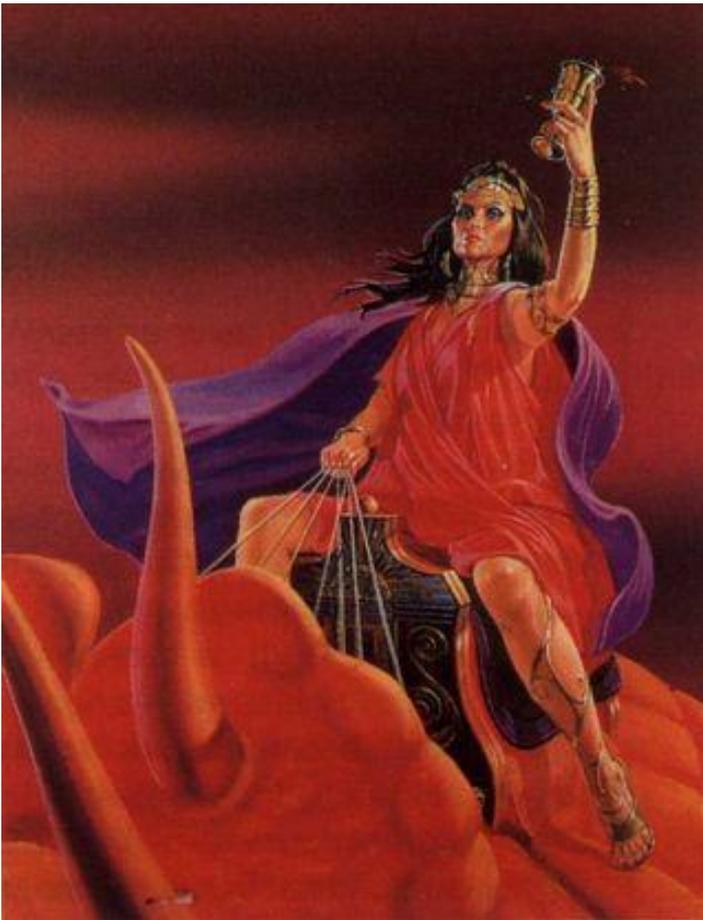


Unforgivable Sin!

Prominently on the world stage, a religious leader recently told his followers: “All sins can be forgiven.” But... Is that true?



See Revelation 17:1-18 inside cover.

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Revelation 17:1-18 MWT One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of that notorious prostitute who sits on the many waters. (2) The kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and those living on earth became drunk on the wine of her evil desires and sins." (3) Then the angel carried me by his power into the wilderness. **I saw a woman sitting on a bright red beast covered with names insulting to God.** It had seven heads and ten horns. (4) The woman wore purple clothes, bright red clothes, gold jewelry, gems, and pearls. In her hand she was holding a gold cup filled with detestable and evil things from her sexual sins. (5) A name was written on her forehead. **The name was Mystery: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and Detestable Things of the Earth.** (6) I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's servants and of those who testify about Jesus. I was very surprised when I saw her. (7) The angel asked me, "Why are you surprised? **I will tell you the mystery of the woman and the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns that carries her.** (8) "You saw the beast which once was, is no longer, and will come from the bottomless pit and go off to its destruction. Those living on earth, whose names were not written in the Book of Life when the world was *[being]* created, will be surprised when they see the beast because it was, is no longer, and will come again. (9) "To understand this, a wise mind is needed. **The seven heads are** seven mountains on which the woman is sitting. (10) Or, they *are* also **seven kings (world rulers)**. Five of them have fallen, one is ruling now (*Rome, when this was written*), and the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must remain for a little while. (11) The beast that was and is no longer is the eighth king. It belongs with (or is part of) the seven kings and goes to its destruction. (12) "The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet started to rule. They will receive authority to rule as kings with the beast for one hour. (13) They have one purpose—to give their power and authority to the beast. (14) **They will go to war against the lamb. The lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings. Those who are called, chosen, and faithful are with him** (are supporting him)." (15) The angel also said to me, "**The waters you saw, on which the prostitute is sitting, are people, crowds, nations, and languages.** (16) The ten horns and the beast you saw will finally hate the prostitute. They will leave her abandoned and naked. They will eat her flesh (consume her great wealth) and burn her up in a fire. (17) God has made them do what he wants them to do. So they will give their kingdom to the beast until God's words are carried out. (18) **The woman you saw is the important (false religious) city which dominates the kings of the earth.**"

Can *all* sins really be forgiven?

Which sins can be forgiven, from a human's point of view, seems to depend on who you decide you can trust. One popular and well known religious leader recently told the world *all sins can be forgiven*. We elect not to mention who he is because most religious groups have leaders who make that very same claim. So, which individual said all sins can be forgiven really doesn't matter... Our point is: If you want to listen to the self-proclaimed religious teachers of this world, many of them do indeed assert all sins are forgivable. If you just have love, many will add, all sins are forgiven. Many of those love proclaimers also assert they are Christians. If saying they are Christian implies they believe themselves to be followers of Christ Jesus, however, it seems they should just stop saying such things and start listening to what Jesus himself said about the matter of unforgivable sin:

Matthew 12:31-32 ³¹ "On this account I say to you: Every sort of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the holy spirit will not be forgiven. ³² For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man (Christ), it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come.

Clearly, if we want to listen to and build faith in Jesus Christ, he makes plain we cannot also believe all sins will be forgiven. Once you realize the world's preeminent professed Christian leaders are publicly and proudly making statements in direct opposition to Jesus, it begs a question from sincere hearers: Could the religious group we freely give our allegiance to have anything to do with committing the unforgivable sin? So... What exactly did Jesus mean when he said "*speaking against the holy spirit*" would not be forgiven, either now or in the future?

We should acknowledge the Bible does indeed say love covers a multitude of sins. Many religious persons use that scripture in defense of

their “all sins forgiven” doctrine.^A We have all sinned,^B of course, and the Bible teaches that even people who are sincerely trying to follow Christ are not without sin.^C It is the personal and distinct effort to learn from Jesus what is bad, and then to turn away from sin that defines one as Christian. Even the most faithful among us, however, is still only a work in progress. The Bible is always consistent, so... Considering Jesus’s words in Mat 12:32 (above), we can know those scriptures about love covering a multitude of sins cannot indicate *all* sins will be forgiven. Let’s consider what Jesus said on the matter of the “unforgivable sin” in more detail and in context, so as to better understand just what sin it is that will not be forgiven. It does seem important! As Mark recorded that same account:

Mark 3:20-30 CEV Jesus went back home, and once again such a large crowd gathered that there was no chance even to eat (a meal). (21) When Jesus' family heard what he was doing (heard about his preaching work), they thought he was crazy (had gone out of his mind) and went to get him under control. (22) Some teachers of the Law of Moses (some of the “religious leaders”) came from Jerusalem and said, "This man is under the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons! He is even forcing out demons

^A **1 Peter 4:7-11 CEV** Everything (in this old system) will soon come to an end. So be serious and be sensible enough to pray. (8) Most important of all, you must sincerely love each other, because love wipes away many sins. (9) Welcome people into your home and don't grumble about it. (10) Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. (11) If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message (the words of Christ). If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honor to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever. Amen.

^B **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 GW** (9) Don't you know that wicked people won't inherit the kingdom of God? Stop deceiving yourselves! People who continue to commit sexual sins, who worship false gods, those who commit adultery, homosexuals, (10) or thieves, those who are greedy or drunk, who use abusive language, or who rob people will not inherit the kingdom of God. (11) That's what some of you were! But you have been washed and made holy, and you have received God's approval in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

^C **1 John 1:8-10 ESV** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

with the help of Beelzebul." (23) Jesus told the people to gather around him. Then he spoke to them in riddles [*in illustrations*] and said: How can Satan force himself out? (24) A nation whose people fight each other won't last very long. (25) And a family that fights won't last long either. (26) So if Satan fights against himself, that will be the end of him. (27) How can anyone break into the house of a strong man and steal his things, unless he first ties up (binds) the strong man? Then he can take everything. (28) **I promise you that any of the sinful things you say or do can be forgiven, no matter how terrible those things are. (29) But if you speak against the Holy Spirit, you can never be forgiven. That sin will be held against you forever. (30) Jesus said this because the people were saying that he had an evil spirit in him.**

Did you notice in verse 30, the Bible explains why Jesus spoke to them about the unforgiveable sin: It was *because some in their midst were saying he had an evil spirit as the source of his power*. Verse 21 tells us even Jesus's own family did not at that time put faith in what he was sent by God to teach.^D They were all witness (just as we all are today, by reading the Gospel accounts) that Jesus was in the process of binding Satan (the strong man of Jesus's illustration) by telling people the truth

^D **John 7:16-17 MWT** Jesus, in turn, answered them and said: "What I teach is not mine, but is from him that sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality.~

John 3:34 MWT For the one whom God sent forth speaks the sayings of God, for he does not give the spirit by measure.~

John 8:28 MWT Therefore Jesus said: "When once YOU have lifted up the Son of man, then YOU will know that I am [he], and that I do nothing of my own initiative; but just as the Father taught me I speak these things.~

John 12:49 MWT because I have not spoken out of my own impulse, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to tell and what to speak.~

John 14:10 MWT Do you not believe that I am working with my Father and the Father is in union with me? The things I say to you men I do not speak of my own originality; but the Father who remains in union with me is doing his works.~

Revelation 1:1 MWT A revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. And he sent forth his angel and presented [it] in signs through him to his slave John,

about Satan: Jesus was exposing Satan's deceit and wickedness. Viewed another way, Jesus was exposing Satan's many religions to be false worship!^(RR) Religion has been exposed in our day in time. Anyone who wants to learn from Christ can see religion for the spiritual prostitute she is.^(Rev 17 inside front cover) Jesus also said he would take Satan's valuable things: That he has been doing by releasing all the kind hearted persons bound by their faith in Satan's false religious teachings. Setting people free of false religion is still happening. So... Directing people to listen to Jesus is God's work for our day in time. The importance of what Jesus said is made more clear in our day. Only those men and women who are actually looking for God, however, will be able to hear (will actually listen to Jesus's message). God is using the same simple process to reach every person who has interest: First God looks through the earth to identify righteously inclined persons (those who are looking for him).^E He then directs sincere persons to the teachings of his son.^F As you read the words of Christ, you should not fail to notice that it was the religious leaders who were Jesus's worst enemies. *Please just meditate on what that means...* You must recognize Christ as God's messenger.^(D) Jesus was born a Jew.^G The Jewish nation as a whole, because of their Bible (Old

^E [2 Chronicles 16:9a Darby](#) (9) For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro through the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him...

^F [John 6:43-45 GW](#) Jesus responded, "Stop criticizing me! (44) People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me brings them to me. I will bring these people back to life on the last day. (45) The prophets wrote, 'God will teach everyone.' Those who do what they have learned from the Father come to me.

^G [John 4:19-26 CEV](#) The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. (20) **My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship.**" (21) Jesus said to her: Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) **You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world.** (23) But a time is coming, and it is already here! **Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him.** (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth. (25) The woman said, "I

Testament) training and background, were looking for a Messiah.^{H & I} (Their Jewish nation was actually being used by God for the very purpose of producing the Christ.)^G Additionally, John the Baptist had announced to his fellow Jews that Jesus was that son sent them by God.^J There was every reason for all those hearing Jesus, and seeing his miracles, to put faith in him^K as the one coming in God's name: It should have been clear to them Jesus came with God's power and authority to do the works God sent him to do.^L Instead of recognizing the power of holy spirit as obvious

know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (26) "I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now."

^H **John 7:31 CEV** A lot of people in the crowd put their faith in him and said, "When the Messiah comes, he surely won't perform more miracles than this man has done!"~

Micah 5:3-4 CEV The LORD will abandon Israel only until this ruler is born, and the rest of his family returns to Israel. (4) Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness,

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

^J **John 1:28-34 CEV** John ... was baptizing east of the Jordan River in Bethany. (29) The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (30) He is the one I told you about when I said, "Someone else will come. He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born." (31) I didn't know who he was. But I came to baptize you with water, so that everyone in Israel would see him. (32) I was there and saw the Spirit come down on him like a dove from heaven. And the Spirit stayed on him. (33) Before this I didn't know who he was. But the one who sent me to baptize with water had told me, "You will see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. Then you will know that he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." (34) I saw this happen, and I tell you that he is the Son of God.

^K **John 11:47-48 LITV** Then the chief priests and the Pharisees assembled a sanhedrin, and said, What are we doing, for this man does many *miraculous* signs? (48) If we let Him alone this way, all will believe into Him, and the Romans will come and will take away from us both [*our*] place [*elevated status*] and the nation [*from under their control*].

^L **John 5:18-30 CEV** Now the leaders wanted to kill Jesus for two reasons. First, he had broken the law of the Sabbath. But even worse, he had said that God was his Father, which (they thought meant he) made him(self)

in what Jesus was saying and doing, those religious people asserted he had a demon. They were speaking against the observable evidence of God's spirit. That is unforgivable; if the person understands what they are doing... Before we rush to a kneejerk assertion about exactly what the unforgivable sin is, however, let's consider some other things said by Jesus and his followers. Where does this danger of unforgivable sin come from, and how can we know we are protected against it. (It is said by some that if you are worried about the unforgivable sin, you probably haven't committed it. Maybe... Be careful though! You should read for yourself what Jesus taught and develop your own faith, apart from what other men and women claim.) Consider the words of Jesus from Matthew 12:31-32 (considered above) in larger scriptural context:

Matthew 12:17-42 CEV So God's promise came true, just as Isaiah the prophet had said, (18) "Here is my chosen servant (Jesus)! I love him, and he pleases me. I will give him my Spirit, and he will bring justice to the nations. (19) He won't shout or yell or call out in the streets. (20) He won't break off a bent reed or put out a dying flame, but he will make sure that justice is done. (21) All nations will place their hope in him." [*Isaiah*

equal with God. (19) Jesus (corrected them as he) told the people: I tell you for certain that the Son cannot do anything on his own. He can do only what he sees the Father doing, and he does exactly what he sees the Father do. (20) The Father loves the Son and has shown him everything he does. The Father will show him even greater things, and you will be amazed. (21) Just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants to. (22) The Father doesn't judge anyone, but he has made his Son the judge of everyone. (23) The Father wants all people to honor the Son as much as they honor him. When anyone refuses to honor the Son, that is the same as refusing to honor the Father who sent him. (24) I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life and will never be condemned. They have already gone from death to life. (25) I tell you for certain that the time will come, and it is already here, when all of the dead (if we don't put faith in Christ, we are already dead) will hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen to it will live! (26) The Father has the power to give life, and he has given that same power to the Son. (27) And he has given his Son the right to judge everyone, because he is the Son of Man... (30) I cannot do anything on my own. The Father sent me, and he is the one who told me how to judge. I judge with fairness, because I obey him, and I don't just try to please myself.

