ON TRUE RELIGION

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INTRODUCTION

What is true religion?

That is to say, what exactly do I mean by use of such a term?

For example, true as compared to what?

True as compared to fake?

Phony?

Artificial?

Game playing and hustling?

Yes, yes, and yes.

We must start with a proposition which I consider to be somewhat a priori (i.e. self-evident truth), although I am sure that many, if not most!, persons would find many grounds for disagreement.

To me, it is a self-evident fact that "somebody" or "something" has created this material universe in which we currently find ourselves.

Either there is a Creator being or there is not.

Modernly, Darwinists claim that there is no God, and hence no Creator.

In effect, everything has created itself.

"In the beginning was matter", or energy, or some similar force.

Matter has, in effect, created God.

The Creator is considered by them to be nothing more than a fantastical creation of primitive, superstitious minds.

We just simply live and then die.

End of story.

A supreme being is simply wishful thinking, or a projection of our own selves onto the "canvas" of the material universe.

They will start from this postulate and then claim that they can disprove the existence of an ultimate moral authority in what can only be considered to be an example of very simplistic circular reasoning. God does not exist and cannot exist, therefore the universe cannot have been created.

And so they begin on a quest of explaining how the known material universe came into existence on its own, with no animating and organizing force, apart from various types of physical events and causes and effects.

Darwin is claimed to have postulated a scheme by which life came from non-life by means of a series of random changes over vast amounts of time by which intelligence is claimed to have evolved from inanimate (and unintelligent) materials.

The mechanism (deux machina, anyone?) by which this is claimed to have happened is by means of radiation bombarding living material (which just "somehow" originated from non-life) and causing changes, most of which were either detrimental to, or in a very small amount of cases, useful to, survival (hence survival of the fittest).

These basic building blocks are claimed to have, effectively, piled, the one on top of the other, over and over again, in violation of the 2d law of thermodynamics, such that the simple organism becomes more and more complex.

Modern people pretend that this is a "scientific" view to be compared with primitive superstitions of ignorant persons.

While it is pretended that this is some sort of modern masterpiece of highly elevated thinking, it is, in fact, no such thing.

It is, rather, the basis for the religion of Hinduism (the oldest known continuous religion) and is very similar to the Hawaiian/Polynesian creation mythologies (from which some persons believe it was actually derived, as a matter of speculative philosophy, by Darwin, as he traveled through the South Seas, e.g. see the Hawaiian creation story and chants, such as Kumulipo).

In Hinduism and many other Eastern offshoots, it is claimed that there are continuous cycles of creation and destruction by which one is claimed to evolve to higher and higher levels of being.

Thus, it can readily be seen that religion, and this speculative philosophy, which pretends to be provable fact, have been and are intertwined and interwoven with one another right from the very beginning.

That is to say, Darwinism neither "proves", nor disproves anything.

It is speculation, pure and simple.

Nothing more, and nothing less.

If one stops and thinks, for even one moment, one should realize that if science is a collection of facts, and the fact is that there is a "prime mover"/Creator being/force which is animating everything which we see around us, then one cannot have science without acknowledgment of the fact of the initial and ongoing creative force and driver.

The idea that "science" is inherently in opposition to "religion" is then readily shown to be a sham.

Because demonstrable facts
are a product of experimental verification
and of matters which are
observable,
measurable,
quantifiable,
and experimentally repeatable,
it can readily be seen that matters
such as "the Big Bang theory",
and various cosmologies and cosmogonies,
have no place alongside, for example,
Newton's laws of motion,
or the analysis of chemical reactions
and such like.

This being so plain that one must speak in terms of "hard science" versus other kinds of "soft" science, as if such a distinction has any meaning, whatsoever, other than to falsely claim that evolutionary theory is, somehow, observable, measurable, quantifiable, and experimentally repeatable fact, and hence a matter for scientific inquiry i.e. collecting of facts.

This is a very shaky foundation, indeed, upon which to stake the future state of what is believed to be your eternal soul, if ever there was one.

As one further considers the matter, it becomes painfully evident that we are in a sort of a mist from which we are not going to easily extricate ourselves.

Speculative philosophy, posing as known, measurable, quantifiable, experimentally repeatable facts is not really going to help us much.

It is simplistic and shallow thinking at its core, and really not worth much when one is trying to figure out "what actually is and isn't", in spite of it's apparent (modern) ability to pretend to be the answer to all of our questions about the meaning and purpose of our current existence.

It opens the door to all kinds of ridiculous speculation, in place of useful knowledge, I would think.

The reason for pointing these things out is because we are going to run into them over and over again as we consider what is reality, and other, related matters.

Or to state it another way, here is one of the numerous phony religions which I intend to juxtapose against what I am, here, referring to as "true religion".

Again, the "true" in **true religion** is another way of saying "fact-based", or "factually-based" religion.

While noting that I am using the term religion, here, to mean our relationship with our Creator, as opposed to various rites, rituals, customs, practices, and procedures.

Religion is, hence, here used as a synonym for ultimate reality.

Okay now, here is the fatal crux of the matter, so far as the claims that Darwin's speculations somehow rise to the level of

measurable observable quantifiable and experimentally repeatable

"facts" of science ("science" here being defined as a collection of facts):

COMPLEXITY!!

I never tire of reminding any and all who care about such matters that when Darwin propounded his speculative philosophical assertions, the microscope had only recently been developed.

The nature of DNA was completely unknown and quantum mechanics hadn't even been thought of or considered as a potential reality.

Darwin and his contemporaries looked at the structure of leaves and other plant tissues under a microscope and noticed little empty boxes which appeared to form the skeletal framework of the leaf structure.

They called these little boxes "cells", as in an empty room, or a prison cell.

They had no idea that within each of these little boxes had been a whole sea teeming with living organisms, each far more complex than the skeletal leaf structure itself.

I like to think of them as **little machines**.

Numerous "little machines within little machines".

A closer look at each little machine showing yet another layer of **complexity within complexity**.

It is the same with strands of DNA.

It is the same with the physio/chemical structures, as well as atomic and sub-atomic structures of matter.

It is the same with every single self-replicating enzyme which form the structural skeleton of every single protein molecule.

Yes, complexity within complexity, within complexity, such that it ultimately becomes mathematically ridiculously impossible to account for these structures and their numerous interrelations and their interrelatedness by random processes.

The amount of time being required for such to even potentially take place to far exceed any amount of time which ever has been, or ever will, be postulated.

This is what I call the "handprints" and "fingerprints" of our Creator.

He having made matters so complex that only a very ignorant person could possibly even consider that things just somehow "fell together" on their own.

It is His signature as it were, and will be found over and over again, as we begin to even barely scratch the surface of this, our current inquiry into the nature of what is, and what isn't, and what can be known, or not known.

So, it seems that what is claimed to be science is actually "science falsely so-called".

It being truly little more than a modern mythology, little different than the stories of the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Greeks.

Instead of calling upon some super-human anthropomorphization, these moderns, in willful ignorance, give the same attributes as found in the ancient cosmogonies to matter.

Just as Sumerian gods and goddesses were claimed to do all sorts of creative acts, here it is energy and various electromagnetic forces to which are ascribed THE EXACT SAME CREATIVE POWERS.

First with a "big bang", coming out of nowhere, with nothing worthy of an attempt at description preceding it.

Intelligent force simply being replaced by inanimate forces, which are claimed to be "just in the nature of how things are".

Of course, this is little more than a grand cop-out, pretending to be deep philosophical insight.

It neither proves, nor disproves anything, anymore than saying that the Sumerian gods Anu, Ea, Enki, along with the Annunaki, are responsible for the creation.

These "moderns" simply hiding behind the fact that because ultimate origins are impossible to demonstrate in an empirical manner, therefore none of their idle speculations can be disproven.

Such that lack of ability to disprove is propounded as proof.

Truly ridiculous, once it is looked at more closely, with discriminating eyes and thought/mind.

They merely obfuscate the entire matter by hiding behind mathematical equations and theorems which can only be "understood" by a select few, who now pretend to be the duly appointed "keepers of the flame" by virtue of such abilities.

A grand game of "hide-and-seek", as it were.

By controlling the ability to "hide the ball" they pretend to some higher knowledge to which they then ascribe the label, "science".

The perpetrators of such being little different from their Sumero/Babylonian ancestral counterparts.

Yes, nothing but a "modernized" form of priestcraft, with the lab tech's clothing replacing the priestly garb of yesteryear. It is an unmitigated fraud, through and through, so far as I am concerned, and little more than replacing one set of speculative/philosophical claims with another.

Merely a replacement of one "religion" by another (using "religion" in the commonly "understood" sense of the term).

Of course this **all serving to underscore the need for revelation**.

That is to say, man is unable to understand anything worth knowing, when it comes to such matters as ultimate causation, without "the great whoever/whatever" revealing it by one means or another.

Such that now we are confronted with the problem of "seeking" that knowledge and the answers to the perennial problem of "who am I?", and "what am I?", and "why am I here?". Most certainly NOT matters that can be ascertained by measuring various portions and pieces of the material universe.

We having now begun to enter the realm of what I am, here, calling "true religion".

ON THE NEED FOR REVELATORY RELIGION

Assuming the existence of a Creator, that being the only reasonable postulate, given the unbelievable layers upon layers of complexity and organization, one is FORCED to seek the answers to ultimate questions either directly from the source (i.e. the Creator) or by listening to the doctrines and dogmas of very ignorant earthbound men who are locked in their four dimensional prison of space/time, length, height, width, and depth.

Because I am at sea as I write this, I can't help but be reminded of the amoeba which comes out of your stomach, into the toilet of a cruise ship, only to be unceremoniously ejected out into the middle of the Pacific ocean.

What can it really know about the world in which it is residing?

As it puts on its little amoebic lab coat and begins to quantify and analyze the waters and salts and equal-sized organisms which surround it on every side.

It thinking that it knows and understands what is taking place all around it, yet being so restricted, by virtue of its own physical and psychical limitations, that it is simply unable to perceive or understand the grander scheme of things.

It really having no ability whatsoever to understand the depth of the ocean in which it exists, or the existence of continental land masses, or the numerous stars of heaven.

All of which it can neither perceive, nor observe, even while being surrounded by it on every side.

And what hubris and incredible amount of exaggeration it must take for tiny little Mr. and Mrs. Amoeba to pretend that the specifics of their microscopic world can be generalized into a full and complete knowledge of what is and what is not.

Think about it for a few minutes, and then explain how it is that you and I are any different.

Even with the most over-active imagination, and with the use of numerous mathematical formulae, the poor little amoebae are restricted from knowing any more than any other equally-sized creature, and certainly unable to either perceive, or understand such matters as the nature of the greater universe in which they are residing.

Yes, it is all around them, on every side, yet they are lacking the ability to perceive and understand just exactly what it is that they are looking at and experiencing.

I would suggest that you and I are no different.

We suffer from the exact same limitations, yet, somehow unable to recognize that such truly is the case.

What arrogance and incredible stupidity must be required for our modern peers to pretend like they have it all figured out with a high degree of certainty, because their artificially created mathematical formulae tell them that it is so.

It truly is outlandish, such that it is difficult to take such profoundly ignorant persons seriously.

At the end of the day it can all too readily be seen that without guidance from someone/something far greater than ourselves we will simply remain hopelessly lost within the limitations of our very existence, with no hope of anything ever being otherwise.

Welcome to the land of metaphysical speculation, which will, soon enough, morph into something which we know of as "religion", with all of its amoeba-like rites and rituals and practices and garb, which taken all together can only form nothing more or less than PRETENSE.

Yes, pretended knowledge professing itself to be ultimate knowledge and fact.

Such that one needs to stop and take a long, hard look at these pretensions long enough to reject them as the utter nonsense which they truly are and can only be proven to be moreso and moreso with each passing hour, day, week, and year.

Men simply cannot be trusted, for the most part, when it comes to such matters.

Such that if our Creator wants us to know anything about Himself, and our current predicament, then He must make it known to us, if we are ever to get past the very real limitations of our very own material existence.

While noting that it is just such a claim which the ancient Hebraic/Christian belief system makes.

While it is easy to make any claim one should so desire, here, it quickly becomes a question of how one can ascertain and "prove" such a matter as that the Creator has spoken plainly, and in such a manner that we should all sit up and take notice and "listen up".

I will here contend that such is the purpose of what I shall here designate as "The Messianic Prophecies".

Something which cannot be so readily and easily manipulated by unbelieving, faithless men and women, who pretend to have personal and private access to such higher knowledge.

Remembering that extreme caution is in order, given that we are, here, dealing with subject matter wherein hucksters will be found to abound in nearly limitless quantity on every side, and all the moreso in this day and age.

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

ON PROPHECY AND PROPHETS IN GENERAL

Given that so-called "science" is entirely unable to answer any of the questions which deal with ultimate causation, then is there any way that a truth seeker can find answers to any of these questions with a reasonable degree of certainty?

Or put another way, has the Creator chosen to communicate with us in a way that can give us assurance of His existence?

While the creation itself is claimed to be a witness in numerous different ways (see Romans 1:20), the holy writings which have come down to us in the form known to us as the Old Testament canon is based upon exactly such a claim.

Here the Creator God is said to have communicated directly with a number of individuals. He is said to have shown Himself, openly and plainly, to one particular group of persons from which He chose persons who were intended to act as direct "spokesmen", on His behalf.

So, how can we know who these persons are, or were?

Very simply.

They are/were persons who would tell the immediate, and less immediate, future histories of kings, persons, and "kingdoms", in advance of the actual facts.

Only with one proviso, i.e. 100% accuracy is required (see **Deuteronomy 18**).

If they get even one thing wrong, they are to be killed (see **Deuteronomy 18:20** and **Deuteronomy 13:1-10**).

It is this prophetic office which provided us with the prophetic writings which are contained in the Old Testament. It seems that any number of these Prophets of God left behind writings in which they made and recorded numerous predictions regarding various lands, and peoples, and kingdoms.

Many of the prophecies seeming to be downright outlandish at the time of their writing.

Beginning with Moses,
who was said to have spoken
face to face with God,
the prophetic tradition begins,
and then continues,
"on again" and "off again",
until it finally, altogether ends
with John the Baptist,
immediately preceding
the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth,
"the man from Galilee".

This is in addition to showing numerous marvelous works and wonders, and miraculous interventions, by which the hand of an all-seeing, all-powerful being simply could not be denied by any rational person who cares to examine the matter.

As men watched these various historical events unfold before their eyes, in fulfillment of the numerous claims and predictions made by these Prophets, a corpus of writings began to be collected together as compelling evidence of what had happened.

It is within this collection of writings that a series of prophetic passages began telling of a coming "God-man".

That is to say, a prediction, or series of predictions, claiming that the Creator God, Himself, will appear as a male human being.

As centuries went by, each of a number of different persons added pieces to this puzzle.

