



Being Happy!



Is there a way to be certain what we are expending our life's energies to acquire will actually bring us happiness when we attain or achieve it?



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"A Gathering of Eagles" ©

Luke 17:30 & 37

justbibletruth.com is for all those persons who love and look to a God who is good^A and who have an interest in the Bible. It's also for those who just wish they knew more about the Bible. The website is to help everyone realize: It is an easy thing for *you* to understand the Bible! The site is nondenominational (nonsectarian) and intended as a loving scriptural encouragement for everyone!

This booklet can be viewed or printed from:

justbibletruth.com/BeingHappy.pdf

by using Adobe Reader (available on most computers).

^A **(Hebrews 11:6 MWT)** But without faith no one can please God. We must start by believing that God is real and that he rewards everyone who searches for him.

The Bible

If there is one thing all people share in common it is a desire to be happy. Most then connect that happiness with having fulfillment and meaning in life. Most also seem unable to find it! There is a simple and clear way to know how to find happiness, but many or even most don't seem willing to hear. The truth is, the life we are now living under these harsh and harmful world conditions exists only because our first parents proved *themselves* unwilling to listen to the answer to that simple question: What will make us happy? Since the time Adam and Eve sinned, mankind has been allowed to exist in our imperfect and sinful condition so as to give us each and every one the opportunity to see the wisdom of listening to our Creator's answer to that question. The terrible world conditions we live in today, and the *un-happiness* that results, are a direct result of that disobedience to God. The sad conditions our world has degraded to form a touchstone that will be remembered forever. It becomes an eternal example of the result of disobedience to God. He made us. He knows what will make us happy. Why is that so hard for us to understand???

Are you one of those many people who have determined there must be a good God as the cause of creation?^B The Bible indicates only unwise persons refuse to draw that conclusion.^C If you are one of the many who have offered a prayer to that Creator, whether in time of trouble or in the wee hours on your pillow, asking him to please just speak to you or to give you a sign, then you should now know: He has already done so – in a very large way! If you don't know that to be so, either you just haven't heard, or perhaps you haven't been listening. That is, in some

^B **(Romans 1:19-21)** ¹⁹ because what may be known about God is manifest among them, for God made it manifest to them. ²⁰ For his invisible [qualities] are clearly seen from the world's creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable; ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God nor did they thank him, . . . ~ **(Hebrews 3:4)** ⁴ Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but he that constructed all things is God.

^C **(Psalms 14:1 CEV)** Only a fool would say, "There is no God!" People like that are worthless; they are heartless and cruel and never do right.

sense, understandable. Religious hatred and bigotry is tearing our world apart. Some people confuse the Bible's clear and simple teachings with all that religious babble and turmoil. It can make them feel they don't want anything to do with the Bible. You must learn: Religious radicals have no connection with the teachings of Christ Jesus. Again, though, even that confusion is to some degree understandable because many who proclaim themselves Christians are actually only spreading more babble. ~~We~~ *You* should no longer remain confused!!! God has winked at (or overlooked) such ignorance, but He is now bringing an end of ignorance by means of the revelation of truth:^D the teachings of his son.^(F) Helping mankind understand his arrangement to help and protect us is the first step in God's process of doing away with the bad and death dealing conditions that exist today. We can't choose a side in this great issue if we don't first realize what that issue is!^(A) & (HHH – Jn 15:22)

The Bible is simple and clear, and it brings peace to all who seek truth from its pages.^E You have likely heard many condemn the Bible. You have likely heard many good things about it as well. Even if what the Bible teaches weren't true, it would still be the most important book ever written, simply because of the impact it has had on mankind. *But it is true*, and the truth it contains is more important than anything else in life!^F Even our world calendar system is based on the birth of the Bible's

^D **(Acts 17:30, 31)** ³⁰ True, God has overlooked the times of such ignorance, [(KJV-1611) And the times of this ignorance God winked at,] yet now he is telling mankind that they should all everywhere repent. ³¹ Because he has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead.”

^E **(Psalm 37:10, 11)** ¹⁰ And just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more; And you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be. ¹¹ But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, And they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

^F **(Matthew 13:44-48)** ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and for the joy he has he goes and sells what things he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again the kingdom of the heavens is like a traveling merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ Upon finding one pearl of high value, away he went and promptly sold all the things he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again the kingdom of the heavens is like a dragnet let down into the sea and gathering up [fish] of every

acclaimed savior of mankind. Since many people have died over the centuries rather than renounce their faith in what the Bible teaches, and so many others say your very life depends on *your* faith in it, shouldn't you at least consider for your-own-self what it actually does teach? Even if you choose to examine the Bible only for the education it provides, is it wise to base your conclusions on what you have heard others *say it teaches*? While many will try and convince you the Bible is too hard for most of us to understand on our own, it certainly is not! Such people just want you to believe you are dependent on them to explain the Bible to you. It was God's wonderful purpose to have the Bible written for common people.⁶ Those who are proud and arrogant

kind. ⁴⁸ When it got full they hauled it up onto the beach and, sitting down, they collected the fine ones into vessels, but the unsuitable they threw away.

⁶ **(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)** ²⁶ For you behold his calling of you, brothers, that not many wise in a fleshly way were called, not many powerful, not many of noble birth; ²⁷ but God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put the wise men to shame; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put the strong things to shame; ²⁸ and God chose the ignoble things of the world and the things looked down upon, the things that are not, that he might bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ in order that no flesh might boast in the sight of God. ³⁰ But it is due to him that you are in union with Christ Jesus, who has become to us wisdom from God, also righteousness and sanctification and release by ransom; ³¹ that it may be just as it is written: "He that boasts, let him boast in Jehovah." (Verse 31 makes reference to the Hebrew Scriptures [OT] at Jeremiah 9:24. [(Jeremiah 9:24) "But let the one bragging about himself brag about himself because of this very thing, the having of insight and the having of knowledge of me, that I am Jehovah, the One exercising loving-kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I do take delight," is the utterance of Jehovah.] Since the God inspired OT (Old Testament or Hebrew text) uses the personal name of the true God over 6000 times in the original text, we use the name as well (we use the common English translation of the divine name: Jehovah). You will note the scriptures we quoted from Genesis to outline the Bible theme in this document often use the phrase "LORD God." It is common practice by some translators to use all caps in that fashion to denote they replaced the divine name in their translation work. Many removed the name because of a superstition that developed during the dark ages against pronouncing the divine name. They were wrong! The accurate translation of the original text where they translated "LORD God," is "Jehovah God." Many translations of note retain the name of