42:1-4]^M (22) Some people brought to Jesus a man who was blind and could not talk because he had a demon in him. Jesus healed the man, and then he was able to talk and see. (23) The crowds were so amazed that they asked, "Could Jesus be the Son of David?"^N (The Jews had been promised in God's Word their coming Messiah would be a descendant of King David.) (24) **When the Pharisees (religious leaders) heard this, they said, "He forces out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons!"** (25) Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he said to them: Any kingdom where people fight each other will end up ruined. And a town or family that fights will soon destroy itself. (26) So if Satan fights against himself, how can his kingdom last? (27) If I use the power of Beelzebul to force out demons, whose power do your own followers use to force them out? Your followers are the ones who will judge you. (28) But when I force out demons by the power of God's Spirit, it proves that God's kingdom has already come to you. (29) How can anyone break into a strong man's house and steal his things, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can take everything. [*Jesus bound up the strong man (took Satan's power) by means of the truth of God he brought to mankind.*] (30) If you are not on my side, you are against me. If you don't gather in the harvest with me [*by helping people recognize and abandon the lies religion has spread*], you scatter it. (31) **I tell you that any sinful thing you do or say can be forgiven. Even if you speak against the Son of Man, you can be forgiven. But if you speak against the Holy Spirit, you can never be forgiven, either in this life or in the life to come.** (32) (SEE 12:31) (33) **A good tree produces only good fruit, and a**

^M **Isaiah 42:1-4 LITV** Behold My Servant; I will uphold Him; My Elect *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit on Him; He shall bring forth justice to the nations. (2) He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. (3) A bruised reed He shall not break, and a smoking wick He shall not quench; He shall bring forth justice to truth. (4) He shall not fail nor be crushed until He has set justice in the earth; and the coasts shall wait for His Law.

^N **Luke 1:30-33 BBE** And the angel said to her, Have no fear, Mary, for you have God's approval. (31) And see, you will give birth to a son, and his name will be Jesus. (32) He will be great, and will be named the Son of the Most High: and **the Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his father:** (33) **He will have rule over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.** ~ **Matthew 1:1 CEV** Jesus Christ came from the family of King David (son of David) and also from the family of Abraham. And this is a list of his ancestors. (All the promises of God to the ancient faithful persons like Abraham and David are fulfilled in Christ.)

bad tree produces bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces (good trees direct others to the teachings of Christ, else they show themselves bad because they don't). (34) You are a bunch of evil snakes, so how can you say anything good? **Your words show what is in your hearts.** (35) **Good people bring good things out of their hearts, but evil people bring evil things out of their hearts.** (36) I promise you that on the day of judgment, everyone will have to account for every careless word they have spoken. (37) **On that day they will be told that they are either innocent or guilty because of the things they have said.** (38) Some (highly religious men, the) Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses said, "Teacher, we want you to show us a sign from heaven." (39) But Jesus replied: You want a sign because you are evil and won't believe! *[They already had plenty of signs but they refused to listen.]* But the only sign you will get is the sign of the prophet Jonah. (40) He was in the stomach of a big fish for three days and nights, just as the Son of Man will be deep in the earth for three days and nights. (41) On the day of judgment the people of Nineveh will stand there with you and condemn you. They turned to God when Jonah preached, and yet here is something far greater than Jonah. (42) The Queen of the South will also stand there with you and condemn you. She traveled a long way to hear Solomon's wisdom, and yet here is something much greater than Solomon.

Clearly, Jesus there indicated the unforgivable sin was tied to what is in our heart; and then, he said what is in our heart can be identified by what comes out of our mouth. The Bible teaches our actions don't necessarily define us to be wicked (define us to have committed the unforgivable sin). Luke made that clear as he wrote in Acts:

(Acts 6:8-7:2) ⁸ Now Stephen (a follower of Christ), full of graciousness and power, was performing great portents and signs among the people. ⁹ But certain men (religious leaders) rose up of those from the so-called Synagogue of the Freedmen, and of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians (some of the different religious sects active in Jesus's day, all of them claiming to worship God) and of those from Cilicia and Asia, to dispute with Stephen; ¹⁰ and yet they could not hold their own against the wisdom and the spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ **Then they secretly induced men** to say: "We have heard him speaking blasphemous sayings against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the older men and the scribes, and, coming upon him suddenly, they took him by force and led him to the Sanhedrin. ¹³ **And they brought forward false witnesses, who said: "This man does not stop speaking things against this holy place and against the Law.** ¹⁴ For instance, we have

heard him say that this Jesus the Nazarene will throw down this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.” ¹⁵ And as all those sitting in the Sanhedrin gazed at him, they saw that his face was as an angel’s face. **7** But the high priest said: “Are these things so?” ² He said: “Men, brothers and fathers, hear. The God of glory appeared to our forefather Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he took up residence in Haran,

Stephen continues on in verses 3 thru 51 of Acts 7 to give an eloquent witness to those religious leaders as to why their Jewish history should cause them to put faith in Christ. After that spiritual argument witness, Stephen went on to warn those self-righteous religious people:

(Acts 7:51-8:1) ⁵¹ “Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, **YOU are always resisting the holy spirit; as YOUR forefathers did, so YOU do.** ⁵² Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? Yes, they killed those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become, ⁵³ you who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it.” ⁵⁴ Well, at hearing these things they felt cut to their hearts and began to gnash their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of holy spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God’s glory and of Jesus standing at God’s right hand, ⁵⁶ and he said: “Look! I behold the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God’s right hand.” ⁵⁷ At this they cried out at the top of the voice and **put their hands over their ears** and rushed upon him with one accord. ⁵⁸ And after throwing him outside the city, they began casting stones at him. And the witnesses laid down their outer garments at the feet of a young man called Saul. ⁵⁹ And they went on casting stones at Stephen as he made appeal and said: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice: “O God, do not charge this sin against them.” And after saying this he fell asleep [in death]. **8 Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him...**

Stephen told those Jews they were resisting the holy spirit by their actions against him: In spite of the witness he had given and the witness they already had in Christ, they still resisted the truth. It is of note they even covered their ears trying to avoid hearing the truth he spoke. Luke once again links fighting against the holy spirit (the unforgivable sin) with the person’s lack of integrity: Those self-righteous zealots had knowingly and deliberately brought forth false witnesses to testify against Stephen.

They pretended and claimed they were made righteous by their faith in and relationship with God, and yet they deliberately followed Satan by telling lies in God's name (lying while claiming to be servants of God). What they did does not seem a mistake of ignorance. If they were deliberately bad, if they lied while calling God's name on themselves, it was likely unforgivable. Their action was unforgivable because, if they knowingly did do those things, it also meant they had to be fighting against the direction of God's Holy Spirit; which spirit had showed them the truth. The truth God brought them by means of Jesus, along with his miracles they had been witness to, had washed away their ignorance and made them accountable.^o That is, again, because the only way we can gain knowledge of truth is with help from holy spirit.^p Gaining life also

^o [John 9:30-41 GNB](#) The man answered (the religious leaders who were persecuting Jesus for doing a good work), "What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness!" (31) We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. (32) Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. (33) Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing." (34) They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin---and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue. (35) When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (36) The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!" (37) Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now." (38) "I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus. (39) Jesus said, "I came to this world to judge, so that the blind should see and those who (claim to) see should become blind." (40) **Some Pharisees** who were there with him heard him say this and **asked him, "Surely you don't mean that we are blind, too?"** (41) **Jesus answered, "If you were blind, then you would not be guilty [would have no sin]; but since you claim that you can see (claim to be spiritual leaders),^(x) this means that you are still guilty [your sins remain]."**

^p [1 Corinthians 12:1-3 GNB](#) (1) Now, concerning what you wrote about the gifts from the Holy Spirit. I want you to know the truth about them, my friends. (2) You know that while you were still heathen (those who had not turned to Christ), you were led astray in many ways (by false religion) to the worship of lifeless idols. (3) I want you to know that no one who is led by God's Spirit can say "A curse on Jesus!" and **no one**

requires we be serious about looking for truth!^(FF) There was one man in the midst of those putting Stephen to death, however, who evidently was ignorant and did not know about the liars those wicked religious leaders had recruited... That man was Saul. Saul was a Pharisee and he was overseeing the murder of Stephen. Soon after killing Stephen, Saul was converted to become the Christian Apostle Paul.^Q So... Saul obviously could not have been guilty of the unforgivable sin.

can confess "Jesus is Lord," without being guided by the Holy Spirit.

^Q **Acts 9:1-22 ESV** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest (2) and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. (3) Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (4) And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (5) And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (6) But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (7) The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. (8) Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. (9) And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." (11) And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." (13) But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. (14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." (15) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (17) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; (19) and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. (20) And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the

We should be able to realize from the scriptures we have considered (from the warnings Jesus gave), along with the example of Saul (as we note how he was manipulated by his hypocritical religious peers to kill Stephen): There is great danger in allowing ourselves to be led along by any group of men. Our great threat is in allowing ourselves to believe in some sect, and of then refusing to doubt anything they say (in the same way Saul did): Don't put faith in men or women simply *because they claim to be servants of the true God*. Claiming to be servants of God is exactly what those persecuting Jesus were doing. Religion is especially deadly when we can be deceived to follow men who have actually committed the unforgivable sin themselves. Having committed the unforgivable sin defines them to be willful fighters against God. They are lying to you!^(U) Such persons are not ignorant, and so they will never repent or relent, and they don't care if they harm others. That's what defines the sin they have committed to be unforgivable. We humans cannot, of course, judge or even know who is good or bad. God knows... Our being cautious not to judge others does not lessen the danger from religionists, whether they are bad or just ignorant. One of the nice things about the teachings of Christ is you don't have to know who is good and who is bad, and who just hasn't yet decided what they are... Judging who of us belong in which category is precisely what God is in the process of doing. He is separating us by our individual response to what He sent his son to teach.^{R & (D)} What that requires of us personally is to learn and be

synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." (21) And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" (22) But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

^R [Matthew 25:31-40 CEV](#) When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. (32) The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats. (33) He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. (34) Then the king will say to those on his right, "My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. (35) When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, (36) and

obedient to what Jesus said.⁵ Again, our integrity is paramount: While the Bible tells us God can not ever^T lie, it also says Satan is a liar and the father of the lie.^U Being a deceiver is who and what Satan is. Lying is not a

when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me." (37) Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? (38) When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear (39) or visit you while you were sick or in jail?" (40) The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

^S **John 12:48-50 BBE** He who puts me on one side and does not take my words to heart, is not without a judge: the word which I have said will be his judge on the last day. (49) For I have not said it on my authority, but the Father who sent me gave me orders what to say and how to say it. (50) And I have knowledge that his order is eternal life: so that the things which I say, I say them even as the Father says them to me.

^T **Titus 1:1-4 GW** From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I was sent to lead God's chosen people to faith and to the knowledge of the truth that leads to a godly life. (2) **My message is based on the confidence of eternal life. God, who never lies [who cannot lie], promised this eternal life before the world began.** (3) God has revealed this in every era by spreading his word. I was entrusted with this word by the command of God our Savior. (4) To Titus, a genuine child in the faith we share. Good will and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Savior are yours!

^U **John 8:36-55 GNB** If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free. (37) I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are trying to kill me, because you will not accept my teaching. (38) I talk about [*teach*] what my Father has shown me, but you do what your father has told you." (39) They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." "If you really were Abraham's children," Jesus replied, "you would do the same things that he did. (40) All I have ever done is to tell you the truth I heard from God, yet you are trying to kill me. Abraham did nothing like this! (41) You are doing what your father did." "God himself is the only Father we have," they answered, "and we are his true children." (42) Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message. (44) **You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in**

weakness or a mistake on his part; it is the fiber of his very being. He made the decision that he doesn't care who he hurts or kills. He just wants whatever happens to come into his mind to want, and then he is dishonest to say absolutely anything to try and accomplish his wicked desire. It is *those choices he made* that define who he is. They also define him to be bad. That is why God sent Jesus to first expose Satan (and his many religious teachings) to all the individuals Satan has been able to deceive, and then to destroy Satan.^v Who could be happy living in a world if they knew Satan might choose to kill them, or someone they love? Because of who Satan made the choice to become, he recreated

him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies. (45) But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? (47) He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen." (48) They asked Jesus, "Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?" (49) "I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. (50) I am not seeking honor for myself. But there is one who is seeking it and who judges in my favor. (51) I am telling you the truth: whoever obeys my teaching will never die." (52) They said to him, "Now we know for sure that you have a demon! Abraham died, and the prophets died, yet you say that whoever obeys your teaching will never die. (53) Our father Abraham died; you do not claim to be greater than Abraham, do you? And the prophets also died. Who do you think you are?" (54) Jesus answered, "If I were to honor myself, that honor would be worth nothing. The one who honors me is my Father---the very one you say is your God. (55) You have never known him, but I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I obey his word.