Over time the pieces coming together to form a more and more clear picture of what was to come, and a more complete picture, as well.

It was as if each prophetic utterance provided yet one more piece in a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.

By the time of Daniel the Prophet, who was kept prisoner in the court of Darius, during the height of Persian power, one particularly specific prophecy told that the Messiah would be "cut off" in his youth, within 490 years from the date of the giving of the decree of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem (537 b.c.) (see Daniel 9:24-27; and see Ezra chapter 1; and chapter 6; and chapter 7).

Such that those who were keeping track of these prophetic utterances, spanning centuries, now could know exactly when to look for the appearing of this man, who was to be known as Emmanuel, meaning, "God with us" (see Isaiah 7:14).

It is because of this level of precision that there was Messianic expectation, at the time of Christ, throughout the Middle Eastern lands, and particularly in the tiny little kingdom of Judah, where this prophetic tradition was centered. People were watching for and waiting for the coming of a man, who must be born not too long before the expiration of the 490 years.

It seems to be no coincidence that the three Magi (magicians/soothsayers, from the very same Persian court where Daniel's prophecy was made, approximately 500 years earlier) were searching for a newborn babe, who would be known as "the Son of God", at the time of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

It also being, for the same reason, the basis of the belief of Herod that a usurper King was about to be born, causing him to have children under two years of age to be murdered (see Matthew 2:16), causing the fulfillment of several more Messianic prophecies (see Matthew 2:17-18 and Jeremiah 31:15).

Yes, there was tremendous expectation throughout the land, for the reason that the Creator God had spoken through one of his Prophets to tell, within several years of time, exactly when to expect the fulfillment of over 1200 years of biblical prophecies.

Each prediction adding to those made prior, to form a more and more complete picture.

Notice how this was done in a way such that it did not depend upon the whims of any one man, or the peculiar beliefs of any one or two generations or groups of persons.

The prophecies being made in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of the kind of lying hucksterism to which we are currently exposed on a nearly ongoing basis, as numerous modern false prophets and false brethren pretend to know all about the future and exactly how it will unfold.

Of course, these moderns are wrong over and over again, which would have gotten a real prophet wannabe to pay for his (or her) chicanery with his/her life.

The Lord God spending centuries, for over one millennium, laying the groundwork for what was to come.

The exact genealogical lineage being spelled out in great detail, such that there could be no faking the evidence.

The true significance of many of the passages being just unclear enough (dark sayings) such that people didn't even realize, until after the fact, just how pertinent many of these previously obscure passages actually are or were.

It is against this backdrop that I would like to remind you, dear reader, about HOW the Creator is claimed to have revealed himself to the family members of the human family which would ultimately give birth to the Messiah, known as "the lion of the tribe of Judah", among other names.

For purposes of this immediate discussion I will skip ahead to the patriarch Abraham, while most certainly not intending to thereby diminish the various persons preceding him (e.g. Adam, Noah, Enoch, etc.).

God talked directly to Abraham.

It is here that a pattern begins to emerge, which will be seen through both the Old Testament and New Testament writings.

This being what I am herein referring to as **true religion**.

Direct revelation from the Creator to the created being.

An intense direct communion between the two.

Sometimes by use of dreams, and sometimes face-to-face, as the Creator appears in different forms which we refer to as "**theophanies**". "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness" (see **Genesis 15:6** and **Romans 4:3**).

This is a fundamental premise of a number of arguments which are made by the Apostle Paul regarding the doctrine of soteriology (i.e. the doctrine of salvation).

According to the account in the book of Genesis, God made promises to Abraham (**Hebrews 6:13-15**).

Abraham was also said to be seeking another, non-earthly, kingdom (**Hebrews 11:10**).

Note these two key elements:

1. seeking our Creator;

and

2. our Creator speaking directly to certain individuals, such that actual statements regarding the content of these conversations have been recorded and transmitted

from one generation to the next, either in a written form, or in the form of an oral tradition.

Abraham is called "a friend of God" (see Isaiah 41:8 and James 2:23).

That is to say he has a certain degree of personal intimacy with his Creator.

Abraham hears instructions which are said to emanate from God (see Genesis 12, 15, and 17, for examples).

He is told to go to another land (see **Genesis 12:1**).

He is told of promises of **a seed** which will come forth out of his loins, a child of promise (see **Genesis 12:7** and **Galatians 3:16**).

Various covenantal promises are made to him (for example, Genesis 12:1-3).

Exact statements are made to him, such that it can be said that Abraham was having a two-way conversation with the deity (see, for example, **Genesis 15**).

Abraham is a man of visions and revelations (see, for example, **Genesis 15**).

His grandson Jacob continues this familial tradition, as he sees a ladder going up to Heaven, with angels ascending and descending (see **Genesis 28:10-22**).

He is said to have wrestled with the Angel of the Lord.

A physical confrontation during which Jacob receives injury to his leg, thereby forcing him to concede victory to his opponent (see **Genesis 32:24-32**).

And there he is named "Israel", a prince of God (see Genesis 32:28).

He being given this name by God, Himself.

His son Joseph is a man who has dreams and visions, and who is thought to be so wise, and in contact with higher powers, that he ends up as nothing less than a counselor to the Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt, where he has been sent as a captive, thanks to the treachery of his brothers (see **Genesis 39–45**).

Jacob/Israel is said to have produced offspring in the form of 12 sons, who would become known as the 12 tribes of Israel (see Genesis 35).

Upon his deathbed he makes prophetic statements (see Genesis 49), including one in which Judah is said to be a lions whelp, giving rise to the title "lion of the tribe of Judah", which becomes a synonym for Christos/Messiah (see Genesis 49:9).

A pattern is thus further beginning to emerge, whereby God is in close contact with specific persons, who were very aware of His presence, and to whom He is communicating precise information, by means of dreams and visions, and outright conversations.

A pattern which will be seen to repeat over and over again throughout both the Old and New Testaments. This being what I refer to as "true religion".

Not a series of rites and rituals into which it would, soon enough, degenerate, but rather, a relationship.

Or should I say a very personal relationship?

And a very active and real relationship by which the earthbound recipient is assured of the existence of his Creator, who is directing his steps, while communicating specific and precise information to him.

A little over 400 years after Joseph, his descendant, Moses, is said to have been out wandering one day during which he sees a marvelous sight.

A bush which is burning, yet not consumed by the flame (see **Exodus 3**).

Upon investigating the matter he is informed that he is in the presence of deity.

Again, he is given very precise information and directions (see **Exodus 3:1-22**).

It is at this juncture that God tells what will now become known as His own covenantal name, YHWH, implying a bond of very intimate union between Creator and created being (see **Exodus 3:14**).

And then after preparing Moses by means of powerful signs and wonders, the deity manifested Himself to all who were called out of Egypt, out into the wilderness, where another pattern begins to emerge.

A pattern of saying one thing, while doing another.

Of proclaiming obedience, while continuing in disobedience.

Yet all the while carrying about with numerous rites and rituals by which **true religion** is quickly transformed into a new form of false religion.

The earlier "true religion", which is formed by intimate union, culminating in profound obedience, no matter what the cost, is now transformed into outward conformity, which is then used as a shield behind which to hide the most profound disobedience,

as already sick hearts continue to become sicker and sicker, whereby **true religion** is replaced by PERSONS who have chosen to "play religion" in place of taking part in the real thing.

The cares of today far overwhelming the thoughts for the morrow, and for the eternal state into which all will, soon enough, enter into (see **Matthew 13:22**).

These being the prototypes of what I, here, refer to, modernly, as "Churchianity", where we all get together and "play church".

Just as little boys and girls play house, and play doctor, and play cowboys and Indians.

All make-believe.

And most certainly incapable of changing wicked hearts into anything worthy of the name "righteous" and "pure".

And where true, sacrificial love is replaced by a system which is all about "what is in it for me".

All things revolving around "me, me, me".

I call this system "**Churchianity**", because EVERYTHING! revolves around a building, which they call a Church.

Building funds, parking lots, new carpets, baptismal founts, new sound systems, etc., etc.

It being a make-believe system, which is entirely void of any ability to effect change toward real godliness and purity and separation from worldliness.

Yet all the while practicing rites and rituals which pretend to be able to make one a better person, spiritually speaking.

"A form of godliness, while denying the power thereof" as the New Testament so well states the matter (see **II Timothy 3:5**).

Yes, another Christ, and another gospel, and another spirit, if ever there was one (see II Corinthians 11:4 and Galatians 1:8-9).

But, as the Apostle Paul warns us, not really another gospel, but rather a twisting of the gospel.

A twisting to their own destruction, as I am given to understand the matter (see **II Peter 3:16**).

A DIGRESSION

Going back to where we started from, so --- what is "**true religion**", anyways?

This phrase consists of two words.

One is not so hard to figure out, i.e. what is true?

The other is not so easy to figure out, i.e. what is religion?

Let's begin with religion.

As I am using this word it does not mean what YOU probably think of when you think about such matters.

For example, belief, cult, doctrine, rites, rituals, practices, duties owed, etc.

Of course, this is NOT!! what I am talking about, here.

Rather, I am using the word "religion" to mean our hyper-personal relationship with our Creator.

That is to say, is He at the center of every single thought, action, and deed?

Or is He tangential?

Some huge Santa Claus in the sky, just waiting to rain goodies down upon us?

Is He just there when we are overwhelmed by helplessness and material need?

Or is He our reason for life?

Creed and doctrine having little or nothing to do with it.

But, rather, a true relationship with someone or something which we know to exist, based upon past and present experience?

Are we being constantly touched, and are WE constantly touching and feeling?

Do we have an inner two-way conversation on a continuous basis?

Or is all that we think of as religion nothing more than rites, rituals, customs, and duties owed? Once we have defined religion, in the way which I am, here, defining it, then it doesn't take long to figure out what the "true" part of **true religion** is.

Another word for it being "actuality".

"True" as in "actual".

In other words are we playing religion as so many play church?

Forcing our inner selves into some self-serving outward form of actions to impress all of those around us?

Or is **true religion** reality/actuality-based inner response to the calling of the Holy Spirit?

Am I answering the call, or am I just playing games, in hope of getting something out of it for me and mine?

Now, let's try to redefine our terms using meaningful synonyms.

True religion is our actual relationship with our Creator, having been actuated by His reaching down and touching us, while making Himself known to us.

Being called to self-sacrificial service.

A giving up of ourselves, so that He may more fully work in us, upon us, and through us.

An actual hyper-personal relationship, actuated by God, and NOT man.

Please note that there is little or no place for priests and ministers, and other such-like professional hucksters (known by their constant money grubbing with hands ALWAYS out demanding that YOU give THEM your time, labor, and hard-earned substance).

No place or need for any people at all (see I John 2:27).

What I like to refer to as "closet religion", i.e. just the Spirit of the Lord God Omnipotent communicating with my badly wounded and mangled human spirit.

Nobody knows, or needs to know, what exactly is going on between me and my Creator.

And so far as I am concerned, it is NONE of their business.

Never has been, and never will be.

An actual relationship, unimpeded by my need, or desire, to impress my fellow human beings with my apparent religiosity!

That's right, I can, do, and will refuse to allow any of my fellow humans to be, or become, the arbiter of my actual private and very secret relationship with my God and Creator.

Not letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing, as it were (see **Matthew 6:1-4**).

Note that this simply CANNOT be faked.

When only my God and myself know what exactly it is that is going on in my prayer life, in my own sacred inner sanctuary, there is, quite simply, no room for "men pleasing" and such like.

That is what makes it **true**.

There is no lying or deception, because it is, and will be, utterly pointless.

I knowing that I cannot fool or deceive He who knows all, and who knows my heart and inner being, far better than I do.

I use the written Word of God as my guidebook.

I refer to the written word of God as "the Living Word".

This is because it truly is alive.

It will get inside of you and change you from the inside.

It is the Living Word, as revealed by the Holy Spirit, that shows us our desperate condition, and leads us to the Son of God, Christos.

It is by the written word that we learn of Him.

And we also learn of ourselves, and exactly why it is that we are unfit to enter into the Holy of Holies.

Into the presence of the living God, whom we know of as our Heavenly Father, or, Our Father Who art in Heaven.

He is light, and we are darkness.

Turn on a light in a dark room, and take note of what happens to the darkness that surrounds you just moments before.

The light simply destroys the darkness, as well as the power of darkness.

Where the light lands, the darkness is, quite simply, vanquished.

Also take note of the fact that we were surrounded by numerous objects that were simply not visible to us before being revealed by the light.

It was all there, all along.

And while we may grope around the room, and feel that there are, indeed, unseen things and forces at play, it is simply not to be compared to the comprehension that comes from having the lights turned on.

A similar effect takes place as our own very dark and sinful selves come into the presence of HIS light.

The closer you come into His light the more you will realize just how full of darkness you really are.

Because so few actually draw close enough to realize the utter state of ruin and darkness in which they exist, there are not many who can tell you, firsthand, what it is like to be fully enveloped in fear, quickly approaching terror, as the all-consuming fire, which is our God, begins to shake us down to our very foundations, as the darkness within becomes all the darker when contrasted with His light.

It is the Living Word which first makes us aware of such things.

It acting as a warning of what is soon enough to come.

For one will also soon enough realize just how powerful a hold the forces of darkness have upon us.

We being not just inclined towards sin, but, rather, being horribly in love with it, while being very unwilling to let go of it.

Yes, just like the moth that insists on flying into the flame, no matter how many times you try to deflect it from its self-willed path to utter destruction.

All will deny that such is the case, as they beat their little moth wings faster and faster,

as they work and strive harder and harder to fly directly into the flame that will most assuredly be their undoing.

Such that whenever you see or hear anyone acting as if they are such a "friend of God", you should be highly suspect.

The written word, by revelation, given by the Holy Spirit, leads us to Christ.

And Christ leads us to the Father.

Notice that there is no need for idle speculation, as is found amongst the numerous purveyors of would-be religiosity.

No need to try to figure out what is happening, or what to do about it.

It being all plainly written out, for all to see.

It being so obvious that numerous false religions and belief systems had to be created and maintained by the dark lord, in order to cause hopeless confusion, and to deflect and distract from what is all too plain for ALL to see.

Persons pretending as if the plain statements of Holy Writ are somehow too difficult to understand.

They having turned the simplicity which is in Christ, and into Christ, into some grand, complex mystery, the meaning of which can only be ascertained by a select few (see **II Corinthians 11:3**).

They even having created numerous writings (bible substitutes and mimicries), along with false doctrines, which they hold up alongside the true and actual written Word of God, as being, somehow, in equality with it.

And then let the confusion begin in earnest, as all waste their time coming up with ways it can be, or may be, rather than using their very short time on this earth practicing what the holy scriptures so plainly teach.

That is,

let your sin find you out then acknowledge it seek forgiveness and change your course of action

(change of direction being the meaning of repentance/metanoia).

