul, pulling him out of the Temple: and then the doors were shut. (31) And while they were attempting to put him to death, news came to the chief captain of the band that all Jerusalem was out of control. (32) And straight away he took some armed men and went quickly down to them: and the Jews, seeing them, gave no more blows to Paul. (33) Then the chief captain came near and took him, and gave orders for him to be put in chains, questioning them as to who he was and what he had done.~

* (Galatians 3:24-25) Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith. ²⁵ But now that the faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.

³³ Romans 7:22-25 GNB My inner being delights in the law of God. (23) But I see a different law at work in my body---a law that fights against the law which my mind approves of. It makes me a prisoner to the law of sin which is at work in my body. (24) What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body

need to learn for yourself what Jesus taught. **We mention your dependence on Christ's teachings repeatedly because it seems hard for many people to comprehend what "listening to Jesus" really means!** That is likely because we have *so many people* telling us what *they think* Jesus said, and what *they think* he wants us to do. Have you ever, however, had even one of those people (or groups) simply sit down with you and actually read through the Gospel accounts of Jesus's teachings?³⁴ Please realize that to be the very simple but clear difference between our effort, and the barrage of religious activity prodding you from all sides. Even though Paul was evidently sincere at heart in his youth, he refused to allow himself to be corrected from his badness, except by the drastic action taken by Christ Jesus himself. Paul arrogantly refused to pay attention to the witness given by Stephen during the ordeal of Stephen's death. Jesus, however, struck Paul blind to get his attention.⁽¹⁰⁾ Paul thus had to endure some period of time wondering if his blindness was permanent. Don't make our Lord take such drastic action with you. We are (or can be) more fortunate than Paul! We have the recording of how Jesus dealt with Paul. We can read what Jesus said and did to him, and understand why. We also have the examples of how Jesus dealt with lots and lots of other people. By reading those accounts, we can gain much of the benefit each of those individuals gained by their own personal experiences with Jesus. That is how you gain protection from being deceived by any of the oh-so-many religious teachers; all of whom, just like young Saul/Paul, imagine themselves true servants of God. **Simply sit at the feet of Jesus by reading the Gospel accounts of his life.**³⁵ Jesus will help you in

that is taking me to death? (25) Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ! This, then, is my condition: on my own I can serve God's law only with my mind, while my human nature serves the law of sin.

³⁴ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/biblejohn.pdf>

³⁵ Luke 10:38-42 GNB As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. (39) She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching.

direct proportion to your effort to learn what he said.³⁶ Sincerity really doesn't mean much if you refuse to listen to our Creator.³⁷ Paul was sincere as he could be when he killed Stephen. The man who gained infamy for cutting off a man's head as a public spectacle may have been sincere. What he and Saul both clearly were not doing, however, was serving God! If you imagine there is a God who is good, and that He cares about you personally, the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ are for you. **Our Creator**

(40) Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" (41) The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, (42) but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."

³⁶ Luke 24:44-48 ESV Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (45) Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, (46) and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things.~

If you make an effort to learn what Jesus taught, he sends his Father's spirit to help you learn and make sense of it.~

John 16:13 ALT "But when that One shall come—the Spirit of the truth—He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak from Himself, but as many things as He hears He will speak, and He will announce to you the coming [*things*].~

John 12:16 CEV At first, Jesus' disciples did not understand. But after he had been given his glory, they remembered all this. Everything had happened exactly as the Scriptures said it would.

³⁷ Matthew 7:24-27 GW "Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. (25) Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not collapse, because its foundation was on rock. (26) "Everyone who hears what I say but doesn't obey it will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand. (27) Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and struck that house. It collapsed, and the result was a total disaster."

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

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

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

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

6000 Years of Bible recorded history

Year 1: Creation

of Man in 4026 BCE

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

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

justbibletruth.com

Abraham Born - in 2150 BCE

↳ Judaism: Nation produced

← 2000 years from Abraham to Christ →

← Bible Written From 1513 BC →

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

↳ Isaac (Abraham's son)

↳ Jacob (Renamed Israel)

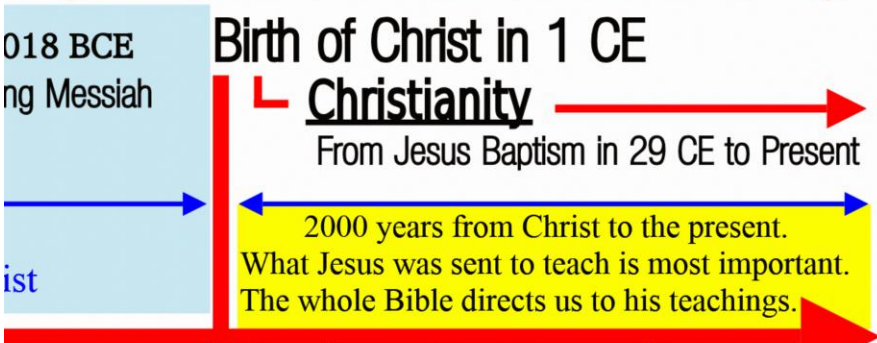
↳ Judah (Great-grandson of Abraham. One of Isaac's sons. Judah was an ancestor of Christ and the nation descended from him)