^v **1 John 3:5-10 CEV** You know that Christ came to take away sins. He isn't sinful, (6) and people who stay one in their hearts with him won't keep on sinning. If they do keep on sinning, they don't know Christ, and they have never seen him. (7) Children, don't be fooled. Anyone who does right is good, just like Christ himself. (8) **Anyone who keeps on sinning belongs to the devil. He has sinned from the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy all that he has done.** (9) God's children cannot keep on being sinful. His life-giving power lives in them and makes them his children, so that they cannot keep on sinning. (10) You can tell God's children from the devil's children, because those who belong to the devil refuse to do right or to love each other.~

(transformed) himself into one who must be destroyed. One way we can know Satan is wicked is simply because God has judged He will be destroyed. If there were any hope for his redemption, God would not have judged him wicked and sentenced him.^W The Jewish “religious leaders” who killed Stephen had knowledge of the Bible as it existed in their day. They took great pride in their knowledge, claiming to be scholars and teachers of God’s word.^(X) Thus, they knew God had promised to provide mankind a savior who would be a descendant of their King David.^(N) They had ample evidence that Christ was that savior, and yet they hated Stephen only because he spoke the truth (was Jesus’s follower). Their deceitful actions demonstrated they didn’t care about truth. They only wanted to protect their established religious order and

^W [Revelation 20:10 BBE](#) And the Evil One [*Satan*] who put them in error [*who deceived mankind*] was sent down into the sea of ever-burning fire, where the beast and the false prophet are, and their punishment will go on day and night for ever and ever.~

[Revelation 20:14 BBE](#) And death and Hell were put into the sea of fire. **This is the second death, even the sea of fire.**~

[Ecclesiastes 9:5 BBE](#) The living are conscious that death will come to them, but **the dead are not conscious of anything**, and they no longer have a reward (without the intervention of God through Christ), because there is no memory of them.

their elevated status^x among over the people.^y When they hired men to tell lies giving them power to kill Stephen using their religious Law Code, they surely understood what they were doing. They had absolutely no integrity. Just like Satan, they wanted what they wanted with no regard for right or wrong; or for who they hurt or killed. They were liars, just like Satan. Their hypocrisy had made them sons of the Devil.^(u) Lying is not the unforgivable sin. It does seem deliberately lying while understanding that what you are doing is or might be unforgivable. Can you see how lying, while having a full understanding of what you are doing, makes you a follower of Satan?^(u) Don't be deceived: Even though our modern world has little appreciation for integrity, it remains very important to God. We

^x **Matthew 23:1-13 GW** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, (2) "The scribes and the Pharisees ("religious leaders") teach with Moses' authority (claim their teachings are from the Bible). (3) So be careful to do everything they tell you. But don't follow their example, because they don't practice what they preach. (4) They make loads that are hard to carry and lay them on the shoulders of the people. However, they are not willing to lift a finger to move them. (5) "They do everything to attract people's attention. They make their headbands large and the tassels on their shawls long. (6) They love the place of honor at dinners and the front seats in synagogues. (7) They love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have people call them Rabbi. (8) **But don't make others call you Rabbi, because you have only one teacher, and you are all followers.** (9) **And don't call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.** (10) **Don't make others call you a leader, because you have only one leader, the Messiah [Christ].** (11) The person who is greatest among you will be your servant. (12) Whoever honors himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be honored. (13) "How horrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. You don't enter it yourselves, and you don't permit others to enter when they try. (They rather help Satan by burying people in their religious doctrines [*lies*].)

^y **John 11:45-48 GW** Many Jews who had visited Mary and had seen what Jesus had done believed in him. (46) But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. (47) **So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council. They asked, "What are we doing? This man is performing a lot of miracles. (48) If we let him continue what he's doing, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will take away our position and our nation."**

see political and religious leaders who will say absolutely anything they can think of to try and manipulate people in the direction they want them to go. Many of them just ignore it and keep on talking when caught in a lie. They seem to believe our society has gotten so bad, many people (apparently the majority) don't even care they are liars. There remains hope thought. Just know: Influential leaders (religious or otherwise) who deceive and manipulate others are receiving the reward they deserve. It is even as Jesus said: **(Matthew 6:1-5) 6** "Take good care not to practice YOUR righteousness in front of men in order to be observed by them; otherwise YOU will have no reward with YOUR Father who is in the heavens. ² Hence when you go making gifts of mercy, do not blow a trumpet ahead of you, just as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be glorified by men. **Truly I say to YOU, They are having their reward in full.** ³ But you, when making gifts of mercy, do not let even your closest friend know what you are doing, ⁴ that your gifts of mercy may be in secret; then your Father who is looking on in secret will repay you. ⁵ "Also, when YOU pray, YOU must not be as the hypocrites; because they like to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the broad ways to be visible to men. **Truly I say to YOU, They are having their reward in full.**

Many people, even those old and nearing death, have no respect for integrity. So... This life is their reward. If you are a person who wants more, if you are to become a true follower of Jesus Christ and receive the reward of the real life, integrity must be important to you. We make no attempt to explain the unforgivable sin in more detail than the Bible gives. Be careful, however: No one among men has the authority or ability to say who has committed the unforgivable sin. And certainly, no man can say all sins will be forgiven!^(X)

Those who would follow Christ must realize a simple truth: Just like those religious leaders who persecuted Jesus (the young Apostle Paul being a part of them), we are each and every one born under the influence of Satan. We have all been swayed by his world. ^(See 1 John 5:19 on page 23) Satan is most dangerous when he is able to convince us he is an angel of light. His servants do that by pretending to serve God.^(RR) One thing most religious people share is self-righteousness. Many imagine themselves to be servants of God. Each sect has members who believe it is their sectarian teachings that identify and seclude them as the real and true servants of God. None of them comprehend it is following those sectarian teachings that actually make them all just alike: Sectarianism makes them sons and daughters of the Devil. That is because they have each one replaced the

simple and clear teachings of Jesus with their own doctrine.^z Many refuse Jesus's words because he convicts them of what they "really" are.^(CC) In Jesus's day, some of them actually plugged up their ears.^(Acts 7:57 on page 9) More often than plugging their ears, people just change the topic of conversation to something else. In that way, they attempt to keep Jesus's words out of mind. You cannot plug your ears, and you cannot pretend stupidity or even ignorance. By what he taught, Jesus brought the exact same choice before each and every one of us. Remember too: Because religious people are self-righteous, they all want to make you just like them.^{AA} Most are in their own mind, after all, God's true servants.^{BB} Who are you to imagine you can tell them anything (as you direct them to actually listen to Christ).^(O) Self-righteous people will always treat individuals who love truth just like their religious predecessors treated Jesus.^(U) Always recognize: The one and only protection you have is the

^z **Mark 7:6-9 GNB** Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: "These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (7) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules (doctrines of men) as though they were my laws!" (8) "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings." (9) And Jesus continued, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching.

^{AA} **1 Peter 4:1-5 GNB** Since Christ suffered physically, you too must strengthen yourselves with the same way of thinking that he had; because whoever suffers physically is no longer involved with sin. (2) From now on, then, you must live the rest of your earthly lives controlled by God's will and not by human desires. (3) You have spent enough time in the past doing what the heathen like to do. Your lives were spent in indecency, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and the disgusting worship of idols. (4) And now the heathen are surprised when you do not join them in the same wild and reckless living, and so they insult you. (5) But they will have to give an account of themselves to God, who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

^{BB} **John 16:1-3 GNB** "I have told you this, so that you will not give up your faith. (2) You will be expelled from (their religious sects and) the synagogues (meeting places), and the time will come when those who kill you will think that by doing this they are serving God. (3) People will do these things to you because they have not known either the Father or me.

mirror provided each of us by the Bible.^{CC} That mirror is the Gospel teachings by Christ.^{DD} Choosing to sit at Jesus's feet, by reading the Bible record of his teachings, enables you to see yourself for what you are in God's eyes. That is the absolutely necessary first step because you can't change what you don't first know. That's our common problem: None of us know what we don't know. Compounding that fault, until we do hear the words of Christ, most of us think we are righteous. Jesus can help! He is the only one who can. **Reading *what we say Jesus said* cannot provide you the protection you need.** Neither can what any other man or woman says. **We hope our words will direct you to read for yourself what Jesus said,** but please do know, **our efforts have no power to grant you the ability to see yourself for what you truly are. Only Christ's own words can do that.** Listening to sectarian religious groups certainly cannot help. They only want you to join their sect and follow their "truth." Whether you made the bad choice to depend on us, or to depend on them, you could never know those you chose to follow weren't wrong in what they believed and taught: Just like the religious leaders Jesus warned us about. To be protected, *and to know you are protected,* you must actually read and learn what God's son taught in the Gospels. Read them over and over

^{CC} **James 1:21-27 CEV** You must stop doing anything immoral or evil. Instead be humble and accept the message [*of Christ*] that is planted in you to save you. (22) Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. (23) If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror (24) and forget what they look like as soon as they leave. (25) **But you must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do (and you will be happy), if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget.** (26) If you think you are being religious, but can't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and everything you do is useless. (27) Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless. You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil.

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

until you become familiar with Jesus and those he loved. That's the only way you come to know Christ personally.

Our goal is simple. We warn you to realize: No matter what religious leaders may say to the contrary, Jesus Christ clearly said *all* sins will *not* be forgiven. Our intent is to provide you with what Jesus and his followers said about the unforgivable sin, so you can then understand and avoid it.^(CC) Our hope is you will see the value of learning what Jesus said about other matters as well. If you make the effort to learn what Jesus taught (by personally reading the Gospels), and then do your best to follow his teachings, you don't have to worry about the unforgivable sin. Jesus's teachings set you free of Satan's lying influence.^(OO) Jesus's teachings will make you happy.^(CC)

By now you should recognize Jesus's warning about the danger from religion^(RR) and how very different religion is from Christianity. You should also start to understand why no one can tell you precisely what the unforgivable sin is. Certainly, no mere human can judge if you have committed it. What is unforgivable seems different for each person based on that individual's personal accountability before our Creator: Accountability is based on their personal understanding of what is right.^{EE & (O)} Understanding what is right and good must become part of

^{EE} [John 15:19-27 CEV](#) 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

who you are. To be valuable in God's sight, your belief as to what is good must be based in your understanding of, and your faith in, the teachings of his son. If you love truth, that love will lead you to learn from Jesus.^{FF} If you resist the spirit of the truth as manifest in the teachings of Christ, that is a very bad thing. It is potentially unforgivable. So... We serve to help you accomplish two simple things: To first understand what Jesus taught, and then, to build an unwavering faith in those teachings.

What Jesus said about the unforgivable sin, and how a lack of integrity plays a part in committing it, is important. Luke recorded that Jesus said:

Luke 12:1-12 MWT In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to warn his disciples first of all, "**Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees** (he called the false religious teachings of the Pharisees leaven because their lies spread rapidly), **which is hypocrisy. It is their way of fooling people.** (2) **Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.** (3) **Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.** (4) "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. (5) But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him! (6) Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. (7) Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (8) "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, (9) but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. (10) **And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the holy spirit will not be forgiven.** (11) And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, (12) **for the holy spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to**

will also tell others about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{FF} **John 6:65 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."

say." (The "spirit of truth" will likely only teach [*or bring back to your mind*] what you have made effort to learn from Jesus.)^{GG}

At the same time he warned us over and over against the sectarian religious teachings of men, and then connected such teachings to the unforgivable sin, Jesus also promised he would leave us a helper. He called that helper the spirit of truth:

John 14:13-17 ALT "And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father is glorified in the Son. (14) "If you ask {Me} anything in My name I will do [it]. (15) "**If you are loving Me, keep My commandments.** (16) "**And I will ask the Father, and another Counselor [or, Helper] He will give to you,** so that He shall dwell with you into the age [fig., forever]. (17) "**The Spirit of the truth,** whom the world is not able to receive, because it does not look upon [or, watch [for]] Him, nor knows Him. But you know Him, because He dwells with you and will be in you.

Jesus said the "spirit of truth" would become an eternal part of his followers: That is so simply because they are seekers of truth. He also said they were defined to be such by *keeping his commandments*. That certainly meant they had to know what Jesus said.^(GG) He went on to say, however, the world as a whole would have no knowledge of the "spirit of truth;" *because, they didn't want to know or even look for truth*. His sending the helper was contingent, again, on *our keeping his commandments*. As the son of God, Jesus, like his Father, would never lie.^(T) He is an integrity keeper. If we are to be followers of Christ Jesus, we must also become people of integrity. If your fervent desire is to have integrity, you will never commit the unforgivable sin. The unforgivable sin seems to require and be dependent on a lack of integrity. Even though Saul/Paul *killed* righteous Stephen, it was not unforgivable because he

^{GG} **John 14:26-27 GW** However, the helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you (help you understand) everything. He **will remind you of everything that I have ever told you.** (27) "I'm leaving you peace. I'm giving you my peace. I don't give you the kind of peace that the world gives. So don't be troubled or cowardly.

was ignorant of truth.^{HH} The clergymen who hired men to lie against Stephen, however, were not ignorant. They were willful liars who were without integrity. They publicly claimed they were God's representatives while scheming and lying. That made them bad because it was their willful choice to lie while claiming to represent God. Using God's name during their ongoing badness associated their lack of integrity with God, which could then turn others away from our Creator. If they understood what they were doing, they were unforgivable. God is judge!"