Coming before the Father, through our High Priest, Jesus, while seeking mystical union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That's it.

Couldn't get much simpler than that.

Our ability to see the unseen becoming more advanced and profound as engrafted faith, based on experience of living for, and with, our Heavenly Creator/Father, causes us to continue, ever onward.

He becoming more real to us the more we dedicate ourselves to His service; and the more we learn to live our faith on a day-to-day, and moment by moment basis. Not blind faith, but living faith.

This being why one must be so suspicious of men.

They will take the simplicity which is in Christ, and into Christ (see II Corinthians 11:3) and put it out of reach, as they will most assuredly put the yoke of the law back upon you (see Galatians 5:1), so that they may enslave you by use of misdirection and pretended "secret knowledge".

Thereby turning what should be clear as day into an unfathomable mystery.

Misleading and misdirecting, by use of numerous carnal concerns and methods.

One need only look to the Pharisees of Jesus' day, as well as the Hellenistic Judaizers and Herodians (Edomites) of His day, soon enough followed by the so-called Talmudic sages, and their Romanist papist progeny, for numerous examples.

One (Talmudists) writing a whole series of new books full of idle speculation, while the other (Romanist/papist offspring) creates the legalistic mumbo jumbo system, complete with worship of the Queen of Heaven, Inanna/Istar/Astarte/Isis/Ashtoreth/Athena/Artemis/Demeter/Minerva with her new name of Mary, Queen of Heaven.

This **antichrist system** designed to supplant the system of the Father crying out to us, "come let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow" (see **Isaiah 1:18**).

(note: anti means "to replace", in New Testament Greek, hence, a replacing of Christ, in addition to meaning "to be in opposition" to Christ)

The Father crying out to us, not because the law has been annulled, or abrogated, but because it has been fulfilled, to the letter, by Christos, who has become our atonement/covering (see Matthew 5:17 and Romans 5:11).

Our sins having been covered by His precious blood, just as was seen on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 23:27), as the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and poured blood on the Mercy Seat of the Ark, as the angels of heaven symbolically spread their wings over the lid of the Ark, inside containing the tables of the law, Aaron's rod that budded, and a pot of manna that does not decay (see Hebrews 9:4).

Representing the law, the righteous works of man, and the miracles of God, all combining together as symbolic of our godly lives, here on this wicked Earth.

Just as one cannot see through the blood, which is acting as the type of the spilling of the precious blood of Messiah, so the Father does not see your filthy sinful self through the blood which was so selflessly shed on Golgotha.

Yes, the law has been fulfilled (see **Matthew 5:17**).

No need to go back under its yoke.

For now, all who have been cleansed by His blood are free, in Christ (see John 8:36, Romans 6:18, 22, 8:2, Galatians 5:1, 13, I Peter 2:16, and James 1:25)

Not as a license to do evil, but as a way to make it so that we have only one need and desire, which is to serve Him, and to be more like Him.

The law of expedience replacing the law of Moses, as it were.

My main concern now being only what I can do to come into closer mystical union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, by obedience and faithfulness unto Him.

ON SEPARATION

"and I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"

Revelation 18:4

"but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (i.e. conduct), because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy"

IPeter 1:15-16

"For I am the Lord your God: ye shall, therefore, sanctify yourselves and ye shall be holy; for I am holy"

Leviticus 11:44

(re: eating "any creeping thing")

holy = hagios

Bauer Greek Lexicon = "reserved for God and his service"

Thayers Greek Lexicon = "set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively His"

I like to think of holiness as being synonymous with separation.

The root of the Greek word "hagios" is "hag".

Its basic meaning is awe.

Our God, being, above all else, awe-some.

His presence being awe-inspiring.

It seems that linguists can't help but equate awesomeness with being set apart.

We are set apart for the being who has so awed us.

In the above-cited lexical entries, note:

"reserved for God", and "set apart for God". After considering these matters for a long time I find myself being forced to conclude that separation from the world (the flesh and the devil) is the essence of **true religion**.

I was probably 18 years old, while studying the history of religions, when I came across something known as "separatist" Baptists.

I was already aware of Quakers, 18th century "Puritans", Amish, and other such-like groups, so that I did have SOME familiarity with the concept of separation from this world and from worldliness.

I thought about John the Baptist, and Elijah, and Jesus escaping into the wilderness.

Of Abraham wandering.

Of Noah in his Ark, and of numerous Protestants, thrown into dark dungeons, for having the audacity of sharing their newfound knowledge of the Greek New Testament with their neighbors and fellow countrymen.

So, what do all of these have in common, exactly?

Being alone!!

Or more precisely, being alone, while having one constant companion, who they will not set aside for any worldly concerns.

There it is, the flesh warring with the spirit (see **Galatians 5:17**).

The flesh being unable to comply, while the spirit becomes more and more willing, wanting, and desiring intimate union with our Heavenly Father, and his blessed Son, and His Holy Spirit!!, to the exclusion of all else (see Romans 8).

The ultimate goal of "**true religion**", being, therefore, to be ye separate, because HE is separate.

We are a people set apart, for a purpose.

This world holding nothing for us, but grief and longing for that other world, and that other country.

The one for which faithful Abraham, our spiritual father, was seeking (see **Hebrews 11:16 ff**).

This is, after all, what being the heirs to the promises made to Abraham means (see Galatians 3:7).

We do not seek carnal things.

Knowing that this world is ultimately destined to be consumed by flames, in eternal judgment, at the parousia/coming of our Lord, in flaming vengeance (see **II Peter 3:12**).

So that, if worldliness, and the enticements of the flesh put one at enmity with our Creator, then how is it possible that rock concerts, prophecy seminars, (i.e. ear tickling conventions), barbecues and picnics, are what so many claim is to be our calling?

And all of this with spiritual pride, and a great outward show of religiosity, no less.

Do you really suppose that this is what the red letters (words of Christ) are intended to teach us?

How am I to tell these persons from the world, when they are, in fact, as worldly as any person or group could possibly be?

And how does this look alongside Isaiah, Elijah, John the Baptist, and our blessed Lord.

Can you even imagine those behaving as a busload of these persons act?

I am unable to reconcile the two, myself.

Isaiah was sawn in two for his witness (see **Hebrews 11:37**).

John the Baptist was beheaded in trade for the dance of an enticing young girl (see **Mark 6:14-29**).

Elijah spent much of his life being chased by King Ahab and Jezebel, who were both intent on killing him (see I Kings 19).

The 5000 whom Jesus had just fed, departed, just as quickly as they were able, once he started pointing out the true cost of discipleship (see John 6:60-61).

Jesus told us that those calling themselves Judaeans are not, but are rather, a synagogue of Satan, and that they had ruthlessly murdered the Prophets, and now the Son of God, Himself (see Revelation 2:9 and 3:9).

This being further elaborated by the testimony of Stephen, the first martyr (see **Acts 6:8-8:3**).

Dancing, and barbecues, and picnics, and continuous shakedowns for money, and building funds, and parking lots

is what has come to replace the good news (gospel) of which we read in both the Old and New Testaments.

That's right, money, money (\$\$\$).

And girl meets nice boy; and boy meets nice girl.

And food and entertainment.

Which side of this equation do you suppose John the Baptist was standing as his fate was sealed?

Which side are you standing on?

Alone with John, and our blessed Lord, or as one of the partygoers, watching aghast, as one of the most horrible decisions ever made bears it's rotten fruits?

Remember, Herod, who murdered John, ultimately split open, as worms gushed out of his inward parts (see **Acts 12:21-23**).

Perfectly illustrating the difference between **true religion** and false.

Wasn't it a party, being hosted by those who had just crossed the Red Sea, that Moses came down to after 40 days on the mount in the wilderness of Sinai? (see **Exodus 32:1-35**)

This being what you will inevitably get, should you decide that your group membership is more important than standing alone, in a self-imposed wilderness.

Yes, separation/holiness is the diametric opposite of carnality, worldliness, and entertaining of the flesh.

Okay now, here is the kicker.

All of this abhorrent behavior is supposed to, somehow, magically become o.k., because we are "saving souls for Jesus" (see I Samuel 15:14-23).

Something which they ridiculously, and deceitfully call bringing persons to "accept Christ".

Yes, because their prey are worldly as can be, and because a continuous stream of them are necessary to pay for their building fund, they must lower themselves, and my God, and my religion, down to the level of the lowest common denominator.

The New Testament warns us that "by their fruits you will know them" (see **John 7:20**).

I would dare say that if your moral relativism, which is what this truly is, after all, leads you to debasing yourself in the manners which I have just described, then you just MAY want to rethink your very untenable position.

My favorite, at this hour, is all of the Judaizing, and searching for end time signs, and blood moons, and invasions of the Palestinian homeland by some pretended end time person, being little more than a figment of their highly fevered imaginations.

Didn't Jesus say that
"a wicked and adulterous generation
seeks after a sign"
and that the only sign to be given will be
"the sign of Jonas"? (see Matthew 16:4)

Then how can you possibly reconcile the claims of these would-be end time prophets, with the Word of God, itself?

Were we not warned, any number of times, in the New Testament, that these persons would be coming? (see II Peter 2:1-22; II Peter 2:1; Matthew 7:15; Jude 1:14-21; Acts 20:31)

Such that there is simply no excuse for not recognizing the rottenness which their "system" so amply demonstrates?

The Apostle John being abundantly clear, in contrast, that you have no need that men teach you, because you have a charisma/anointing from the Holy Spirit of God, which will NOT lead you into error (see I John 2:27).

And what of **Jeremiah 31:31** and following, wherein we are told of the New Covenant, whereby our heart of stone will be removed, and replaced with a heart of flesh? (see also **Ezekiel 36:26-27**)

And that we would have no need to ask anything, because the law will be written in our hearts? (see **Jeremiah 31:33-34**)

Yes, as the very Holy Spirit within us causes us to cry out "Abba, father", being interpreted, "Daddy, father".

That is to say, crying out with a very high degree of intimacy.

Such that we are nowhere near separated FROM this world, as we are separated TO --- Him.

If the world and the flesh are at enmity with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, then why would any true child of our blessed Lord and Savior, and his Heavenly Father, want to even allow the appearance of worldliness and fleshliness to be any part of their walk and life?

Isn't that what separation means, after all?

Separation from the world, the flesh, and the devil?

Such that for the first 300 years after Christ, those claiming themselves to be the followers of "**the way**" refused to take part in politics or war. And typically, at great cost.

Including forfeiture of life, liberty, and property.

How is it that these moderns claim and pretend that we are all supposed to be involved with these very things (i.e. politics and worldly warfare/mass murder)?

Oh, and you've got to love this.

They are doing all of this for lost souls, and for false Babylonian Talmudists, calling themselves "Jews", by which they mean deniers of Christ, no less (see I John 4:3 and II John 1:7).

Those pretending to be "the ancient Israel of God", who are designated as "antichrist", and the "synagogue of satan", by the New Testament writers.

And this, in spite of the fact that the Word is abundantly clear that those who have saving faith in Christ are the true heirs to the promises (see Galatians 3:1-18).

Why would anyone want to support these purveyors of patent fraud?

Especially when they have repeatedly and consistently shown themselves to be so murderous and deceitful?

Hmmmmm ---

Who is it that was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, anyway?

Even being said to be "the father of lies"? (see **John 8:44**)

Surely something seems to be amiss here.

And if we are told to avoid even "the appearance of impropriety" in our worldly pursuits, how much moreso when it comes to the things of God, do you suppose? Is this the example which our blessed Lord taught us during his earthly ministry?

Or wouldn't I be quite correct in saying, "very much not so"?

Then, what exactly are these man-made systems REALLY about, anyway ?!

What is the actual driving force behind it, do you suppose?

SLAVERY ENSLAVEMENT MIND CONTROL BEHAVIOR CONTROL and GROUPTHINK!! We are supposed to live free in Christ (see Galatians 5:1).

We are supposed to be in a state of liberty, in Christ.

But, these will put a yoke about your neck, just as fast as they are able.

EVERYTHING will consist of rules, rules, and more rules.

All manmade.

But, while claiming that they are requirements for obtaining heavenly salvation.

The Word teaches that we are to be led by the Spirit (see **Romans 8:14-17**).

But these claim that we owe THEM all of our time and energy, as they PRETEND to be God's earthly representatives.

Of course, this is all couched in terms of "serving God", and "planting churches", and "evangelizing poor lost souls".

While they WILL NEVER TELL YOU whose name is on the title deed to their buildings, and who reaps ALL of the gains from the proceeds of sales of "church" buildings, and other associated properties.

Lawyers, and accountants, and real estate deals, and book deals, and concert tours, and plenty of self-promotion, and self-dealing, and self-aggrandizement.

Commercialized (\$\$\$) religion, to the max.

It seems that the concept of "don't make my Father's house an emporium" has somehow escaped these persons (see **John 2:16**).

I'm sure the great works which they pretend to do far outweighing the need to obey God and Christ (see I Samuel 15:13-15).

And in this regard, one must never forget that where there are large amounts of assets, there will be numerous thieves, and other like-minded persons, who will be powerfully attracted, as if to a magnet.

And you can rest assured that they will maneuver themselves, just as quickly as possible, into the driver's seat, so that they may more readily and thoroughly plunder (just take a look around you, at who is running YOUR little enterprise, if you dare).

This being why "**true religion**" and commercialized religion are at enmity with one another, by their very natures.

Never forget that it was Judas Iscariot who controlled the cash box, and who was pilfering it, as did Ananias and Sapphira after him.

It seems that this has been a problem long before today and now.

Am I expected to believe that the nature of mammon worshipers has changed between here and there? (note: mammon = material goods)

Is anything really any different between then and now?

Same sinners.

Same temptations.

While remembering that in order to destroy your eternal soul, one of Satan's favorite tools is the use of distraction and diversion.

This being the specialty of the religious hucksters.

All of your focus being upon fulfilling the needs and desires and aspirations of your cultic leader and his followers, "the true believers", who claim to be holding "the keys to life".

In contrast,
I like to think of our Heavenly Creator
as the source of ALL positive energy,
while we are but conduits
through which this positive energy
can, and should, flow continuously.

For, just as the Sun is reflected by the Moon at night, so we are to become a reflection of HIS heavenly glory, while yet in this darkened earthly prison.

We becoming as thousands of little points of light, in an otherwise very dark night.

The darker the night is, the brighter we shine.

But while ALWAYS remembering that we are but a reflector.

No God and Jesus in our life means NO reflection can be had.

This, of course, serving to further illustrate the need for personal purity and cleanliness in ALL conduct. Because, in order to remain in His presence, certain behavior and conduct will be required.

Not as a matter of law, but as a matter of expedience i.e. what is going to get and keep me in continuous ongoing contact with my Creator, such that I may radiate HIS peace and glory.