God: Young's Literal Translation, The Literal Version, The American Standard Version, The Modern King James Version and the Darby Translation (among others) retain the divine name over 6000 times. God dealt with mankind for 4000 years before Christ, while He was making provision for the birth of the savior. Since God inspired his personal name to be recorded in the OT record of those dealings, it seems important to know it. Please don't feel knowing and using God's name ties you to the modern day religious groups who use his name. Most notably, the Jews and Jehovah's Witnesses use Jehovah as the accurate name of the Hebrew God – the name of Jesus's Father. The Jews, as a religious group however, don't recognize Jesus as the Messiah. And Jehovah's Witnesses seem only interested in making new group members, as they glorify their memberships rather than encouraging faith in the teachings of Jesus. They claim to study the Bible, but have come to imagine a study of their organizational literature is the same as Bible study. They believe study of their literature is better, actually, as they assert you can't study the Bible apart from their direction and approval. Jesus said otherwise!^(HH) While Jehovah's Witnesses have chosen to use God's name in the name they call upon themselves, the divinely inspired name for the followers of Christ Jesus is "Christian." **(Acts 11:26)** . . .and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called Christians. Many Bible scholars have known and used God's personal name throughout history. It is important you know and use it. Jesus said he would make his Father's name known in the earth. **(John 17:20-26)** ²⁰ "I make request, not concerning these only, but also concerning those putting faith in me through their word; ²¹ in order that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I am in union with you, that they also may be in union with us, in order that the world may believe that you sent me forth... in order that they may be one just as we are one... that the world may have the knowledge that you sent me forth and that you loved them just as you loved me... ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world has, indeed, not come to know you; but I have come to know you, and these have come to know that you sent me forth. ²⁶ And I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them.") Can you really say you know Jesus if you don't know his Father's name, and help him make that name known to others. **(Matthew 27:46)** ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus called out with a loud voice, saying: "E'li, E'li, la'ma sa-bach-tha'ni?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?") Jesus said ^(John 17:26 above) his Father's name is one of the things he came to teach us. **(Luke 10:22)** ²² All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and who the Son is no one knows but the Father; and who the Father is, no one [knows] but the Son, and he to whom the Son is willing to reveal him.")

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will likely not appreciate the value of Bible.^h If you start, however, with grasping the simple theme and purpose of the Bible, understanding it as a whole becomes an easy thing.ⁱ Could it really do anything other than benefit you to examine what it says? Can you possibly know if you want to put your faith in the Bible if you don't first know what it says? If only to be better educated when someone speaks about it or tries to use it to manipulate you, isn't it wise to examine it? Another *important* reason for considering the Bible: Could seeking and knowing what is in the Bible impact your own happiness?^j

The unpretentious and stunning theme of the Bible

(outlined in only a few short pages)

God created man and woman and set them in an earthly paradise as their home. He also explained to them what would make them happy:

(Genesis 2:7-9 GNB) Then the LORD God took some soil [clay] from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live. (8) Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. (9) He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the

^h **(1 Corinthians 1:18-25)** ¹⁸ For the speech about the torture stake is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is God's power. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will make the wisdom of the wise [men] perish, and the intelligence of the intellectual [men] I will shove aside." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where the scribe? Where the debater of this system of things? Did not God make the wisdom of the world foolish? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not get to know God, God saw good through the foolishness of what is preached to save those believing. ²² For both the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks look for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ impaled, to the Jews a cause for stumbling but to the nations foolishness; ²⁴ however, to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because a foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and a weak thing of God is stronger than men.

ⁱ **(Proverbs 14:6)** ⁶ The ridiculer has sought to find wisdom, and there is none; but to the understanding one knowledge is an easy thing.

^j **(Matthew 5:3)** ³ "Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need (or: those who recognize they are spiritually helpless and poor), since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.

tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. **(Genesis 2:15-18 GW)** Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to farm the land and to take care of it. (16) The LORD God commanded the man. He said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. (17) But you must never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because when you eat from it, you will certainly die." (18) Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him." **(Genesis 2:21-24 GNB)** Then the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. (22) He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. (23) Then the man said, "At last, here is one of my own kind--- Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. 'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man." (24) That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. **(Genesis 1:27-31)** ²⁷ And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ Further, God blessed them and God said to them: "Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth." ²⁹ And God went on to say: "Here I have given to you all vegetation bearing seed which is on the surface of the whole earth and every tree on which there is the fruit of a tree bearing seed. To you let it serve as food. ³⁰ And to every wild beast of the earth and to every flying creature of the heavens and to everything moving upon the earth in which there is life as a soul I have given all green vegetation for food." And it came to be so. ³¹ After that God saw everything he had made and, look! it was very good. . . .

God gave the humans perfection and told them loving each other and acting as stewards of their earthly home would make them happy. If you noticed, God placed only one restriction on mankind: they were not to eat from the one tree he had reserved for himself. It was the tree of the knowledge of right and wrong. God is perfect and everything he does is the absolute best for *everyone*. By definition, then, any act against his direction is bad because it is going to cause harm to someone. *That is why God says don't do it!* That tree represented the human's submission as to who would have the right to choose what is right and

wrong. One of the free moral agents who had been created among God's angels, had used his freedom of choice to start in making himself bad; and he was watching the creation of the man and the woman. This powerful spirit creature spoke to Eve through a serpent^k and deceived her into choosing against God's right to decide right and wrong. He lied and said she would be happier if she disobeyed God. This creature

^k **(Genesis 3:1-5 MWT) 3** Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Jehovah God had made. So it began to say to the woman: "Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" ² At this the woman said to the serpent: "Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. ³ But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'you must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die.'" ⁴ At this the serpent said to the woman: "You positively will not die. ⁵ For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing for yourself what is good and bad."