The Apostle John also spoke about the unforgivable sin:

1 John 5:13-19 GW I've written this to those who believe in the Son of God so that they will know that they have eternal life. (14) **We are confident that God listens to us if we ask for anything that has his approval.** (15) We know that he listens to our requests. So we know that we already have what we ask him for. (16) **If you see another believer committing a sin that doesn't lead to death, you should pray that God would give that person life. This is true for those who commit sins that don't lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I'm not telling you to pray about that.** (17) Every

^{HH} **1 Timothy 1:12-16 ESV** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, (13) though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, (14) and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (15) The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (16) But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost (sinner), Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

"Psalms 7:9-17 GNB You are a righteous God and judge our thoughts and desires. Stop the wickedness of evildoers and reward those who are good. (10) God is my protector; he saves those who obey him. (11) God is a righteous judge and always condemns the wicked. (12) If they do not change their ways, God will sharpen his sword. He bends his bow and makes it ready; (13) he takes up his deadly weapons and aims his burning arrows. (14) See how wicked people think up evil; they plan trouble and practice deception. (15) But in the traps they set for others, they themselves get caught. (16) So they are punished by their own evil and are hurt by their own violence. (17) I thank the LORD for his justice; I sing praises to the LORD, the Most High.

kind of wrongdoing is sin, yet there are sins that don't lead to death. (18) We know that those who have been born from God don't go on sinning. Rather, the Son of God protects them (by means of knowledge of his teachings), and the evil one can't harm [*mislead*] them. (19) **We know that we are from God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.** (20) **We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we know the real God...**

Did you note John said the whole world is “under the power of the evil one”? Think about what that statement really means. Most of the world belongs to some religious faction. Knowing the world is under Satan’s influence, and that most of that world is also religious, means most of those religions belong to Satan. Remember too: Much of the world was religious when they killed Jesus. It was, in fact, *the religionists* who murdered him. While **being Christian is your safeguard, being religious is a snare and a racket. The difference is easy to grasp: Christians follow the teachings of God’s son, whereas religionists follow the doctrines of men;** while they claim or even believe they are following Christ.¹¹ Some of

¹¹ **Matthew 15:1-20 GNB** Then some Pharisees and teachers of the Law came from Jerusalem to Jesus and asked him, (2) "Why is it that your disciples disobey the teaching handed down by our ancestors? They don't wash their hands in the proper way before they eat!" (3) Jesus answered, "And why do you disobey God's command and follow your own teaching? (4) For God said, 'Respect your father and your mother,' and 'If you curse your father or your mother, you are to be put to death.' (5) But you teach that if people have something they could use to help their father or mother, but say, 'This belongs to God,' (6) they do not need to honor their father. In this way you disregard God's command, in order to follow your own teaching. (7) You hypocrites! How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! (8) 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. (9) It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' " (10) Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand! (11) It is not what goes into your mouth that makes you ritually unclean; rather, what comes out of it makes you unclean." (12) Then the disciples came to him and said, "Do you know that the Pharisees had their feelings hurt by what you said?" (13) "Every plant which my Father in heaven did not plant will be pulled up," answered Jesus. (14) "Don't worry about them! They are blind leaders of the blind; and when one blind man leads another, both fall into a ditch." (15) Peter spoke up,

those people who follow Satan do so in ignorance of truth, like Paul did when he killed Stephen.^(Acts 6:8 – 8:1 on pg 8) People who are ignorant will be forgiven by God if they repent and turn from bad.^{KK} Other people, however, don't care what the truth is. Those who don't care for truth will not hesitate to deceive others so as to accomplish their own will. They won't turn from bad and those are the people in danger of the unforgivable sin!^{LL}

"Explain this saying to us." (16) Jesus said to them, "You are still no more intelligent than the others. (17) Don't you understand? Anything that goes into your mouth goes into your stomach and then on out of your body. (18) But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these are the things that make you ritually unclean. (19) For from your heart come the evil ideas which lead you to kill, commit adultery, and do other immoral things; to rob, lie, and slander others. (20) These are the things that make you unclean. But to eat without washing your hands as they say you should---this doesn't make you unclean."

^{KK} **Acts 3:12-21 GNB** When Peter saw the people, he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, why are you surprised at this, and why do you stare at us? Do you think that it was by means of our own power or godliness that we made this man walk? (13) The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has given divine glory to his Servant Jesus. But you handed him over to the authorities, and you rejected him in Pilate's presence, even after Pilate had decided to set him free. (14) He was holy and good, but you rejected him, and instead you asked Pilate to do you the favor of turning loose a murderer. (15) You killed the one who leads to life, but God raised him from death---and we are witnesses to this. (16) It was the power of his name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see and know was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see. (17) "And now, my friends, I know that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was due to your ignorance. (18) God announced long ago through all the prophets that his Messiah had to suffer; and he made it come true in this way. (19) **Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins. If you do, (20) times of spiritual strength [healing] will come from the Lord (God),** and he will send (back) Jesus, who is the Messiah he has already chosen for you. (21) He must remain in heaven until the time comes for all things to be made new, as God announced through his holy prophets of long ago.

^{LL} **Matthew 12:36-37 GNB** "You can be sure that on the Judgment Day you will have to give account of every useless word you have ever spoken. (37)

The understanding these scriptures provide is that religionists, while pretending to be righteous and upright and sometimes even believing they are,^(RR) are actually those who are in danger of committing the unforgivable sin. If you are to follow Christ, you first need to recognize the stark difference between Christianity and religion in order to avoid being misled. Christianity requires you see your-own-self for who you truly are. That, in turn, leads to your recognizing your need for repentance.^{MM} If you make use of the words of Christ to reflect who and what you truly are, you will feel compelled to repent. Please just realize: It is the religious factions, who, having claimed for many centuries to represent God while teaching their own doctrine, are actually followers of Satan. They are not (and they never have been) encouraging the men and women they have influence over to study and read the Gospel recordings of Jesus's teachings. Once religious people come to understand their need to abandon their doctrine and to listen to God's son, but then refuse to change, they make themselves the seed of Satan. If they do that knowingly, they can never be forgiven. They have personally crucified Christ a second time.^{NN} When Paul was chastised by Christ for killing Stephen, he immediately repented and changed. When most of the other religious leaders were chastised by Christ, however, they continued to proclaim their own self-righteousness.^{OO} Many of them

Your words will be used to judge you---to declare you either innocent or guilty."

^{MM} **Mark 1:4 MWT** ⁴ John the baptizer turned up in the wilderness, preaching baptism [in symbol or as a sign] of repentance for forgiveness of sins.

^{NN} **Hebrews 6:4-6 GW** Some people once had God's light. They experienced the heavenly gift and shared in the Holy Spirit. (5) They experienced the goodness of God's word and the powers of the world to come. (6) Yet, they have deserted Christ. They are crucifying the Son of God again and publicly disgracing him. Therefore, they cannot be led a second time to God.

^{OO} **John 8:31-49 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." (33) "We are the descendants of Abraham," they answered, "and we have never been anybody's slaves. What do you mean, then, by saying, 'You will be free'?" (34) Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin. (35) A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there

actually found fault with Christ. They hung him on a stake and killed him (crucified him). Don't be deceived: Religion *is very bad*. Viewing religion's many individual sects over the centuries as a composite prostitute, God has decreed her destruction. ^(Rev 17:1-18; inside front cover.) God views religion as a prostitute because she has polluted his worship and twisted his teachings so as to be unfaithful to him: They have also used their varied religious doctrines to control and manipulate the governments of men. They have done it all for wealth and power and glory among men. Even though they have often used Jesus's name, they have never simply directed people to read those teachings God sent his son to deliver. ^(SS) They have all favored their own manipulative doctrine. ^(JJ)

forever. (36) If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free. (37) I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are trying to kill me, because you will not accept my teaching. (38) I talk about what my Father has shown me, but you do what your father has told you." (39) They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." "If you really were Abraham's children," Jesus replied, "you would do the same things that he did. (40) All I have ever done is to tell you the truth I heard from God, yet you are trying to kill me. Abraham did nothing like this! (41) You are doing what your father did." "God himself is the only Father we have," they answered, "and we are his true children." (42) Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message. (44) You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies. (45) But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? (47) He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen." (48) They asked Jesus, "Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?" (49) "I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me.

The series of nations that have ruled the earth apart from God's direction have comprised a composite wild beast in God's sight.^{PP} & ^{QQ} They all fail to recognize it is the true God of the Bible who is the earth's rightful ruler. By prostituting herself to that governmental beast, the church has ridden and controlled the governments all through the dark ages and finally into the light brought by the revelation of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Religion is being destroyed by the light of Bible truth.^(QQ)

While all the churches (religious sects) want you to believe understanding the Bible is too hard for you to do on your own, and that you require them and their leaders to teach you the truth (intercede with God for

^{PP} Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medio-Persia, and Greece were the five kings of the wild beast that had already fallen in John's day. (See Rev 17 inside front cover.) Rome was the sixth king alive when Revelation was written. The English-American world power was the seventh king to rise from the ashes of Rome. We can know that prophecy to be true by simply looking back on world history. The details of the rest of that prophecy will be revealed when we can look back on their fulfillment.

^{QQ} Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html>

See timeline at the center of this booklet.

you), they are all liars.^{RR} The Bible is easy to understand^{SS} and your understanding what Jesus taught^{TT} is the knowledge that means your very life. (HHH – note verse 3)

^{RR} **Matthew 7:15-24 GNB** "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. (16) You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. (17) A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. (Good fruit is the directing of people to the teachings of Christ Jesus, and helping them understand the truth.) (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 (they join Satan in hiding the truth from people; by teaching doctrines of men instead or studying the Gospels with them). (21) "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. (22) **When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!' (23) Then I will say to them, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!' (24)** "So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

^{SS} **Matthew 11:25-30 GNB** At that time Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. (26) Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen. (27) "My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (28) "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. (30) For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."

^{TT} **Ephesians 1:3~10 CEV** Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!... (5) God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children. (6) God was very kind to us because of the Son he dearly loves, and so we should praise God. (7) Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us. God has great wisdom and understanding, (8) (SEE 1:7) (9) and by what Christ has done (including bringing us his Father's teachings), God has shown us his own

To learn what *Jesus taught*, remember, you must start by recognizing and avoiding being misled by religion. You can't understand what truth is if you don't first rid yourself of the lies spread by ignorant religious zealots. You should know, as an example, all sins will not be forgiven. You must not allow yourself to be deceived by religious doctrine that teaches otherwise, even by people who mean well but are deceived. Reading what Jesus said frees you of such lies by religion.^(OO) There is another lie closely associated with the "all sins forgiven" doctrine. Most religious groups are fiercely sectarian, and they have each selected different names to identify what makes them special and different from all the other sects. Some selected some person they like, or believe is upright, and then named their group after that man or woman: Like the Lutherans. Others pick out some scripture to use to *name themselves, as did* the Nazarenes.^{UU} You could probably think of at least 10 self-named religious sects, all of whom claim to be Christian. There are actually thousands of them. The world is overrun with religion, and many, or even most, claim to be Christian as defined by the doctrine of their chosen named group. In Revelation 17:3 (inside front cover), the MWT renders that the harlot (the composite representation of all false religion) was covered with names that were insulting to God. Some translations just say those names are disgusting or filthy in general – to everyone. That the names are disgusting specifically to God seems the more accurate translation: Since Jesus said religion was pretending to be upright so as to deceive mankind,^(RR) her many different names probably wouldn't be disgusting to most men and women. To be able to deceive them, the names need to appear good and upright in the eyes of the masses. Those names would, however, be disgusting to God. They are disgusting to God because He very clearly told Jesus's earthly followers to call themselves Christian.^{VV} There is no scriptural precedent for the followers of Jesus to

mysterious ways. (10) Then when the time is right, God will do all that he has planned, and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth.

^{UU} **Matthew 2:23 GNB** and [*Joseph*] made his home in a town named Nazareth. And so what the prophets had said came true: "He [*Jesus*] will be called a Nazarene."

^{VV} **Acts 11:26 YLT** and having found him, he brought him to Antioch, and it came to pass that they a whole year did assemble together in the

call themselves by any name other than that inspired title of Christian. If people pick other names to identify themselves, even if they use God's word to pick what they think is a better name, they really show they disrespect God's counsel to call themselves Christian.^(VV) Can you see how that would make such names disgusting to God? The sectarian names chosen by men only serve to fracture and splinter individuals sincerely trying to follow Christ; by misleading them to the doctrines of the men who selected the names. Those sectarian and divisive religious groups are causing most of the world's wars. They each direct people to look to their sect for enlightenment instead of to Jesus. Shouldn't that really be disgusting to everyone? When groups choose some other scripture^(VV) or even some person's name, and then generate a name for their group other than Christian, it is always to help them identify the doctrine which they believe makes their group special and different. Such doctrine is always bad.^(JJ) Every true Christian needs to direct other people to our one and only God approved doctrine: The teachings of Jesus. We must every one learn for ourselves what Jesus said. One of the best ways we can help direct people to Christ is to follow the Bible's instruction to call ourselves Christian. If Christians want to meet together as a group, they should read from the gospels as their one source for directions on what fellow worshipers should do. Very simply, then, as God's word makes clear: Jesus must be our one and only Rabbi (teacher).^(X)

As we speak of the unforgivable sin, there is another common religious assertion we should consider. It is proclaimed by some that the Bible teaches all sins will be forgiven for those who have faith in Christ. That is not true! The very fact that there can be an unforgivable sin indicates that can't be true. What does the Bible say? Jesus said the one who has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.^(FFFF) He also told people, after telling them it was their own faith that healed them or made them well, to go and sin no more unless something worse befall them.^(HHHH) & ^{WW} We all commit sins of ignorance every day. If we sin

assembly, and taught a great multitude, the disciples also were divinely called first in Antioch Christians.

^{WW} **John 5:14 MWT** ¹⁴ After these things Jesus found him in the temple and said to him: "See, you have become sound in health. Do not sin anymore, in order that something worse does not happen to you."

because we don't know better, faith in Christ does cover such sins. That is very different from the idea that having faith in Christ gives us the ability to go and commit whatever sin we desire, believing it will be forgiven. That is not what Paul was inspired to write the Roman congregation of Christians.^{xx}

^{xx} **Romans 6:1-23 GNB** What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? (2) Certainly not! We have died to sin---how then can we go on living in it? (3) For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death. (4) By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. (5) For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was. (6) And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin. (7) For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. (8) Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again---death will no longer rule over him. (10) And so, because he died, sin has no power over him; and now he lives his life in fellowship with God. (11) In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus. (12) Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. (13) Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes. (14) Sin must not be your master; for you do not live under law but under God's grace. (15) What, then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law but under God's grace? By no means! (16) Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey---either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God. (17) But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received. (18) You were set free from sin and became the slaves of righteousness. (19) (I use everyday language because of the weakness of your natural selves.) At one time you surrendered yourselves entirely as slaves to impurity and wickedness for wicked purposes. In the same way you must now surrender yourselves entirely as slaves of righteousness for holy purposes. (20) When you

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

Abraham Born - in 2150 BCE

↳ Judaism: Nation produced

← 2000 years from Abraham to Christ →

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Bible Written

← From 1513 BCE

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

↳ Isaac (Abraham's son)

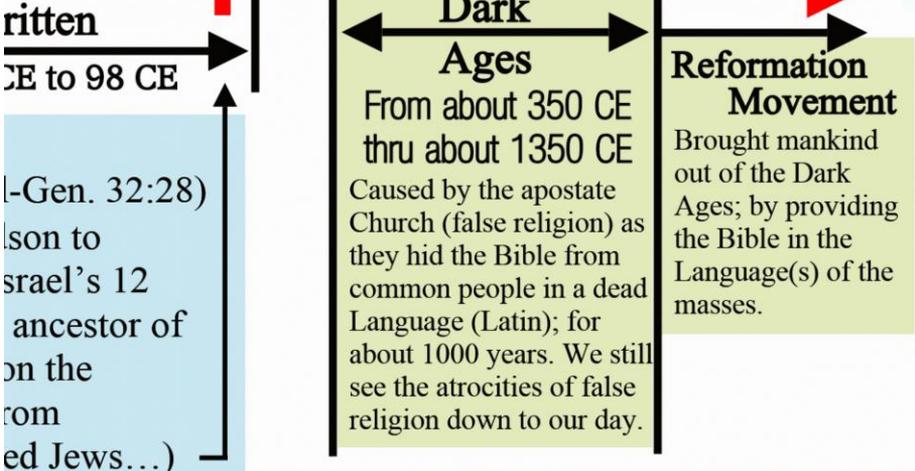
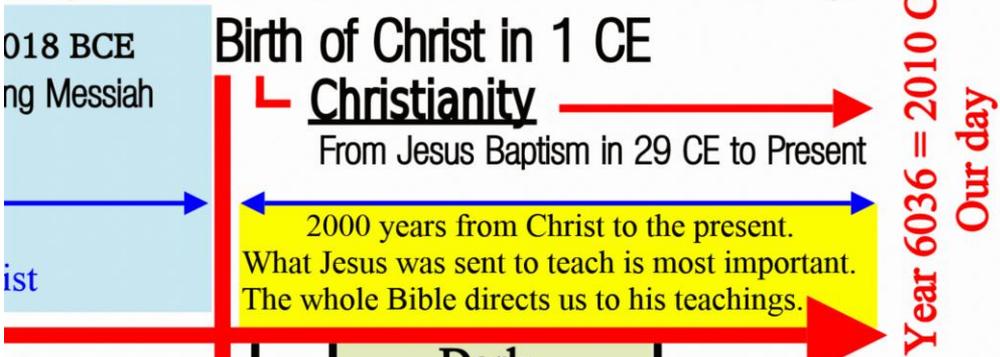
↳ Jacob (Renamed Israel)

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

*(**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 me, 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 of Abraham*]

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 12:1-3) 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 is written in the Bible is the only book that has such power. As Jesus said, what is written in the Bible is the only book that has such power.