Abraham were called

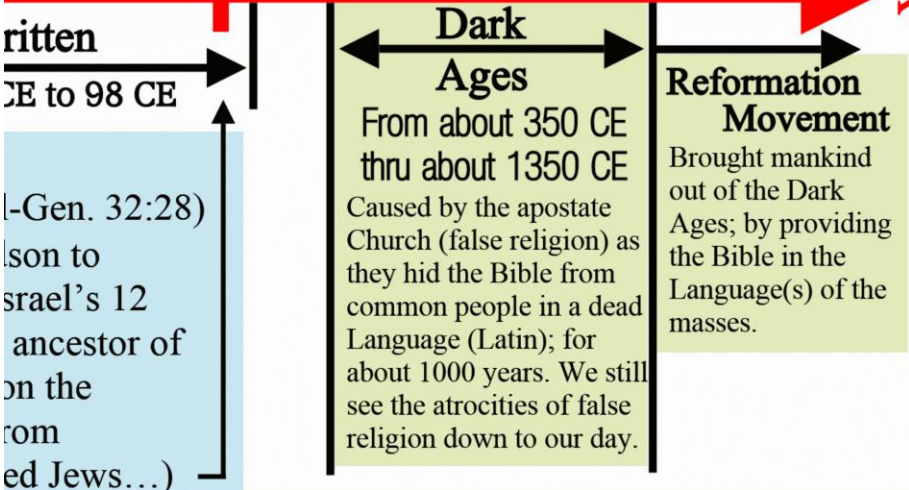
*(John 4:19-26) ¹⁹ The [Samaritan] woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe that Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming,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

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

History: Adam's Creation until today.



Year 6036 = 2010 CE
Our day



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

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

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

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

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

sent his son to teach us what we need to know in order to be pleasing to him, and to gain life.³⁸ The Bible really is the greatest story ever told! It answers all honest questions about our Creator and about why we are in the tribulation we find ourselves in. It lets us know what our future can be. There is no other source for reasonable answers to those questions.

You also need to realize how special ~~our~~ *your* day in time really is.³⁹ Faith can mean something for you it has never meant for any person before us.⁴⁰ That is because we are alive in the time of Jesus's return. Because of being alive now, our faith can keep us alive forever.⁴¹ Jesus promised life would happen for us just as we

³⁸ John 6:40-45 GNB For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life. And I will raise them to life on the last day." (41) The people started grumbling about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." (42) So they said, "This man is Jesus son of Joseph, isn't he? We know his father and mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?" (43) Jesus answered, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. (44) People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me; and I will raise them to life on the last day. (45) The prophets wrote, 'Everyone will be taught by God.' Anyone who hears the Father and learns from him comes to me.~

John 5:39 GNB You study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me!~

383 CEV Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent.

³⁹ Matthew 13:16-17 GW "Blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear. (17) I can guarantee this truth: Many prophets and many of God's people longed to see what you see but didn't see it, to hear what you hear but didn't hear it.

⁴⁰ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>

⁴¹ Hebrews 10:35-39 ALT Therefore, you shall not throw off your confidence [*or, joyful sense of freedom*], which has great reward. (36) For you have need of patient endurance, so that having done the will of God, you shall receive the promise. (37) "For yet [*in*] a very little while, the One coming will come and will not delay. (38)

have faith.⁴² We must build real faith, then, in the promises of God; just as Jesus instructed us to do. Our “faith” will then grant us eternal life.⁴³ Jesus said some who were alive at the time of his

"But the [one] righteous by faith will live [or, the righteous will live by faith]; and if he draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." [Hab 2:3,4] (39) But we are not of [the ones] shrinking back to destruction, but of [the ones having] faith to [the] preserving [alive] of [the] soul.

⁴² (Matthew 9:29) Then he touched their eyes, saying:

“According to your faith let it happen to you.”~

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

(Mark 9:23) Jesus said to him: “That expression, ‘If you can!’ Why, all things can be to one if one has faith.”~

(Mark 11:23) Truly I say to you that whoever tells this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but has faith that what he says is going to occur, he will have it so.~

(Luke 17:6) Then the Lord said: “If you had faith the size of a mustard grain, you would say to this black mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea!’ and it would obey you.~

(Matthew 8:13) Then Jesus said to the army officer: “Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you.” And the manservant was healed in that hour.

⁴³ Job 33:16-30 GNB He makes them listen to what he says, and they are frightened at his warnings. (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 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

return would never die at all. He then asked: "Do you believe this?"⁴⁴ Well... Do you?

Faith without love of neighbor is useless. That is true because our love is what true faith causes in us, or, love is how faith manifests itself.⁴⁵ If you have considered the scriptures presented, you

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. ⁴⁴ John 11:23-26 BBE Jesus said to her, Your brother will come to life again. (24) Martha said to him, I am certain that he will come to life again when all come back from the dead at the last day. (25) Jesus said to her, I am myself that day and that life; he who has faith in me will have life even if he is dead; (26) And no one who is living and has faith in me will ever see death. Is this your faith *[or, do you believe this]?*

⁴⁵ James 2:14-18 GW My brothers and sisters, what good does it do if someone claims to have faith but doesn't do any good things (the good things we do for others is the manifestation or indicator of our love)? Can this kind of faith save him? (15) Suppose a believer, whether a man or a woman, needs clothes or food (16) and one of you tells that person, "God be with you! Stay warm, and make sure you eat enough." If you don't provide for that person's physical needs, what good does it do? (17) In the same way, faith by itself is dead if it doesn't cause you to do any good things. (18) Another person might say, "You have faith, but I do good things." Show me your faith apart from the good things you do. I will show you my faith by the good things I do.~

James 2:26 GW A body that doesn't breathe is dead. In the same way faith that does nothing is dead.~

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 GW (8) Love never comes to an end. There is the gift of speaking what God has revealed, but it will no longer be used. There is the gift of speaking in other languages, but it will stop by itself. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will no longer be used. (9) Our knowledge is incomplete and our ability to speak what God has revealed is incomplete. (10) But when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will no longer be used. (11) When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I no longer used childish ways. (12) Now we see a blurred image in a mirror.