Once one has a grasp of the utter depravity of fallen man, and the utter sovereignty of the One who has the moral and legal right to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor (see Romans 9:21), and who hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would make and follow his own path (he did it HIS way) into utter destruction by gigantic waves, one can see and realize that our Creator is a very scary person and power, indeed (see Exodus 7:13-8:19; 9:12; 10:20; 14:4).

With one person He may harden their heart, while with another He may just leave them to their own devices (see **Psalms 81:12** and **Romans 1:24**), letting them have the fruits/wages of their carnal labor,

remembering that "the wages of sin is death" (see **Romans 6:23**), such that leaving them to their own devices is probably the worst thing possible for them.

Especially as layer upon layer of neural matter is being continuously created through neurogenesis.

Soon enough the layers of neurons will cause evil thoughts to become all-consuming, like a switch that is always turned to "on", but NEVER to "off".

With righteous thoughts, hopefully, the same thing will happen, but with positive thoughts and energy, while bringing along with it the Fruits of the Spirit, the most important of which is to love (= self-sacrifice).

To love yourself.

To love your neighbor, while remembering the adage "peace on earth and goodwill toward men".

And above all else, to love your God, with all of your mind, body, heart, and soul.

Our blessed Lord being in every single thought which is formed deep inside of us.

The true believer not willing to do ANYTHING without seeking heavenly guidance and counsel.

Every single thought being subjected to this process as it originates, and LONG before any action based upon such thoughts ever even has opportunity to happen.

It is as our sin "finds us out" (see Numbers 32:23) that we are motivated by the Holy Spirit, and made to be willing to do nothing other than to serve our Creator, and to put ourselves totally at His call.

Being willing to drop anything and everything on a moment's notice, when believed to be necessary.

It is as if the Cloud of Glory has begun to move away from the encampment in the wilderness.

If I want to remain in His presence, then I must drop EVERYTHING in order to follow Him.

Never forgetting that when the Glory of the Lord left the Tabernacle, never to be seen there again, as some cried "Ichabod", meaning "the Lord hath departed" (see I Samuel 4:21), others simply continued on, all the way up to and following the coming of the Messiah, Son of God.

It is as if they didn't even notice that He was no longer in their presence.

And that He left because of disgust and repugnance caused by their faithlessness.

This, while the outward appearance of their religion continued on, as if the presence of the covenantal God is no longer a matter over which one should be overly concerned.

In this regard, it seems to me that these modern, stillborn, pretended purveyors of gospel truth should take note and consider the following for just one moment.

That is, if you can have a temple made of stone which has become "Ichabod", yet every person simply carries on as if it were not so, then what of the temple which is made without hands?

Is it possible that you and I could be Ichabod, yet not even know it?

Could our little cultic centers be void of God's Spirit?

But with another spirit ---? (see **II Corinthians 11:4**)

When I look into the mirror at the bodily temple in which I currently reside, in the flesh, should I be crying out "Ichabod"? So, continuing, what exactly are the distractions and diversions which I have just previously alluded to?

In order to help to see and define exactly what I am talking about, here, I find it useful to imagine myself standing before the judgment seat of Christ, known in New Testament Greek as the bema (pronounced BAY-ma).

In my mind's eye I imagine what Christ will be asking me, and what I will be answering.

Will he want to know about ballgame scores?

Rock concert ticket sales?

Or the latest prophecy seminar?

What I think about this or that person?

Or ask me about what YOU did with YOUR life?

Do you suppose He will want to hear my latest rant about politics and worldly affairs?

Will He care what party I voted for, or how I feel about any particular candidate or issue?

Why is it that none of these things sound like the things which our blessed Lord will be concerned about?

My main concern being what will elicit the statement, "well done thou good and faithful servant".

One can readily see how this mental imagery can act as both a filter and a lens.

It makes it easier to see what it is that we NEED to see, which is, otherwise, quite well obfuscated by all of the cares and concerns of this wicked generation and their world.

Do you suppose our Lord will ask me about you?

Or will he ask me about me?

My purpose in bringing these matters to your attention is to give you ideas about new ways of thinking. If you feel like all of the doctrines and dogmas of all of these modern Judaizers are doing little more than to obscure your vision, then you are probably going to need some kind of a way to figure out, on your own, what you really should be, or need to be doing.

One of the hallmarks of the Protestant Reformation was the idea of **Sola Scriptura**.

It seems that ungodly men are always wanting to tell about the things of God, while their own personal lives are ungodly and worldly as ever.

It does not seem to take long before they are making claims to some higher secret knowledge and authority.

For example, Romanism, with its claims to have an oral tradition, which is claimed to be superior to the written Word of God.

Many strange and foreign doctrines having originated from just such a source.

The post-second Temple authors of the Talmud provide another good example.

They claim to have a written Torah and an oral Torah, with the oral one taking precedence over the written one.

That is to say, a bunch of persons calling themselves rabbis claim that their long-winded and obtuse arguments, among themselves, regarding the meaning of any Mosaic passage of Old Testament Scripture, is superior to the plainly written Word of God, brought to them by Moses, himself, directly from this very same God.

The problem with the Papists and the Talmudists is that they add to and take away from plain teachings of the Scriptures in order to superimpose their belief system onto the Word of God.

Better have a good reason for that, wouldn't you think?

As an example, Jesus specifically said to "call no man father".

Yet the Romanists insist on being called exactly that.

Nowhere in the written word is it told that Peter is the first pope of some huge one world cultic mother goddess worshiping system of Churchianity.

No problem.

Just rely on some pretended ancient oral tradition and all will be well.

The Talmudic pretended "sages" simply re-write scriptural passages by interpreting them any which way they like, so long as the plain meaning of the words is not used.

Why?

More supposedly secret oral traditions.

Sadly, this is the rotten foundation upon which much, if not most, of what passes for modern evangelicalism is based upon.

The Protestant reformers held to a very different standard, i.e. if it is not plainly spelled out in Holy Writ, then it should probably be of little or no concern to me.

The basis of our faith being grounded and rooted in Scripture alone, **Sola Scriptura**.

When (ungodly) men come along and want to take away from, or add to, what we are told in the Holy Writings, we are not just suspect, but downright hostile.

Because we have heard and seen far too much nonsense coming from those professing themselves to be wise, but who are ultimately found to be full of folly (see **Romans 1:15-32**).

Far, far too many.

And today, it seems, more than ever, as if some abominable plague of locusts, or such like, has come upon us.

Sola Scriptura (soley by scripture)

and **Sola Fide** (solely by faith)

and **Sola Gratia** (solely by grace)

were the battle cries of the men who first translated the Greek New Testament into their vernacular languages, and then were shocked as can be when comparing what had been written with what was being practiced in the name of the very same author of the writings, i.e. God.

I am telling all of this as background, in order to explain why I will repeatedly and emphatically warn you and admonish you to avoid man, altogether, when it comes to such matters as your eternal state, in Christ; or in outer darkness, with much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

While I can NOT be certain whether the choice is actually yours, or not, in light of the doctrines of predestination, and foreordination, and foreknowledge (see Romans 8:29-30, the ordo salutis), I can say that the Word declares that by continually seeking, you shall find.

By asking continuously, you shall be answered.

And by knocking continuously, it shall be opened unto you.

"Asking you shall receive"
"Seeking you shall find"
and
"Knocking it shall be opened"

All three are written in the grammatical form of the **present active participle** in the original Greek text.

This particular usage of the language being used to describe actions that are continuously taking place in the present. We would probably call it your lifestyle, or way of life, or ongoing daily conduct i.e. a life of continuous asking, seeking, and knocking!!

That is, and should be, our true walk.

The goal, not being to "save souls for Jesus" (the office of the Holy Spirit, in actuality), nearly so much as to the obtaining of personal purity and separation from the filth of this wicked world.

A life dedicated solely to Him and to His purpose.

A life of complete dedication to Him.

So, how am I to find out more about such matters?

By seeking counsel from the Word of God?

or from men who will tell the opposite, with lots of sophistry, and smooth doubletalk, to "prove" their assertions?

This being what it will all have come down to as you stand before The Judge of your eternal soul, on that day. While remembering that your only defense can be truth, and truthfulness.

No lying will stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

Truth and truth only.

With stakes so high, I hope to get it right.

And I know that it will have to be on my own!

There being so few godly persons who have any real ability, whatsoever, to guide me.

Sola Scriptura

Sola Fide

Sola Gratia

So, what are the distractions and diversions, anyway?

Anything that keeps you from placing our Lord and His commands continuously front and center.

While it could be job, school, career, marriage, or numerous other things, I think that the most dangerous of all is false religion, itself.

No need to seek salvation if I believe that I already have it, because some conniving, self-serving, self-dealing man has told me that it is so, wouldn't you think?

And while all my time is spent pleasing my fellow cult members, how much time am I irredeemably losing, that should have been used to make preparation for meeting my maker face to face?

And to learn how to use the great powers which our Lord has given to us to exercise on His behalf.

While, in that regard, I must say, that so far as I am concerned, the ultimate goal of our sacred relationship IS **power**.

Yes, raw power.

Power for good.

Power for rightness.

Power to repel and bind evil, to name just a few.

When I think of power, I think "God power".

That is to say, all REAL power comes from our Creator.

Because He is the source, we desire to connect with Him.

I need to be "plugged in", as it were.

Because we are not unlikely to be needing TREMENDOUS power at any given moment, one should want to be cautious about doing anything that could possibly reduce or dilute the amount of power available at any given time.

If we are to act as a conduit, then we should want to keep our "pipes" clean, so that the power may flow freely, forcefully, and unimpeded.

We should be VERY afraid of ANYTHING which could even POSSIBLY cause blockage.

One analogy that I like to think about when considering this matter likens this conduit concept to a lens on a laser.

The word says that "God is light".

In the world around us we are surrounded by light.

The light which is all around us is scattered light.

So, what do you suppose happens when you un-scatter the light?

Instead, concentrating it into a stream of "coherent light".

Voilà!

You now have the laser beam.

Who would have thought that by bringing all of the light waves into one single wavelength we would get, what is essentially, an explosive force?

A very hot and VERY intense beam of light.

It can cut right through steel, for example.

In order to make coherent light one must run the highly reflected, diffused, and diffracted light through a series of lenses.

If there is even the slightest bit of smudge on the lenses, as the laser is pushed up to full power, everything will explode at some point.

All of that power hitting that single piece of smudging on the lens causes the destruction of the entire machine.

I use this as an analogy of our vertical relationship.

And as an example of why personal purity of heart, mind, body, and soul is so important.

It is like our Creator is providing the light which He will then shoot through us as we become the lens on the laser.

So long as everything is on low power all will seem normal.

But as the Lord above directs more power and energy into and through us, sooner or later the smudge that is in our hearts and minds will begin to interfere with our use as a conduit.

Just like the smudge on the lens of the laser, as the power running through us is increased there will come a point where it will become self-destructive.

Such that if spiritual power is to be an ultimate goal, then one must tend to carefully polishing one's internal lens on a regular basis.

To those who seek HIS power, our walk, and our thought life, and the keeping of our heart, and letting the sin "find us out" are not casual matters.

And for any who have committed themselves to spiritual warfare, as a manner of life, we must be all the more concerned with obedience to the commands of our Heavenly Father, and His blessed Son, and His Holy Spirit.

Such persons MUST be circumspect in ALL things.

Because, it is in our thought life, and in our hearts, that this war ever rages.

Remembering one of the most difficult of principles, which is that our heart is deceitful above all things (--- "and who can know it?") (see **Jeremiah 17:9**).

Such that the idea that if you just follow your heart, all will go well, will likely lead to unanticipated adverse consequences.

When we speak of warring with the flesh, we are really talking about warring with our heart and mind.

It is here where our human sickness will fester.

It is here that our satanic nature can run around, unfettered, and untamed.

A very dangerous place, indeed.

It is here where our disunion between God and man, and our inner self, will begin and end.

If the tongue is lit on fire of Gehenna/Hell, then how much more so THE SOURCE of the speech which comes flying out of our mouths during certain unguarded moments.

It is here that your sins WILL find you out.

Herein lies the swamp that is in great need of draining.

A veritable cesspool of thought which will precede action.

And one can only begin to imagine the effect of a continuous barrage of ungodly poison coming at my contemporaries from every side and every quarter.

Between the television, the movies, the radio, magazines, and pretended "news" papers it may simply become impossible to keep the lens clean.

THEREBY DESTROYING YOUR POWER!!

Such that you can have an outward form of religiosity, but while completely lacking ANY power, whatsoever.

The lens in most people's heart having become so filthy that it would be hopeless to try to run concentrated energy through it without causing the person who is the conduit to simply explode into flames and vanish.

So now, instead of a life steeped in miracle power, one is forced to seek a life of further distraction and diversion. One no longer tending to the needs of the inner person, as they are, effectively, tossed about, like floating around in a tempestuous sea after the moorings have broken loose.

They now go from one guru to the next.

From one leader of "the faithful" to the next.

From one system of belief to the next.

Until finally there remains no system, and no growth in saving faith.

Talking the talk, but having no idea how to walk the walk, having never actually done so.

So now outward conformity with man-made systems takes the place of a power-filled life of freedom and liberty in Christ.

Our freedom traded in for numerous musty old rules in which will be found no power whatsoever.

Instead one will look down to see that they are covered in chains which are so heavy as to end any possibility of flying (or, even walking) free in the Spirit.

Our concerns now becoming how to impress and please our fellow lost souls, instead of how to commune with our living God, to the exclusion of all else.

The time is so short, and the job of cleansing our inner lives of all of their inner filth so large, that there is bound to be a disconnect at some point.

There being no time to waste on doing what it takes to be spotless and without blemish, in boldness, as we come to stand before Him as He comes in flaming judgment (see **Ephesians 5:27**).

Every second that is wasted on our all-too-human diversions and distractions causing us to have that much less time to get it right.

This being one of the main problems with "Churchianity".

It being, fundamentally, THE ULTIMATE DISTRACTION AND DIVERSION.

For now, instead of listening to that tiny little quiet voice at the back of our head (see **I Kings 19:7-18**), we are continuously bombarded with everything except that.

Instead of seeking guidance from our Heavenly Father on a breath by breath basis, we look to our fellow humans for our instructions and directions.

Again, the more we are doing this, the less time we have to deal with Him, and with His spirit.

The more we listen to man, the further we are removing ourselves from the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

More man, less God. Oh, but how ironic can it get, as you are actually moving further and further away from Him, you are becoming more and more of a master at outward religiosity.

Yes, the very one that is totally lacking in power.

Our lens has become so smudged by the cares of this world and the things of man pleasing that very little power can be run through this conduit without causing it to fracture into many numerous tiny pieces.

But outwardly, more religious than ever.

Maybe even more zealous of whatever particular cult or cultic center than ever.

This is how the ubiquitous building fund and fraudulent missionary work comes to take top place in our hierarchy of values, as we zealously build cult centers, and parking lots, and promote picnics and barbecues, and "Christianized" worldliness and fleshliness. The hearts which are deceitful above all things leading the way down the road to perdition as we live for the commands of man, more and more to the disregarding of the voice of the Holy Spirit, WHICH IS FINALLY STILLED ALTOGETHER.

As I am so busy worrying about "saving souls for Jesus" (which is the office of the Holy Spirit, and not man, never forget) and "planting churches" (i.e. buying real estate and getting others to pay for it) that I soon enough forget my first love (see Revelation 2:4-5), as true religion steadily decays, moment by moment, into commercialized religion (\$\$\$), which will, ultimately, be found to be of very little use.

As I am told by my spiritual slavemasters all that I must do to promote their own earthly desires, and ambitions, and demands, more and more to the exclusion of doing that which I ought to be doing, instead,

SOON ENOUGH, TIME WILL RUN OUT!! And what was thought to be a good way to go turns out to be the exact opposite of everything we first thought and hoped it to be.

A slow and insidious process, made all the more destructive by virtue of such.

Rite and ritual having replaced internal cleansing, as my soul becomes more and more complacent, as I soon enough feel the cold chill of impending death and judgment, for which I find myself completely unready, in no small part due to the very persons who pretended to be paving my way to heavenly glory.

That is to say, ultimately fatal to our spiritual well-being.

Yes, FATAL distractions and diversions.

Working stealthily to undermine the TRUE POWER and TRUE GODLINESS, without spot or blemish, before Him at His judgment seat.

And what a loss that is going to be.

ON PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

The Word tells us that we should "pray without ceasing" (see I Thessalonians 5:17).

I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have heard supposed (or should I say, pretended) pastors and ministers tell their little flock, that this is to be taken figuratively.

Because, "anyone knows that this is simply impossible to do".

I not only disagree, but, rather, in terms of **true religion**, I believe that this is the single most important concept that there is (aside from loving one another with self-sacrificial love, as a lifestyle).

What has happened is that they have confused petitioning with continuous intellectual and spiritual intercourse, because they fundamentally think of their religion as a way to make connection with some great Santa Claus in the sky (Bacchus?).

Therefore, prayer IS petition, so far as they are concerned.

It is this same mentality which will read out of some stale old prayer book and expect that this will have any power to get ANYTHING accomplished.

For most of us it is during times of intense emotional and mental and physical anguish that we actually learn how to pray in a way which can be pleasing to our Lord, God, and Creator.

This being one of the unexpected benefits of a life full of crisis.

I think of times when the life of a loved one is hanging in the balance.

Or a time when I am trapped, alone, in the wilderness.

Or during very imminent wholesale destruction, e.g. being on a sinking ship, with water up to your ankles, or having a huge storm bearing down on you with certain death and judgment written all over it.

That which causes us to say that "there are no atheists in the middle of a huge storm" as their ship begins taking on serious amounts of water.

Trapped like a rat.

And knowing that the time is quickly approaching for a reckoning with your ultimate reality, WHATEVER that may be.

So far I have been talking about WHAT prayer is.

Now, let's look at HOW.

The word says that the fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much (see **James 5:16**).

Notice the kind of prayer which is spoken of.

Fervent prayer.

Intense prayer.

Focused prayer.

And not just any old person doing the praying.

But a righteous person.

A person who stands RIGHT before God (sounds like a consecrated life to me).

But, this is really not what I am talking about when I talk about praying without ceasing.

Here, I am speaking of something, which is, indeed, rooted in the same ideas of high intensity and right living, but the "without ceasing" part tells us that this must be something which we can do continuously, at all times, and in all manner of circumstances.

In order to be done "without ceasing" it seems that it must be done in a manner which does NOT require us to stop everything until finished.

Rather, my idea is, that what is being spoken of here, is an inner conversation with our God.

One that goes on continuously.

As an example, in my own (idealized) life I know that I converse with our God and his blessed Son nearly every minute of every day. I have trained myself to monitor every single thought, as it originates.

And then to weigh it and analyze it.

And then begins the discussion with our Lord, above.

Sometimes I am in a monologue form, as if reciting a soliloquy, while at other times I believe that the Lord takes part in a two-way conversation.

And at still other times our Lord will show me object lessons by which He challenges my thoughts.

Sometimes to make a point, and at other times to show me either how right or how wrong I am, or have become.

The word of God says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen" (see **Hebrews 11:1**).

It is faith (belief) which becomes saving faith, by means of an ongoing process.

Note how it says "substance" and "evidence".

Faith is not blind faith.

It is NOT something for which we have no empirical experience or evidence (empirical = by use of the five senses).

This is where our prayer life really begins to more fully come into play.

It is where our Lord can and does make Himself known to us.

As He shows Himself more and more, we will respond more and more.

Upon realizing that our living God provides us with guidance, we learn to seek that guidance.

And, soon enough, a strong believer will become dependent upon that guidance.

It being a sort of a feedback loop.

More asking and waiting on the Lord turns into more refined guidance, which turns into more dependence upon that guidance, which is now causing our God to become very real to us.

Faith/belief becoming stronger by virtue of this process.

As can be readily imagined, it will not take long before your internal relationship with our living God becomes something which you cherish so greatly that you want to do nothing that will interfere with that.

As we draw closer to Him we become more and more desirous of pleasing Him (see **John 14:15**).

We being no longer driven and motivated by rules and regulations, but by intense and very real self-sacrificial love.

God IS love.

And to be in His presence is to know love.

To have His love directed toward our innermost being will cause a resonance deep within, as we become less worldly/carnally minded, and begin to reflect His heavenly glory with each and every thought, deed, and action (see **John 3:30**).

Our thought life begins to matter more and more to us as we soon enough realize that this is where the real battleground lies.

We learn, by experience, and by our union/contact with Him, that we must take every thought into captivity, and that we must subject it, before it subjects us (see **II Corinthians 2:5**).

We learn to take each aberrant and abhorrent thought at its very genesis, and to lay it upon the altar within our soul in order to reframe it, or to destroy it, along with its power over our future actions.

We thereby learning of spiritual warfare.

No overt action being allowed until we have contained and isolated the thought, and then taken it before our Heavenly Father for close examination and scrutiny.

Ever seeking our Lord's guidance.

This is real prayer life.

Not some reciting of poetry, and incantation-like formulae, but an ongoing discourse and seeking for instruction and illumination coming from Him who created us, and who well knows our inner parts and how they have become so perverse.

Now, instead of flailing about and never knowing what is going on in us and around us, we grow more deeply in love with He who guides us and is willing to come and reason with us regarding our apparently sordid and pathetic condition (see Isaiah 1:18). Always wanting to please, but never being able to.

Always wanting to do right, but with wrong, somehow, always coming to predominate, just when we thought we had it all worked out.

Thousands of good intentions being wiped out in an instant.

Because we should have stopped and sought counsel from Him, instead of acting while unchecked, and following some fatal inner impulse to our own immediate and oftentimes permanent undoing.

Two choices standing before us.

One being to stop and wait on our Heavenly Father to lead us and to give us His input, while the other choice is to just go forward without stopping and waiting.

Without seeking His guidance.

And without waiting on Him, while flying headlong into our own ultimate and very sure undoing and destruction.

Can you see, dear reader, why our prayer life MUST be continuous?

If I am NOT praying without ceasing, how can this process continuously take place?

Less internal discourse, while actions take place, which should have been dealt with long before they became actions.

It REALLY being "pray without ceasing", or face the consequences of utter ruination, caused by our fallen nature becoming our guide, in place of His heavenly wisdom and guidance.

In this regard, allow me to remind you of the process by which we grow in grace and saving faith. We first "let our sin find us out" (Numbers 32:23).

This is your thought life.

As we think deeply, we begin to realize that all is not well deep down inside of us.

We, therefore, allow and encourage the Holy Spirit to put the light on this darkness within.

Instead of running from it, and hiding from it, we work hard to bring it out into the open, where we can take a good, long, hard look at it.

We bring it to the altar, before our loving and forgiving God Almighty, and we examine it closely, TOGETHER.

We "come and reason together" (see Isaiah 1:18) as we plead with our Heavenly King to help us to understand and come to terms with our own colossal failings.

We don't play games.

And we don't play hide and seek.

This ongoing process being far too important to allow it to degenerate into fake sanctimoniousness, based upon our utter denial of our own true inward condition.

We acknowledge our wrongness with forthrightness.

What the word terms as "confessing your sins" (see I John 1:9).

That is, **to be "homologeo"**, in the original Greek (pronounced "homo-lo-GEE-oh").

"Homo" meaning same, while "logeo" means word, idea, or saying.

We are to be at one word with Him (acknowledging).

Meaning that we are both calling sin the same thing.

We both agreeing that I am coming up short, and have completely "missed the mark" (the actual meaning of sin = an archery term).

No whitewashing.

No pretending.

No make-believe.

No saying that bad is good, or that black is white, or that down is up.

No moral relativism i.e. it's okay, because of --- whatever carnal circumstance.

God is light.

And in him is no darkness at all.

Not a lot of room for moral relativism.

He is unchanging.

What is wrong now is not going to somehow become okay because of --- whatever.

Upon completion of our truthful acknowledgment of our utter innermost failing the Word tells us that our Lord will separate this sin from off of us.

This being the meaning of the word "aphiemi" (pronounced "ah-FEE-ay-mee"), which is translated "forgive".

He being faithful to forgive.

Meaning faithful to lift this sin off of us, or to separate us from it.

Thereby freeing us from the bondage which our shortcomings are sure to put us into.

This is the framework of our prayer life.

Because our thoughts, deeds, and actions are continuous, so must be our taking of them into captivity.

So long as you're thinking is taking place, the above-referenced process must also be taking place. Continuous thoughts creating the need for continuous discourse with our Heavenly Father.

Praying continuously without ceasing, without which, we will continuously suffer consequences of our failure to do so.

Soon enough realizing that **not only is it possible to pray without ceasing, it is imperative**!!

As an illustration of this process
I would like to digress for just a moment
to share with you something
we have only recently learned,
thanks to modern medical imaging
of the human brain.

It seems that as you formulate thought, tissue is created, which corresponds to that thought and thinking.

Many will be familiar with the concept of synapse formation in nerves.

Every long term memory requiring long term synapse creation and maintenance.

As we get older our memories begin to fail us because our synapses are being made and maintained less and less.

First the short term memory fails, then the long-term memory, as the synapses begin to degenerate more and more with each passing day.

But, what you probably didn't know, and haven't seen, is that within several hours after thinking fresh thoughts a little sphere appears along the length of a nerve fiber (the nerve fiber = a dendritic spine).

It looks like a little grape.

It rises up from inside the dendritic spine and forms a little bulb which now sits on the outside of the nerve fiber.

While you thought it was fleeting and gone, it is, instead, contained inside that little sphere.

That sphere will later form into the long term structure of memory.

One can only imagine that if that sphere contains good thoughts, then the more the better.

But what if it contains thoughts of torture, murder, rape and plunder, as so many do in THIS day and age?

What will happen as more and more of THESE little spheres are piled on top of one another?

One can only shudder to think about such a matter.

Soon enough the thoughts will rule you, instead of you ruling them.

I see this little sphere attached to the nerve fiber when I think of the power of continuous, ongoing spiritual intercourse with our heavenly Creator.

If that little sphere represents my giving in to evil, then I will want to minimize the effects of its existence.

Better yet, I should want to make it non-existent.

I will want it lifted off of me, and separated from me, just as our blessed Lord and Savior has promised to do.

That little node showing to me that our thoughts will inevitably have consequence, just as surely as they have a physical storage space inside my cranium.

Now, the reason that I am telling you about these things is because I think that they give a useful way to visualize what the process is by which one is more able to take control of one's thought life in order to make good use of matters discussed above.

If I can visualize a disgusting thought forming itself into one of those little nodes, I can also imagine myself not allowing that little node to even form in the first place.

I have a way to visualize, in my mind's eye, what it is that is taking place, and to take control of the process.

Instead of amorphous, fleeting thoughts, here now, and then gone, a moment from now, and of no immediate concern once out of my mind, and of even less consequence, I have a way of becoming cognizant of the fact that my thought life DOES have consequence, thereby causing me to be much more alert and guarded than I otherwise would be.

As I think about those hideous little bulbs sprouting up inside my head, I find myself much more motivated to take control of my thought life.

It is out of the heart that the issues of life proceed, and it is out of the heart that the mouth speaketh (see Proverbs 4:23 and Matthew 12:34-36).

Therefore, if I want all to go well, I realize that I must diligently and VERY consistently deal with what is in my heart/mind.

No more wild devil's playground, while thinking that it really does not matter.

Instead of just allowing my thoughts to go crazy inside my head, I will actively and aggressively attack any which I feel to be offensive to my God, and will put a forceful and immediate stop to the process of internal degeneration by **taking it to the Lord in prayer**.

Thinking without ceasing, causing praying without ceasing.

No longer a secret, hidden battleground.

But, instead my mind has become a place of refuge, and peace, and respite.

A place where I may escape from the clamor of this world, which is going on all about me, virtually non-stop.

My mind now having become an oasis in an otherwise arid wilderness, where I may go and spend time with my best and most favorite friend and mentor, to discuss how I may overcome the numerous obstacles which are nearly continuously placed in my path by Satan and his minions.

Where others cannot stand silence, while seeking continuous mental distraction, so that they don't even ever have to deal with themselves, I thrive on stillness and quietness, so that I may go deep inside my own mind, soul, and spirit in order to consider deep things, and to commune with my beloved Savior.

Remembering that the object of my faith is to become more like Him (see Romans 8:29).

As John the Baptist so well stated the matter, "He must increase and I must decrease" (see John 3:30).

Such is the case in my thought life.

More of Him and less of me.

More focus on what I believe my wonderful Lord will find to be pleasing, with far less concern about entertaining the overly numerous, ever present demands of the flesh, which cause me to become a reprehensible object of utter disgust, within my own self. And now, instead of getting a little bit sicker with each passing minute,
I am learning to become a warrior and an overcomer.

Instead of being full of fear and trepidation, I become more and more full of God-given power and wisdom from above.

A life of growth replacing a life of degeneration, and the making of an eternal bond with my eternal Creator.

All of the negatives of life being slowly, but very steadily, replaced by positives and positivism.

As life becomes uglier and more brutal, senseless, and meaningless to many others, my life takes on new meaning with each additional day which our Lord is kind enough to gift me with.

A life of thanksgiving replacing a life of pretended entitlement, with all of the disappointment which that is bound to cause.

A world of despair and uncertainty being replaced by a world of magical wonder and knowledge of blessedness.

Unfortunately, much of our time is NOT spent in perfect union with our Lord.

At times we will quietly drift away, often without even realizing it.

At other times we will find the cares of the moment far outweigh our ability to do what we know to be right (Matthew 13:22), while we instead embrace evil, quite knowingly and willingly.

There are most certainly numerous times when we can become obstinate and half-hearted, if not downright willful and disobedient.

Instead of being a sweet savor unto our Lord, we can become a stench in his nostrils.

Finally, upon realizing the error of our ways and the absurdity of our position, at war with our Creator, and even within our own selves, we must learn the meaning of penance and penitential prayer.

When our sorrow is real, our need to attempt to restore fellowship with our God also becomes very real.

Soon enough we shall find ourselves on our knees, crying out for mercy, as a recalcitrant sinner, in utter bondage to open rebellion, our baser nature having gained the upper hand, if but for even one moment (see Luke 18:13).

Suddenly we find ourselves at a distance from that to which we desire to draw near.

Upon realizing the error of our ways we seek to restore the fellowship which once tasted and felt so good.

A true believer cannot go for very long in opposition without feeling that dreaded loss of fellowship.

It is at this juncture that one will cry out for mercy, as if lost in a barren wilderness of our own making.

As we become grieved by the very grievousness which we have become, we will cry out in utter shame, while begging for mercy, as we all too suddenly go from a feeling of strength to a feeling of utter helplessness and despair, as if irretrievably lost.

I believe that everyone has areas in their life where they have less than complete mastery.

Areas in which we live in total weakness and failure.

As we meet up with "that sin that doth so easily beset us", everything which I have been telling thus far begins to come into play with full force (see **Hebrews 12:1**).

First, we will fail even to recognize what is happening to us, being so much more familiar with outright rebellion than with humble obedience.

Then, upon realizing what IS happening we find ourselves denying the reality and the seriousness of our actions, as we begin to make excuses, and seek rationalizations and justifications.

Telling ourselves how it is not really so bad, or that it will just be this one time, not yet realizing that we are refusing to acknowledge our sin and our sinfulness.

As we refuse to be "homologeo" (i.e. at one word), it will not take long before we realize our loss of fellowship with God and Christ, as we grieve the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Soon enough we believe that God has abandoned us, not yet realizing that it is us who are abandoning Him, if but only for a season, as our sin has not yet found us out, our earthly existence and the cares of this wicked world far outweighing our ability to sense the full gravity of our present course of action. If we truly are children of God, then at some point the Holy Spirit will prick our heart, as we suddenly realize the perilous position we have so stupidly put ourselves into.

Truly it is time to stop everything and to stop moving further and further away from His light, as we stupidly and ignorantly feel that we have been abandoned, in spite of the fact that we are the one doing the abandoning.

This being our constant and continuous war with the world, the flesh, and the devil (see I John 2:16).

As we more fully come to realize that the flesh must truly be put to death daily (see I Corinthians 15:31 and Galatians 5:24), if we are ever to successfully continue on our spiritual quest, and to gain the mastery over our own very unruly heart (Jeremiah 17:9),

then we will need to come more fully to realize our need to get down on our knees and to cry out for mercy, and to begin, yet once again, the restorative process.

Being careful not to confuse repentance with penance.

The one being a change of direction, while the other consists of heartfelt sorrow and remorse.

I, suspecting that the sorrow will have to come first, before the change of course is likely to take effect.

Because our Lord, and our ongoing relationship with Him, is most precious to us, we will stop everything until we get this matter right, as we are forced to come to terms with the deeper meaning of "true religion". A process by which we are changed from a wretched creature, unable to see its own wretchedness, into a blessed creature unable to even desire to live without continuous and vital union with our Creator, and His blessed Son, and His Holy Spirit.

World without end.

Amen.

MESSIANISM

Messiah is a person who was prophesied.

The word Messiah means "to be anointed".

It has the same meaning as the word "Christos" in New Testament Greek.

There is nothing new about what most people will refer to as "Christianity".

Most people have no idea that when they use this word, "Christ", that they are actually saying "Messiah", such that Christianity = Messianism.

While the life of Jesus of Nazareth can be said to have taken place approximately 2000 years ago, the idea of which it is the fulfillment goes all the way back to the writings of Moses, about 1200 years before that!

First in a promise that is said to have been made to Eve in the Garden of Eden (see **Genesis 3:13-15**) and known as the **proto evangelium**.

And then again in **Deuteronomy chapter 18** where one like unto Moses is prophesied (see **Deuteronomy 18:15-22**).

One need look no further than the ancient mythologies to discover this theme of a coming "super-being".

He is found again and again in stories of heroes and demi-gods.

Such beliefs permeating the entire ancient world for millennia prior to Moses.

That is to say, there appears to have been an oral tradition, which preceded the written traditions, and which circulated alongside the first known cuneiform writings.

Having so many similarities with one another that moderns try to pretend that the later writings (Moses) are merely retellings of the same earlier (Sumerian) stories and writings.

Rather than realizing that there is, likely, one original and earlier source, from which both came, which branched out into

numerous localized variants, they, instead, pretending that the one is merely a plagiarized replication of the other.

I am, of course, mainly referring to the so-called "**Noah stories**" of ancient Sumero/Babylon, as being an excellent example of this process.

Sadly, solely due to apparent modern social biases, it is disingenuously claimed that the **Noah story** of Genesis is merely a retelling of the **Sumero/Babylonian mythological stories of Utnapishtim, Ziusudra, Atrahasis, and Gilgamesh**.

Their methodological basis being deeply flawed, with reasoning that looks only at similarities, but never at the differences.

The earlier tellings being full of mythological ideas such as being able to swim to the bottom of the deepest seas, or to fly into outer space on the back of an eagle.

Lots of magical actions and magico/religious thinking.

After all, these are people who are claimed to be half-man and half-god, such that they are only barely constrained by the physical limitations which both you and I take for granted.

A reading of the story of Genesis being a far cry from the Sumero/Babylonian tradition.

No magic.

Just a big barge loaded with animals, with exact measurements of the various depth soundings, along with numerous exact measurements of time.

Reading much more like a modern historical account, than ANYTHING you will find in the extant writings preceding it. Such that one must ask oneself, which is more likely?

that an oral tradition becomes
 MORE precise and detailed over time?

or

2. less precise and detailed?

Of course, to ask it is to answer it.

After all, it IS self-evident, if nothing else, that fireside tales generally get wilder and wilder with each telling and re-telling.

Actual measurements and other such details being relegated to somewhere other than the retelling of the story.

In this regard I should like to note a couple of matters regarding oral traditions.

The ancients would sing their stories, tell their stories, dance their stories, and act out their stories in cultic rituals.

It is because of these things that the ideas of the moderns regarding the unreliability of oral and ancient traditions have little or no merit, whatsoever. My favorite example of this inherent conservatism is the religion of Old Kingdom Egypt, as compared with Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom Egypt.

There being 3000 years of continuous history, with plenty of material remains to study.

Based upon the ideas of our contemporaries, one would expect to see a tremendous variety of beliefs and ideas.

But, such is, most certainly, NOT the case.

It is, rather the consistency which stands out, so conspicuously.

Thereby demonstrating the incredible conservatism of this process.

It is because the moderns pretend that ignorant and foolish storytellers just made all of this stuff up while sitting around campfires and entertaining little children, that they believe that there will be embellishment upon embellishment, the one laid upon the other, each time it is retold.

But, this is not how the process is KNOWN to have taken place.

The main ingredient, which is all too casually "forgotten", is that the story is considered to be important enough, by an entire culture, that they feel a need to have a reliable way to transmit the data, from one generation to the next, while maintaining continuity of all important and consequential material facts.

Yes, the story begins with facts, and real life historical events, considered to be so important that cultic rituals and re-enactments become commonplace memory devices amongst ALL such systems.

The process being innately conservative as can be, as amply demonstrated by the history of 3000 years of ancient Egyptian religions.

These being just the opposite of what you are told how it should be.

I would suggest that it is this same process, here, by which Egyptian religion maintained its form for three millennia, which was used in order to communicate/transfer the oral traditions, through multiple generations, for the most part intact, prior to the writing of the Hebrew alphabet.

The reason why I am bringing this up is because the book of Genesis makes reference to an apparently oral tradition, which began in the Garden of Eden i.e. the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent, but will have his heel bruised as a result thereof (see Genesis 3:15); along with God clothing Adam and Eve with animal skins, requiring shedding of blood, while providing a covering, which is, after all, the meaning of atonement (see Genesis 3:21).

This being followed by another oral tradition, concerning Cain and Abel, wherein a sin offering was said to lay at Cain's door (see **Genesis 4:7**), and wherein Cain's works were rejected, while Abel's apparent faith (i.e. not works) WAS found to be acceptable (see **Genesis 4:4-5**).

Followed by Noah's bringing seven of certain kinds of sacrificial animals into the Ark (see Genesis 7:2), and his building an altar, after landing, while making animal sacrifice to He who had saved him from the worldwide deluge (see Genesis 8:20).

Some call it "**the scarlet thread**", which runs through both the Old and New Testaments, while thereby tying them together into one book (i.e. joined together by the blood of Christ).

Showing the need for shedding of blood as an atonement (i.e. a covering) for sin.

The theme of "the suffering servant" (see **Isaiah 53**) running all the way through the Holy Spirit-inspired writings, from one end to the other.

Nevertheless, in regard to seeing and understanding such matters, one must continuously remember that spiritual things are spiritually discerned (see I Corinthians 2:14), which means no indwelling Holy Spirit results in no spiritual discernment.

This being why so many men are unable to see or tell the difference between the writings of the Apostles and those of pretended rabbis/teachers and sages, along with their far too numerous progeny.

You cannot report about what you cannot see.

And you cannot see when you don't have eyes to see with.

And herein lies the problem.

Natural men, as brute beasts, pretending to some kind of life outside of Christ, while actually being dead and blind in sin and trespass (see **Ephesians 2:5-9**), and while actually having no idea that such truly is the case!

Uglier than sin, while believing that they are beauty personified.

A stench in the nostrils, while pretending to be a sweet savor unto the Lord.

First, they must remake Christ into their own image (see II Corinthians 1:4), and then come up with a new "gospel message" of financial security, and money raining from heaven, and goodies for everybody i.e. mammon worship (mammon means material goods).

And, of course, this **all being animated by another spirit**.

Not God's Spirit, but man's.

Man's Christ.

Man's good news.

And man's spirit.

A very unholy trinity if ever there was one.

The number of man(6) stated 3 times = 666 = deified man, the number of the beast (see **Revelation 13:18**).

Human man-made temporal system versus God's God-made eternal system.

Therein lie the real lines of demarcation.

Oh, and don't forget, how they will load up their conversation with the same words which have become so dear to you and me from our reading of the Old and New Testaments, but giving them different meanings which are very different from those intended by the languages, and by contemporaneous common usage thereof (i.e. grammatico/historical context).

Such that you think you are both talking about the same thing, but you most certainly are not.

And then speak of "love", and call people "brother" and "sister", and take on all kinds of chameleon-like attributes, designed for nothing less than to deceive the real sheep into believing that these are, indeed, truly, part of the selfsame flock.

Wolves in sheep's clothing whited sepulchres clouds without rain a blot stains tares (stealthily planted by "the enemy").

These are but a few of the names by which they are readily identifiable for any who are willing to look just a little bit closer.

Then as people wake up and complain of what a fraud has been perpetrated upon them, these can be heard to tell all about the imminent demise of our faith, while complaining that their pews are no longer full, but are, instead, empty.

Failing to even begin to recognize that people no longer flocking to their "cultic disinformation centers" is one of the best things that can happen for all of the rest of us.

Yes,

"get out of her my people --lest you partake of her plagues",
is what I remember hearing from on high
(see Revelation 18:4).

Messiah means to be anointed with oil.

"Christos" is the Greek form of the word.

Hence, as stated above,

Messianism and Christ-ianity

are actually one and the same thing.

Both looking forward to the coming of a person who is said to have been anointed.

For that is the core meaning of the words.

One who is anointed, as the Old Testament kings of old were anointed with oil before taking office (see **I Samuel 10:1**).

They were anointed by a man.

But this One will be anointed by no less than the Creator, Himself.

A human, anointed as a king, by God, instead of by man.

Never forget this.

(Ungodly) men love to create much confusion by throwing around the words Christ, Jesus, Christian, church, grace, faith, and such like.

They will add many new meanings and shades of meaning, while avoiding the actual definition as if it never existed.

Messiah and Christ are words whose real relevance exists long before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Looking FORWARD to a day when God's earthly representative would take up His throne amongst fallen man.

This is the promise.

In **Deuteronomy chapter 18** Moses prophecies that God will send a prophet, like unto Moses.

And that whoever refuses to listen to Him will be held accountable (see **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**).

That is the promise.

The Heavenly Father will make Himself manifest.

He will walk amongst men and will talk amongst men, but will be soundly rejected, scorned, and ultimately slaughtered by the very persons who claim to be his good friends.

Ouch!!

That is the Messianic promise.

A redeemer.

A deliverer.

A substitutionary sacrifice on behalf of fallen, wicked man.

That is the promise.

Which first started as an oral tradition, with reverberations throughout all of the ancient mythologies, and especially the so-called hero myths, which then awaited the invention

of an alphabetic language, from cuneiform, to Phoenecian, to Hebrew, to Greek, in order to add much more detail, which was now more permanently recorded in a written form.

For 500 years of Persian ascendancy our God providentially saw to the building of the Eastern roads by which this alphabetic writing would be able to freely spread.

After which the Western roads were built by the Greeks and Romans, until the entire ancient world found itself covered with a huge road network by which Paul and the Apostles would be able to freely travel from one end of the known world to the other.

Thus bringing about the fulfillment of promise, by making the communications system come into existence, by which this gospel (good news) would be spread and communicated to all to whom the Lord had ordained from before the foundation of the world, in "the fullness of the times" (see Galatians 4:4-5 and Ephesians 2:10).

Nothing left to chance, as the Lord God Omnipotent effectually carried His desires into effect, in spite of much opposition from Satan and his followers (see **Isaiah 55:11**).

A war which is being fought continuously, while you and I are barely aware, even if at all, as to what is taking place all around us, on every side.

So, again, I must ask, rhetorically, but of course, what is Messianism?

It is the waiting for this person to come to this Earth and make His presence known.

It is the fact that provision has been made, and that every detail has been, or will be, caused to take place, under the direction of the Highest Power.

Messianism is the believing in, and looking forward to, the revealing of the Son of God in human flesh.

The revealing of the God-man, as king over all the earth, and all created beings.

It is the waiting and watching for this supernatural person to become manifest.

We looking for one who is anointed by our Father who Art in Heaven, as his earthly manifestation and representation, containing the fullness of the Godhead bodily (see Colossians 2:9).

Because He is supernatural, it would only naturally be expected that His earthly presence would be surrounded by the supernatural.

A supernatural being surrounded by supernatural goings on.

The revealing of "the One" who was prophesied from ancient times.

A person who would most definitely STAND OUT from the rest of the crowd.

A Messianic expectation (see, for examples, John 4:25–26, John 1:19-22, Matthew 1:22-23, and Matthew 2:1-8).

So, Messianism begins with a promise, and expectation, and finally, a fulfillment, in the form of an extraordinary being.

And of course, with all of the controversy that can and will surround such a series of claims and beliefs, before, during, and after the fact of the revealing of such an entity.

This, of course, includes our recognition of, and response to, this series of events.

For once one becomes cognizant, one becomes responsible, and hopefully, responsive.

Watching and waiting.

Searching and seeking.

Until the Son of God is finally and fully revealed to us in this world.

Awaiting His coming.

Accordingly, men diligently searched the prophetic writings for clues as to who it would be, and when.

Where He would come from.

How one would recognize Him.

And how one could or would tell Him from numerous deceivers, and pretended messiahs.

Satan did not sleep during all of this.

Being the deceiver that he is (the father of lies; see John 8:44) it didn't take him long to start creating false prophets, and false religions, and false messiahs.

All with just enough truth to trick the unwary.

Many world religions and philosophies and belief systems were created by the dark lord to turn many away from the truth So that they may pay homage to him and his system of lies and half-truths, and obfuscations, and changing of the plain meaning of words.

Such that one is so inundated with false signals that it would seem to be hopeless to know Messiah when seeing Him.

You can hear the same lies every day, right now, as people claim that Jesus of Nazareth is an avatar, or a prophet, being just like Buddha, or Mohammed.

Then, because our Heavenly Father chose to give us a BOOK for guidance, now everyone else has a book of their own, to compete with the Holy Spirit-inspired (God-breathed) writings.

Rites and rituals which were created as models and types of things to come (e.g. the temple and animal sacrifice) become a part of this panoply of ideas.

Because the seed of a woman was promised, all of a sudden every single
Satan-inspired mimicry
has a mother and child of its own.

With statues of same being created early on, and then being clothed, "fed", and carried about in idol processions, and worshipped by all, even unto this very day.

Now, all of a sudden, there are stories of creatures that are claimed to be half-human and half-god (demigods) sprouting up all over the place.

Stories of God-like heroes abounding on every side.

Through means of cross-cultural exchange, soon enough, every culture has some kind of similar sets of stories, all claiming to originate from some source of ultimate truth.

And no end of soothsayers, and prognosticators, and all of their huckster enablers, all trying to make a living (\$\$\$) off of their pretended secret knowledge. Create so many lookalikes, and sound-alikes, that it becomes a seemingly overwhelming task to even begin to untangle this web of deceit and lies and misdirection and confusion.

Whereby Satan causes the hope which comes from the promise to turn into hopelessness and despair, and a feeling of never being able to ascertain which is truth and which is fiction.

The hopelessness which causes one to throw one's hands up into the air, as one decides to just reject all of it, all at once.

Living in ignorance and despair seeming to be far more desirous than this state of affairs.

Noting that this model of confusion has worked so well that it was used for thousands of years before, and now thousands of years after, the revealing of Messiah. Slight permutations from system to system, but all essentially the same when looked upon more closely.

So much so that **comparative mythology** has become an object for study in which the things in common are shown to be numerous and widespread.

One does not even have any idea how to even begin to untie this "Gordian knot".

And with all of the religious "helpers" assisting you, each claiming to be divinely inspired and authoritative, things become even more hopeless, as I begin to despair just from describing it here.

This being why I make such a marked distinction between the man-made religions versus God-made truth from above.

When everyone has a different opinion, while all claim to be equally authoritative, there are bound to be problems with numerous divisions and schisms having become the order of the day.

Numerous false Christs, false messiahs, and false systems all competing for your very limited attention and lifespan.

With hopelessness posing as divine guidance, each and every step of the way.

So, what to do?

By continuous seeking you shall find.

By continuous asking it shall be answered.

By continuous knocking it shall be opened to you (see Matthew 7:7-8). ---

and behold I send you the Paraclete (literally the one called to your side i.e. the Holy Spirit) who will show you all things and bring them to remembrance (see **John 14:16** and **John 14:26**).

Sola scriptura

Sola fide

Sola gratia

that is,
solely by scripture
solely by faith
and solely by grace

This was the battle cry of the Reformers during what has come to be known as the Protestant Reformation, following centuries of having been clearly led astray by their fellow co-religionists, who had replaced Scripture with "tradition".

Replaced living faith with pretended faith, being blind faith in manmade doctrines, like transubstantiation.

My faith in God now having been turned into faith in man, by those who claim to be turning bread into flesh, and wine into blood, by use of magical rites and incantations, so that they may cause you to bow down, and to idolatrously worship their "wafer god".

The fact that chemical analysis shows that no such transformation, or any transformation at all, has actually taken place by means of these pretended sacrificial rites and magical incantations, causing purveyors of this system to cry out that one must blindly believe what they are being told, and then pretending that this is what scriptural faith is.

Of course, no such usage of the Greek word translated "faith" (belief) can be shown to exist in the New Testament.

So that they now claim that believing in their magical abilities is a matter of deeper "faith", and that God has demanded that you turn off your (God-given) critical faculties, and just believe in these fairytales and ungodly concoctions which are being purveyed by them.

Always for a price (\$\$\$).

Bought and paid for in gold and silver, and precious objects, seemingly without end, but of course.

A "huckster heaven", if ever there was one.

So now stupid blind ignorance is held up as a virtue, as the plain meaning of words are subtly and craftily changed to suit the purposes of those who would "lord it over" their fellow man, to the detriment of ALL living creatures, as it turns out.

So, faith, which is simple "belief", has been turned, ever so subtly, into a system of works. While the Apostle Paul is abundantly clear that grace and works are mutually exclusive (see Romans 11:6), that can simply be disregarded as just another man's opinion, because we have loads and loads of tradition which says otherwise.

And grace (unmerited favor) is no longer grace (see **Ephesians 2:8** – faith is a gift of God).

For now it is not something given freely, which is the plain meaning of the word, but is now pretended to be the means by which one is to pull oneself up by one's own bootstraps, as grace now becomes a debt owed to us, because of our good works.

And now, all of a sudden, good works become working for their cult of Maryolotry, which they now further claim to be the one and only true religion/system.

A rather ridiculous claim in light of Scripture and history.

For how did the Romanist system of the western empire rise to such pretended primacy and ascendancy, anyhow?

Oh, by means of excommunicating and murdering as many as possible who belonged to the Eastern Othodoxy and original system, in what has come to be known in history as "The Great Schism of 1054".

Yes, declare all of the "others"
to be schismatics and heretics,
and simply excommunicate
and murder them all,
and voilà, suddenly the Greek New Testament,
which text was being protected by
Greek speaking persons
of the Eastern and original
and oldest assemblies of believers,
whose native language it is,
has been replaced by Jerome's
highly corrupted Latin Vulgate.

Nasty old Greek from the East having been replaced by the Latin vernacular of the West. A model which has served well these moderns, who now loudly proclaim that we cannot know the true and original text, with any degree of certainty, such that who knows what "version" of the Bible to believe?

So now the very Word of God is castigated, and kicked off to the sidelines as being somehow unreliable.

Confusion replacing certainty just a little bit more each day, as secular humanism (i.e. nihilism) becomes the true religion of our day, while claiming to be far more intellectually superior to those ancient superstitions of ignorant backwards people.

Such that now we have an entire society of ungodly, not-too-bright persons, who think that their Heavenly Father is "**The Great Ape**" of Heaven, and planet Earth.

And who think that life has come from non-life, without even one shred of empirical evidence, i.e. no one can show such a process taking place, or can demonstrate an actual process by which such has happened or even COULD happen!

All hypothesis and theory, replacing any kind of certainty, and then calling this "science", as they sneer down at all who aren't going for this utterly ridiculous nonsense, and, but of course, they are able to falsely point at all of the phony purveyors of false religions as their example of your only other intellectual alternative.

Two forms of unreason and nonsense being given to you as your only intellectual and spiritual choices.

A false dichotomy if ever there was one.

Is it any wonder that downright nihilism and hopelessness have become the vanguard of our age?

With secular materialism, i.e. mammon worship, and unbridled lust having become the order of the day?

And "here I stand" at this very dark hour, as I survey all of the human wreckage on every side.

Surely by it's a rotten, murderous, mammon-worshiping fruits, you should be able to see it and know it for what it truly is (see *Matthew 7:16–23*).

But, alas, such is not the case at all.

Not now, and never has been.

Lies upon lies upon lies, having become far more desirable than even the slightest amount of truth.

It is as if you are very much alone in your quest for truth.

But, not to get too upset, for such it has been from the very beginning, it would seem.

EPILOGUE

MODERN FALSE PROPHETS AND FALSE PROPHECY

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**:

Which is not another; but there be **some** that trouble you, and **would pervert the gospel of Christ**.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Acts 20:28-31

And **Enoch** also, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied of these**, saying,

Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
To execute judgment upon all,
and to convince all that are ungodly among them
of all their ungodly deeds
which they have ungodly committed,
and of all their hard speeches
which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 1:14-21

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:15-23

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Behold, I have told you before.

Wherefore **if they shall say unto you**, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, **he is in the secret chambers; believe it not**.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:21-27

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us:

but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

But **ye have an unction** from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Who is a liar but he that Jesus is the Christ?

He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning.

If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

I John 2:18-24

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government.

Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the daytime.

Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb,
The dog is turned to his own vomit again;
and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

II Peter 2:1-22

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

I Corinthians 10:1-14

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went after **Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians**,
and after **Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites**.

And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

I Kings 11: 4-11

Hear another parable:
There was a certain householder,
which planted a vineyard,
and hedged it round about,
and digged a winepress in it,
and built a tower,
and let it out to husbandmen,
and went into a far country:

And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Therefore say I unto you,

The kingdom of God shall be taken from you,

and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

And when the **chief priests and Pharisees** had heard his parables, **they perceived that he spake of them**.

But when they **sought to lay hands on him**, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Matthew 21:33-46

Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard.

My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

And **he fenced it**, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and **built a tower in the midst of it**, and also **made a winepress therein**:

and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

And now go to;

I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard:
I will take away the hedge thereof,
and it shall be eaten up;
and break down the wall thereof,
and it shall be trodden down:

And I will lay it waste:

it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Isaiah 5:1-7

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his **disciples** came to him for **to shew him the buildings of the temple**.

And Jesus said unto them, **See ye not all these things**?

verily I say unto you,

There shall not be left here one stone upon another,
that shall not be thrown down.

Matthew 24:1-2

Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Saying,

The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing:

but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.

And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of **extortion and excess**.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

And say,

If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 23:1-39

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of **the great city**, which **spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified**.

Revelation 11:8

The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls,

and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, **and souls of men**.

Revelation 18:12-13

Beloved,
believe not every spirit,
but try the spirits whether they are of God:
because
many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:

and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

I John 4:1-3

And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

And this is love, that we walk after his commandments.

This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

II John 1:5-7

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty (but thou art rich), and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:8-11

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;

behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:7-13

But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

II Corinthians 11:12-15

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ---

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith**, **the same are the children of Abraham**.

And the scripture,

foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,
In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. ---

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written,
Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ---

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.

He saith not,
And to seeds,
as of many;
but as of one,
And to thy seed,
which is Christ.

And this I say, that **the covenant**, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, **the law**, which was four hundred and thirty years after, **cannot disannul** that it should make the promise of none effect.

For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. ---

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:1; 6-9; 13-14; 16-18; 26-29

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called according to his purpose**.

For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also **called**: and whom he **called**, them he also **justified**: and whom he **justified**, them he also **glorified**.

Romans 8:28-30 the ordo salutis the order of salvation

foreknowledge predestination calling justification glorification Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children

by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he **hath made us accepted** in the beloved.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated

according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

In whom ye also trusted, after that **ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed**, **ye were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until **the redemption of the purchased possession**, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-22

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ

Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 3:4-6

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 3:17-21

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

I Thessalonians 2:14-16

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Whereunto **he called you by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

II Thessalonians 2:1-17

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

I Timothy 4:1-3

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I Timothy 6:5-12

This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come**.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for **their folly shall be manifest unto all men**, as theirs also was.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Persecutions,
afflictions,
which came unto me at Antioch,
at Iconium,
at Lystra;
what persecutions I endured:
but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 3:1 - 4:4

Modern believers are plagued by persons claiming that ancient Hebrews and Judaeans have been resurrected from destruction, and reinstated, by God, as a people, and as a newly created nation.

Claiming that there now is a distinction between the judaeans and the gentiles, contrary to the very plain teachings of the new testament scriptures (see **Galatians 3:28-29**).

These moderns, instead, preaching **another gospel** of pretended end time prophecies, now said to replace all that the mainstream churches have previously understood and taught for over two millennia.

They claim that modern
Babylonian Talmudist imposters
and Kabbalists,
whom they deceptively refer to as "jews",
are destined to be the worldwide
end time rulers of all mankind,
contrary to the plain teachings of
the Old Testament and the New Testament
prophecies and writings.

There have always been two peoples, when it comes to matters of faith, and this appears to have been so from the very start.

While the ancients looked for the Coming Christos/Messiah, as revealed in the Old Testament prophecies, and the Mosaic temple economy, moderns are quite happy to create, and attempt to institute, a replacement caricature of the ancient temple religion, and its sacrificial system.

While the ancient Mosaic sacrificial system was instituted in order to cause persons to look forward to, and to begin to comprehend and understand the significance of "Christ crucified", these modern judaizers are unable to see past their own carnality, while, instead, embracing the carnal type of that which was to come, as if it were the ultimate fulfillment, in and of itself.

There have always been two types of persons, one spiritual, and one fleshly.

While the Lord God Omnipotent spoke to the spiritual persons in the form of Old Testament prophecy, the fleshly ones had no real desire for, or taste for, the things of The Spirit.

These are the same ones who murdered the Prophets, and then set up their own counterfeit system within the already existing temple economy.

They being all too happy to take part in rites and rituals, but with little or no understanding of just exactly what it truly IS all about.

Loving to think of themselves as being "God's chosen", even while they are unfaithful as can be when it comes to matters of obedience.

The Prophets, and New Testament writers, are full of warnings and rebukes concerning these types of persons.

It is said that these persons showed no interest in the "weightier matters of the law", justice, mercy, and faith (see **Matthew 23:23**).

Taking that which was intended to free a man from spiritual bondage, while instead using it for the very opposite purpose of enslaving their fellow humans, as they continuously fleece them as if they are their own little private flock of sheep.

Justice, mercy, and faith all having been tossed aside, while, instead, demanding obedience to their own man-made systems, instituting bondage and slavery, which more and more becomes their one and only concern.

So that while the coming Messiah is actually the entire focus of the Old Testament revelations, these change that focus into their own seeking after worldly affairs (the world, the flesh, and the devil) (see **I John 2:15-16**).

They both worship the building, and the furniture, and the rites and rituals, and their own military capabilities, in the place of coming closer to our Creator in the abject humility which is appropriate to the circumstances.

Just as it was then, so it is today.

The men ending up worshiping themselves, and the works of their own hands, in place of obedience to the living, loving God.

(self-worship = **666**, the number of the beast in **Revelation 13:18** = the number of man, six, in triune form i.e. man as god = deified natural man)

So, just as today people speak of "a church" as being the building, instead of an assembly of persons inside the building, so the ancients came to regard their temple service and buildings as the true goal of their religion, to the exclusion of all else.

The flesh was warring against the spirit, with a vengeance !!

With the flesh easily prevailing and dominating, over and over again.

So that instead of looking for a new heavens and a new earth, as did Abraham and the Prophets (see **Hebrews 11:10**, **Isaiah 65:17**, **and Revelation 21**), these are perfectly happy with their current, hellish, material existence.

That is, so long as they can "prevail over" their fellow humans, whom they refer to as the goyim (cattle), and to "lord it" over them.

Two peoples from the very beginning.

One fleshly, worldly, and carnal, while the other is concerned only with how to be a sweet savor unto our Lord, with their focus being upon "that other Kingdom" (see **Hebrews 11:8-10**), the non-earthly one, for which our spiritual father Abraham was said to be searching.

That heavenly Jerusalem, which the Prophet Isaiah tells of in the last chapters of his prophetic writings.

They, instead, focusing exclusively upon the old covenant rites, rituals, and forms, while, all too conveniently forgetting that Jeremiah the Prophet told of a replacement "new covenant" (Jeremiah 31:31-34), which was to bring an end to, and replacement of, the old covenant, as also prophesied by Ezekiel (see Ezekiel 36:24-28).

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

For finding fault with them, he saith,
Behold, the days come,
saith the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For **this is the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord;

I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

And **they shall not teach** every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

In that he saith,
A new covenant,
he hath made the first old.

Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to pass away."

Hebrews 8:7-13

A new covenant was prophesied, in which we will be changed from within, and one in which we need to call no man rabbi/teacher (see I John 2:20-27), because God, Himself, will write His law upon our hearts, such that we will know right from wrong, without having to be told which is which by some man or group of men.

Radical transformative change over time was built into the original temple system, from the very beginning, from type (animal sacrifice), to fulfillment (Christ/Messiah crucified and risen from the dead), as we steadily moved from shadow and type into substanc and fulfillment, now having become actuality and reality in our daily existence.

There being no longer Judaeans nor Greek (see **Galatians 3:28-29**), but rather, those who will obey from a transformed heart, and those who will not obey.

So that where God instituted a system, which was intended to change and evolve over time, as one grows deeper in revelation coming from our Creator, so, the other became frozen in time.

As time and events progressed, with the earlier animal sacrificial system becoming less and less relevant by the day, the followers of the older covenant became more and more detached from historical reality.

Instead of desiring to continue moving forward toward our ultimate goal of spiritual union with Christos/Messiah (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; see I John 5:7), their modern counterparts want everything in the older system of animal sacrifice and temple service to return, and to permanently remain as it once long ago was.

As if wanting to go back in time to their former "glory days", instead of moving forward towards something which they apparently do not want, or care to know about.

The flesh dominating over the spirit.

The carnal and fleshly things being far more desirous to them than the things above, which they are unable to perceive with their carnal senses (see **I Corinthians 2:14**).

It appearing as though, so far as they are concerned, if it is not of the flesh, then it is of no concern or interest to them.

The worldly concerns being their only real concerns, while the otherworldly was relegated to anywhere but here and now.

Even after the twelve tribes of Israel had been ignominiously driven out of the carnal land of promise, because of their grotesque infidelity, and continuous covenant breaking (Assyrian captivity - approximately 722 b.c. Babylonian captivity - 587 b.c.
Roman destruction of Jerusalem - 71 a.d. and

the final destruction of Judah at Masada - 132 to 135 a.d.) modern imitative imposters continue to insist that they are "God's chosen", entitled to rule all of mankind, based upon twisted scripture interpretations, and pretended prophetic promises. (in this regard examine the very early prophesied destruction of Israel, see **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**; **29:16-20**; **Chapter 30**, especially vss **14-19**; **31:15-18**; **and 32:1-43**, especially vss **21-29**)

Today modern Babylonian Talmudist pretenders loudly proclaim that the land which God drove the real children of Jacob off of, actually now belongs to them

They claim to prove this by means of much twisting of the sacred scriptures (see **II Peter 3:16**).

Further proclaiming that the 2d temple, the complete, permanent, and utter destruction about which Jesus prophesied on his way to Golgotha (see Matthew 23:38 and Matthew 24:2), and which was destroyed by the covenantal God, Himself, must needs be rebuilt, as we are all forced back into submission under their yoke of bondage, if only they could have their way (10 lost tribe fantasy replayed !!).

This has spawned numerous moderns who pretend to be bringing about the end of this world, and the consummation of the ages, as they wait for some pretended "rapture", (see Matthew 24:26-27), followed by a restoration of the Old Testament temple economy, complete with blasphemous animal sacrifice, in utter rejection of the once-for-all ultimate sacrifice (see Hebrews 10:10) of our loving Messiah, who laid down his life for his sheep.

They seeming to be under the influence of strong delusion (see **II Thessalonians 2:11**), "that they should believe the lie".

They can say "Jesus, Jesus", all they want (another Christ?).

And they can tell how "Christian" they are, all they want (another gospel?).

And tell how they are "saving souls for Jesus", by appeals to the flesh and worldliness, all they want (another spirit?).

(see II Corinthians11:4, and Matthew 7:16-23)

They being, quite simply, quite wrong!!

"Get out of her my people --lest you partake of her plagues"
is, again, what comes to mind,
as I continue to survey all of
the spiritual wreckage
and grotesque chicanery
which I find all about me.

And here it can so readily be seen, the fleshly persons persecuting those who are faithful to the spiritual tenets of our Master, now as then, all over again.

There really is not, and never has been, any real line of demarcation between any one race of humans and all of their fellows. There have always been only two different kinds of persons.

One, believing.

The other, unbelieving.

One faithful.

The other faithless.

One being obedient.

The other disobedient.

These are the actual dividing lines, far more than are such artificial modern constructs as between "Judaean" and "Gentile/goyim".

While NEVER forgetting that we are ALL members of the fallen Adamic race.

"There is NONE righteous, no not one", was the exclamation of the Prophet (see Romans 3:10).

"We have all gone astray, like sheep, each one to his own way" is a further reference to this same concept (see **Isaiah 53:6**).

And,

"all of our righteousness is as filthy rags" (see Isaiah 64:4), should tell us all we need to know about seeking immortality on our own terms.

These principles and matters did not change as we went from Old Covenant to New Covenant.

They remain just as valid today as they were on the day following Adam's fall.

The imputation of the perfect righteousness of Christ and His boundless perfect faith is, truly, the only way out of this mess.

Messiah as our substitute.

That is the beating heart of what I am here referring to as Messianism.

Once again, no different in the Old Testament than it is in the New Testament.

The only material difference between the two being that one is form, while the other is substance.

One is type.

The other fulfillment.

Old Testament as shadow of things to come, while the New Testament "Christ crucified and risen" is the actual reality, itself.

Not two different plans and programs, or dispensations, but, a pure heart, and a believing spirit, whether Judaean, or Gentile.

Same in Old Testament as in New Testament.

The Messiah providing the continuity between the two.

Just as He is eternal, and is said to come from eternity, so are the principles upon which rest the foundation of our belief, or our unbelief. Only the props and the costumes changing, while everything else remains the same.

As regards the matter of salvation, we are told in the Old Testament that we will be able to stop sinning when the leopard can change his spots or the Ethiopian can change his skin (see **Jeremiah 13:23**).

Do you really think anything has changed?

Just take a good look around you.

Are men any different now than they were then?

Just ask the victim of the rape, or the robbery, or the murder.

Ask the person who has been enslaved by his evil neighbors.

Just what exactly has changed such that wicked men, with their minds and hearts full of fornication, lying, adultery, theft, and murder, are somehow expected to walk in the paths of righteousness, in any real and meaningful way? Go turn on that one-eyed monster in your living room (the image of the beast? see **Revelation 13:15**), or look at various internet sites, or go to the movies, and you will get far more of these abominations than you ever could have even imagined.

And why is this?

Because the best the natural man can hope for is to be a whited sepulchre.

Beautiful to look at from the outside, but not such a pretty sight, or smell, once one pulls back the thin veneer of the sarcophagus lid, and takes a long, hard look, while taking a long, deep breath.

Ironically, nearly everyone will tell you how this is not so.

Truly amazing.

There it is right in front of your face and eyes, and on every side of you, and all about you, but you will adamantly deny it, nevertheless.

Doesn't sound like a very promising condition to me.

This is why Messiah came to fulfill the law to the letter, in order to ransom His sheep out of this wicked state of affairs.

We simply being unable to comply with even the simplest of Commandments.

Just how hard can it be anyway?

Worship the one God, YHWH, and him, alone.

Don't make idols or graven images.

Don't use the name of our lord in vain.

Remember the sabbath, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and mother.

Don't murder.

Don't commit adultery.

Don't steal.

Don't bear false witness.

Don't covet.

How can there even be a controversy about such matters?

Yet we can easily be defined as either predator or victim in any given situation.

To the predator inside of me, I must not kill, unless ---.

I must not steal, unless ---.

I must not rape and defile, unless ---.

I must not covet unless ---.

Amazingly this is where the religious "man of the cloth" comes in.

He will tell us when it is okay, and when it is not, and how much \$\$\$ we must give him as our "toll fee" (e.g. indulgences). But when it is I who am the victim, I will see these things in an entirely different light.

There will be no "unless ---".

And I will be utterly disgusted by YOUR "religious authority", who has so cavalierly diminished the gravity and seriousness of YOUR crime.

I will abhor your pretended "man of the cloth", no matter how wonderful you tell me he and his religion are. Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

No vacillating.

No game playing.

No hucksterism.

No, "it's okay just this one time".

Or, "you can do it without consequence to your soul because of ---".

Oh, what a slippery slope that is sure to become, and that, all too rapidly.

Our blessed Lord is able to look deep within the hearts and motivations of both perpetrator and victim.

And able to judge wisely and righteously.

He being the only judge worthy of the name, it would seem.

Bad didn't somehow become good.

And evil did not somehow become righteous, as we passed from prophecy to fulfillment.

All remains the same.

Except that now believers will be filled with the Holy Spirit of promise.

They will be constrained by the law written in their hearts.

They may use their conscience as their guide, if they will but listen to it, and obey it, without recourse to flawed reasoning used to justify whatever action one sees fit to take part in on any given day.

Mediating forces.

Tempering forces.

Remembering of what is right, and what is not, and how I should conduct myself in light of reality! (see **II Peter 3:11**)

"--- seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be ---" The Lord made a covenant with the sons of Jacob/Israel.

It was not for their own self-glorification, as so many seem to believe.

They were not "God's chosen", in some sense which gives them the right "to lord it over" their fellow man.

Rather, as the pharoah's slaves, being chosen to escape the bondage of Egypt.

As a type of being chosen to escape out of this world, and to escape our own self-willed sinfulness, through the perfect life of Jesus of Nazareth, and sacrificial death of Christ crucified.

The Lord God Omnipotent using the confederation of the twelve tribes of Israel, the twelve sons of Jacob, to illustrate matters that would be of tremendous importance to the writers of the New Testament, those expounding upon "the good news" (the gospel) regarding the fulfillment of the ancient Messianic prophecies by Jesus of Nazareth.

The various buildings, instruments, rites, and rituals ALL being symbolic.

Symbols of Messiah and the Messianic office.

As an example, they have a temple built of stone.

But it is symbolic of the real temple, which is made WITHOUT hands (see Acts 7:48, Daniel 2:45, and I Corinthians 3:16-17).

They have a high priest, as do we, in Messiah (see **Hebrews 4:14-16**).

They have a concept of a chosen people, called out of Egypt (see I Corinthians 10:2-4).

This being a type or symbol of those believers who were called out of this wicked world.

They celebrate sacrificial shedding of blood.

The symbol or type of our blessed Lord hanging on the tree, as our Heavenly Father poured out His wrath upon him.

A people removed out of servitude to Egypt, as the symbol or type of those who will be purchased by the blood of Messiah, from their hellish overlord and master, Satan.

The concept of the scapegoat (see Leviticus 16:8-26) causing us to think about the concept of the imputation of sin, which later will give rise to our understanding of the concept of imputation of righteousness.

Just as the goat did nothing to merit the sin, so our Lord did nothing to merit the wrath.

As the brazen serpent was raised in the wilderness (see Numbers 21:8-9), such that those who looked upon it were healed from the poison of the fiery asps, so those looking upon Christ crucified will have their sins removed by looking upon Him, with the eyes of belief, having been opened from above (see John 3:14-21).

These being just a few examples.

The Old Testament promises were predicated upon obedience, of which there was always very little.

And of what little there was, mainly half-hearted.

A stubborn and rebellious people, more interested in the leeks and onions of Egypt than their own souls and eternal state.

Is it really so different now?

Are we really all that different when put to the test?

The Old Covenant being highly conditional (see **Deuteronomy 4:23-28**; and **Deuteronomy 30:17-20**), was broken repeatedly, until the people were driven from the land on three different occasions, and then finally utterly destroyed:

Assyrian captivity (722 b.c.);
Babylonian captivity (586 b.c.);
and destruction of the 2d temple
by the Romans (71 a.d.)
(the temple built by Herod the Edomite);
closely followed by the final destruction
of the last few remaining Judaeans
by the Romans (132-135 a.d.).

After the death of Messiah, at the hands of these very same persons, they were driven from the land, entirely and permanently, as those who are simply unable to keep their word, no matter how numerous the warnings.

While looking forward to the 1st and 2d century utter destruction of the Hebrews and Judaeans, as long before prophesied in the book of Deuteronomy, Jeremiah prophesied regarding the replacement of the Old Testament temple economy by a new covenant. And that the believer's heart of stone would be replaced with a heart of flesh (**Jeremiah 31:31**).

Not needing to be told what is right and wrong.

Even following that, things continue just as has always been.

One group obedient, and the other disobedient.

One group believing, while the other is disbelieving, (but while having learned how to feign belief, and brotherly love).

One looking to scriptural matters, while the other is carnal, and mammon worshipping as can be, or get.

Has anything really changed since the time of Christ?

Or, wouldn't it be fair to say that continuity is the order of the day?

Not really old and new.

But prophesied and fulfilled.

Not really Judaean and Gentile/goyim.

But believing and unbelieving.

Faithful and unfaithful.

Obedient and disobedient.

Unreality and ultimate reality.

Let us be faithful!!

And believing.