History: Adam's Creation until today.



phet. 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."

We must each accept that God has standards we all must follow. There can be no exceptions. **God is perfect and he cares for us individually.** His standards are beneficial. Because of those two facts, anytime we disobey God we harm ourselves or someone else. At the close of 6000 years (since Adam) of man's ongoing existence in rebellion against God's standards, we both see and live in the world our rebellion has created. Our terrible world conditions (the tribulation) should make the absolute necessity for obedience to God abundantly clear to every sane person. There are some individuals, however, like Satan, who believe God is harsh and unfair in setting standards for his creation. Please understand: The world created by our disobedience to God will stand as an eternal touchstone that makes clear to all righteously inclined persons why God's rule must be adhered to. This is the simple truth of the Bible:

God created mankind and placed them in the Garden of Eden to live forever on earth. God created and gave life to others as well. (Please read the first 3 chapters of Genesis.) God also created spirit creatures who exist in the heavens where He himself dwells. The Creation of mankind was very exciting for God's spirit sons.^{yy} One of those spirit sons misused

were the slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. (21) What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death! (22) But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life. (23) For sin pays its wage---death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.

^{yy} **Job 38:1-13 GW** Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. (2) "Who is this that belittles my advice with words that do not show any knowledge about it? (3) Brace yourself like a man! I will ask you, and you will teach me. (4) "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have such insight. (5) Who determined its dimensions? Certainly, you know! Who stretched a measuring line over it? (6) On what were its footings sunk? Who laid its cornerstone (7) **when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?** (8) "Who shut the sea behind gates when it burst through and came out of the womb, (9) when I clothed it with clouds and wrapped it up in dark clouds, (10) when I set a limit for it and put up bars and gates, (11) when I said, 'You may come this far but no farther. Here your proud waves will stop'? (12) "Have you ever given orders to

the gift of moral freedom to choose to desire what he should not have: He sought independence from God and the worship of God's other creatures.^{ZZ} Seeking his wicked desire, he created the first lie to entice the newly created humans to disobey God; thus making himself a willful liar - and bad. He told the humans God was withholding something from them and they would not actually die if they disobeyed. He most certainly knew they would die. God had told them they would die!^{AAA} Satan thus gave a new birth to himself when he transformed himself into a liar.^(U) He likely thought he was so smart he could put God in a situation He couldn't get out of: If God immediately killed the man and woman, and/or Satan, the other spirit creatures might become infected with Satan's lie that God was withholding something good from his creation; and that is why they were killed. Like all deceitful creatures do, Satan denied responsibility and implied it was someone else's fault he was forced to lie: By his asserting God was withholding something from Adam and Eve, Satan implied it was God's fault he had to lie. Satan spread his own "truth" by saying the woman would be better off for disobeying God. And it was, after all, God's own human creation that broke his law. Satan actually broke no law himself because there was no law against lying. The lie was Satan's creation as there had never been a lie before. Why would there be a law against something that had never existed? So... God has simply allowed 6000 years for his earthly creation to proceed as they made the choice to go, with no regard for his counsel. We are living in the end days of that example of Satan's wicked and broken creation, the demonstration of his own defective creative works. Lying Satan, and his lying followers, have caused all the problems faced by humankind.

the morning or assigned a place for the dawn (13) so that it could grab the earth by its edges and shake wicked people out of it?

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

^{AAA} **Genesis 2:15-17 GW** Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to farm the land and to take care of it. (16) The LORD God commanded the man. He said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. (17) But you must never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because when you eat from it, you will certainly die."

While God is Creator of all, and thus has the right to do as He pleases with what he created, He chose to go beyond fair in order to help us. In order to forever destroy the lies of Satan, along with all lies, God has relinquished the judging of this matter to another of his sons: Jesus Christ. God had a powerful spirit firstborn son^{BBB} who was his master worker during creation.^{CCC} God is a perfect judge and so He came to know

^{BBB} **Colossians 1:13-23 MWT** God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of the Son of his love. (14) His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven. (15) He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.** (16) **He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.** Whether they are kings or lords, rulers or powers- everything has been created through him and for him. (17) **He existed before all other creation** and holds everything together. (18) He is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, the first to come back to life so that he would have first place in everything. (19) God was pleased to have all fullness (all hope of salvation) live in Christ. (20) God was also pleased to bring everything on earth and in heaven back to himself through Christ. He did this by making peace through Christ's blood sacrificed on the cross. (21) Once you were separated from God (were born in sin and being taught lies). The evil things you did showed your hostile attitude. (22) But now Christ has brought you back to God by dying in his physical body. He did this so that you could come into God's presence without sin, fault, or blame. (23) This is on the condition that you continue in faith without being moved from the solid foundation of the hope that the Good News (the Gospel teachings of Christ) contains. You've heard this Good News of which I, Paul, became a servant. The Gospel has been spread throughout all creation under heaven.

^{CCC} **Proverbs 8:4-36 CEV** Wise King Solomon prophetically spoke the words of the pre-human Christ: "I am calling out to each one of you! (5) Good sense and sound judgment can be yours. (6) Listen, because what I say is worthwhile and right. (7) I always speak the truth and refuse to tell a lie. (8) Every word I speak is honest, not one is misleading or deceptive. (9) "If you have understanding, you will see that my words are just what you need. (10) Let instruction and knowledge mean more to you than silver or the finest gold. (11) Wisdom is worth much more than precious jewels or anything else you desire." (12) I am Wisdom -- Common Sense is my closest friend; I possess knowledge and sound judgment. (13) If you respect the LORD, you will hate evil. I hate pride and conceit and deceitful lies. (14) I am strong, and I offer sensible advice and sound judgment. (15) By my power kings govern, and rulers

his firstborn son so well He knew that one would never be unfaithful. Satan, however, claimed that all of God's creation would rebel if giving the proper motivation.^{DDD} So... God said right after the humans sinned that He would raise up a descendent of the woman who would destroy

make laws that are fair. (16) Every honest leader rules with help from me. (17) I love everyone who loves me, and I will be found by all who honestly search. (18) I can make you rich and famous, important and successful. (19) What you receive from me is more valuable than even the finest gold or the purest silver. (20) I always do what is right, (21) and I give great riches to everyone who loves me. (22) **From the beginning, I was with the LORD. I was there before he began (23) to create the earth. At the very first, the LORD gave life to me. (24) When I was born, there were no oceans or springs of water. (25) My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place. (26) It happened long before God had made the earth or any of its fields or even the dust. (27) I was there when the LORD put the heavens in place and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea. (28) I was with him when he placed the clouds in the sky and created the springs that fill the ocean. (29) I was there when he set boundaries for the sea to make it obey him, and when he laid foundations to support the earth. (30) I was right beside the LORD, helping him (as his master worker) plan and build. I made him happy each day, and I was happy at his side. (31) I was pleased with his world and pleased with its people (I was especially pleased with mankind).** (32) Pay attention, my children! Follow my advice, and you will be happy. (33) Listen carefully to my instructions, and you will be wise. (34) Come to my home each day and listen to me. You will find happiness. (35) By finding me, you find life, and the LORD will be pleased with you. (36) But if you don't find me, you hurt only yourself, and if you hate me, you are in love with death.

^{DDD} Job 1:7-11 CEV the LORD asked, "Satan, where have you been?" Satan replied, "I have been going all over the earth." (8) Then the LORD asked, "What do you think of my servant Job? No one on earth is like him--he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil." (9) "Why shouldn't he respect you?" Satan remarked. (10) "You are like a wall protecting not only him, but his entire family and all his property. You make him successful in whatever he does, and his flocks and herds are everywhere. (11) Try taking away everything he owns, and he will curse you to your face."

Satan and all he had done.^{EEE} Four thousand years after that first Bible promise, the life force of that firstborn son of God^{FFF} was miraculously transferred as a new life to the womb of the virgin Mary.^{GGG} God's spirit son was thus born as the man Jesus, and, by coming from Mary as well as God, he became the promised seed of the woman (a descendant of Eve).^(EEE) Satan killed the man Christ Jesus, but not before Jesus had fulfilled God's purpose to carry his Father's message of truth and hope to mankind.^{HHH} By God's word, and by Christ's sacrificial death,^{III} Satan has been exposed to all creation for what he actually is: A liar and a murderer. Jesus was then resurrected and seated at God's right hand in heaven.^(Acts 7:56 on page 9) All those who seek God can now get to know and love him through the teachings He sent Jesus to bring. Those same teachings allow us to recognize and reject Satan and his lies. Remember always: Christianity (adherence to the simple and clear teachings of God's

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

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

^{FFF} **Revelation 3:14 ALT** "And to the angel of the assembly in Laodicea write: "These [*things*] says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

^{GGG} **Luke 1:34-35 ALT** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be since I do not know a man [*fig., since I am a virgin*]?" (35) And answering, the angel said to her, "[*The*] Holy Spirit will come upon you, and [*the*] power of the Most High will overshadow you, and so the Holy One being born will be called God's Son.

^{HHH} **John 17:1-5 GNB** After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. (2) For you gave him authority over all people, so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. (3) **And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent.** (4) I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do. (5) Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made.

^{III} **John 10:14-15 ALT** "I am the good shepherd, and I know My [*own*], and I am known by My [*own*]. (15) "Just as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father, and I lay down My life on behalf of the sheep.

Son) is the method by which God has chosen to reveal the truth.^(SS) Religion, on the other hand, is the method by which Satan has attempted to hide that truth. Satan has been spreading his own counterfeit form of worship.^(RR) While God could have killed Satan at the time of his sin, He has rather handed over judgment to his son Christ Jesus. Christ is given not only the right to judge, but also the power to have life within himself.^{JJ} Being given life in himself means Christ is no longer dependent on God as the source of his life: God has given Christ the ability to maintain his own life. After Christ is given kingship over all creation,^(QQQ) along with that ability to sustain his own life, each one of us can absolutely know his judgment is fair and true. If there were even some tiny small thing wrong with God's rulership, Christ would not resubmit himself to his Father. That is precisely what Christ will soon do.^(QQQ) When Christ chooses to return the creation given him by his Father, to his Almighty God and Father, he forever proves God is and must be all things to all people... Jesus has, of course, not actually returned the kingdom to his Father. That will happen after all God's enemies, including death, have been destroyed by Christ.^(QQQ) Those who love God and Christ have faith, and express faith, Christ will soon return the kingdom to his Father. Those who are determined to remain liars must certainly believe it never will happen. That simple truth of the Bible leads each and every one of us to the same question: Do you believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ? Your answer displays in your life choices and is who you are. It means your eternal life!

It is important to recognize and hate the feigned unity claimed by religion. We hear preachers of religion say all the time: "If you just pray and have faith, God will show you the way." Not even one of them ever tells people, however, that "God has already shown us the way! You need simply to read and build faith in what God's son taught." All religionists share the one same weakness with regard to truth: They all want to maintain their position over you as your cleric and teacher. They realize the truth Jesus brought undermines their hold over you.^(K) While most of the churches openly proclaim doom for all those who are not members of *their* sect, others have recognized (or pretend to recognize) the hypocrisy

^{JJ} [John 5:26 ESV](#) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

of such a hateful and judgmental attitude. They don't really change what they are in their heart though. (If they did change, they would be Christians and could not remain members of some sectarian group.) So... What they rather do is to try to pretend they are not sectarian. We hear such religionists say: "Worship this Sunday in the church of your choice." What does such a statement really mean? They all have different teachings and assert their teachings are the truth, and yet, they try to believe (or pretend to believe) everyone is approved by God; that whichever group you choose to join and believe in is OK. Isn't that just an offshoot of the "all sins forgiven" lie? The fact some of them may actually mean well has no merit if they are not seeking and sharing Jesus's teachings. (Remember: Saul meant well when he killed Stephen.)^(Acts 8:1 on pg 8) Only Jesus's teachings can help them change from remaining wicked people as defined by their bad practices.^(RR – note verse 23) If they were seeking the truth, God would help them recognize the teachings of our Lord Christ Jesus.^(F) They would also direct other people to learn and rely on those Gospel teachings. Each religionist must relinquish their own crown of self-righteousness, or that of their sect, and turn to the Kingdom and teachings of Christ Jesus.