Example of angels speaking by animals: **(Numbers 22:21-34 GNB)** So the next morning Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite leaders. (22) God was angry that Balaam was going, and as Balaam was riding along on his donkey. . . the angel of the LORD stood in the road to bar his way. (23) When the donkey saw the angel standing there holding a sword, it left the road and turned into the fields. Balaam beat the donkey and brought it back onto the road. (24) Then the angel stood where the road narrowed between two vineyards and had a stone wall on each side. (25) When the donkey saw the angel, it moved over against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against it. Again Balaam beat the donkey. (26) Once more the angel moved ahead; he stood in a narrow place where there was no room at all to pass on either side. (27) This time, when the donkey saw the angel, it lay down. Balaam lost his temper and began to beat the donkey with his stick. (28) Then the LORD gave the donkey the power of speech, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you? Why have you beaten me these three times?" (29) Balaam answered, "Because you have made a fool of me! If I had a sword, I would kill you." (30) The donkey replied, "Am I not the same donkey on which you have ridden all your life? Have I ever treated you like this before?" "No," he answered. (31) Then the LORD let Balaam see the angel standing there with his sword; and Balaam threw himself face downward on the ground. (32) The angel demanded, "Why have you beaten your donkey three times like this? I have come to bar your way, because you should not be making this journey. (33) But your donkey saw me and turned aside three times. If it hadn't, I would have killed you and spared the donkey." (34) Balaam replied, "I have sinned. I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me;"...

behind the serpent no doubt thought himself very wise by this action. He imagined he would cause the woman to suffer the brunt of God's wrath for *her* disobedience, and at the same time call into question God's right to rule. Since this enemy of God acted against the woman *before* she had children, all her offspring would be tainted and he would thus attempt to cast doubt on God's creative ability by saying his creation was bad.^L The unborn human sons and daughters of Adam and Eve were different from previous creation. All the angels were individually created by God. The humans, on the other hand, had the amazing new ability to procreate. Procreation was a very big deal! These humans could reproduce new little free moral creatures to choose to worship the great giver of life. What a wondrous gift from our Creator. Adam and Eve, and all the Angels alike, could thus use their freedom to wisely choose to show loving obedience to their Creator. Those soon to be born (but tainted) children of Adam and Eve would be different from all created before them. Not only would they not need to be created directly by God and the angels,^M because of Satan's influence they would be born imperfect (and thus inclined toward doing bad). Unlike their parents and Satan, who chose sin for themselves (against their perfect inclinations to do good), the children were born into their sinful state with no choice given them. In Satan's wicked mind, that would no doubt make their plight God's fault; because God created the man and woman to be procreative, and then allowed their offspring to be made wicked with no choice or action on their part. The spirit creature would

^L **(Job 1:8-12 GNB)** "Did you notice my servant Job?" the LORD asked. "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil." (9) Satan replied, "Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it?" (10) You have always protected him and his family and everything he owns. You bless everything he does, and you have given him enough cattle to fill the whole country. (11) But now suppose you take away everything he has---he will curse you to your face!" (12) "All right," the LORD said to Satan, "everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself." So Satan left.

^M **(Genesis 1:26)** ²⁶ And God went on to say: "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth."

blame God. Satan, the name given the wicked creature who lied to Eve through the serpent,^N likely imagined he could create a way for he and other creatures (who chose to make themselves wicked like him) to exist. He was trying to steal the worship of God's creation for himself, but at the same time cast God in a bad light so he couldn't be held accountable.^O The Bible provides us all a window onto that ancient drama. It also explains what a fool Satan was in his thinking and actions. Our present world conditions stand as eternal proof of that fact.

Sadly, Adam joined Eve in her rebellion against God and they put themselves (along with all of us) in line for the informed reward of their sin: death.^(Gen 2:17 on pg 6) Similar to a parent passing on a genetic defect or a contagious disease, their unborn children would be born into the same dying state our first parents had brought upon themselves. They had chosen to make themselves imperfect and could no longer pass along perfection. It was not God's fault!

Happily, immediately after their sin, God promised the solution: He would raise up a seed of the woman (one of their future children) who

^N **(Revelation 12:9)** ⁹ So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth;. . .~

(John 8:42-44) ⁴² Jesus said to them: "If God were your Father, you would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth. ⁴³ Why is it you do not know what I am speaking? Because you cannot listen to my word. ⁴⁴ You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of [the lie].

^O **(Matthew 4:8-10 ALT)** Again the Devil takes Him along to a very high mountain and shows to Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, (9) and says to Him, "All these I will give to You, if having fallen down, You prostrate Yourself in worship before me." (10) Then Jesus says to him, "Be going away behind Me Satan [\"Adversary\"]! For it has been written, 'The LORD your God you will prostrate yourself in worship before, and Him only will you sacredly serve.'" [Jesus there referenced: **(Deuteronomy 6:13 MKJV)** You shall fear Jehovah your God and serve Him, and shall swear by His name.]

would crush Satan's head.^P *Making preparation for the appearance of that seed of promise, and then his arrival, became the much anticipated theme of the Bible.* About 4000 years after Adam's creation, Christ Jesus presented himself as the manifestation of that promised deliverer. Jesus was the son of God,^Q but also the seed of the woman.^R He was thus a perfect man.^(V – Note 1 Cor 15:21-22) Through the shedding of his righteous and perfect and innocent blood, he would offer himself^S to buy the

^P **(Genesis 3:14-15 GW)** So the LORD God said to the snake, "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all the wild or domestic animals. You will crawl on your belly. You will be the lowest of animals as long as you live. (15) I will make you and the woman hostile toward each other. I will make your descendants and her descendant hostile toward each other. He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

^Q **(Luke 9:34, 35)** ³⁴ But as he was saying these things a cloud formed and began to overshadow them. As they entered into the cloud, they became fearful. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying: "This is my Son, the one that has been chosen. Listen to him."~

(Mark 3:10, 11) ¹⁰ For he cured many, with the result that all those who had grievous diseases were falling upon him to touch him. ¹¹ Even the unclean spirits, whenever they would behold him, would prostrate themselves before him and cry out, saying: "You are the Son of God."~

(John 1:29 & 34) ²⁹ The next day he beheld Jesus coming toward him, and he said: "See, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁴ And I have seen [it], and I have borne witness that this one is the Son of God.~

(Mark 1:9-11) ⁹ In the course of those days Jesus came from Naz'a-reth of Gal'i-lee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. ¹⁰ And immediately on coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being parted, and, like a dove, the spirit coming down upon him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you."

^R **(Matthew 9:2-8)** . . . Jesus said to the paralytic: "Take courage, child; your sins are forgiven." ³ And, look! certain of the scribes said to themselves: "This fellow is blaspheming." ⁴ And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said: "Why are you thinking wicked things in your hearts? ⁵ For instance, which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Get up and walk? ⁶ However, in order for you to know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins—" then he said to the paralytic: "Get up, pick up your bed, and go to your home." ⁷ And he got up and went off to his home. ⁸ At the sight of this the crowds were struck with fear, and they glorified God, who gave such authority to men.