should begin to understand: Becoming a good neighbor is what happens to all people with faith in truth. **If you want to build a faith that can help you, you must read the Gospels. Not just once, but enough to become friends with Jesus and with those he loved.** You need to “live” within the Gospel pages that recount the interactions Jesus had with the people of his day. In those Gospels exist the world of reality. The world system that surrounds us, and appears to our eyes, is a mist that is fading away.⁴⁶ & ⁽⁶¹⁾ As you feed on the teachings of Jesus, his friends can become your friends.⁴⁷ Make no mistake, however, if you are kind hearted, those who choose to make themselves enemies of Christian principles will most assuredly hate you. Choose for yourself the most valuable thing in life; doing so by electing to sit at the feet of Jesus.⁽³⁵⁾ To protect yourself from being misled or hurt, most of the interaction you have with people outside Bible study should be for the purpose of extending neighborly love to them. (If it seems unfair that you are caught in the midst of all this turmoil; it is. Remember, however, it is the enemies of God who brought this war. What God has done is make a way of protection

Then we will see very clearly. Now my knowledge is incomplete. Then I will have complete knowledge as God has complete knowledge of me. (13) So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love.

⁴⁶ Psalms 37:10-11 BBE For in a short time the evil-doer will be gone: you will go searching for his place, and it will not be there. (11) But the gentle will have the earth for their heritage; they will take their delight in peace without measure.~

Psalms 37:29 BBE The upright will have the earth for their heritage, and will go on living there for ever.

⁴⁷ Mark 3:31-35 GNB Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside the house and sent in a message, asking for him. (32) A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, and they want you." (33) Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" (34) He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! (35) Whoever does what God wants is my brother, my sister, my mother."

for any who will accept it. Without help from God, in the form of the teachings of his son,^{48 & (38)} Satan would be pleased to kill us all.⁴⁹ Apart from God's help, none of us would survive.^(15 – Note verse 22) Show yourself thankful...) People you come in contact with don't have to appear self-righteous and religious to be your enemies. This whole world lies in the power of the wicked one.⁵⁰ People who believe they have responsibility for controlling society so as to manage the social order, are just as dangerous as religious zealots. If you fall outside the scope of what they judge to be acceptable, or normal, they will take any action they can devise to correct or punish you. They are in their

⁴⁸ Luke 10:21-24 CEV At that same time, Jesus felt the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit, and he said: My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that is what pleased you. (22) My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who really knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too. (23) Jesus then turned to his disciples and said to them in private, "You are really blessed to see what you see! (24) Many prophets and kings were eager to see what you see and to hear what you hear. But I tell you that they did not see or hear."

⁴⁹ Job 2:3-5 GW The LORD asked Satan, "Have you thought about my servant Job? No one in the world is like him! He is a man of integrity: He is decent, he fears God, and he stays away from evil. And he still holds on to his principles. You're trying to provoke me into ruining him for no reason." (4) Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! Certainly, a man will give everything he has for his life. (5) But stretch out your hand, and strike his flesh and bones. I bet he'll curse you to your face."

⁵⁰ 1 John 5:18-21 CEV We are sure that God's children do not keep on sinning. God's own Son protects them (if you make the effort to learn what Jesus taught), and the devil cannot harm them. (19) 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.

imagination, after all, gifts to protect mankind. They are often amazingly good in their abilities to figure out how to do harm, but, that should not surprise anyone.⁽²⁷⁾ (When Jesus was arrested, the religious leaders brought him before Pilate [the Roman governor of Judea] for condemnation. They did so because they didn't have governmental authority to put Jesus to death themselves. Pilate seemed hesitant about killing Jesus. As it "worked out," however, Herod [King of Judea – also supported by Rome] was in Jerusalem, so Pilate was able to send Jesus to Herod. Herod abused Jesus and sent him back to Pilate, thus encouraging Pilate in his decision to put Christ to death. It might seem amazing to some people how the religious leaders and Pilate and Herod were all able to work together to affect their goal to kill Jesus. Herod and Pilate were actually made friends by the ordeal.⁵¹ It was, of course, Satan who made it all fit together for them. There was nothing special about any of them. What does make a person special, is having faith in Christ.)⁽²⁰⁾ Please

⁵¹ **Luke 23:1-12 CEV** Everyone in the council got up and led Jesus off to Pilate. (2) They started accusing him and said, "We caught this man trying to get our people to riot and to stop paying taxes to the Emperor. He also claims that he is the Messiah, our king." (3) Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Those are your words," Jesus answered. (4) Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, "I don't find him guilty of anything." (5) But they all kept on saying, "He has been teaching and causing trouble all over Judea. He started in Galilee and has now come all the way here." (6) When Pilate heard this, he asked, "Is this man from Galilee?" (7) After Pilate learned that Jesus came from the region ruled by Herod, he sent him to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time. (8) For a long time Herod had wanted to see Jesus and was very happy because he finally had this chance. He had heard many things about Jesus and hoped to see him work a miracle. (9) Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus did not answer. (10) Then the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses stood up and accused him of all kinds of bad things. (11) Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and insulted him. They put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. (12) That same day Herod and Pilate became friends, even though they had been enemies before this.

realize: Everyone functions either in the spirit of God, or in the spirit of the world (which is also the spirit of the Devil).⁽⁵⁰⁾ If you are meek and kind hearted, contact with you will be painful for people who have the spirit of this world. They won't like you.⁵² That is why Jesus said you should limit your contact to your efforts in trying to help them see the truth.⁽⁵⁷⁾ Expecting people who don't really know Jesus to show love for you is like expecting a man born blind to tell you what color your shirt is. It is not something they can even comprehend. It doesn't necessarily mean they are bad people, possibly just ignorant or deceived; like Paul was. The only way any of us can understand what love is, and then show it for others, is by first recognizing the love God has shown for us in Christ.⁵³ If you are kind hearted, the world will hate you simply because you are not like them.⁽⁵²⁾ They may actually become friends with each other over their hatred of you.⁵⁴ The only people who truly are kind hearted are the

⁵² 1 Peter 4:3-5 CEV You have already lived long enough like people who don't know God. You were immoral and followed your evil desires. You went around drinking and partying and carrying on. In fact, you even worshiped disgusting idols. (4) Now your former friends wonder why you have stopped running around with them, and they curse you for it. (5) But they will have to answer to God, who judges the living and the dead.