Every sect feigns unity. Then, they try to enforce it within their group. Please consider this quote from a Watchtower publication produced by Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs [We could have just as easily chosen the writings of any of the many other religious sects.]):

***** w2010 5/15 p. 32 par. 19 Do Not Grieve Jehovah's Holy Spirit *****

¹⁹ By means of his holy spirit, God furthers the love, joy, and unity of his people (when JWs here say "his people," they refer only to the approved members of their sectarian organization). (Ps. 133:1-3) Therefore, **we (JWs) should refrain from grieving the spirit because of engaging in harmful gossip or by saying things that would undermine respect for those who are spirit-appointed shepherds** (the men they have selected and appointed as their leaders, calling those men *spirit-appointed [meaning God appointed] shepherds over their sect*).^(X) (Acts 20:28; Jude 8) **Instead, we ought to promote unity and respect for one another in the congregation.** Surely, we should not encourage cliques by forming exclusive groups among God's people [*they recognize and identify the activity of other religious sects, but seem completely unable to consider that is precisely what they have done in producing their own doctrine to show how they are special and to keep themselves segregated*]. Paul wrote: "I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should

all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.” — 1 Cor. 1:10.

JW’s here assert the act of grieving (or sinning against) the holy spirit is talking against any member of their sect, especially those they have appointed as leaders (Elders, Circuit Overseers, The Slave Class, etc.).^(x) They seem to imagine that is the method to achieve Christian unity. They (and most religious groups) are correct to identify the need for unity among the followers of Christ. The way they go wrong, however, is in where they look to achieve that unity. Many religions have promoted their sectarian unity to the point you can spot them just walking down the street, or taking with someone at their door. Each group takes great pride in their sectarian rules for dress, actions (works) and way of life. They all believe their sectarianism (the doctrine they believe unifies them as special) is what identifies them to be the lone group in the earth who are righteous.^{KKK} The problem is: The way they are actually getting what they believe to be unity is through their own writings,⁽²⁾ rather than from each individual’s personal faith in the teachings of Christ. While we quoted above from a watchtower produced by Jehovah’s Witnesses (JWs), we want to be certain you understand it is not our desire to focus on them. There are many nice people among JWs, just as there are among the other sects. It would be all the same if we quoted from any religious publication produced by any religious sect. It could have been the edicts of the Pope, or the Mormon writings of Joseph Smith, etcetera. Our attempt is to awaken them all to truth. All sects believe their leaders

^{KKK} [Luke 18:9-14 GW](#) Jesus also used this illustration with some who were sure that God approved of them while they looked down on everyone else. (10) He said, "Two men went into the temple courtyard to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. (11) The Pharisee stood up and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people! I'm not a robber or a dishonest person. I haven't committed adultery. I'm not even like this tax collector. (12) I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my entire income.' (13) "But the tax collector was standing at a distance. He wouldn't even look up to heaven. Instead, he became very upset, and he said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' (14) "I can guarantee that this tax collector went home with God's approval, but the Pharisee didn't. Everyone who honors himself will be humbled, but the person who humbles himself will be honored."

can “modify, declare or interpret the diving law.” JWs (as well as the other sects) spend 90% of the time they meet together in a study of their sectarian writings. They study the organization’s doctrines and actually teach their members that is studying the Bible, when they are actually studying the Watchtower. The other groups have similar sectarian “study aids.” Their own doctrine is thus the source of their imagined organizational unity. The common problem is: None of the sects are creating unity based in their member’s personal and individual knowledge of what Christ taught. If Christ were the source of their unity, they would study the Gospels instead of the sectarian publications they choose to replace, modify, or expand the Bible. What the sheep of all religious sects are really learning, then, is the divisive doctrinal teachings that segregate them from other people. Each sect must, in some similar way, deceive its members to persuade them to listen only to what they teach! Those sectarian teachings cause constant bickering and disputing within their groups. While they proclaim unity, yet they are constantly excommunicating, shunning, disfellowshipping, or in some way branding people who do not adhere to organizational doctrine and teachings. Each sect lays claim to being scholars of the Bible, of course, but they almost never actually read the teachings of our Lord. If they did read the Gospels with their flock, one thing those sheep would learn is not to follow sects of men.^(FFFF) Sectarian leaders are thus trapped like the ancient Jews were: They are unable to actually teach what Jesus taught, because they would lose their power and authority over their cult.^(K) That is so because Jesus spent a lot of time warning against following sects of men.^(RR) & (X) & (Mat 6:1-5 on pg 17)

Continuing with our example using JW’s: Their sect actually worships a small group of men they have elevated (or allowed to elevate themselves) above the lower (lay) members of their sect. JW’s refer to their ruling class as the “slave” or “anointed” class. The laity is taught that the Watchtowers produced by the men they worship are spiritual food (that they are inspired of God), as only the Bible actually is. Once they can convince their followers that everything they print is spiritual food, that credulity places everything the men who lead them say to be above

question. We should not worship even the angels; let alone men.^{LLL} How can religionists really imagine belief in sectarian doctrine is the same as faith in the Bible? They can fool people only by keeping their sheep ignorant of the truth brought by Jesus. You must abandon and ignore all these sects and look directly to Christ. Read your Gospels! (Again we assert: This is not an assault on JW's anymore than the other sects. We could have picked any religious sect and their doctrinal teachings: The Mormons and the writings of Joseph Smith for example, or the infallibility of the Pope for all who are approved Catholics. Material could be chosen from any group who has doctrine that distinguishes them from others.

This is our point: The Gospels provide the only doctrine for true Christians.) Christian unity comes not from men, but from God. Unity is achieved as each Christian learns what Jesus taught and then makes necessary changes to live accordingly. Real unity is not ever based in the sectarian teachings of men. Doctrinal teachings of men only splinter and fragment Christianity, having already created of the oh-so-many different religious sects. Isn't it amazing to realize how that works... Do you see the danger inherent in religion? Also, do you recognize the need for Christianity to expose what religion is and what she is really doing? Don't allow yourself to be deceived by religion as she adorns herself in wealth and circumstance, in her pretext of Christianity!

Religion is guilty (each of her composite sects is guilty) of the unforgivable sin. That is shown by the judgment expressed by God against her. Again: The Bible refers to religion as a harlot who has committed prostitution with the kings of the earth over the centuries.^(Rev 17 inside front cover.) We can know this composite prostitute committed the unforgivable sin simply because God decreed that she be destroyed. That judgment means she will never repent. (Individuals from within her ranks will repent, of course [that's what Paul did], but the

^{LLL} [Revelation 19:9-10 CEV](#) Then the angel told me, "Put this in writing. God will bless everyone who is invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." The angel also said, "These things that God has said are true." (10) I knelt at the feet of the angel and began to worship him. But the angel said, "Don't do that! I am a servant, just like you and everyone else who tells about Jesus. Don't worship anyone but God. Everyone who tells about Jesus does it by the power of the Spirit."

organizations never will. That is because Satan is her God, and his lies and perversions of truth are her doctrine and what she preaches.) She is actually being destroyed already, right before our eyes: She is being destroyed as people are educated by Christ to recognize her for the wicked sectarian glob of unfaithfulness and spiritual foolishness that she is. The nations (the wild beast of Revelation) are also seeing religion under clearer illumination all the time, and are getting less and less tolerant of her meddling in their affairs. They are realizing her sectarian religious influence is responsible for most of the world's wars. Please consider the holy Roman church of the Dark Ages.^(QQ) She had power granted by the nations to kill whomever she desired to kill. That Dark Age's church controlled the whole of the earth. The (seventh) world power (England-America - that later sprang from Rome's decline) chose to curtail the power of the church because they recognized the harm religion had done to Rome: The Church had tortured and slaughtered hundreds of thousands (or millions) of those who didn't believe her lies, not only in the rest of the world but in Rome as well. Thus, the modern churches have already been stripped of much of their previous power. Most of them can no longer torture and kill whomever they judge to be bad. (It's not that they wouldn't, mind you, just that most nations won't let them. If they feel justified in publicly judging and humiliating others, most would just as quickly kill those they judge. They are convinced they are doing God's work, after all.)^(BB) Religion's loss of power and influence will continue under the bright light of Jesus's teachings, until the nations destroy sectarian religion completely. The nations can close down religion because all religious sects have meeting places and accumulate wealth as the true goal of their existence. True Christians will be harder to attack. That is because true Christianity is not an earthly sect, but is comprised of all the individuals who are simply following the teachings of Christ. They don't serve Christ to gain wealth or power and prominence among men. Their membership roll exists only in the heavens. The nations may not even want to harm true Christians, because Christians only direct people to learn what Jesus taught; and remember, Jesus teaches people to be peaceable.^(MMM) Christians are not involved in

^{MMM} [Matthew 26:48-54 ESV](#) Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." (49) And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. (50)

fomenting sectarian wars among the nations. It is religious people who hate Christians, because Christianity convicts them of what they actually are: Hypocrites!^(JJ) Religionists actually hate everyone who doesn't agree with them.

Our future is painted prophetically by the Bible in broad strokes. The details remain, however, unknown to us. Beyond what the Bible clearly says will happen, we will have to wait and see. Within God's oversight, we are actually each one deciding our own future by our life course. There is an interesting example Jesus gave to warn us about involvement in religion. That warning seems to again connect religious involvement with the unforgivable sin:

Luke 19:47-20:8 MWT ⁴⁷ Furthermore, Jesus went teaching daily in the temple. But **the chief priests and the scribes (religious leaders) and the principal ones of the people were seeking to destroy him;** ⁴⁸ and yet they did not find the effective thing for them to do, for the people one and all kept hanging onto him to hear him. **20** On one of the days while he was teaching the people in the temple and declaring the good news, the chief priests and the scribes with the older men came near, ² and they spoke up (not trying to learn from Jesus but to find fault), saying to him: "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." ³ In reply he said to them: "I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: ⁴ Was the baptism of John from heaven (from God) or from men?" ⁵ **Then among themselves they drew conclusions, saying: "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why is it you did not believe him?'"** ⁶ **But if we say, 'From men,' the people one and all will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet."** ⁷ **So they replied that they did not know its source.** ⁸ And Jesus said to them: "Neither am I telling you by what authority I do these things."

Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. (51) And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. (52) Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (53) Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

Jesus came to mankind for the very purpose of exposing the lies Satan has told (false religious teachings) about his Father.^{NNN} Even though Jesus came to bring the truth, while he dealt with *these* men, he told them he would not answer their question. It appears Jesus had turned his back on them.^(RR) Why would the loving son of God reject them? Possibly because they had committed the unforgivable sin. Those pious religious leaders actually talked and reasoned among themselves about the activity of holy spirit as evidenced in the life of John the Baptist. *John preached* (baptism as a sign of) *repentance for forgiveness of sins*. He was known to be a prophet by all the people. The angel Gabriel had announced to John's father Zechariah, who was a priest among their religious order, that John would be a prophet.^{OOO} As they reasoned among themselves about how to answer Jesus's question, they exposed that they did understand all those things; and likely convicted themselves that they also knew they should put faith in Jesus. Still, they refused to do so. If they were fighting

^{NNN} **John 18:37 GW** Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus replied, "You're correct in saying that I'm a king. **I have been born and have come into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth.** Everyone who belongs to (or seeks) the truth listens to me."

^{OOO} **Luke 1:8-19 LITV** And it happened in his serving as priest in the order of his course before God, (9) according to the custom of the priests, entering into the Holy Place of the Lord, *it was Zacharias' lot to burn incense.* (10) And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. (11) And an angel *of the Lord* appeared to him, standing on *the right* of the altar of incense. (12) And seeing *this*, Zacharias was troubled, and fear fell on him. (13) But the angel said to him, Do not fear, Zacharias, because your prayer was heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear a son to you, and you shall call his name John. (14) And he will be joy and exultation to you, and many will rejoice over his birth. (15) For he shall be great in the eyes of the Lord, and he shall not drink wine or strong drink. And he will be filled of *the Holy Spirit*, even from his mother's womb. (16) And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to *the Lord* their God. (17) And he will go out before Him in *the spirit* and power of Elijah "to turn *the hearts of fathers to their children,*" and disobedient ones to *the wisdom of the just*, to make ready a people having been prepared for *the Lord*. *Mal. 4:5, 6* (18) And Zacharias said to the angel, By what shall I know this? For I am old and my wife is advanced in her days. (19) And answering, the angel said to him, I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you *the good news of these things.*

against the holy spirit in refusing to draw the logical conclusions that the truth should have led them to, Jesus would certainly reject them. Mark recorded this same account:

(Mark 11:23-33) 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. ²⁴ This is why I tell you, All the things you pray and ask for (in agreement with God's will) have faith that you have practically received, and you will have them. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, forgive whatever you have against anyone; in order that your Father who is in the heavens may also forgive you your trespasses." ²⁶ — ²⁷ And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the older men came to him ²⁸ and began to say to him: "By what authority do you do these things? or who gave you this authority to do these things?" ²⁹ Jesus said to them: "I will ask you one question. you answer me, and I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the baptism by John from heaven or from men? Answer me." ³¹ **So they began to reason among themselves, saying: "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why is it, therefore, you did not believe him?' ³² But dare we say, 'From men'?"— They were in fear of the crowd, for these all held that John had really been a prophet.** ³³ Well, in reply to Jesus they said: "We do not know." And Jesus said to them: "Neither am I telling you by what authority I do these things."