^S **(Matthew 26:50-54)** . . . Then they came forward and laid hands on Jesus and took him into custody. ⁵¹ But, look! one of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword and struck the slave of the high

opportunity for all the seed of Adam and Eve; so they might choose to gain eternal life through their expression of faith in that ransom provision by God.^T Isn't that beautiful?^U Doesn't that make you happy just thinking about it? As has been said of the Bible many times: "It is the greatest story ever told." And, it is truth!

That provides a sketch of the theme of the Bible.

To recap and expand it with a few additional scriptures: The Old Testament (OT) provides God's promise to fix what Satan did to mankind and to all his creation. He provided that solution by means of a seed of the woman. The OT relates the 4000 years from Adam to Christ, as God went about using faithful men and women whom He chose to be in the lineage producing that promised messiah. Additionally, the OT provides some prophecies about the coming Messiah, and about our future under his Kingdom rule.^V & (PP) That is the theme of the OT, and as

priest and took off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him: "Return your sword to its place, for all those who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ In that case, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must take place this way?"

^T **(Acts 4:8-12)** ⁸ Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them: "Rulers of the people and older men, ⁹ if we are this day being examined, on the basis of a good deed to an ailing man, as to by whom this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Naz-a-rene', whom you impaled but whom God raised up from the dead, by this one does this man stand here sound in front of you. ¹¹ This is "the stone that was treated by you builders as of no account that has become the head of the corner.'¹² Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."

^U **(Mark 12:10, 11)** ¹⁰ Did YOU never read this scripture, "The stone that the builders rejected, this has become the chief cornerstone. ¹¹ From Jehovah this has come to be, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"~**(Reference to Psalm 118:22, 23)** ²² The stone that the builders rejected Has become the head of the corner. ²³ This has come to be from Jehovah himself; It is wonderful in our eyes.

^V **(1 Corinthians 15:20-28)** ²⁰ However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. ²¹ For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also

you read it and learn more about it, the whole Bible makes perfect sense in harmony with that theme. In producing the Messiah, God used different people and different methods of dealing with them at different times. He used the Jewish nation for about half of the 4000 years recorded by the OT, starting with their forefather Abraham born in 2018 BCE. God sometimes protected the individuals he used, and that Jewish Nation while using them. Sometimes, He helped them fight wars to protect themselves. Many of the men and women God used and protected were outstanding people of faith. God didn't, however, protect the Jewish nation because they were *all* outstanding people. Many weren't. He did what he did, foremost, to serve his purpose to provide that seed of promise.^w He produced the seed of the woman 2000 years ago in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born from those faithful men and women God had helped and protected.^x As an

through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own rank: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence. ²⁴ Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must rule as king until [God] has put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. ²⁷ For [God] "subjected all things under his feet." But when he says that 'all things have been subjected,' it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. ²⁸ But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

^w **(Deuteronomy 9:4 CEV)** After the LORD helps you wipe out these nations and conquer their land, don't think he did it because you are such good people. You aren't good--you are stubborn! No, the LORD is going to help you, because the nations that live there are evil, and because he wants to keep the promise he made to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

^x **(Matthew 1:1)** 1 The book of the history of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham...~

(John 4:19-26) ¹⁹ The woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but YOU people say that in Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship."

²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know; we worship what we

introduction to the New Testament (NT), Jesus presents himself in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) as the promised savior. He came first to the Jewish Nation into which he was born, and then to the balance of mankind.^Y The Bible books which follow those Gospels are the record of the men and women who tried to build their lives around what they had learned from Christ. If you grasp the beauty, power, and elegant significance of that simple Bible theme, you are already lifted from the darkness of ignorance that engulfs most of mankind (your veil is lifted).^Z Jesus's teachings are (and summarize) the theme of the Bible. That theme will form a backbone of your faith to which all the other scriptures you learn will attach, so as to build a living faith constructed of Bible knowledge. The Bible is in complete harmony in that sense.

know, because salvation originates with the Jews. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him: “I know that Mes-si'ah is coming, who is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her: “I who am speaking to you am he.”

^Y **(Romans 1:16, 17)** ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the good news; it is, in fact, God's power for salvation to everyone having faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek; ¹⁷ for in it God's righteousness is being revealed by reason of faith and toward faith, just as it is written: “But the righteous one—by means of faith he will live.” ~

(Acts 3:25, 26) ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your forefathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶ To you first God, after raising up his Servant, sent him forth to bless you by turning each one away from your wicked deeds.”

^Z **(Luke 2:26-32)** ²⁶ Furthermore, it had been divinely revealed to him by the holy spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Christ. ²⁷ Under the power of the spirit he now came into the temple; and as the parents brought the young child Jesus in to do for it according to the customary practice of the law, ²⁸ he himself received it into his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ “Now, Sovereign Lord, you are letting your slave go free in peace according to your declaration; ³⁰ because my eyes have seen your means of saving ³¹ that you have made ready in the sight of all the peoples, ³² a light for removing the veil from the nations and a glory of your people Israel.”

Nothing about the Bible is out of place or inconsistent. What you learn from the Bible as truth today, will be truth eternally. That defines truth!

So... If you are weary of the religious babble that generates confusion and builds disciples who run through the earth killing (or judging as wicked) everyone not joining their sect, give attention to the Bible. Not to so called "Christian religions," mind you, but to the Bible itself.^{AA} You must make your own mind over.^{BB} No one can do it for you.^{CC} Only the Bible can help!^{DD} If you are not satisfied with the person you have previously been, and you want to be better, examine the Bible.^{EE} If you want to receive the rewards it promises, *you must* first build faith in

^{AA} **(Matthew 24:11-13)** ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and mislead many; ¹² and because of the increasing of lawlessness the love of the greater number will cool off. ¹³ But he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.

^{BB} **(Romans 12:2)** ² And quit being fashioned after this system of things, but be transformed by making your mind over, that you may prove to yourselves the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

^{CC} **(Romans 14:1-4)** ¹⁴ Welcome the [man] having weaknesses in [his] faith, but not to make decisions on inward questionings. ² One [man] has faith to eat everything, but the [man] who is weak eats vegetables. ³ Let the one eating not look down on the one not eating, and let the one not eating not judge the one eating, for God has welcomed that one. ⁴ Who are you to judge the house servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for Jehovah can make him stand.

^{DD} **(Hebrews 4:12, 13)** ¹² For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and [their] marrow, and [is] able to discern thoughts and intentions of [the] heart. ¹³ And there is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting.

^{EE} **(Mark 2:17b)** . . . I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners."~ **(Romans 7:21-25)** ²¹ I find, then, this law in my case: that when I wish to do what is right, what is bad is present with me. ²² I really delight in the law of God according to the man I am within, ²³ but I behold in my members another law warring against the law of my mind and leading me captive to sin's law that is in my members. ²⁴ Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body undergoing this death? ²⁵ Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . .

what it says. It has power to set you free^{FF} of the influence of deceitful or ignorant men, and then gives you ability to change who you are.^{GG} It will not make you a person who will stand up in front of others saying, “follow me.”^{HH} It will, rather, make you a happy person desiring and living to learn more about our Creator. It will create a desire to share that knowledge with others, thereby giving your same joy to them.^{II} It will probably not make you popular with everyone.^{JJ} But, it will make

^{FF} **(John 8:31, 32)** . . . “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

^{GG} **(James 1:22-25)** ²² However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. ²⁵ But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in [it], this [man], because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing [it].

^{HH} **(Matthew 23:1-12)** **23** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying: ² “The scribes and the Pharisees (religious leaders) have seated themselves in the seat of Moses (rendering their judgment over others). ³ Therefore all the things they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but do not perform. ⁴ They bind up heavy loads and put them upon the shoulders of men, but they themselves are not willing to budge them with their finger. ⁵ All the works they do they do to be viewed by men; for they broaden the [scripture-containing] cases that they wear as safeguards, and enlarge the fringes [of their garments]. ⁶ They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by men. ⁸ But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. ⁹ Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. ¹⁰ Neither be called ‘leaders,’ for your Leader is one, the Christ. ¹¹ But the greatest one among you must be your minister. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

^{II} **(Matthew 24:14)** ¹⁴ And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

^{JJ} **(Matthew 24:9, 10)** ⁹ “Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name. ¹⁰ Then, also, many will be stumbled and will betray one another and will hate one another.

you popular with God, and with his son, and with all those who do love them. It will even make you friends with all those who have loved God since the Garden of Eden (to enjoy the company of those Bible characters you come to love after they are resurrected, of course).^{KK}

Whether you choose to recognize or not, you are in the process of judging yourself by what you do with your knowledge of what Jesus taught.^{LL} If you ignore what he said, you are still judging yourself.^{MM}

^{KK} **(Matthew 25:31-34)** ³¹ “When the Son of man arrives in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. ³² And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will put the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. ³⁴ “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world.

^{LL} **(John 12:44-50)** ⁴⁴ However, Jesus cried out and said: “He that puts faith in me puts faith, not in me [only], but in him [also] that sent me; ⁴⁵ and he that beholds me beholds [also] him that sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. ⁴⁷ But if anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I came, not to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He that disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him in the last day; ⁴⁹ because I have not spoken out of my own impulse, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to tell and what to speak. ⁵⁰ Also, I know that his commandment means everlasting life. Therefore the things I speak, just as the Father has told me [them], so I speak [them].”

^{MM} **(Romans 1:18-32 GNB)** God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. (19) God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain. (20) Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all! (21) They know God, but they do not give him the honor that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. (22) They say they are wise, but they are fools; (23) instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles. (24) And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with

each other. (25) They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen. (26) Because they do this, God has given them over to shameful passions. Even the women pervert the natural use of their sex by unnatural acts. (27) In the same way the men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other. Men do shameful things with each other, and as a result they bring upon themselves the punishment they deserve for their wrongdoing. (28) Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not do. (29) They are filled with all kinds of wickedness, evil, greed, and vice; they are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, deceit, and malice. They gossip (30) and speak evil of one another; they are hateful to God, insolent, proud, and boastful; they think of more ways to do evil; they disobey their parents; (31) they have no conscience; they do not keep their promises, and they show no kindness or pity for others. (32) They know that God's law says that people who live in this way deserve death. Yet, not only do they continue to do these very things, but they even approve of others who do them. (The verses should help you understand: it doesn't matter if your church approves your lifestyle, or if the whole earth does for that matter. The only approval that matters is God's. All of us are guilty of some of the sins outlined in those scriptures. The only thing that can help is reliance on what Jesus taught us. Those who justify such actions and lifestyles are only "preventing the truth from being known." Don't let them entice you. Remember always: God is good and He would not withhold something from you if it wouldn't cause harm. Actually, since Jesus said our faith would make us well,^(SS) and that we would judge ourselves by the word he had spoken,^(LL) yours is the approval that matters. That is because it rests with you to build a faith that will preserve you alive.~

((Hebrews 10:37-39) ³⁷ For yet "a very little while," and "he who is coming will arrive and will not delay." ³⁸ "But my righteous one will live by reason of faith," and, "if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul.) A faith that can help you must be faith in what you know God's son taught. That is the method God has established by which you can channel his spirit to help yourself. ~

(Mark 5:25-34) ²⁵ Now there was a woman subject to a flow of blood twelve years, ²⁶ and she had been put to many pains by many physicians and had spent all her resources and had not been benefited but, rather, had got worse. ²⁷ When she heard the things about Jesus, she came behind in the crowd and touched his outer garment; ²⁸ for she kept saying: "If I touch just his outer garments I shall get well." ²⁹ And immediately her fountain of blood dried up, and she sensed in her body

Your only real hope for happiness is to search out and abide by the teachings of the son of God.^{NN} Isn't that reasonable? That will bring happiness and blessings beyond what you can imagine.^{OO} If you become a person of faith in truth, you can enjoy eternity in paradise restored.^{PP} By that choice you will make yourself happy - forever!

that she had been healed of the grievous sickness. ³⁰ Immediately, also, Jesus recognized in himself that power had gone out of him, and he turned about in the crowd and began to say: "Who touched my outer garments?" ³¹ But his disciples began to say to him: "You see the crowd pressing in upon you, and do you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² However, he was looking around to see her that had done this. ³³ But the woman, frightened and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be in good health from your grievous sickness." – Faith is true belief. People die useless deaths every day for their true belief in what is false. To benefit yourself, you must be a true believer in what is true!

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^{NN} **(Psalm 41:1-4) 41** Happy is anyone acting with consideration toward the lowly one; In the day of calamity Jehovah will provide escape for him. ² Jehovah himself will guard him and preserve him alive. He will be pronounced happy in the earth; And you cannot possibly give him over to the soul of his enemies. ³ Jehovah himself will sustain him upon a divan of illness; All his bed you will certainly change during his sickness. ⁴ As for me, I said: "O Jehovah, show me favor. Do heal my soul, for I have sinned against you."~

(James 1:25) ²⁵ But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in [it], this [man], because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing [it].