⁵³ 1 John 4:15-19 CEV God stays one with everyone who openly says that Jesus is the Son of God. That's how we stay one with God (16) and are sure that God loves us. God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. (17) If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the day of judgment. (18) A real love for others will chase those worries away. The thought of being punished is what makes us afraid. It shows that we have not really learned to love. (19) We love because God loved us first.

⁵⁴ Luke 23:6-12 GNB When Pilate heard this, he asked, "Is this man a Galilean?" (7) When he learned that Jesus was from the region ruled by Herod, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. (8) Herod was very pleased when he saw Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been wanting to see him for a long time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some miracle. (9) So Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus

followers of Jesus. **Because Jesus warned there would be false Christians,⁵⁵ and also taught us not to be judgmental:⁽²⁰⁾ You can't really ever judge or know who is faithful. You don't need to!** To remain safe, you simply need to try and be a good neighbor to everyone.⁵⁶ Jesus did say, however, you should shake the dust off your feet against those people who openly display themselves

made no answer. (10) The chief priests and the teachers of the Law stepped forward and made strong accusations against Jesus. (11) Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and treated him with contempt; then they put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. (12) On that very day Herod and Pilate became friends; before this they had been enemies.

⁵⁵ Mark 13:22-23 CEV False messiahs and false prophets will come [*appear*] and work miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones [*or the ones being chosen*]. (23) But be on your guard! That's why I am telling you these things now.

⁵⁶ Matthew 5:38-48 ALT "You heard that it was said: 'Eye for eye and tooth for tooth,' [*Exod 21:24; Lev 24:20; Deut 19:21*] (39) but I say to you not to resist the evil [*one*], but whoever will slap you on {your} right cheek, turn to him also the other." (40) "And the one wanting to sue you and to take your tunic, allow to him also the cloak. (41) "And whoever will compel you [*to go*] one mile, be going with him two. (42) "Be giving to the one asking of you, and you should not turn away the one wanting to borrow from you. (43) "You heard that it was said, 'You will love your neighbor,' and you will hate your enemy, [*Lev. 19:18*] (44) but I say to you, be loving your enemies; be blessing the ones cursing you; be doing good to the ones hating you, and be praying on behalf of the ones mistreating you and persecuting you, (45) in order that you shall become [*or, prove to be*] sons [*and daughters*] of your Father, the [*One*] in {the} heavens, because He causes His sun to rise on evil [*ones*] and good [*ones*], and He sends rain on righteous [*ones*] and unrighteous [*ones*]. (46) "For, if you love the ones loving you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, do they not? (47) "And if you greet [*fig., are friendly towards*] your friends only, what more do you do [*than others*]? Even the tax collectors do so, do they not? (48) "Therefore, you will be perfect, just as your Father, the [*One*] in the heavens, is perfect.

to be un-neighborly.⁵⁷ That makes clear one thing you should not do is mope around and be upset because such people don't like you, or because they say bad things about you.⁵⁸ If you worry about what people think of you, you will be trying to please them.⁵⁹ Some people are mean and say bad things precisely because they want to control you, by getting you to spend your time and energy reacting to them. Or, they do it because they want to impress and please other people. Mean spirited people

⁵⁷ Matthew 10:11-15 CEV So when you go to a town or a village, find someone worthy enough to have you as their guest and stay with them until you leave. (12) When you go to a home, give it your blessing of peace. (13) If the home is deserving, let your blessing remain with them. But if the home isn't deserving, take back your blessing of peace. (14) If someone won't welcome you or listen to your message, leave their home or town. And shake the dust from your feet at them. (15) I promise you that the day of judgment will be easier for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

⁵⁸ John 15:18-27a CEV 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. (23) Everyone who hates me also hates my Father. (24) I have done things that no one else has ever done. If they had not seen me do these things, they would not be guilty. But they did see me do these things, and they still hate me and my Father too. (25) That is why the Scriptures are true when they say, "People hated me for no reason." (26) I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me. (27) Then you will also tell others about me...

⁵⁹ Matthew 7:6 GW "Don't give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls to pigs. Otherwise, they will trample them and then tear you to pieces.

don't seem to realize: Most people recognize ignorant and/or hateful persons for just what they are. A life immersed in the teachings of Jesus is the only thing that can protect your heart against being influenced by any and all people who hate what is good. They might, of course, still grab you up to insult you, or even to cut off your head (in their badness or their ignorance). Their imagined glory will be short lived.⁶⁰ Remember too, as God sees fit, He can protect you from all harm.⁶¹ Your faith will most assuredly impact what protection you receive. **Within the Gospel**

⁶⁰ Psalms 11:2-7 CEV You tell me, "Watch out! Those evil people have put their arrows on their bows, and they are standing in the shadows, aiming at good people. (3) What can an honest person do when everything crumbles?" (4) The LORD is sitting in his sacred temple on his throne in heaven. He knows everything we do because he sees us all. (5) The LORD tests honest people, but despises those who are cruel and love violence. (6) He will send fiery coals and flaming sulfur down on the wicked, and they will drink nothing but a scorching wind. (7) The LORD always does right and wants justice done. Everyone who does right will see his face.

⁶¹ 2 Kings 6:11-18 CEV The king of Syria was furious when he found out what was happening. He called in his officers and asked, "Which one of you has been telling the king of Israel our plans?" (12) "None of us, Your Majesty," one of them answered. "It's an Israelite named Elisha. He's a prophet, so he can tell his king everything--even what you say in your own room." (13) "Find out where he is!" the king ordered. "I'll send soldiers to bring him here." They learned that Elisha was in the town of Dothan and reported it to the king. (14) He ordered his best troops to go there with horses and chariots. They marched out [all] during the night and surrounded the town. (15) When Elisha's servant got up the next morning, he saw that Syrian troops had the town surrounded. "Sir, what are we going to do?" he asked. (16) "Don't be afraid," Elisha answered. "There are more troops on our side than on theirs." (17) Then he prayed, "LORD, please help him to see." And the LORD let the servant see that the hill was covered with fiery horses and flaming chariots all around Elisha. (18) As the Syrian army came closer, Elisha prayed, "LORD, make those soldiers blind!" And the LORD blinded them with a bright light.

pages you can find protection and happiness.⁶² **Also, they contain the hope of living forever.** Not just in your mind and heart, but in the current revelation of God’s purpose to repair what Satan has done.⁽⁴³⁾ The kingdom of Christ really is being established!⁶³ It is evident in part by the continuing escalation of violence and hate in the world.⁽¹⁵⁾ You need simply choose if you are becoming part of God’s new world. Jesus not only came to teach us what his Father wanted us to know,⁽⁴⁸⁾ he also came to

⁶² James 1:25 ALT 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.

⁶³ Isaiah 11:1-12 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 [Jesus Christ] will arise from among David's descendants. (2) The spirit of the LORD will give him 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) 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, 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 (the royal city is made up of all who express faith in the son of God) and give him honor. (11) When that day comes, the Lord will once again use his power and bring back home those of his people who are left in Assyria and Egypt, in the lands of Pathros, Ethiopia, Elam, Babylonia, and Hamath, and in the coastlands and on the islands of the sea. (12) The Lord will raise a signal flag to show the nations that he is gathering together again the scattered people of Israel and Judah and bringing them back from the four corners of the earth.

separate those who are gaining life (by building faith in him) from those who are choosing to continue dying.^{64 & (67)} There are untold religious sects, but there are actually only two groups you can be part of. Each of us is being separated to one group or the other by how we respond to Jesus's words.⁶⁵ If you ignore the teachings of Jesus Christ, you will continue being led along with the spirit⁶⁶ of this world and you will die in your sins.⁶⁷ Don't be foolish enough to rely on what people say Jesus taught.⁽²³⁾ Choose life!⁶⁸ Read the

⁶⁴ Matthew 25:31-34 GW "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) The people of every nation will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. (34) "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

⁶⁵ John 12:46-50 GW I am the light that has come into the world so that everyone who believes in me will not live in the dark. (47) If anyone hears my words and doesn't follow them, I don't condemn [*judge*] them. I didn't come to condemn [*judge*] the world but to save the world. (48) Those who reject me by not accepting what I say have a judge appointed for them. The words that I have spoken will judge them on the last day. (49) I have not spoken on my own. Instead, the Father who sent me told me what I should say and how I should say it. (50) I know that what he commands is eternal life. Whatever I say is what the Father told me to say."

⁶⁶ Ephesians 2:1-2 ESV And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

⁶⁷ John 8:24 MWT "That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. And you will die in your sins if you do not believe that am the Messiah sent by my Father."

⁶⁸ Deuteronomy 30:15-19 GNB (15) "Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, between life and death. (16) If you obey the commands of the LORD your God, which I give you today, if you love him, obey him, and keep all his laws, then you will prosper and become a nation of many people. The LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are about to occupy. (17)

Gospels. The spirit (who you are) that you gain by obedience to Christ's teachings⁶⁹ means your life.⁷⁰ The benefit from the choice to follow Christ is not only for yourself, but for all those people you can influence. Persuading others toward good, by influencing them to learn and obey the teachings of Jesus, is the very best way of being a good neighbor.⁷¹

But if you disobey and refuse to listen, and are led away to worship other gods, (18) you will be destroyed---I warn you here and now. You will not live long in that land across the Jordan that you are about to occupy. (19) I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Choose life.

⁶⁹ 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.

⁷⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:12-16 GNB (12) We have not received this world's spirit; instead, we have received the Spirit sent by God, so that we may know all that God has given us. (13) So then, we do not speak in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths to those who have the Spirit. (14) Whoever does not have the Spirit cannot receive the gifts that come from God's Spirit. Such a person really does not understand them, and they seem to be nonsense, because their value can be judged only on a spiritual basis. (15) Whoever has the Spirit, however, is able to judge the value of everything, but no one is able to judge him. (16) As the scripture says, "Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give him advice?" We, however, have the mind of Christ (by reading the Gospels).

⁷¹ Matthew 13:18-23 CEV Now listen to the meaning of the story about the farmer: (19) The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message about the kingdom, but don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches the message from their hearts. (20) The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it right away. (21) But they don't have deep roots, and they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up. (22) The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also

Let's summarize the scriptures we have considered and how they illuminate the Bible theme. Our Creator is looking through the earth as He searches to show himself strong in behalf of those who are looking for him.⁷² He then directs every single one He identifies to the teachings of his son.⁽³⁸⁾ Jesus said he came for the purpose of telling us the truth, and that all righteous people would give ear to his teachings.⁷³ He said the most important thing we can learn is to love God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. He also said the law and the prophets (the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures) exist to teach us how to show that love.⁽²⁾ His followers taught the Old Testament (the law and the prophets) actually existed to be our tutor leading to the Christ.^(32 - Galatians 3:24) We also realize the Bible books written after the Gospels were written after Jesus was gone (after he had been resurrected to heaven, or, after what he came to teach had already been recorded). The books following the Gospels are not the teachings of Jesus. The books following the Gospels were inspired by God to be written by the followers of Jesus, as they recorded how they did their best to apply his teachings in their lives. Those books too, direct us to Christ. This is not hard to understand!!! **What God sent his son to teach *you* is recorded in the four short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.**

people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life and are fooled by the desire to get rich. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything. (23) The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was planted.

⁷² 2 Chronicles 16:9a KJV For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him...

⁷³ John 18:37 BBE Then Pilate said to him, Are you then a king? Jesus made answer, You say that I am a king. For this purpose was I given birth, and for this purpose I came into the world, that I might give witness to what is true. Every lover of what is true gives ear to my voice.

The rest of the Bible is a tutor to help you understand and have faith in that knowledge.⁽³²⁾ Once we individually come to understand that simple Bible theme, our energies should be focused in trying every day of our life to better understand what Jesus taught. That's how we can come to know Jesus intimately, and, it is the only way we can be certain we are not misled by well-meaning but ignorant men. Remember: In his youth, the Apostle Paul was convinced he was upright even while he was teaching others to torment and kill the followers of Jesus.⁽⁹⁾ Although Paul had good intentions, he was completely ignorant of Jesus's teachings, and so, he remained a worker of lawlessness.⁽¹²⁾ Once you realize the importance of truly understanding what Jesus taught, you need to start building a detailed knowledge of what that is. Jesus said what we have faith in would become our reality, or, that our lives would happen according to our faith.⁽⁴²⁾ As we have faith in the promises of God, those promises will come true for us. Or, viewed another way, God's promises *are coming true* and we need to figure out how we can fit in. Do you begin to glean how very important it is to know what God has promised? What God has promised is impacted by where we live in time. When a woman approached Jesus 2000 years ago, she had faith she could be healed from a terrible and humiliating illness by just touching his outer garment. It happened exactly as her faith led her to believe it would.⁷⁴ The first appearance of the Messiah was

⁷⁴ **Mark 5:25-34 CEV** In the crowd was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. (26) She had gone to many doctors, and they had not done anything except cause her a lot of pain. She had paid them all the money she had. But instead of getting better, she only got worse. (27) The woman had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him in the crowd and barely touched his clothes. (28) She had said to herself, "If I can just touch his clothes, I will get well." (29) As soon as she touched them, her bleeding stopped, and she knew she was well. (30) At that moment Jesus felt power go out from him. He turned to the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" (31) His disciples said to him, "Look at all these people crowding around you! How can you ask who touched you?" (32) But Jesus turned to see who had

what God purposed for the time period in which that woman lived. Her manifest faith was only (and could only possibly be) in what “she could know” God had promised. Her faith didn’t grant her a return to her youth and eternal health.⁽⁴³⁾ She continued to get old, and then died, like everyone else in her day. (As a person of faith, she is, of course, awaiting the resurrection.)⁽⁴⁴⁾ She didn’t have enough Bible knowledge to have faith in the hope of growing young and living forever.⁽⁴³⁾ She couldn’t know to have such faith because it wasn’t God’s time for her to understand that promise, or, for it to be fulfilled. There was no reason to grant her a hope in what it was not time for her to be able to realize. There would have been no kindness in doing so. She served her purpose in building her own faith in what she did know God had promised, and in being healed by that faith. She then had her wonderful example recorded to build faith in millions (or billions) of others.⁽⁴⁰⁾ Our day in time is for the second coming of Christ, and, it is time for the promises of God that are reserved for our day to be revealed and realized. Those promises are becoming reality. Persons who have made the effort to gain the Bible knowledge needed to have faith in those promises will be blessed by that reality. Those who choose to ignore the truth will probably not. The only question for you is this: Are you going to believe all the religious hogwash and foolishness you have been brainwashed with all your life. Will you continue to believe religious leaders who have been telling what they think Jesus taught; or, are you going to immerse yourself in the Gospels and build faith in what Jesus really did teach? Do not think it is ever a matter of who means well.⁽²³⁾ Many or even most of the religious sects may mean well. Paul meant well when he killed Stephen.^{(7) & (6)} If sects or individuals are causing pain and harm to others, the fact they mean well has no impact on the fruit they produce.⁽²³⁾ It is a

touched him. (33) The woman knew what had happened to her. She came shaking with fear and knelt down in front of Jesus. Then she told him the whole story. (34) Jesus said to the woman, "You are now well because of your faith. May God give you peace! You are healed, and you will no longer be in pain."

matter of who is actually doing the will of God.⁽²³⁾ That requires, of course, first learning what God's will is.⁷⁵ Jesus is absolutely the only one ~~who can teach you~~ *who has taught you* what God's will

⁷⁵ John 8:38-55 CEV I am telling you what my Father has shown me, just as you are doing what your father has taught you. (39) The people said to Jesus, "Abraham is our father!" Jesus replied, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did. (40) Instead, you want to kill me for telling you the truth that God gave me. Abraham never did anything like that. (41) But you are doing exactly what your father does." "Don't accuse us of having someone else as our father!" they said. "We just have one father, and he is God." (42) Jesus answered: If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and only from him. He sent me. I did not come on my own. (43) Why can't you understand what I am talking about? Can't you stand to hear what I am saying? (44) Your father is the devil, and you do exactly what he wants. He has always been a murderer and a liar. There is nothing truthful about him. He speaks on his own, and everything he says is a lie. Not only is he a liar himself, but he is also the father of all lies. (45) Everything I have told you is true, and you still refuse to have faith in me. (46) Can any of you accuse me of sin? If you cannot, why won't you have faith in me? After all, I am telling you the truth. (47) Anyone who belongs to God will listen to his message. But you refuse to listen, because you don't belong to God. (48) The people told Jesus, "We were right to say that you are a Samaritan and that you have a demon in you!" (49) Jesus answered, "I don't have a demon in me. I honor my Father, and you refuse to honor me. (50) I don't want honor for myself. But there is one who wants me to be honored, and he is also the one who judges. (51) I tell you for certain that if you obey my words, you will never die." (52) Then the people said, "Now we are sure that you have a demon. Abraham is dead, and so are the prophets. How can you say that no one who obeys your words will ever die? (53) Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" (54) Jesus replied, "If I honored myself, it would mean nothing. My Father is the one who honors me. You claim that he is your God, (55) even though you don't really know him. If I said I didn't know him, I would be a liar, just like all of you. But I know him, and I do what he says.

is!⁷⁶ & (20) & (38) If this material can help you comprehend your dependence on reading for yourself what Jesus taught, it has served its purpose. You don't need us, or any sect of men. You need the Gospels. **The recordings of Jesus's life and teachings, by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are the manifestation of God's effort to help you.**^{(72) & (65)}

We are not self-righteous and arrogant to assert or imagine you need to agree with everything we say. Over half the material presented, however, is comprised of scriptures as footnotes. While you don't need to agree with what we say, we do observe your need to put faith in what Jesus Christ said.⁽³⁸⁾ Thus, we summarize and close by respectfully parroting the words of the Apostle Saul/Paul when he said: **(1 Corinthians 4:1-6)** Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates of Christ and stewards of sacred secrets *[the teachings of Jesus]*⁽⁷⁷⁾ of God. ² Besides, in this case, what is looked for in stewards is for a man to be found faithful. ³ Now to me it is a very trivial matter that I should be examined by you or by a human tribunal. Even I do not examine myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself *[or, aware that I am doing anything against God]*. Yet by this I am not proved righteous, but he that examines me is God. ⁵ Hence do not judge anything before the due time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring the secret things of darkness to light and make the counsels of the hearts manifest, and then each one will have his praise come to him from God. ⁶ Now, brothers, these things I have transferred so as to apply to myself and A·pol'los for YOUR good, that in our case YOU may learn the [rule]: "Do not go beyond the things that are written (the teachings of Jesus)," in order that YOU may not be puffed up individually in favor of the one against the other.

I have faith everything I herein proclaim is consistent with what Jesus Christ taught. I also realize, what I say only amounts to the representation of who I am as a Christian. If I am in error, and I am sincere, Christ will correct me as he did Saul/Paul. What's important for you, in any case, is for you to *exhibit who you are* as

⁷⁶ John 14:6 ALT Jesus says to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through *[or, by means of] Me!*"

⁷⁷ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/ASecret.pdf>

a Christian. You must do so based on your personal knowledge of what Jesus taught. Don't follow or build your faith in these writings. We freely acknowledge their only purpose is to help you identify your need to study at the feet of Jesus - by reading the Gospels for yourself.⁽³⁵⁾ Directing you to the teachings of Jesus is the whole purpose of justbibletruth.com. Even faithful angels are fearful of men becoming followers of them.⁷⁸ How much more so a man. We encourage your faith only in what Jesus said. That does include passing along Jesus's warning about the danger you face from the many sectarian groups trying to ~~convince~~ deceive you to believe your hope lies in a membership in their cult. The only membership that can help you, is in being among those individuals making a personal effort to follow what Jesus said.⁽⁴⁷⁾ Jesus started that group 2000 years ago, and persons were made part of it by following along listening to what he said. Today, we become part of the group Jesus started the same way, by reading what he said and following his guidance. Remember concerning

⁷⁸ Revelation 18:21 ESV Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city [*the world wide city of false religion*] be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more... Revelation 18:23 GNB Never again will the light of a lamp be seen in you; no more will the voices of brides and grooms be heard in you. Your merchants were the most powerful in all the world, and with your false magic you deceived all the peoples of the world!"... Revelation 19:2 GNB True and just are his judgments! He has condemned the prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her [*spiritual*] immorality. God has punished her because she killed his servants."... Revelation 19:9-10 GNB Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Happy are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And the angel added, "These are the true words of God." (10) I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Don't do it! I am a servant together with you and with other believers, all those who hold to the truth that Jesus revealed [*are the ones invited to the wedding feast of the lamb*]. Worship God!" For the truth that Jesus revealed is what inspires the prophets.

false teachers, Jesus did warn you of their prevalence and the great danger they pose.⁽¹⁵⁾

Please consider some examples of the danger of false religious teachers. Try not to feel compelled to take a side! The Bible says God created all things in six days. Literalists say that was six 24 hour days, while others say it was six creative days, meaning some uncertain and/or longer period of time. An example of such longer days would be “the day of Noah” or “the day of the pharaohs.” You can’t possibly know who is right because the Bible doesn’t clearly state one way or the other. Scientists tell us there are dinosaur bones that are millions of years old. True scientists (people who study how to make use of the creation our Father has given us) are very smart people. They are the reason mankind has a satellite circling Jupiter sending back pictures and information. Most true scientists probably believe in God. Albert Einstein once commented on the consistency of science by saying: “God does not play dice with the universe.” What scientists cannot do, however, is go back 1000 or even 100 years to validate their carbon dating procedures. There are factors they can’t possibly test that could set their test results off by orders of magnitude. They certainly can’t know it is accurate over millions of years. The reason we mention this is to note some of these people are right, and some of them are wrong. The very important point we make is this: You can’t know who is wrong and who is right. Please consider, however, that it doesn’t really matter. The choice before you, and your task of life approved by God, is building faith in what Jesus Christ was sent to teach.⁽⁶⁵⁾ How long a creative day was, and how old our earth is, has absolutely nothing to do with your understanding what Jesus taught. As other examples: Some Bible translators say Jesus died nailed to a stake or tree (the trunk of a tree from which a pole was cut), while others say he was nailed to a cross. Some say God is a trinity, and others a theocracy. Please notice that neither of the words trinity or theocracy even appear in the Bible. Where, then, did those words come from? From men who made them up

to explain their “doctrine.” They build religious sects based on the doctrines they create, and then judge everyone who doesn’t join them as lost to God. Just please realize: All these religious doctrines, many needing words to explain them that don’t even appear in the Bible, have no bearing on what Jesus came to do and teach. Don’t be so bold or foolish as to join one of these sects, and then to render judgment those who don’t join you are wrong and bad. This is the simple truth of it: If you pick a side on religious issues that the Bible doesn’t make clear, and you are wrong, it makes you a false religious teacher.⁽²³⁾ Just learn what Jesus Christ taught, and you have something reliable and good to teach. Be cautious not to be let people mislead you to say more than Jesus taught.^(Page 42 – 1 Cor 4:6) You don’t have to fight with people. Simply point them to what Jesus said. By referring them to Jesus, you make it their responsibility to take it up with him. Don’t join with those who are dying as they waste themselves with debating philosophies of men.⁷⁹ The Bible doesn’t tell you

⁷⁹ 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ALT (18) For the word of the cross indeed is foolishness to the ones perishing, but to us, the ones being saved, it is *[the]* power of God! (19) For it has been written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing." *[Isaiah 29:14]* (20) Where *[is the]* wise? Where *[is the]* scribe? Where *[is the]* skillful debater of this age? God made the wisdom of this world foolish, did He not? (21) For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the proclamation *[or, the message being preached]* to save the ones believing. (22) Since also Jews ask for a sign, and Greeks seek wisdom, (23) but we proclaim Christ *[as]* having been crucified, to Jews indeed a stumbling-block and to Greeks foolishness, (24) but to them, the ones called, both to Jews and to Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than people, and the weakness of God is stronger than people. (26) For you_p see your_p calling, brothers *[and sisters]*, that *[there are]* not many wise according to *[the]* flesh, not many powerful, not many noble *[or, of high social status]*; (27) but God chose the foolish *[things]* of the world, so that He should be humiliating the wise; and God chose the weak *[things]* of the world, so that He should be humiliating the strong;

everything. What it does tell you, however, is *everything* you need to know to gain life. Jesus came to teach you precisely that.

Our encouragement is not to be obedient to our Creator because you fear him. Be obedient because you fear displeasing him. That's an important distinction! Just realize: Everything our God tells us is for our protection and elevation. What that means is this: If you have anything in the secret parts of your mind that you believe will make you happy, and it is something against the will and purpose of God, you have believed a lie. It positively will not make you happy. It is like someone who is lost to using drugs or alcohol, always looking for that one great high but never finding it. The reason they can never find it is because it doesn't exist! God is the one teaching us to benefit ourselves, and that includes how to be happy. As you come to have faith that really is true, you will be driven to obey what he sent his son to teach. Read the Gospels! Take to heart what Isaiah said as he prophetically gave voice to the then future Christ or Messiah (the Greek [Christ] and Hebrew [Messiah] words, both of which mean "Anointed One"): [Isaiah 48:16-19 ESV](#) Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be

(28) and God chose the insignificant [*things*] of the world and the [*things*] having been despised [*or, looked down on*], and the [*things*] not being, so that He should nullify the [*things*] being [*fig., which exist*], (29) in order that all flesh shall not [*or, no flesh shall*] boast before God. (30) But by Him you, are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, just as it has been written, "The one boasting, let him be boasting in [*the*] LORD." [*Jer 9:24*]~

Isaiah 29:14 MKJV therefore, behold, I will go on doing among this people, a wonder, even a wonder. For the wisdom of their wise ones shall perish, and the understanding of their intelligent ones shall be hidden.~

Jeremiah 9:24 MKJV but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* Jehovah, doing kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth; for in these I delight, says Jehovah.

I have been there." And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit. (17) Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit [*benefit yourself*], who leads you in the way you should go. (18) Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; (19) your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me." Please choose life!⁽⁶⁸⁾

I love those who love our lord Jesus Christ. If this material is helpful to your understanding the theme of the Bible, and helps you appreciate your need to know for yourself what Jesus taught, please let me know.

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The following translations may have been quoted in this document:

ALT - Analytical Literal Translation (1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla)
ASV - American Standard Version (by the American revision committee in 1897).
Darby – 1884, 1889 Darby Bible (John Nelson Darby)
DRB - 1899 Douay-Rheims Bible
BBE – 1949, 1964 Bible in Basic English (Cambridge Press)
LITV - Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976-2000 by J. P. Green)
KJV - King James Version (1769)
MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)
MWT - Modern World Translation
Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)
RV - Revised Version (King James Version Revised by American translation committee 18??)
YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

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“All who come to God believe he exists and is good.” Heb 11:6

Religion infects our world with sectarian teachings that bring only judgment and pain and suffering. Jesus Christ was not like that. His teachings promote peace and love. We believe all who take the simple step to actually learn what Jesus taught can be set free of religious bigotry and hate. Our goal, then, is to encourage you to read for yourself what Jesus Christ taught, as recorded in the short Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Peace to you!⁸⁰

⁸⁰ [Luke 10:5-6 Webster](#) And into whatever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house. (6) And if the son (or daughter) of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.