Those religious leaders discussed how they could reply to Jesus's question *to get the result they wanted*. If they said John's baptism was from heaven, they reasoned, Jesus would ask why they didn't believe him. That was because John had announced Jesus to be the Christ.^(J) They further reasoned that if they said John's teaching was from men, they feared the crowds would stone them because the people rightly viewed John as a prophet of God. The question is: Why didn't those religious leaders simply listen to God's truth and accept Jesus as the Messiah. Out of their own mouth they confessed they had every reason to do so. They demonstrated they only cared about maintaining their prominence and power and authority over the people.^(X) & (K) & (Matthew 6:1-5 on page 17) Their deceitful choice to ignore the holy spirit, which spirit was obviously active on Jesus, made clear they did not care what God thought. Doing bad in ignorance does not necessarily make one bad.^(O) Not caring if you are doing bad, and/or not caring if you harm others by practicing wickedness, that does make you bad. Remember the simple difference between Paul and the other religious leaders: Paul immediately repented and changed when corrected by Christ.^(Acts 6:8 – 8:1 on pg 8) Paul was a sincere believer in the Bible, but he had also been trying to believe in religionist's teachings. Those teachings led him to imagine the Bible taught he should help them

kill Stephen. He was wrong to try and believe in *both*. You can't serve two masters. Believe your Bible! Compared to sincere and repentant Saul/Paul, the religious men Jesus condemned were very different: There was nothing sincere about them as they told lies in their wicked efforts to put Jesus to death. They fought against what he taught them. We can note Jesus over and over tied integrity (or a lack of it) to the unforgivable sin. These scriptures (from Mark 11 and Luke 19 above, and from Revelation 17 inside front cover) also tie wickedness (the unforgivable sin) to false religion. While Paul's actions were wicked when he killed Stephen, he was ignorant and so he repented and was forgiven when he recognized the truth. Paul also exposed those false religious teachers for what they ~~were~~ *are*.^{PPP} The religious leaders who refused to answer Jesus's question should have known they were pursuing a course against the will of God. They just didn't care. That's what religion does to people and why it is so bad: It keeps them from recognizing and turning to the truth of God. That, in turn, is why God has decreed religion's destruction. If you recognize the truth about religion, and see how she is actually keeping people away from the truth, it is only because you see the great value of Christianity (the simple truth contained in Jesus's teachings). Once you know the truth, and yet continue to support any religious sect, you might be in danger of the unforgivable sin. Spreading lies while claiming to serve God is a very dangerous thing, possibly unforgivable. Saying all sins will be forgiven is a lie: That means the teaching comes from Satan. Telling people they should worship at the church of their choice is another lie. You must choose the truth found only in Christ's teachings. Most churches are not

^{PPP} [Galatians 1:11-16 GW](#) I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the Good News I have spread is not a human message. (12) I didn't receive it from any person. I wasn't taught it, but Jesus Christ revealed it to me. (13) You heard about the way I once lived when I followed the Jewish religion. You heard how I violently persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. (14) You also heard how I was far ahead of other Jews in my age group in following the Jewish religion. I had become that fanatical for the traditions of my ancestors. (15) But God, who appointed me before I was born and who called me by his kindness, was pleased (16) to show me his Son. He did this so that I would tell people who are not Jewish that his Son is the Good News. When this happened, I didn't talk it over with any other person.

directing you to that simple truth. As God's appointed King, it is Jesus, of course, who is judge of all.^{QQQ}

What then, can we glean from the scriptures considered about the unforgivable sin? It is so simple: The teachings of Christ bring us truth and light and freedom and life. Religion, in contrast, amounts to the spreading of lies. Religion brings only judgment and hatred and death. Satan is responsible for all religion. Religion and Christianity are both easy to spot. Religion is always trying to direct you to some preacher, or priest, or to some specially anointed or enlightened individual or group. Religionists always use the sectarian written materials of their group to teach what they believe, and which they all claim are Bible study aids. What religionists will never do, however, and what all Christians will do, is join you in reading the Gospel recordings of the teachings of the son of God. Christians will always encourage you toward the teachings of Christ as your lone source of truth. Religionists are trapped and unable to really read and study Jesus's teachings with you, you see: Because Jesus spent a great deal of time warning against religious men who would try to set themselves up as lords over your faith as they deceive you to follow *them*.^(X) Please do not fail to get the point of Jesus's simple warning about religion.^(RR) The unforgivable sin occurs on the day any creature is judged wicked by God through the authority of his son Christ Jesus.^{RRR} God and

^{QQQ} **1 Corinthians 15:24-28 GNB** (24) Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. (25) For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. (26) The last enemy to be defeated will be death. (27) For the scripture says, "God put *all* things under his feet." It is clear, of course, that the words "all things" do not include God himself, who puts all things under Christ. (28) But when all things have been placed under Christ's rule, then he himself, the Son, will place himself under God, who placed all things under him; and God will rule completely over all.

^{RRR} **John 5:25-30 ESV** "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (26) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (27) **And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.** (28) Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the

Christ are both perfect, and God never makes a mistake. If God judges someone wicked, it is unforgivable simply because He can not be wrong. Persons judged wicked by God never change. Satan has become the creature he made the willful choice to become. It was not a mistake of ignorance. He would never change or relent. He is unforgivable and must be destroyed. We can know that because God said so.^{SSS} We can also know Satan is bad because God's dear son, Jesus Christ, is the one carrying out the execution of Satan. Christ does so of his own free will.^(QQQ) One problem we all face in common is we are born ignorant of truth. At birth, Satan's religionists immediately start filling our head with lies and half-truths. God does not, fortunately for us all, hold people eternally accountable for our sins of ignorance. Please realize as the whole purpose of this material: Most religious persons have been deceived to believe in lies which Satan claims come from God. They all think they are righteous and good, and are on a mission from God. That's what the young Apostle Paul thought when he killed Stephen. (Acts 7:5 – 8:1 on pg 9) What no religious person has ever done, however, and this is our point, is devote themselves to actually reading and understanding what the son of God was sent to teach.^{TTT & (SS)} The second a religious person chooses that simple path, they are no longer

resurrection of judgment. (30) "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

^{SSS} **Hebrews 2:11-18 CEV** Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. (12) He even said to God, "I will tell them your name and sing your praises when they come together to worship." (13) He also said, "I will trust God." Then he said, "Here I am with the children God has given me." (14) **We are people of flesh and blood. That is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death.** (15) But he also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying. (16) Jesus clearly did not come to help angels, but he did come to help Abraham's descendants. (17) He had to be one of us, so that he could serve God as our merciful and faithful high priest and sacrifice himself for the forgiveness of our sins. (18) And now that Jesus has suffered and was tempted, he can help anyone else who is tempted.

^{TTT} **John 5:19-20 CEV** Jesus told the people: I tell you for certain that the Son cannot do anything on his own. He can do only what he sees the Father doing, and he does exactly what he sees the Father do. (20) The Father loves the Son and has shown him everything he does. The Father will show him even greater things, and you will be amazed.

religionists. The instant they look to Christ they have converted to Christianity. If they continue on that path, they will be set free of religion by the truth Jesus brought.^(VVV) That is the very definition of Christianity. Religion can only exist in the minds of men who are ignorant of truth, and, of course, in men who are wicked. Men and women are not creators. We are all simply a part of creation. One thing that means is we all follow someone, even if it is just our own imagined intellect (which is simply to continue to wallow in the false wisdom of Satan's lies). The enlightenment brought by Jesus is an awakening. The only choice any of us really have is our choice as to who we will follow. Religionists follow along after their sectarian leaders in throngs. They judge and harm whoever those religious leaders teach to be worthy of their hate and/or their punishment (ranging from the disrespect displayed in a holier than thou attitude, to hating and/or even killing non-believers). Satan has had a powerful influence over mankind (has been the strong man of Jesus's illustration)^(See Mat 12:29 on page 6) as he has kept most of humanity serving him in ignorance of truth. He doesn't care which sect you choose to worship, as long as they help him keep you ignorant of the truth brought by Jesus. Religionists keep people ignorant of truth by involving their sheep in a never ending study^(V) & ^{UUU} of their own religious materials and traditions of men.

^{UUU} **2 Timothy 3:1-15 ESV** But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (2) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) **having the appearance of godliness (being religious), but denying its power.** Avoid such people. (6) For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women (and men), burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, (7) **always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.** (8) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. (9) But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. (10) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, (11) my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra-- which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (13) while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) **But as for you, continue in**

Religion actually turns people aside from reading for themselves what the son of God taught (in the four short Gospels recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Satan's reign, however, by means of the ignorance of some of his followers, is over. He is now bound and exposed by the truth brought by Jesus, which you are even now hearing and being directed to read. Satan's valuable things are being taken from him: Any of his followers who sincerely turn to Christ are set free of slavery to his lies.^{VVV} It seems from these scriptures: Anyone who has heard and understood the truth in Christ, and then chooses to fight the efforts of God's spirit of truth to instruct them (fighting that spirit by continuing to support the sectarian religions of this world), may be putting themselves under judgment... If you try to hide what you do, or you are a maker and keeper of lies, you must change. Nothing will remain hidden.^{WWW & (Luke 12:1-12 on pg 21)} All

what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in (the teachings of) Christ Jesus.

^{WV} **John 8:28-32 CEV** Jesus went on to say, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know who I am. You will also know that I don't do anything on my own. I say only what my Father taught me. (29) The one who sent me is with me. I always do what pleases him, and he will never leave me." (30) After Jesus said this, many of the people put their faith in him. (31) **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."**

^{WWW} **Mark 4:21-25 GW** Jesus said to them, "Does anyone bring a lamp into a room to put it under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it put on a lamp stand? (22) There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. There is nothing kept secret that will not come to light. (23) Let the person who has ears listen!" (24) He went on to say, "Pay attention to what you're listening to! Knowledge will be measured out to you by the measure of attention you give (to the teachings of Jesus, as he is the light of the world). This is the way knowledge increases. (25) Those who understand these mysteries will be given more knowledge. However, some people don't understand these mysteries. Even what they understand will be taken away from them."~

John 3:18-21 GNB Those who believe in the Son are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. (19) This is how the judgment works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than

sincere followers of Christ must recognize their need to simply tell other people what they have learned from Jesus. True Christians will direct every person they can, to read the Gospel teachings of Jesus for themselves. Choose life for yourself and those who will listen to you: Direct everyone who will hear to Christ Jesus.^{XXX} Read the Gospels! Obedience to his words will set you free of concern over the unforgivable sin. Obedience to Christ will make you happy!^(CC) If you doubt that is true, you are still being deceived by the lies of Satan.

Everyone who picks up a Bible and examines it with eyes of faith should recognize the glimmer from the reflective pages^(CC) of the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record the words our lord came to bring (Those Gospels make up just ten percent of the Bible, or about 200 pages in total). What Jesus came to do and teach is the reason the rest of the Bible exists - to direct us to his example and teachings.^(DD) The value of the Gospels is the one simple truth every person needs to be helped to grasp. That is also why religion (as distinct from Christianity) is so reprehensible in God's sight: Because she is not helping to enlighten people to actually listen to Christ. Rather, religion is turning people away from the reawakening (or revelation) of Christianity, and toward their own sectarian teachings and literature. We sometimes see religious leaders who seem like they almost get it, as they gather hundreds or

the light, because their deeds are evil. (20) Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. (21) But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

^{XXX} **Deuteronomy 30:16-20 GNB** (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) 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. (20) Love the LORD your God, obey him and be faithful to him, and then you and your descendants will live long in the land that he promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

even thousands to listen to them drone on about the Bible *and about the danger of false religion*. They say how bad religion is, and “can I get an amen” to how fortunate *they* are to be gathered in their shared faith in Christ. It doesn’t matter how you dress or talk, they will say, as they proclaim the dangers of the doctrines of men. Still, they just talk on with very few scriptures being read. If they do read the Bible at all, they want to read from one of the letters of the Apostles to the Romans, or the Corinthians, or any one of the other Books besides the Gospels. They don’t seem able to grasp that all those letters by the Apostles were written for one simple reason: To help others have faith in Christ. Once someone has faith in Christ, they need to sit at his feet by reading the Gospel recordings of his teachings. If religious leaders want to really help people, they need to be reading the Gospels to them! Religionists are trapped and unable to do that, because Jesus teaches all those who actually do listen *to him* not to be led along by other men and women.^(FFFF) The desire of religious leaders is always to gather people to follow them: Their true purpose is to gain money and/or adoration. It really is so very simple: The early Christians followed Christ so as to sit at his feet and learn personally from him.^(X) We can still do that; but only by reading the Gospel records of Jesus’s teachings for ourselves. **What that means, of course, is your time would be better spent reading the Gospels than reading this booklet** – or any other religious material. Helping you realize that is the whole and only purpose of this booklet and the website: justbibletruth.com



As we scrutinize our reflection in the Gospel recordings of the words of Christ,^(CC) we should be familiar enough with his teachings to see two versions of ourselves. Jesus teaches us to see not only the person we need to change from being (the person we have become as we have lived a life suffering the influences and ravages of

Satan’s old world system), but also the person we are being transformed into by our manifest faith in the teachings by our lord. Faith in what Christ promised is the Ark of salvation for our day in time.^(HHHH) In the promises of Christ, we should build faith to regain our strength and

health of youth.^(Job 33:24 - 26 on back cover.) We should see ourselves being restored to perfection to enter paradise.^{(AAAA) & (QQQ)} You must, however, have faith in what God is doing in order to be part of it.^{YYY} Remember always: The accounts of the lives of the men and women recorded in the Bible (the chain of their life stories that have spanned many centuries of time) are all part of one prophetic drama teaching us principles we can think about to understand a God who is nearly incomprehensible (in our weakness of imperfection). The Bible teaches a new language of principles, and it all directs us to Christ.^(CC) We can communicate our faith with other believers by referencing those Bible principles. Hence, the life of Noah teaches about the modern day salvation of those seeking God by means of their faith (our faith in Christ being the modern day ark of salvation).^(BBBB) The Jews who wandered in the wilderness for forty years on their way to the promised land provide another prophetic example.^{ZZZ} That forty years was a period during which God executed his judgment against the unfaithful. Perhaps more accurately: It was a period when the faithful were preserved alive while the unfaithful were simply left to continue dying in their lack of faith; without help from God. He didn't

^{YYY} **Hebrews 11:6 GNB** No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him.