^{OO} **(Job 33:23-30 GNB)** Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." (25) Their bodies will grow young and strong again; (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive." (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life, and gives him the joy of living.

^{PP} **(Isaiah 11:1-10) 11** And there must go forth a twig out of the stump of Jes'se (this refers to Christ Jesus, as a descendant of Jesse and his son King David); and out of his roots a sprout will be fruitful. ² And upon him the spirit of Jehovah must settle down, the spirit of wisdom and of

Just reflect on faith and what it really can mean.^{QQ} You start by learning what the son of God was sent to teach.^{RR} You can then imagine a scriptural future for yourself that is restrained only by those broad and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and of mightiness, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah; ³ and there will be enjoyment by him in the fear of Jehovah. And he will not judge by any mere appearance to his eyes, nor reprove simply according to the thing heard by his ears. ⁴ And with righteousness he must judge the lowly ones, and with uprightness he must give reproof in behalf of the meek ones of the earth. And he must strike the earth with the rod of his mouth (as we are judged by our response to Jesus's teachings); and with the spirit of his lips he will put the wicked one to death. ⁵ And righteousness must prove to be the belt of his hips, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶ And the wolf will actually reside for a while with the male lamb, and with the kid the leopard itself will lie down, and the calf and the maned young lion and the well-fed animal all together; and a mere little boy will be leader over them. ⁷ And the cow and the bear themselves will feed; together their young ones will lie down. And even the lion will eat straw just like the bull. ⁸ And the sucking child will certainly play upon the hole of the cobra; and upon the light aperture of a poisonous snake will a weaned child actually put his own hand. ⁹ They will not do any harm or cause any ruin in all my holy mountain; because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea. ¹⁰ And it must occur in that day that there will be the root of Jes'se that will be standing up as a signal for the peoples. To him even the nations will turn inquiringly, and his resting-place must become glorious.

^{QQ} Visit: justbibletruth.com/Observations/HowCanFaithHelp.html

^{RR} **(John 8:28-30)** ²⁸ Therefore Jesus said: "When once you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am [he], and that I do nothing of my own initiative; but just as the Father taught me I speak these things. ²⁹ And he that sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him." ³⁰ As he was speaking these things, many put faith in him.~

(John 5:36-38) ³⁶ But I have the witness greater than that of John, for the very works that my Father assigned me to accomplish, the works themselves that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father dispatched me. ³⁷ Also, the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.^(Q) You have neither heard his voice at any time nor seen his figure; ³⁸ and you do not have his word remaining in you, because the very one whom he dispatched you do not believe.

wondrous promises of God. Just as Jesus said so many times, the faith you build for yourself will come to be.^{SS}

If you want God's promises for yourself, you must choose to become different from this world.^(HHH) You must remain receptive to the teachings of God's son. When Jesus walked the earth, the religious leaders of his day exemplified what we should *not* become. Jesus went about healing the sick and raising the dead as testimony that he was the promised Messiah and son of God.^{(LL) & (RR) & (SS) & (KKK)} When hearing about his miracles, those religious leaders gathered about him, not to learn from him, but to find fault.^{TT} Even the men who were following after

^{SS} **(Matthew 8:5-13)** ⁵ When he entered into Ca-per'na-um, an army officer came to him, entreating him ⁶ and saying: "Sir, my manservant is laid up in the house with paralysis, being terribly tormented." ⁷ He said to him: "When I get there I will cure him." ⁸ In reply the army officer said: "Sir, I am not a fit man for you to enter under my roof, but just say the word and my manservant will be healed. ⁹ For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Be on your way!' and he is on his way, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." ¹⁰ Hearing that, Jesus became amazed and said to those following him: "I tell you the truth, With no one in Israel have I found so great a faith. ¹¹ But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens; ¹² whereas the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where [their] weeping and the gnashing of [their] teeth will be." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the army officer: "Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you." And the manservant was healed in that hour.~

(Matthew 9:29) Then he touched their eyes, saying: "According to YOUR faith let it happen to you."~

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

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

^{TT} **(John 11:45-48)** ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews that had come to Mary and that beheld what he did put faith in him; ⁴⁶ but some of them went off to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ⁴⁷ Consequently the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together and began to say: "What are we to do, because this man performs many signs? ⁴⁸ If we let him alone this way, they will all put faith in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."~

(Mark 6:54-7:9) ⁵⁴ But as soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized him, ⁵⁵ and they ran around all that region and started to carry about on cots those who were ailing to where they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he would enter into villages or cities or countryside they would place the sick ones in the marketplaces, and they would plead with him that they might touch just the fringe of his outer garment. And as many as did touch it were made well. **7** Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes (religious leaders) that had come from Jerusalem gathered about him. ² And when they saw some of his disciples eat their meal with defiled hands, that is, unwashed ones— ³ for the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the tradition of the men of former times, ⁴ and, when back from market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves by sprinkling; and there are many other traditions that they have received to hold fast, baptisms of cups and pitchers and copper vessels;— ⁵ so these Pharisees and scribes asked him: “Why is it your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the tradition of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them: “Isaiah aptly prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honor me with [their] lips, but their hearts are far removed from me.’ ⁷ It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men.’ ⁸ Letting go the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men.” ⁹ Further, he went on to say to them: “Adroitly you set aside the commandment of God in order to retain your tradition.~ **(Mark 8:10-13)** ¹⁰ And immediately he boarded the boat with his disciples and came into the parts of Dal·ma·nu‘tha. ¹¹ Here the Pharisees came out and started disputing with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven, to put him to the test. ¹² So he groaned deeply with his spirit, and said: “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly I say, No sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³ With that he left them, got aboard again, and went off to the opposite shore.

him sometimes did little better.^{UU} Jesus's teachings stated a fire in the earth that he knew would soon consume him.^{VV} He dreaded and showed concern for the terrible ordeal he knew he was facing.^{WW} Right after explaining to his own disciples what terrible suffering he was soon to endure, including his own death, two of his followers stepped up and asked something selfish of him, seemingly concerned only with their own desires and wishes.^{XX} It was as if they didn't even hear what Jesus

^{UU} **(Matthew 26:36-40)** ³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to the spot called Geth-sem'a-ne, and he said to the disciples: "Sit down here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And taking along Peter and the two sons of Zeb'e-dee, he started to be grieved and to be sorely troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them: "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and keep on the watch with me." ³⁹ And going a little way forward, he fell upon his face, praying and saying: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter: "Could YOU men not so much as watch one hour with me?~

(Matthew 16:21-23) ²¹ From that time forward Jesus Christ commenced showing his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the older men and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised up. ²² At this Peter took him aside and commenced rebuking him, saying: "Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this [destiny] at all." ²³ But, turning his back, he said to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men."

^{VV} **(Luke 12:49, 50)** ⁴⁹ "I came to start a fire on the earth, and what more is there for me to wish if it has already been lighted? ⁵⁰ Indeed, I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and how I am being distressed until it is finished!

^{WW} **(John 12:27, 28)** ²⁷ Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me out of this hour. Nevertheless, this is why I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Therefore a voice came out of heaven: "I both glorified [it] and will glorify [it] again."

^{XX} **(Mark 10:32-40)** . . . Once again he took the twelve aside and started to tell them these things destined to befall him: ³³ "Here we are, advancing up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and will deliver him to [men of] the nations, ³⁴ and they will make fun of him and will spit upon him and scourge him and kill him, but three days later he will rise." ³⁵ And James and John, the two sons of Zeb'e-dee, stepped up to him and said to him: "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever it is we ask you for." ³⁶ He said to them: "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ They said to him: "Grant us to sit down, one at your right hand

had just shared with them. That same divisive and self-centered attitude is tearing our world apart down to this day. We must avoid such an attitude if we are to be true followers of Christ. We must imitate him.^{YY} Growing to maturity as an imitator of Jesus means you must start by *really* knowing him.^{ZZ} The only way to know Jesus intimately is to read what he taught in the witness accounts by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Not reading what he taught once, mind you, but over and over many times.^(FF) Faithful Christians will continue to learn from those four small books for a very long time, maybe forever. Reading and contemplating what Jesus taught is the only way we can show we are different from the religious leaders who put him to death.^{AAA} By reading

and one at your left, in your glory.”³⁸ But Jesus said to them: “you do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup which I am drinking, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am being baptized?”³⁹ They said to him: “We are able.” At that Jesus said to them: “The cup I am drinking you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am being baptized you will be baptized.”⁴⁰ However, this sitting down at my right or at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared.”

^{YY} **(Luke 22:24-27)**²⁴ However, there also arose a heated dispute among them over which one of them seemed to be greatest.²⁵ But he said to them: “The kings of the nations lord it over them, and those having authority over them are called Benefactors.²⁶ You, though, are not to be that way. But let him that is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the one acting as chief as the one ministering.²⁷ For which one is greater, the one reclining at the table or the one ministering? Is it not the one reclining at the table? But I am in your midst as the one ministering.~

(1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)³¹ Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God’s glory.³² Keep from becoming causes for stumbling to Jews as well as Greeks and to the congregation of God,³³ even as I am pleasing all people in all things, not seeking my own advantage but that of the many, in order that they might get saved. **11** Become imitators of me, even as I am of Christ.

^{ZZ} <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DoYouKnowChrist.pdf>

^{AAA} **(Acts 5:27-32)**²⁷ So they brought them and stood them in the San’he-drin hall. And the high priest questioned them²⁸ and said: “We positively ordered you not to keep teaching upon the basis of this name, and yet, look! you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring the blood of this man upon us.”²⁹ In answer Peter and the [other] apostles said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.³⁰ The God of our forefathers raised up Jesus, whom you slew.

and learning from him, we can (in effect) sit at his feet,^{BBB} both today and into the future.^{CCC} How glorious it is to know the truth. It sets you free of being manipulated and confused by others, and even by your own selfish desires.^{(FF) & (EE) & (GG)}

So... If you are a person who believes God has a purpose for your life, you are right! It is the one same purpose for you as He has for all of mankind. His process to destroy the works of the devil, and to reestablish paradise on the earth, is unfolding before our eyes.^(PP) We simply need to figure out how we can support God by manifesting faith in his Messiah. It's not that He needs us to do that, mind you. It is the wondrous opportunity we have to show who we are, and to show him He can depend on us to forever refrain from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. We can abandon being workers of lawlessness and become workers of righteousness, only by being attendant to the teachings of Jesus Christ as recorded in Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. What a glorious privilege!

Just don't allow yourself to be distracted by religionists who want to promote *their* dogma and engage you in endless disputes^{DDD & (CC)} about semantics, about rules of behavior and speech, and sometimes about doctrine and theories that don't even appear in the Bible. Simply

hanging him upon a stake. ³¹ God exalted this one as Chief Agent and Savior to his right hand, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these matters, and so is the holy spirit, which God has given to those obeying him as ruler."

^{BBB} **(Luke 8:40, 41)** ⁴⁰ When Jesus got back, the crowd received him kindly, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ But, look! a man named Ja'i-rus came, and this man was a presiding officer of the synagogue. And he fell at the feet of Jesus and began to entreat him to enter into his house, ~ **(Luke 8:35)** ³⁵ Then people turned out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons came out, clothed and in his sound mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus; . . .

^{CCC} **(Hebrews 13:8)** ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.

^{DDD} **(2 Corinthians 10:4, 5)** ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful by God for overturning strongly entrenched things. ⁵ For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God; and we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ;

dedicate yourself to sitting at the feet of Jesus himself.^{EEE} Then, you will be compelled to share those words you learn Jesus with others.^{FFF} *That is Christianity!*

(1 Timothy 6:2-5) . . . Keep on teaching these things and giving these exhortations. ³ If any man teaches other doctrine and does not assent to healthful words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, nor to the teaching that accords with godly devotion, ⁴ he is puffed up [with pride], not understanding anything, but being mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words. From these things spring envy, strife, abusive speeches, wicked suspicions, ⁵ violent disputes about trifles on the part of men corrupted in mind and despoiled of the truth, thinking that godly devotion is a means of gain.

Godly devotion is a means of great gain, of course. But it must be godly devotion to the teachings of God's son.^(JJJ) What Christianity is not, is a joining with men endlessly bickering about how to control and maintain their established religious sect, their flock. Jesus Christ established Christianity; and the group comprising his followers is simply all the individual Christians who are sitting at his feet by reading *his* words.^(EEE) They do their best to apply his teachings in their lives. They demonstrate they follow him by showing love for others. They manifest their love by, in turn, directing everyone they can to the teachings of Jesus. Don't encourage others to membership in some sect of men.

^{EEE} **(Luke 10:38-42)** ³⁸ Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named Martha received him as guest into the house. ³⁹ This woman also had a sister called Mary, who, however, sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. ⁴⁰ Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So, she came near and said: "Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me." ⁴¹ In answer the Lord said to her: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. ⁴² A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her."

^{FFF} **(Acts 4:18-20)** ¹⁸ With that they called them and charged them, nowhere to make any utterance or to teach upon the basis of the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But in reply Peter and John said to them: "Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to YOU rather than to God, judge for yourselves. ²⁰ But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."

Encourage them to read and learn what Jesus taught in the Bible. Don't imagine just being kind to others makes you righteous in God's eyes. You must tell them what he has done for us all. You must tell them about Christ.

Being a follower of Jesus will make you a person of loving kindness and truth.^{GGG} While that should make everyone love you, it won't.^{HHH} Many won't understand how you can be that way.^{III} You don't have to fight

^{GGG} **(John 4:19-26)** ¹⁹ The woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you people worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him: "I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly." ²⁶ Jesus said to her: "I who am speaking to you am he."

^{HHH} **(John 15:17-22)** ¹⁷ "These things I command you, that you love one another. ¹⁸ If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are no part of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, on this account the world hates you. ²⁰ Bear in mind the word I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also; if they have observed my word, they will observe yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these things against you on account of my name, because they do not know him that sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.~

(John 17:11-19) . . .and I am coming to you. Holy Father. . . ¹⁴ I have given your word to them, but the world has hated them, because they are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. ¹⁵ "I request you, not to take them out of the world, but to watch over them because of the wicked one. ¹⁶ They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by means of the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me forth into the world, I also sent them forth into the world. ¹⁹ And I am sanctifying myself in their behalf, that they also may be sanctified by means of truth.

^{III} **(1 Peter 4:3-4 MWT)** Because for long enough, in times past, we have been living after the way of the world, giving in to the desires of the flesh,

with them, however. Even Jesus didn't do that. He knew he had the truth from his Father^{JJJ} and he just told everyone the truth. If their response was to fight and argue, he took his leave.^(TT – Mark 8:13) It really doesn't matter what other people think or say about you. All that matters is who you know you are, as demonstrated in sharing what you have learned from the son of God.^{KKK} What you *will gain* is a loving and wonderful relationship with all the others in the earth who are seeking and speaking truth. In addition, you will gain everlasting life.^{LLL}

to drinking and feasting and loose behavior and unclean worship of images; (4) Now they are puzzled and wondering that you no longer go with them in this useless or violent wasting of life, so they curse and insult you, and say evil things about you: (5) But they will have to give an account of themselves to him who is ready to be the judge of the living and the dead.

^{JJJ} **(John 8:38)** ³⁸ What things I have seen with my Father I speak;. . . ~ **(John 5:19)** ¹⁹ Therefore, in answer, Jesus went on to say to them: "Most truly I say to you, The Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative, but only what he beholds the Father doing. For whatever things that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

^{KKK} **(Matthew 10:32, 33)** ³² "Everyone, then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens; ³³ but whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father who is in the heavens.

^{LLL} **(Matthew 12:46-50)** ⁴⁶ While he was yet speaking to the crowds, look! his mother and brothers took up a position outside seeking to speak to him. ⁴⁷ So someone said to him: "Look! Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to you." ⁴⁸ As an answer he said to the one telling him: "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ And extending his hand toward his disciples, he said: "Look! My mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." ~ **(Luke 18:28-30)** ²⁸ But Peter said: "Look! We have left our own things and followed you." ²⁹ He said to them: "Truly I say to you, There is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ who will not in any way get many times more in this period of time, and in the coming system of things everlasting life."

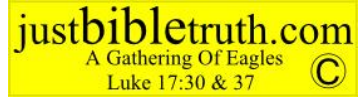
Tell everyone you can about justbibletruth.com, as one way of telling them about Christ Jesus. God's peace to you and yours.^{MMM}

^{MMM} **(Luke 10:5, 6)** ⁵ Wherever you enter into a house say first, 'May this house have peace.' ⁶ And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if there is not, it will turn back to you.~
(Philippians 4:4-7) ⁴ Always rejoice in [the] Lord. Once more I will say, Rejoice! ⁵ Let your reasonableness become known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God that excels all thought will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.

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A Gathering Of Eagles 
Luke 17:30 & 37

*All who come to God must believe that He exists,
and that He is good. Heb 11:6*

Christ Jesus is justifiably referred to as the prince of peace.^{NNN} All wise persons look forward to the peace that will be established



by his kingdom rule.^(PP) That said, it is also necessary to share his warning for and about those who choose to make themselves enemies of peace. The danger is: ~~they~~ we can be deceived to follow unawares.^(AA) Modern religion is not producing Christians who can function apart from the men who lead and govern their sect: men and women who can function autonomously from their own Bible faith in Christ. True Christians are guided by their individual conscience based on their personal knowledge of what Jesus Christ taught. That's *how* they demonstrate their faith in *him*. Religion is rather producing Doegs^{OOO} who call themselves by some "celebrated name"^{PPP} which their group has preferred (choosing some other Bible verse to support their chosen name, thus going beyond the counsel given at Acts 11:26^{QQQ} as the name of Jesus's followers). Most members ignorantly follow their group based on sectarian doctrines and traditions (the men they follow have convinced them their organizational writings are Bible study aids). They have allowed themselves to be deceived simply because they don't rely on the Bible as their only source of spiritual food. It's all so very simple: we're either becoming followers of Christ by using the Bible, or we are following the writings by men! It is not the same thing, and it can't be both ways.

This booklet is a gift prepared by justbibletruth.com. It and other Bible study aids can be read and/or printed from the website. The specific web address for this booklet is justbibletruth.com/BeingHappy.pdf (be careful of caps when typing the address in your web browser – type it in the address bar near the top of the browser window, not in the search bar near the middle of the screen). Print using adobe reader for best results.

^{NNN} **(Isaiah 9:6, 7)** ⁶ For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called . . . Prince of Peace. ⁷ To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it . . . from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Jehovah^(G) of armies will do this.

^{OOO} Visit: justbibletruth.com/BeingADoeg.html

^{PPP} **(Genesis 11:4)** ⁴ They now said: "Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, . . .

^{QQQ} **(Acts 11:26)** ²⁶ and, after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called Christians.