^{ZZZ} **Numbers 32:10-13 CEV** The LORD became very angry. (11) And he said that no one who was twenty years or older when they left Egypt would enter the land he had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Not one of those people believed in the LORD's power, (12) except Caleb and Joshua. They remained faithful to the LORD, (13) but he was so angry with the others that he forced them to wander around in the desert forty years. By that time everyone who had sinned against him had died.~
Joshua 14:7-11 CEV I was forty years old at the time Moses sent me from Kadesh-Barnea into Canaan as a spy. When I came back and told him about the land, everything I said was true. (8) The other spies said things that made our people afraid, but I completely trusted the LORD God. (9) The same day I came back, Moses told me, "Since you were faithful to the LORD God, I promise that the places where you went as a spy will belong to you and your descendants forever." (10) Joshua [*speaking*], it was forty-five years ago that the LORD told Moses to make that promise, and now I am eighty-five. Even though Israel has moved from place to place in the desert, the LORD has kept me alive all this time as he said he would. (11) I'm just as strong today as I was then, and I can still fight as well in battle.

have to kill them, they were already dying. He simply protected those who did express faith in him. The point we make is this: They were all Jews and Jewish proselytes (God's chosen people) who wandered in the wilderness, but they were not all survivors. They all had a form of worship, and most likely imagined themselves upright. However, all among them who were without true faith died in that wilderness trek toward the Promised Land. Those who died might even receive a resurrection, but they certainly did not receive the blessing of being among those entering the Promised Land. They missed out on the hope available as the reward for their day in time. All those who had true faith, however, did survive to enter that Land of Promise. In Noah's day, the few survivors with faith in God demonstrated their faith by doing what God told them to do. They were then preserved alive by their expression of faith.^(BBB) Modern day Christians are in a similar situation. We are poised to enter the paradise being restored under the rulership of Christ.^{AAAA} To have part in what God is doing, you must first have faith in

^{AAAA} **Isaiah 11:1-12 GNB** The royal line of David [*Christ is a descendant of faithful King David*] is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. (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 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

what He is doing.^{BBBB} That means, of course, you must start by knowing what God is doing. Jesus was sent by his Father buy back your hope of life by his sacrifice,^{CCCC} *and then, to teach each one of us what his Father wanted us to know; so as to be able to accept that gift.*^(SS) Just as it was for the Jews in the wilderness: Being a survivor of the tribulation mankind is being destroyed by requires you to have God's spirit active on you personally to protect and guide you. Your receiving that spirit is based on your expression of faith in Christ, which includes being obedient to what he came to teach.^(OO) If you choose not to learn what Jesus taught, or you live a life style that he condemned,^(B) how could you expect to receive God's spirit to protect you?^(NN) Sectarian religious memberships among men actually work to confuse that simple truth.^{DDDD} All religious groups

is gathering together again the scattered people of Israel and Judah and bringing them back from the four corners of the earth.

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

1 Peter 3:20 ALT having formerly refused to believe, when the patience of God kept eagerly waiting in [*the*] days of Noah, while an ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water;

^{CCCC} **Acts 4:8-12 GNB** Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders: (9) if we are being questioned today about the good deed done to the lame man and how he was healed, (10) then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth---whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. (11) Jesus is the one of whom the scripture says, 'The stone that you the builders despised turned out to be the most important of all.' (12) Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us."

^{DDDD} **Colossians 2:20-23 GW** If you have died with Christ to the world's way of doing things, why do you let others [*religious sects*] tell you how to live? It's as though you were still under the world's influence. (21) People will tell you, "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that!" (22) All of these things deal with objects that are only used up anyway. (23) These things [*grandiose religious practices with fancy buildings and attire*]

want to award you an approved membership, as they proclaim their blessing on you means you are also approved by God. Being approved by God has only to do with your personal relationship with him through your faith in his son. Be warned: Men who are telling you they have authority to approve or disapprove your relationship with God are lying to you! Once you understand the danger such religionists pose, and still refuse to obey God's Christ; choosing rather to follow some sect of men, you may be fighting against the holy spirit's effort to help you. Christ is dividing people into two groups, those who have faith in him as the son of God, and those who don't.^(R) All who express faith in Christ might be thought

look like wisdom with their self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body. But they have no value for holding back the constant desires of your corrupt nature.~

Colossians 3:1-17 GW Since you were brought back to life with Christ [*by your faith in Christ*], focus on the things that are above—where Christ holds the highest position. (2) Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. (3) You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in [*their eyes of*] God. (4) Christ is your life. When he appears [*in kingdom power as ruler of creation*],^(QQQ) then you, too, will appear with him in glory. (5) Therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you: your sexual sin, perversion, passion, lust, and greed (which is the same thing as worshiping wealth). (6) It is because of these sins that God's anger comes on those who refuse to obey him. (7) You [*we all*] used to live that kind of sinful life. (8) Also get rid of your anger, hot tempers, hatred, cursing, obscene language, and all similar sins. (9) Don't lie to each other. You've gotten rid of the person you used to be and the life you used to live, (10) and you've become a new person. This new person is continually renewed in knowledge [*by learning and following what Jesus taught*] to be like its Creator. (11) Where this happens, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, uncivilized person, slave, or free person. Instead, Christ is everything and in everything. (12) As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. (13) Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (14) Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. (15) Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. (16) **Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you.** Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs [*the Bible*] to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. Sing to God in your hearts. (17) Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

of as God's nation of people, just like the ancient Jews were. The example of that ancient Jewish nation, as they wandered forty years in the wilderness, *might be* teaching us something else: It may be that those who are in the group who do express faith in Christ, are being divided again. They *might be* being divided into those who actually follow Jesus and are thus being protected by God to become survivors, or to another group who also claim faith but don't actually follow Jesus's teachings.^(RR) (We refer to people who have been fooled by deceitful men to imagine they are following Christ when they are not.) These latter, while having some measure of faith, may not receive protection from God to enter the promised land. They may be left without protection to die with Satan's old system. Such persons might possibly not be judged wicked (might not have committed the unforgivable sin). Such people might still gain life through the resurrection at some later time. Even if that were so, they still would have missed out on surviving alive into paradise, and they would still have to exercise faith in Christ. *Please understand: We do not proclaim this secondary separating to be a Bible teaching.* We don't know. We simply note what the Bible teaches by principle and by means of the wandering Jews, and consider the possible inference of those teachings. Your own faith must be yours! Certainly, being halfhearted would be a dangerous situation to be in.^{EEEE} For certain and for all eternity, it will be a blessing to be one of those who survive the

^{EEEE} **Revelation 3:13-20 ESV** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' (14) "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. (15) "'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! (16) So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. (17) For you say, I am rich [have religion], I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. (18) I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire [the truth], so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself [through faith in Christ] and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. (19) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. (20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock [through the Gospels]. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me [we eat with Christ by learning what he was sent by his Father to teach].

tribulation of this old world system. It will be something to take pride in (and be thankful for) forever. It may also be a very rare privilege! Noah and Lot were survivors of judgments of destruction for their respective time periods. Only they and their immediate families (those who were working to serve God with them) survived. Of the generation of Jews who wandered in the wilderness forty years (some scholars suggest over a million people), only Caleb and Joshua and part of the tribe of Levi received God's spirit to survive into the promised land. (Like the two faithful spies, the Levites had not been part of the nation's lack of faith in what God told them.)

Being cautious not to miss the point by speculating on what some Bible teachings might mean: **One thing that very clearly is Bible truth is we are involved in a separating work between those who express faith in Christ, and those who don't.**^(R) **You can always rely on this: Being intimately familiar with, and obedient to, what Jesus taught is your only safe protection. Faith and obedience will grant you peace of mind in a faith for survival.**^(OO) According to what Jesus said, just knowing his name may not be enough. We need to *know* him personally. And, don't ever forget, he must know us as well. As we make effort to read and learn what Jesus said to those people he interacted with and loved, we come to truly know him. A great benefit is that is the same way he comes to know us.^(RR - note verses 21-25)

Our day is similar to the days of Noah.^(BBBB) The flood of destruction for our day is the tribulation^{FFFF} (the self-destruction) of the world we have

^{FFFF} [Matthew 24:3-28 MWT \(This prophecy covers 2000 years since Christ. Much of it has already been fulfilled.\)](#) Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him in private and asked, "When will this happen? What will be the sign of your presence and of the end of the world?" (4) Jesus answered: Don't let anyone fool you. (5) Many will come and claim to be me. They will say that they are the Messiah, and they will fool many people. (6) You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. (7) Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. People will starve to death, and in some places there will be earthquakes. (8) But this is just the beginning of troubles. (9) You will be arrested, punished, and even killed. Because of me, you will be hated

created apart from God's direction. Our modern day ark of salvation is personal faith in Jesus and in what he taught. Jesus said those with faith in what God is doing^{GGGG} will have it happen for them according to their

by people of all nations. (10) Many will give up and will betray and hate each other. (11) Many false prophets will come and fool a lot of people. (12) Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others. (13) But if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved. (14) When the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come. (15) Someday you will see that "Horrible Thing" in the holy place (false religion claiming to represent God), just as the prophet Daniel said. (Daniel 8:37; 9:27; 12:11) 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 [*bring an end to the tribulation*], no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones, he will make the time shorter. (23) 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 [*or within some special group*], don't believe it! (27) The coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning that can be seen from east to west. (28) Where there is a corpse, there the eagles will gather. [*The body or corpse of Christ are the teachings he left us. Those Gospel teachings can be seen all throughout the earth, like flashes of lightening hidden in clouds but illuminating everything.*]

^{GGGG} (John 15:7) ⁷ If YOU remain in union with me and my sayings remain in YOU, ask whatever YOU wish and it will take place for YOU.~

(James 4:3a) ³ YOU do ask, and yet YOU do not receive, because YOU are asking for a wrong purpose, . . . ~

(1 John 3:22) and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we are observing his commandments and are doing the things that are pleasing in his eyes.~

(1 John 5:14) ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that, **no matter what it is that we ask according to his will, he hears us.**

faith.^{HHHH} You must have faith you will be preserved alive into the promised land in order to be preserved alive.^(Job 33 on back page) Preservation of life requires an act of God. Without your personal faith, life will progress on to the grave like it has been happening since sin was introduced by Satan. True faith requires obedience to Christ.^{IIII} If you practice a life style Christ condemned, and still imagine you possess faith for life, you have been deceived by Satan. All sins will not be forgiven!^(JJJJ) We must each one of us make use of what Jesus said and change who we are if we are to enter the paradise being created.^(CC) If God admitted people into paradise who ~~wouldn't~~ hadn't changed, we would be right

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

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

(Matthew 9:19-22)¹⁹ Then Jesus, getting up, began to follow him; also his disciples did.²⁰ And, look! a woman suffering twelve years from a flow of blood came up behind and touched the fringe of his outer garment;²¹ for she kept saying to herself: "If I only touch his outer garment I shall get well."²² Jesus turned around and, noticing her, said: "Take courage, daughter; your faith has made you well." And from that hour the woman became well.~

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

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

^{IIII} **(Ephesians 4:23, 24)**²³ but that YOU should be made new in the force actuating YOUR mind,²⁴ and should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty.

back where we are now. No matter how much seemingly nice people try to white wash sin, or how much they claim love will cover it over, sin is disgusting and causes harm and death. If it was good, God would not condemn it. You must abandon what God has taught is bad. All sins will not be forgiven and love will not cover them over.^{JJJJ} One lie and trick of Satan is that abandoning sin is a sacrifice. It is not. It is a blessing. Following Christ is what will make you happy.^(CC) Your sacrifice to God is a wonderful thing. Your sacrifice of value is you heartfelt and freely given praise of all our God and Father is and has done. That is the simple truth Jesus came to help us understand.^{KKKK}

^{JJJJ} **(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)** ⁹ What! Do YOU not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. ¹¹ And yet that is what some of YOU were. But YOU have been washed clean, but YOU have been sanctified, but YOU have been declared righteous in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the spirit of our God.

(Ephesians 5:1-14) ⁵ Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and go on walking in love, just as the Christ also loved YOU and delivered himself up for YOU as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling odor. ³ Let fornication and uncleanness of every sort or greediness not even be mentioned among YOU, just as it befits holy people; ⁴ neither shameful conduct nor foolish talking nor obscene jesting, things which are not becoming, but rather the giving of thanks. ⁵ For YOU know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no fornicator or unclean person or greedy person—which means being an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no man deceive YOU with empty words, for because of the aforesaid things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partakers with them; ⁸ for YOU were once darkness, but YOU are now light in connection with [the] Lord. Go on walking as children of light, ⁹ for the fruitage of the light consists of every sort of goodness and righteousness and truth. ¹⁰ Keep on making sure of what is acceptable to the Lord; ¹¹ and quit sharing with [them] in the unfruitful works that belong to the darkness, but, rather, even be proving [them], ¹² for the things that take place in secret by them it is shameful even to relate. ¹³ Now all the things that are being reprovved are made manifest by the light, for everything that is being made manifest is light. ¹⁴ Wherefore he says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and the Christ will shine upon you."

^{KKKK} **(Hebrews 13:14-16)** ¹⁴ for we do not have here a city that continues, but we are earnestly seeking the one to come. ¹⁵ Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name. ¹⁶ Moreover, do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.~

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).

Coverdale Bible – Miles Coverdale (1535)

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 (1611)

MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)

Murdock – James Murdock (1851)

MWT - Modern World Translation

Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)

RV - Revised Version (King James Revised Version - 1769)

YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

(1 Peter 2:1-12) 2 Accordingly, put away all badness and all deceitfulness and hypocrisy and envies and all sorts of backbiting, ² [and,] as newborn infants, form a longing for the unadulterated milk belonging to the word, that through it YOU may grow to salvation, ³ provided YOU have tasted that the Lord is kind.

⁴ Coming to him as to a living stone, rejected, it is true, by men, but chosen, precious, with God, ⁵ YOU yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it is contained in Scripture: "Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious; and no one exercising faith in it will by any means come to disappointment." ⁷ It is to YOU, therefore, that he is precious, because YOU are believers; but to those not believing, "the identical stone that the builders rejected has become [the] head of [the] corner," ⁸ and "a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offense." These are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were also appointed. ⁹ But YOU are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that YOU should declare abroad the excellencies" of the one that called YOU out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ For YOU were once not a people, but are now God's people; YOU were those who had not been shown mercy, but are now those who have been shown mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I exhort YOU as aliens and temporary residents to keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which are the very ones that carry on a conflict against the soul. ¹² Maintain YOUR conduct fine among the nations, that, in the thing in which they are speaking against YOU as evildoers, they may as a result of YOUR fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify God in the day for [his] inspection.

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A Gathering of Eagles

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

Life Eternal: Jesus said that, in the last day, he would call and all people who might learn from him would come forth from their graves.^(RRR) What will it mean for the people who are still alive when that promise starts being fulfilled. He told his friend Martha that some who were alive at that time would never die at all: **(John 11:21-27)** ²¹ Martha therefore said to Jesus: "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. ²² And yet at present I know that as many things as you ask God for, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her: "Your brother will rise." ²⁴ Martha said to him: "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; ²⁶ and **everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all.** Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him: "Yes, Lord; I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God, the One coming into the world."

That idea of continuing to live is consistent with prophecy from the book of Job: **(Job 33:24-26)** ²⁴ Then he favors him and says, 'Let him off from going down into the pit! **I have found a ransom!** ²⁵ **Let his flesh become fresher than in youth; Let him return to the days of his youthful vigor.'** ²⁶ He will make entreaty to God that he may take pleasure in him, And he will see his face with joyful shouting, And He will restore His righteousness to mortal man.

Build faith in what Jesus Christ came to teach, then, and live forever! Read: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf>