

Adultery in the Spirit

Artusard Renault

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"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial^[a]? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people."^[b]

¹⁷ Therefore,

"Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord. – 2Cor.6-14-17

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Disclaimer

This book is not intended to offend the religious feelings of any group of Christian Fundamentalists and the Born-again groups. The teachings in this book may rectify the mistakes committed in performing the commandments of Christian doctrine, which are based on the Bible.

Any similarity in citing instances in this book, whether in the names of entities or locations, is not intended and is a mere coincidence with the real ones.

Foreword

The very instruction of the bible in 1John 4:1, which says, “ Test every spirit if it is of God,” meaning we should test the teachings of that preacher or teacher, whether it is right or wrong. Therefore, by using logical thinking, we will be able to discern whether it is correct or not. Many so-called Christian Fundamentalists and Born-Again churches practice their doctrines that are baseless and unfounded in the bible, as growing numbers of professing Christian churches appear like mushrooms with different motives. No wonder it is clearly prophesied in the bible that false churches and false prophets will appear in the last days. This book will tell the truth that may rectify their mistakes in their practice.

Chapter 1

Fellowship with Unbelievers

Adultery in the spirit is a fellowship of believers with the religious practices of the unbelievers. This is another sin against the Holy Ghost which cannot be forgiven. If the believers who have received the doctrine of God concerning faith and yet have fellowship with the religious practices of the Gentiles, the former have committed a worse sin that cannot be forgiven. In 1 Corinthians 6:15-18, we read," Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What! Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." These verses warn the believers who are already in the faith to keep away from the sinful works of the world.

In other words, if you associate with unbelievers (Gentiles) or have fellowship with them, do not do what they do, particularly the don'ts or laws of God you have been taught, or do not perform things that you know will cause you to sin. Believers should observe that they don't practice or perform the religious practices of the Gentiles, in particular, that may cause them to sin. If you have not known

Let us read II Corinthians 6:14-18, " Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God and ye shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, said the Lord Almighty."

In the said verses, Believers are commanded to refrain from doing the practices of the unbelievers. Are believers forbidden to befriend and associate with unbelievers? Definitely, No. What is common and uncommon between believers and unbelievers? Can you associate light with darkness? What concord does Christ have with Belial (Devil)? Is there any agreement between the temple of God and Idols? Your answers may be definite and certain. Believers should not commit adultery in

the spirit, meaning they should not perform the religious practices of the Gentiles or the unbelievers.

This is attested in I Corinthians 6:15, which reads, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid."

Therefore, it is clear that believers should not do the forbidden rituals of the unbelievers (harlot as referred to in the bible), because their bodies are already members of Christ. If they do so, they will not be forgiven.

Testing the Spirits (or Teachings) of Others

The advent of the 20th century has likely signaled the emergence of numerous false prophets and churches on earth, as cited in the phrase "false prophets will come in my name," which comes from Jesus' teachings in the Gospels, particularly Matthew 24:5 and Mark 13:5-6, where He warns his followers to be cautious, as many will appear in His name,. The prophet Daniel predicted that the signs of the last days would start when men would go to and fro. Let us read Daniel 12:4, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." It was only at the beginning of the 20th century that numerous vehicles that allow many to travel by land, air, and water were developed, as there are discoveries and advancements in technology today, and knowledge of many shall increase. This is apparently manifested in today's progress and improved society. At the same time, it is noticeable that many groups of religions emerge and false Christs and prophets appear in many parts of the world.

Do you know that advanced technology has been foretold in the bible? Let us read Daniel 12:4." *But thou, Oh Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*" Running to and fro refers to the modern-day means of transportation, such as land vehicles, aircraft, sea craft, and even spacecraft. This is apparently the product of man's growing knowledge. These things are also instrumental for man's welfare and good. People can go to other places through these metal objects and machines. People should not be misled by others' baseless beliefs that advanced technology is the work of the devil. The proof that knowledge of men will advance is the discovery of modern things today, while men continue to explore the wonder of science for mankind's benefit. Iron was discovered by men to serve as a tool for survival.

Knowledge advances, metal or iron has been a very crucial component in human undertakings and progress. Men will be very busy as they go to and fro. They have discovered flying machines and consequently, they also developed weapons for

men's destruction as time passes by. Men's knowledge is growing tremendously fast. Let us read the verse in Ecclesiastes 10:10, "*If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength; but wisdom is profitable to direct.*" This is one proof that prophecies in the bible are coming to reality and fulfillment.

No wonder this event is explicitly told in the bible and predicted during the time of Jesus Christ. As it is written, in 1John 4:1, which says, Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." The bible warns us to be very cautious and diligent about the preachings of every preacher that are coming in and out of the country. Likewise, compare their teachings with the teachings that are most likely credible to embrace, especially consider the teachings of the church that is written in the bible, which is the church of God. Don't forget to check if the name of the preacher's church is written in the Bible. On that way, you will be able to know which is the true church; however, if it is not written, then abandon that preacher simply because they preach for their personal interest, and that is a material thing. That method of determining whether the preacher is of God or not. Others fall prey to these preachers whose flowery words deceive many.

And because of the growing number of churches, many who joined them did not care if the group they cleave with is of God or the other way around, and therefore they embrace the doctrine they never knew was not based on the bible, but entirely made and conceived by men with different motives.

While these innocent followers do not know the importance of church's doctrine they continuously obey what is being dictated by their pastors. They live with their church's tradition which when biblically construed cannot be found in the pages of the bible. And because of the pastors' negligence for their flocks and less knowledge about the bible they scatter or join others where they can find spiritual satisfaction and refuge. This is a reality that is written in the bible telling that Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

²Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord."

These flocks that scatter are like the modern Christian fundamentalists who go from one church to another seeking refuge and contentment. Many of them may be known to have joined other churches with different doctrines, as they vow down before idols, and some of them are persuaded by false brethren that salvation in their church is forever, even if they sin. They would even eat forbidden foods that are served to idols, and as spiritual consequences, they would celebrate prohibited

festivals and return to vices because they have become intoxicated by the wine of happiness that tolerates their caprices in life until they forget the right spiritual sanity..

Therefore, these lost souls, together with their loved ones, become yoked with unbelievers as cited in 2Corinthians 6:14-16, which says, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial[a]? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? "

Perhaps, most followers of these evangelical churches do not know what a doctrine is before cleaving to the church. They might have cleaved with the church because they liked the brethren or people within it, or they were invited and demonstrated the good things they could enjoy with the church. What these followers do not know is that we must cleave to the teachings of the church before we join them, and not because of the good showmanship of the brethren. How can the followers cleave with the church if they have not heard any teaching from their pastor, and what can they proclaim to their followers so that they may cleave with them? The bible in 1 John 1:3 says, " We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." Therefore, if a pastor did not indoctrinate his followers to cleave to his church, their fellowship with him is nothing and vain. They joined his church for nothing but the virtues of men, which is not Godly and unbiblical. Another bible verse citing the necessity of teaching indoctrination to followers before cleaving with the church can be read in Romans 10:14, which says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Followers or believers must hear the word of God first in cleaving with the church, as stated in Romans 10:16-17, which says, 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"[b] 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Therefore, if believers have never heard anything from the pastor before an offer of joining his church, leave him because your soul is in danger.

One incident in the bible that believers should not join with unbelievers in their Christian living can be read in Galatians 2:11-14, where Paul publicly rebuked Peter at Antioch for acting hypocritically. Peter, who was a Jew, had been eating with

Gentile believers but withdrew from them and separated himself when some Jewish Christians, who insisted on circumcision, arrived. Paul confronted Peter, accusing him of hypocrisy and challenging him to explain how he could then compel Gentiles to follow Jewish Law. This incident highlighted the conflict between the freedom of the gospel and the pressure to conform to Jewish legalism within the early church. Such acts of believers are covetous for one who is obedient to the Lord God, and therefore should be taught what is right and free of sins in the sight of God.

Chapter 2

Baseless Doctrines of the Christian Fundamentalists

A sect of the Baptist church believes in the doctrine once saved always saved, that even if its church members always commit sins remain spiritually saved. This is a wrong doctrine because the bible says that sins repeatedly committed will not be forgiven at all as cited in Hebrews 10:26, 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left," Just imagine if one commits sins and backslides he is nailing to the cross the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as stated in Hebrews 6:6, which says," If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." If this type of doctrine that church members shall believe in, they will find spiritual dilemma when Judgment day comes. We must realize that salvation can be lost if we ignore the warning in Hebrews 6:6, because 2Peter 2:20-21 says, 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. ²¹For 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.

The said issue is contrary to the point of view of other fundamentalist groups. One perspective, known as eternal security, argues that salvation, once truly given, is eternally secure and cannot be lost. The opposing view suggests that salvation can be forfeited through a deliberate falling away from faith, citing passages that emphasize the need for continued endurance and faithfulness. What they do not consider are the citations of the bible in the afore-mentioned verses contradicting the latter's premise.

On the other hand, a group of charismatic Christian groups says that accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior will automatically make you born-again and save you. This is contrary to what the bible is teaching because nowhere in the bible can you read that the Lord is a personal Lord and Savior of anyone. The Lord is our Lord and Savior, and not exclusive to anyone as personal.. Salvation is not instant because salvation is a process that needs one to be indoctrinated by the church first, then, if he accepts and believes in the doctrine of the church, he must undergo water baptism and live a Christian life by turning back from all the wrongs he had done in the past. He has to obey and perform the rules and obligations expected as a member of the church.

Another Christian fundamentalist groups say that religion is not necessary for Christians to be saved. It is enough that you have personal relations with the Lord

Jesus Christ to be saved. But the bible teaches that believers must have religion to be saved. Let us read James 1:27, which says, 27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” Therefore, pure religion and undefiled before God, the Father, to visit the fatherless and widows and keep himself unblemished from the world makes a good religion. And that religion is in the church of God, which is the church that Jesus Christ rebuilt when he said, in Matthew 16:18, which reads,” And I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

In addition, these same groups believe in the so-called Oneness, which means that the Father is also the Son, which makes God only One. They claim the verse in John 10:30, which says,” I and my Father are one.” But what they do not know is that the Father and the Son are one in all their undertakings like a husband and wife that become one when they get married, as stated in Matthew 19:5, saying, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? It is also like members of a particular church who are gathered in a church, as they are all called brethren of the church. To add more knowledge about Gods or Creators, let us go into details :

Distinction Of The Creators

Distinction Between God and the Son

It is indubitable that many people and believers today do not understand the distinction of God from the Son and the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Christian Fundamentalists believe that God is also the Son based on the verse of the bible in John 10:30, which says, “ I and my Father are one.” It is a wrong notion that the verse means the Father is also the Son because there are bible verses that will deny its literal interpretations. It is like a husband and wife when they get married, they become one, as stated in Matthew 19:5-6 TLV. and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. In addition, 1 Corinthians 12:12 states, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ". This passage highlights the organic unity of all believers in Christ, forming one spiritual body.

Many religious groups and people believe that God and Jesus Christ are one in their beings, and that Jesus Christ is also God. The same recognition for the Holy Spirit, who, according to those who do not know their distinction, is also God. In other words, the three persons in one being. They sum up the three into the so-called Trinity. There is no such thing as the Trinity in the bible.

What we must understand is that the Father, the God- head, is the most powerful and Supreme God, while the Son Jesus Christ is the God who was sent by the Father to save mankind on earth. Many believers do not distinguish one from the other, but people just understand that they are only one being or three in one. We have to distinguish one from the other to know who God is, who our Lord Jesus Christ is, and who the Holy Spirit is. You may notice the distinction of the three is specified in the bible as you read along the verses in each chapter. If you do not notice the distinction while reading the verses, then you will not be able to distinguish them as to their authority and lordship.

Certain verses that will distinguish the three Gods attest to their degree of authority and lordship that identify or separate one from the other. Noticeably, in one scenario in the bible, when Jesus Christ was in the cross with His last Words, in John 17:1 reads, “ *These words spoke Jesus, and lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee*” In this scenario, Jesus Christ lifted his eyes to heaven as he called God in heaven. If God the Father is also the Son, Jesus Christ, why did He look up in heaven and call God? He was calling another Being in heaven. If they were Ones in being, of course, Christ did not have to look up and call God in heaven; instead, He would just simply whisper and call for Himself alone because they were Ones, the others being inside His being already.

In this scenario, we noticed and concluded that they are not in One Being; rather, they are separate Beings and distinctive from each other. This simply means that God, the Father and the Son are different beings, and we can say that they differ in the degree of authority if they are separate Beings because they are Gods. This allegation is proven and attested in the book of John 14:28, which reads,” *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice because I said, I go unto the Father, for my Father is greater than I.*” In this verse, Jesus Christ said that He would go unto the Father and that the Father is greater than He. This means that the Father is in a higher authority than the Son. Jesus Christ himself said in another verse that the One who sent Him is greater than the One who is sent. The book of John 13:16 reads,” *Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than His Lord; neither He that is Sent greater than He that sent Him.*”

Because Jesus Christ was sent by the Father as Savior of mankind, He would give those whom He saved to the Father. Referring to the book of John 17:11, “ *And now I am no more in the world, but those are in the world, and I come to thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those who thou hast given me, that they may be as one as We are One.*” You may probably say that the Father is also the Son in the following verse, while the Son is also the Father at the same time, upon reading this, John 10:30, “*I and my Father are One.*” Many people misinterpret this verse because they out

rightly interpret the verse as they read it verbatim. "I and the Father are One." Others believe in their understanding that because the verse says "I and the Father are One", they will conclude now that the Father is also the Son; and the Son is also the Father. No. It is a wrong notion.

If we ask a question: How did they become One? Are they One in Being? The answer is: They are not One in being nor will they be Ones in the degree of lordships. Let us cite an instance of Oneness in other aspects, like the marriage of a man and a woman. Once they are married, the two become one." This means that husband and wife will become one, one is what? One in their obligations as couples, one in the flesh when they mate and produce children, one in richness and poverty, one in family bearing. John cannot become James while James cannot become John. Therefore, in what aspect did the Father and the Son become One?

Let us read John 10:28-29, "*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man can pluck them out of my Father's hand.*" These two verses will tell us where the Father and the Son have become One. In verse 28, the Son expresses concern and plays the role of a good shepherd as well as the Father. In verse 29, the Father is a good shepherd, and so is the Son, for they are both caretakers of the flock.

Christians are also one with one another in the spirit and faith. This is quoted in the book of the Philippians 1:27, "*Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ; That whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*" Let us read John 17:11 which says, "*And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*" The underlined phrase "that they may be one" refers to those people who have been saved and gathered by the Son on earth because they all believed in God.

They all have one common belief and doctrine about God. In the same way, the Father and Son are one in their work and purpose for the salvation of men. Therefore, this will interpret that there is oneness in doctrine and belief only, and conclusively not oneness in being. Therefore, the Father is a separate being from the Son, as the Son is a separate being from the Father. Curious minds may even ask if God the Father has a Father. Let us see what the bible answers. In Isaiah 43:10, it says, "*Ye are my witnesses whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*"

The verse is testifying that there was no God before our God, nor will there be any other God after Him. Therefore, God has no beginning and no end. Remember God is a Supreme Being and Creator. He is not created nor has He had any origin. Isaiah 55:8 says, “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.*” We should know that questioning God’s origin is not good and makes us offenders? The bible teaches us not to think about what is beyond our imagination about God’s origin. Romans 12:3 says, “*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*” Therefore, no man should fathom and think about God’s origin because it is an offense to cast doubt and question God.

Distinction Between Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

We have distinguished the Father from the Son according to the degree of authority and lordship, which were all supported by verses. With this, we can now distinguish Jesus Christ from the Holy Spirit in the degree of lordship and authority. In this distinction, Jesus Christ is greater than the Holy Spirit. Let us read John 14:26, “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.*” In the said verse, the Father will send the Holy Ghost in Jesus Christ’s name, wherein the Holy Ghost will act as Comforter and a teacher to bring all things to remembrance. We can recall that the Father is the Supreme Being among the three Creators. Now, Jesus Christ is the second-highest in authority next to Father God, who sent Him.

Therefore, Jesus Christ is greater than the Holy Spirit (Ghost) whom He sent by the Father. In the previous discussion, we said that the One who sends is greater than the One being sent. In this instance, Jesus Christ is proven to be greater than the Holy Spirit by reading John 15:26, “*But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.*” The verse we read testifies that the Son sends the Comforter from the Father. This implies that Jesus Christ is greater than the Holy Spirit whom he sent from the Father.

The Three Creators are One in their duties and mission to mankind; however, they differ in the degree of authority as Gods. Why did I say they are Creators? Because from the beginning they were together in the creation. Let us read Genesis 1:26, “*Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...*” The pronoun “us” indicates that God was not alone. He was with somebody during the creation, and

that was our Lord Jesus Christ. However, there is no such thing as the Trinity in the bible, and nowhere in the bible can you find that term used.

The God who is the Most High among them all and above everything else in heaven and on earth will remain the Most High, whom the Son will also be subjected to. Let us read 1 Cor. 15:27-28, "*For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*"

These verses only prove that all things will be subject and under God, including Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is also subject unto God in the times to come. Others perceive there is only one God. Yes, there is only one Supreme and Most High God, and that is God the Father, while our Lord Jesus Christ, who is born of God, is also God who will be sent back to earth in the last days to save mankind. However, as mentioned, the Holy Spirit of God was there also since the beginning, but no further accounts are written in the bible. In addition, the Holy Spirit has come to guide, comfort, and make us recall things that we forget. The Holy Spirit is part of the God-head. John 16:13 says, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will show you things to come.*"

The Holy Spirit will also help us in our weaknesses when sent. If we cannot utter our prayers by mere groaning, the Spirit understands and makes intercession for us. In Romans 8:26, which reads, "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*"

Jesus Christ as God

Is Jesus Christ God?

There may be some churches or religious groups, except non-Christian churches that do not believe in Christ, who believe Jesus Christ is a mere human being and a prophet only, but some do not believe at all in God. The bible is an existing book that proves Jesus Christ is God. Let us read 1 Timothy 3:16, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" *Who was manifest in the flesh? Was he not Jesus Christ? Who was sent by God on earth and born of flesh to save the world? The underlined statement clearly states that Jesus Christ was born of flesh. Who do you think was sent from heaven, but Jesus Christ? Furthermore, the bible says in John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh and*

dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.” Who is the Word that was made flesh? Let us read John 1:1: “ In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

The verse says, in the beginning was the Word which was made flesh; therefore, if the Word was made flesh, it should emanate from the flesh also, which is the human being, because it is flesh and blood. First, Jesus Christ was born of the Father God in the spirit because God is a spirit, and second, He was sent by God to earth in the flesh in order to live with human beings who are in the flesh. So he was born into flesh. Let us read John 6:51-54, “ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . The Jesus strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him at the last day.”*

In this verse, the flesh that will be given to the world is life. It means that the man in the flesh who was sent from above was the Life and Savior of the world, and verse 54 says, “ *Whoso eateth my flesh hath eternal life. Is this literal? This is not literal, shall men eat the flesh of humans? No. Flesh, being referred to as something to eat in this verse, is the Word of God that men should learn. These are the teachings of Christ that should be obeyed so that mankind would have eternal life. Let us read John 6:69, “ And we believe and are that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” Conclusively, Jesus Christ is God as stated in this verse, for He is the Son of the living God, and whatever is born of God is God. God is a spirit. No flesh and blood shall come from heaven nor go up in heaven in flesh and blood, as the bible says. One proof that Jesus is God can be read in 1John 5:20.” “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life”*

Those who believe that Jesus was only a man would quote a certain verse in the bible to strengthen their claim that He is a human being only. The verse in John 8:40 reads “ *But now ye seek to kill me, a man, that hath told you the truth...”* In this verse, the underlined word “man” affirms their belief that Jesus is human, a real man whom the people wanted to kill. The question is, in this scenario, what was the status of Jesus Christ? Was he in the Spirit or flesh? Certainly, He was physically in the flesh and blood.

However, if you continue reading the next verses below, up to John 8:42, it says, “ *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me; for I proceedeth forth*

and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me." In this verse, Jesus revealed that he came from God. Jesus Christ was a person who came from God and was born of flesh by human beings through the Virgin Mary, so he might live with people. He was a Spirit when He was with God in heaven and was sent to earth in the form of flesh.

God Begets His Son Jesus Christ

It would sound unfamiliar, bizarre, or peculiar to all that man is conceiving and begetting children. It sounds impossible, but the thing is, it is real that man conceives and begets children, because we normally know only that the one conceiving and producing is the female. Why is it not possible that a male conceives and produces? Even the bible attests to this fact in Psalms 94:9 *"He that planted the ear, shall he not see?"* Which male is conceiving and begetting? For example, the sea horse under the depth of the waters conceives and begets its offspring. God the Father conceives His Son Jesus Christ using His mind. Jesus was not created and not a creation of God. John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him". It is clearly stated that He was with the bosom of the Father in the beginning. Hebrews 1:5, *"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?"* The Son was begotten in the beginning, Proverbs 8:22 says, *"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old."*

Thus, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was begotten from the beginning, is God because the one that is begotten of God is God. And His beginnings were attested in Proverbs 8: 24-32, *"When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountain abounding with water, Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world, When he prepared the heavens, I am there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth; when he established the clouds above; when he strengthened the fountain of the deep; when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment; when he appointed the foundation of the earth; then I was by him, as one brought up with him;"*

We may ask, when was God when he made His creation, and at the beginning of the creation? God was in His habitable part of his earth. In other words, it is no ordinary earth like the one where man lives and inhabits now, but He was on his earth. Proverbs 8:31 *"rejoicing in the habitable part of the earth."*

God, The Father of Lord Jesus Christ, The Supreme Savior

If we are to tackle the issue of mankind's salvation, precisely, there is a Savior. There is an act of saving, and somebody is to be saved. We ought to know that if we are going to be saved spiritually, that is, during the last day on earth, if we are still alive and when the Savior Jesus Christ comes, and if we are already dead, we will be raised from the dead to face judgment. Let us read the bible to know who we shall recognize as the Supreme Savior in this work of salvation. In the book of 1 Timothy 4:10, which reads, "*For themselves we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially to those that believe.*"

The verse was told by St. Paul to Timothy. He said, "We labor and strive, that we have put our hope in the living God. This is no other than God the Father, who is the Savior of all men, especially to those who believe. The phrase used by Paul here is the Savior of all men. This refers to salvation from the beginning of the creation of man until the last man who will be under the generation of salvation. This is the work of the living God, to save all men in all generations. Who is the living God? We must realize that to be saved, we must all accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in the last days on earth, but we must know His Word and teachings in the bible because if we accept Jesus Christ without knowing his teachings, how can Christians follow his commandments? Where are Christians heading?

There could be many Christ-like pretenders out there proclaiming they are the Christ and teaching different teachings that come from their own. The bible warns us that there will be many false prophets that will come out of this world, saying they are the Christ and will mislead many. So be warned of this scenario. We ought to know the teachings and commandments of the genuine Jesus Christ in the bible in order not to be misled. Otherwise, your salvation in the last day is also endangered. In other words, some present-day Christians say that the living God is our Lord Jesus Christ. Is it true that the living God referred to in the bible is Lord Jesus Christ?

Let us read the book of Matthew 16:16-17, which reads, "*And Simon Peter answered, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona; For flesh and blood hath not revealed in unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven.*" In other words, the living God is referred to as God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is in heaven during that time. However, as of this time, they are both in heaven. Therefore, if you ask, How many Gods are there? The answer is, there are many Gods. But there is only one most powerful God, and that is God the Father. The Son Jesus Christ is the next God, who is also a powerful God and Savior of mankind.

The Holy Spirit and the Spirits of God

The Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit play important roles in the creation. Ever since the creation of heaven and earth, the Creators, which are composed of Gods, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, have been together. What verse in the bible testifies that they were all together during the creation? Let us read Genesis 1:26, “*And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and the cattle.*” The pronouns “us” and “our” are two subjects that point out more than two other beings performing the creation. The Spirit of God attests to the creation and his presence in Genesis 1:1-2, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, Let there be light, and there was light.*” In the said verse, the whereabouts of the spirit of God during the creation was identified; the Spirit was hovering over the surface of the earth. You may ask about God at the moment of creation.

The bible tells that God, during the event of creation, was on His earth. In other words, he was dwelling in His created earth, which no one could locate, nor was it told in the bible. Perhaps, in the universe also. There is no record revealed about their whereabouts, so we will only read what is written in the bible. The bible tells us that we must not go beyond what is written in the bible. In 1Corinthians 4:6, “*And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.*” With this revelation, we are taught to quote verses that are written only in the bible. In the verse we read, it is proven that the Spirit of God is one of the Creators. Another verse proves that the Spirit was with the Creators, which can be read in Psalm 104:30: “*Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth.*” The work of the Holy Spirit in this verse is clearly stated, that He changes the face of the earth. In other words, the Spirit was the one who shaped the mountains and beneath the seas.

When Jesus Christ finished his mission on earth, he went up to heaven and told his disciples and followers that he would ask the Father to send a Comforter to be with the disciples. Let us go over the verses in John 14:16-17, “*And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not; neither knoweth him but ye know him for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.*” One of the main missions of the Holy Spirit in being sent to the world is to guide the works of the disciples. The Comforter will be with those who will pursue the works of Christ and the Apostles until the coming of the Son of God. The true servants of God will be able to speak by the power and move of the Holy Spirit. Every word that they will say will

come from heaven through the Spirit that is with them. We can read this testimony in John 16:13 that reads, “

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.” In other words, the Holy Spirit will move to speak to the Christians to relay the message from heaven. It is not from the will of men they will speak, but by the power and moving of the Holy Spirit. The verse testifying this allegation can be read in II Peter 1:21, which reads, “ *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*” In this verse, it is said that even the things to come will be revealed by the Spirit to the followers of Christ, that is, from God.

A servant has the Spirit of God when he walks not by the flesh but by the Spirit. Everything changes in him. The way and manner in which he speaks are full of wisdom and knowledge. As one verse in the bible says, “When you are in Christ, you are a new creation, the old things have passed and the new ones have come.” This testifies that when you are in Christ, you are a man of God. In Romans 8:16 reads, “ *The Spirit itself beareth witness without spirit, that we are the children of God.*” *The spirit that is in us will testify to our spirit that we will not walk in the flesh because the flesh sins.* This is the truth in Romans 7:25, “ *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord, so then with the mind I serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*” If a Christian is holy and righteous, the Holy Spirit will be with him to guide and comfort him in all his life, and the knowledge and things he should know shall be put into his mind

On the other hand, Holy men bear good fruit, and good things happen. And it shall manifest upon the holy men and people of God. This is the testimony in Galatians 5:22, “ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.*” Many kinds of spirits manifest in the flesh. Christians who win and turn away from the truth are told to restore the faith. This is what the bible instructs us in Galatians 6:1, “ *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted.*” In this verse, the Apostle Paul commanded that the brethren who are at fault be restored to the spirit of meekness.

Now, we shall say that the flesh and the spirit are in contrast with each other. Otherwise, if one prevails over the other, the other may abide. This is what we can read in Galatians 5:16-17, “ *This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*” The

Holy Spirit is sent to make us remember the things we should do and lead us to the right path in our lives. We can read this in John 14:26," *But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name; he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" Is there such a thing as "slain in the spirit?"

There are evangelical-charismatic groups that perform this kind of ritual. They lay their hand on a person's head, and for no reason, a quivering person falls into the arms of someone ready to catch behind her or him. Nowhere in the pages of the bible can you read an instance such as this one. Some evangelists are allegedly filled with spirits as they drive out evil spirits from the body of an alleged demon-possessed person.

If these evangelists or preachers are spirit-filled, what kind of spirits do they have? Are they preaching the true teachings of Christ? You may happen to ask this question to test the authenticity of their ministry. Who were those people doing these things in the past? Jesus Christ and His disciples did the healing and casting out of evil spirits during that time. Many wonders and miracles were done by them in the past. Today, wonders and miracles are done by modern-day science and technology, which are instrumental in making things possible.

Finally, we should learn that God has seven Spirits. Let us read Isaiah 1:26, " *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*" Did you know that God also sends evil spirits to men? This is what the bible tells in Judges 9:22-23. " *When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel, then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.*"

There are reasons why God sends evil spirits to men; it is precisely for the good and discipline of men. Like what happened to Saul of Israel when an evil spirit put him into trouble. Let us read 1 Samuel 16:14-15, which says, " *But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.*" *And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.*" But we should understand that if we are obedient to God. He will give us good spirits. He will pour out his spirit to his people as the bible tells in Proverbs 1:23, " *Turn you at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you.*" In this verse, a spiritual man is given knowledge by God through the Spirit.

Did the bible tell us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever? If he is the same today, Is He still doing miracles? The answers to these questions are Yes.

The reason why these questions are asked is that there are allegedly charismatic servants who are performing the works of the Apostles today. The driving out of evil spirits and healing of the sick, and some are even trying to raise the dead. They claim that these works are still in effect today. Some of them may even inhibit you from taking medicines and seeing doctors. Religious people must realize that modern products of science and technology are the people behind such as doctors and scientists, who are all instrumental in accomplishing good works for mankind.

God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does wonders and miracles. One miracle is our daily survival; we're going to and fro every day without being harmed and yet still alive. Are they not miracles for us? With these instances, we can prove that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The truth about this is that the law in the past has already changed. The change in the law of the past can be read in Hebrews 7:12, which reads, “ *For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.*” Hebrews 6:1-3 read, “

Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” Therefore, men should advance as they leave the elementary teachings that have nothing to do with today. It shall not affect today because the law has changed. The laying on of hands to the sick and other works that are commanded to be abandoned should be adhered to and follow the teachings of Christ today.

Chapter 3

The First Believers Are Saved

When Jesus began preaching the gospel to the Jews and other people, there was no emergence yet of false churches, but only those of the church of Judaism administered by the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were the dominant religious sect at that time, which is like the Catholics today, and the Sadducees were the atheists who did not believe in God.

We can imagine today how easy it is for the continuing emergence of false churches to deceive and tarnish many innocent souls with false teachings. Jesus, in his ministry, the number of Jews who accepted and believed in his teachings was 144,000. The said number was the first fruit of Jesus' teachings that were unblemished and not tarnished by other teachings. Thus, it is written in Hebrews 12:23, saying, "to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect." Their names were written in the book of life in heaven, being part of the church of God that is also written in heaven. Philippians 4:3 says, Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life."

This number was recorded in the book of Revelation 14:1-5, And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

² And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

³ And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

⁴ These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

⁵ And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Members of one Christian Fundamentalist church said that only the 144,000 mentioned in the book of Revelation would be saved on the day of Judgment, as they are already among them. The wrong notion of the said church limits only their understanding in Revelations 14:1-5 as cited above. What they did not know was that there was a great multitude in white robes that would be saved, aside from the 144,000 they believed in. Let us read Revelation 7:9, which says, After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."

Giving as Taught in the Bible

The above-mentioned sad truth is the result of a growing church's false teachings that can drive souls to the pit of hell. Another sad truth is that these false churches ask and obligate their members to contribute ten percent (10%) of their monthly income as tithes or offerings, thus invoking a certain verse in the bible that if they don't obey, they are robbing God. Malachi 3:8 says, Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." The said verse validates their demand for a 10% tithe, when in fact it was commanded by the early Israelites in the house of Levi, a priest and his descendants, to serve God and collect tithes, and not for the present-day Christian believers. The command for the Levites to collect tithes can be read in Hebrews 7:5, which says," And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:"

But what does the bible teach us in this Christian era about the law on giving? This verse does not want to be taught by false teachers who only want to collect tithes from their members. Let us read 2 Corinthians 9:7, saying, "7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Apparently, the said bible verse teaches us to give according to the dictate of our hearts, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. Therefore, there is no reason for the false preachers nowadays to collect tithes because Malachi 3:8 was told to the early people of God and not the present-day church. Members of these false churches that collect tithes should decide or think twice before they obey them and hold to what is being commanded in the New Testament, which is the word of God through Jesus Christ. Giver of 10 % tithes after knowing the truth will endanger their soul because they are driving and tolerating their preachers to continuously commit wrong.

A dilemma confronted a group of fundamentalist-charismatic churches in South Korea when their pastor, who used to predict the coming destruction of earth, announced the approaching judgment and catastrophe of earth as he and others prepared a huge cave to accommodate his members to be saved on the said day. His members were panicky and scared, prepared to evacuate for the safe refuge of the cave; thus, the pastor asked them to entrust the titles of their real and personal properties into his custody. Unfortunately, on the said day of catastrophe, the terrified members waited until the end of the day, but nothing happened. The false pastor who collected their earthly possessions announced that the approaching deluge was postponed for the reason he could not say in detail. Later, the disappointed members were ordered to return home with their titles in the hand of the pastor, who did not tell them when he would return them.

It is just one of the many scam stories in religion that many uninformed church believers encountered in their religious fanaticism. Apparently, false pastors who want quick riches through 10% tithes also make more through false teachings, as cited in 2 Corinthians 2:17, which emphasizes the sincerity and divine authority with which God's word should be preached, contrasting it with "peddlers" who corrupt the word for profit. The bible is true that because of the material desire of the false prophets, even members would be exploited to collect alms along the busy marketplaces and urged members to increase profits by selling anything in the heat of the sun. This is cited in 2 Peter 2:3, saying, *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."*

The First Church

The church of the firstborn in the wilderness, which was lost, had to be rebuilt and gathered by our Lord Jesus Christ. That is why Christ was sent by Father God to save them and the Gentiles. Gentiles are those people born outside of Israel. Gentiles are the recipients of God's promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), which says God made Christ "head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all," and Colossians 1:16, which declares, "And he is the head of the body, the church... so that in everything he might have the supremacy". Likewise, Jesus was the builder of the church and not men. This is testified in Matthew 16:18, which reads," *And I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Doesn't this verse prove that our Lord Jesus Church would rebuild the church? You may ask, Why does Christ have to

rebuild the church if there was already a church? Jesus Christ would rebuild the fallen church of the firstborn upon the rock.

Who is the rock? The rock refers to Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church. This is testified in Ephesians 2:20, which reads “ *and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.*” According to the bible, the Lord God was the one who built the church for his people, and this can be read in Psalm 127, which reads, “ *Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city; that watchman waketh but in vain.*” You can read the underlined phrase affirming, except the Lord builds the house(i.e., church), those men who build and are trying to establish their churches are building them in vain or for nothing. In other words, He is the only authority sent by God to rebuild the church because the original Church of God, which God built, was lost.

The original members of the Church of God were the chosen few and the faithful firstborn church of Israel who were scattered and disappeared on earth because they were persecuted, and some were even killed, while the others who disobeyed and fell away became sinners. In other words, the church where we get together and associate with to worship God must be the Church that God built until the time our Lord Jesus Christ rebuilds it. But, how is that? Where is that original church that God and Lord Jesus Christ built? How can we be part of that church that God had built if it is already gone or has long been lost for thousands of years? The bible teaches again that the church's name is the Church of God.

In I Thessalonians 2:14 says, “ *For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your country-men, even as they have of the Jews:*” We may become part of that original Church of God in the bible by cleaving to what is good as instructed by the bible in Romans 12:9 which reads, “ *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*” People who want to cleave to it must obey and believe in the doctrines of that church in the bible. In our dispensation, Jesus Christ must be the head of the church as taught by the bible in Colossians 1:18, which says, “ *and he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence.*” Therefore, there is no other head of the church but our Lord Jesus Christ.

We shall know the true and original name of the church as the Church of God in 1 Timothy 3:15, which reads, “ *but I tarry long that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*” In other verses of the bible, the official name of the church is “ Church of God.” This can be read for clarification in 1 Corinthians 1:2, which reads, “

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth." While there are so many names of churches today, we should be aware of whether their teachings are the genuine teachings of Christ because there is only one source of the original teachings of Christ, and that is from the chosen people, from the Church of God.

The apostle Paul even mentioned the true church of God in 1 Corinthians 15:9, which says, "*For I am the least of the Apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle because I persecuted the Church of God.*" This verse testifies that Paul persecuted the Church of God when he was still in the religion of Judaism and was not yet a Christian convert. While there is only one genuine and true Church of God, it follows that the teachings of God they impart to the people are biblically true and infallible. This is proven by the members of the true church in 1 Thessalonians 2:32-4." *For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor uncleanness, nor in guile, but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God which trieth our hearts. Where is that church of God that the apostle Paul was part of? Does it still exist and teach the same as it did thousands of years ago?*

The church of God still exists today, but you should be aware of the teachings to determine if it is the genuine teachings of Christ in the bible. There are many similar names of churches claiming to be the original church. To determine if the teachings are genuine, test if the teacher is teaching the infallible words, and if the teachings are really happening. Test the spirits if it is of God as commanded in 1 John 4:1, which says, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*"

Are believers obliged to be part of the church of God? Yes. The bible instructs believers to be part of the church of God. This is testified in Romans 12:9, which reads, "*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*" Notice the underlined phrase. Cleave refers to joining or becoming part of that which teaches good, or the one that teaches the true teachings of God in the bible.

In other words, if you realize that you have been part of a false church that is not being taught in the bible, you are, of course, being taught to leave that church as commanded in the bible in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 which say, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*" Does your church have common descriptions of the true church,

or does it follow the ways of the world, where the teachings do not conform to the true teachings in the gospel? If you want to be part of the true church, cleave to that one that teaches good, and you will become God's people.

Chapter 4

The Church of God

What was the name of the first Church of God? Where did the first Church originate?

The first church that God established for his people must have its name and origin. There are many churches today that appear, but we do not know if they are of God. It is a fact that different church denominations that appear today may be large or small. Some were built and established only sometime in the 4th century AD to the early 17th century AD, whereas the original Church that God established in the bible was built more than 2,000 years ago, according to the time of the Hebrews led by prophet Moses.

Biblically, when the Israelites under the leadership of Moses went out of the bondage from Egypt, they traveled in the wilderness at the foot of Mt. Sinai. In this mountain, he received the Ten Commandments of God. The Patriarchs of Israel were the firstborn who received the first teachings and commandments of God. They were the first people who served the living God. Eventually, the first church or congregation was formed in the wilderness and was called "Church of the Firstborn". This consisted of the patriarchs of Israel, who were called the firstborn of Israel. These firstborn were chosen and holy because they obeyed God's commandments given to Moses.

Let us read Hebrews 12:23. "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven and to God that judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

History and the bible tell us that Israel was the chosen nation of God, and its people were called the firstborn. This is proven in Exodus 4:22," Then say to Pharaoh, this is what the Lord says; Israel is my firstborn son." In many events that took place in this nation, Israel went through many trials, sufferings, and struggles to stand as a great nation of God. Despite being the chosen people, many of them turned away from their faith and disobeyed God.

God got angry, but some remained obedient and faithful as they remained the chosen few. The chosen few traveled in the wilderness with God. Many times God's miracles were witnessed by these people, which signified that He was really with them, and yet some of them became stubborn and turned away. They became idolaters, backsliders, and unrepentant. But some of them scattered because of

persecution. Eventually, they spread out and they grouped according to their beliefs and ways.

They scattered the earth. They were lost and isolated from the genuine and original congregation of the firstborn. Let us read Romans 10, which reads, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto righteousness of God." This verse is a testimony for people who fall apart from the righteousness of God, not to mention those who remained with God but were persecuted. In the days of Lord Jesus Christ, the Church of God was restored.

He preached to all nations, to Samaria, Judea, and Galilee. He wanted to gather the lost flock of Israel. Jesus gathered His first disciples and preached the gospel of salvation. On this occasion, the lost Church of God (of the firstborn was restored. Paul, the apostle, became the administrator of the church of God in different towns and cities in Israel.

The testimony of the bible that the church in which the disciples and apostles of Christ is the Church of God that can be read in 1Corinthians 4:2, " Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours;"

Another verse proving that the church is the church of God is in Acts 20:28, " 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." And other churches of God were established throughout Israel. Acts 9:31. " Then, had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

This church of God which was established in different parts of Israel in the past was lost because of persecution and scattered abroad until its revival in these last days in which its members would only cleave to be part of the church, as what the bible instructs in Roman 12:9. ' to cleave with which is good" All the members of the church of God should join the church, and obey the laws and teachings that are written in it.

Men are not expected to found their own churches; otherwise, they are false, but the instruction is to cleave to the Church of God, which is good. Notice that many different churches bear different names other than the Church of God today. Remember, there is only one Church of God that serves and worships God according

to the bible today. This is the church that is appointed to teach the gospel of salvation in the last days.

The church of God is the church that opened up the mystery of the sealed book (bible) in these days when the end time comes. (Daniel 12:4) The bible teaches us the existence of the Church of God as the church that Christ and the Apostle Paul taught in the bible to be the official name of the church. We can read the name of the church of God in 1Corinthians 1:1-2 that says," Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brethren Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,". There are other verses in the bible that assert that the church of God is the name of the church where present-day Christians should cleave.

Mosaic Law Distinct from the Christian Law

There are evangelical and born-again groups that believe and teach more on the Old Testament book of the bible than the New Testament, which is more on the law of Christ. For this reason, the learning of their followers is more focused on the Mosaic law, which is now known as the religion of Judaism. Hence, they don't know the commandments of Christ.

If you believe in the Ten Commandments of God given to Moses and His people, where certain commandments, such as the observance of the Sabbath, are no longer followed by many Christian groups today. We should realize that the Old Testament laws have been changed in the New Testament during the time of Jesus Christ. According to Hebrews 8:13," In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." The verse is very clear that a new covenant (teachings or laws) has made the old one vanish away.

During the time of Jesus Christ, the Ten Commandments, which the Jews believed and Christians follow and know in this present dispensation, have become more than ten because of Christ's laws taught to his followers then and now. In the old Ten Commandments, one of the commandments is, respect your father and mother; but Christ taught all Christians, respect all men. It means that it is not only your Father and Mother you are bound to pay respect to, but all men.

They may be your brothers, sisters, elderly, and all men. (1Peter 2:17, "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God, Honor the king.") Sometimes people bound themselves to respect only their parents, but not others; that is why, during the Christian era, it was commanded to respect all men. Realistically, that is one added commandment that Christ has taught us.

Another commandment added is: In the Old Testament, one commandment is: Do not kill; in the New Testament, killing a person has become stricter because when you harbor hatred in your heart against anybody, it is tantamount to killing them. In the Ten Commandments, the command is: Do not kill. In the New Testament, the commandment is: do not hate nor harbor hatred against anybody.

In the Old Testament, the early Jews observed the Sabbath. They did not work on the Sabbath day, nor did they do anything that might break its observance. But in the Christian dispensation, the Sabbath is no longer observed, but rather the Christians are instructed to gather to worship on the first day of the week, which is Sunday in our present calendar. Even Jesus did good on the Sabbath day when he helped and healed the sick. Did he not render his services on that very Sabbath day? He did and broke the Sabbath. Therefore, it is not absolute that you strictly observe it when it asks you to render something worthy for others and for God. The bible says in Acts 20:7, And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow, and continued his speech until midnight."

Christ also defied the Sabbath by doing good or performing Samaritan work. In John 5:18, it says, "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." Another added law today is the eating of those four-legged animals and cloven-footed. Leviticus 11:2-7, read, "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts that are on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is cloven-footed, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat. Nevertheless, these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you."

The early Israelites were forbidden to eat the said beasts that were cloven-footed, such as the pigs, carabaos, rabbits, cows, and other cloven-footed animals. But in the present dispensation, they are already allowed by Christ's law to be consumed because they are already cleansed. Mark 7:19, "because it entereth not his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out, into the draught, purging all meats." Therefore, what is crucial in this verse is the thing that enters our hearts, and not the meat that we eat.

Even the Apostle Peter was urged to eat these cloven-footed beasts when he got hungry. In Acts. 10:10-16 “ and he became very hungry, and would have eaten; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice, and the vessel was received up again into heaven.”

Another added commandment of Christ is the giving of tithes, in the book of Malachi 3 6-11. And in Hebrews 7:5-12, “ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people – that is, their brothers – even though their brothers are descended from Abraham.” Verse 12 goes this way, “ For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.”

In other words, the old law, which was the law for the Hebrews or Israelites, particularly of the Leviticus priesthood, has been changed today. The Christian law that should be followed by believers is that you give according to what your heart decides. This is the command in 2Corinthians 9:7, “ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This is a very clear verse in our time that commands us to give what we have decided in our hearts. Another Christian law today that we should know is that when a man stares with lust and sexual desire at a woman, that man has implicitly committed the sins already of adultery.

There are other Christian laws and teachings that we may say are more than the laws of the Ten Commandments received by Moses at Mt. Sinai. One very significant law of Christ today, which is not in the Ten Commandments, is Baptism in water, which is the commandment for all Christians that we are obliged to fulfill. According to Galatians 6:2, “ Bear ye one another’s burden, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Other laws that are prohibited by the law of Christ are :

The imposition of usurious interest in lending and illegal works such as gambling, selling illegal drugs, pornography, smuggling, graft and corruption, and many more acts constitute crime. Who prepares the food for the idols? The Gentiles who do not know God prepare the foods for the idols and it shall not be eaten by believers(occasions such as fiestas, moon festivals and other festivities concerning idols, patrons and sorts of worship in graven images) as the bible warns in 1Corinthians

10:20, it reads “ But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God, and I would not that ye should have fellowship with the devils”

It is clearly stated verbatim and conclusively one of the sins against the Holy Ghost. What are these idols in which the forbidden foods are offered? They are idols in which men worship, pray, and kneel before. Even in the past, men sinned because they worshipped graven images. In Proverbs 115 4-7 read, “ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not; they have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they walk not; neither speak they through their throat.” What are the foods that believers should eat without sinning?

In the past, God mentioned those foods that should be eaten by His people and those foods that they should not eat. The commandment is clear on eating meat, but there is an exception as stated in Genesis 9:3-4. “ Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things, but flesh with life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.” Notice that blood is forbidden by God to be eaten by His people, as this commandment is still subsisting today.

Chapter 5

Come out of False Churches & Religions

The bible says, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. We do not live by bread alone, but in every word that comes from Him. There may be many churches nowadays, as there are many kinds of believers who still believe in the motto, God first, before anything else. Some are already under the law who do the law, and others who are under the law but do not do the law, and there are those who are not under the law but they do the law of God and Christ. While the unbelievers say, "there is no God", the bible calls them "fools". Life does not end on earth, but after death, there will be a day of judgment to wait, and the dead will rest for a time and rise together with the living on the last day. The popular quotation, "To die is to rest", may mean physical freedom and escape from this turbulent world.

When we die, our dead body returns to dust while the spirit goes back to the Maker who holds every breath of life on earth. But on the last day, the resting dead will rise from their lengthy slumber, and together with the living, everyone will face the Great White throne judgment. A judgment where there is no more slumber and rest, but eternal torment to those who deserve to be cast into the lake of burning sulfur and brimstone, and everlasting life to those who will be saved. To elaborate further, the bible says,"

For it is destined unto men to die once and after that the judgment." It means that man will die first, but not to be judged right away for glory or condemnation. His flesh will return to dust as his spirit returns to God. When Christ returns to earth, there will be a resurrection of the dead in Christ first. He will reign for a thousand years to give a chance to those who have not received Christ nor given up their evil works. After a thousand years have elapsed, the second resurrection will occur, and after that, everyone will face the Judgment Throne of God.

And there, each one of us will be judged according to the record in the book of life. Then, everyone will face their fate, whether in the glory of heaven or into the excruciating pain of the lake of fire, that is the so-called second death. This spiritual death is not literal, as in total extinction from reality of the torment of punishment. But to physically suffer the torment of fire. The condemned will not be in the spirit, but they will be revived in the flesh as if they were in the natural world to receive the punishment that they deserve. The bible says they will suffer torment in hell day and night.

When we speak of spiritual issues and religion, we speak of our soul's salvation and our destiny in the life after death. And we should realize that everything on earth is temporal, since earth is the testing ground for mankind, and the results of our activities here are all recorded in each person's own book in heaven, where men will be judged accordingly. Our lives may always be focused on what we see (material things) on earth, but the reality is, there are unseen things that are coming along the way.

Those unseen things have something to do with each other's faith. It is very crucial that while we are still on earth, we make sure that our spiritual and religious beliefs are guided by the truth in the bible (good for Christians), which is the word of God. It is the truth that our Lord Jesus Christ and his disciples are teaching then and now.

Most probably, the Word has reached many nations now with the help of modern technology as compared to the past. The bible says that the gospel will be preached to all nations of the world, and it has been made possible by this modern technology today. As it is told in the bible, this is one prophecy that has been fulfilled.

In this present Christian dispensation, the original teachings of the Christ and the disciples have been restored and found now, since the book (bible) had been sealed for many centuries as what the bible tells in Daniel 12: 4 that says, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end:" For many centuries, the mystery of the bible had been sealed even if the pages had been browsed and read by many groups and individuals who were trying to interpret the words.

The fact is, it is given only to the people of God in this end-time generation to understand and prophesy the words. The mystery to know the words in the bible is only given to the chosen people of God as it is written in Mark 4:11, " And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:" The mystery of the kingdom of God in the verse refers to God's "Word". In this bible verse, it is clearly pronounced that the mystery of the word to know is given only to the appointed ones, but to those without it will be done in parables.

In other words, those groups who did not received the mystery to know would not be able to know it but they would just read the word plainly or literally as it is, unless they cleave to which is right and good in the bible (i.e., to believe and obey the law and doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ) and be baptized as they walk in it for the rest of their lives. In the last days, many will be purified as many will continue to become wicked, and the old path, which is the former teachings of God, will be understood and taught to all, which is already happening today. Remember that the basis of our

salvation is the teachings of God and Lord Jesus Christ in the bible, which tell mankind that the gospel is the power of God to salvation.

According to the Apostle Paul, in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Speaking of religion, your salvation relies heavily on what your preacher or pastor teaches you about faith and salvation. Remember that Salvation is not taken in an instant pronouncement of anyone or by your own pronouncement that you receive Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, as what your brethren-leader may ask you to do. Salvation is a process.

It will be discussed in this book later. Everyone should know that church leaders have the most responsibility and accountability for their salvation. The bible tells that if you are led and taught a wrong religious doctrine and embrace it, you and your leader will be in danger of being condemned into the lake of fire on the judgment day. The bible says in the book of Matthew, 15:14, "Let them alone; they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." When you find that you are in the wrong faith or church, it is very important that you come out of her, or you will be stained with her guilt and share the punishment intended for her.

The bible says, "Come out of her", you may be partakers of her sins and the plagues that shall be scourged upon her iniquities, says the Lord. Revelation 18:4 says, 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," While there is still time, people are being commanded to come out of her so that they will not partake from her sins and punishment in the judgment day.

The verse emphasizes the pronoun "her" because it is the gender that is being referred to in the church. In the book of Revelation, the church is referred to as "Babylon" or congregations of persons, as the pronoun used is "her". The bible commands us to cleave to that which is good (Romans 12:9) in order to know the truth and be partakers of the good things from God and His Son. Many believe that after dying, everything is over. According to their beliefs, they would go to heaven, if not, to hell or purgatory.

Some believe that after dying, a man will be reincarnated into another form of creature, such as an animal, a plant, or another object. Some fundamentalists who read the bible think that life does not end after departing earth. They have come to believe that there is an event that will happen in the future. They may even ask themselves these questions: Where are we heading from here? Shall we go to eternal

life or life in hell? Remember that your soul and salvation are at stake when you cleave to a particular religious belief.

Because when you entrust your soul to a wrong belief and teachings about Christ's doctrine, you will not be able to redeem it when you are already dead. Therefore, when you have found the true teachings, leave the wrong teachings and cleave to that which is good that you may be saved in the last day, like what the Apostle Paul did when he left his belief in Judaism and cleaved to the teachings of Christ in the Church of God, which already exists today. But the problem is, there are many churches of God today, and you may not be able to know which is which.

Many false teachings appear in the world today, teaching and confessing about God and Jesus Christ. People will be confused about which of these congregations is telling the truth. The bible assures us that you will be able to determine the true church and cleave to them. The bible teaches us in 1 John 4:1, "test every spirit if it is of God". You are free to search for the truth. Try to hear them and determine whether they are of God. Don't stop searching for who among these teachers is telling the truth. Study and consult the bible. The Lord God will guide you to the real one. What is that eternal life? Everyone on earth should realize that life does not end on earth, but a time will come when everyone will rise to life everlasting, and others to hell.

Once you have read, heard and listened and ultimately believed, do not hesitate, do not delay, and that once you believe that it is true and good, do it, be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20," Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen") because when you lose it you lose your chance of being saved. Save yourself...in the last day. (Ezekiel 14:20, " though Noah, Daniel and Job, we in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness."You alone will be the one to save yourself, and no other person can save you when judgment comes.

You will do it according to the bible. Beware of the teachers of faith. You must see to it that you are not misled because there are many false prophets or spiritual teachers nowadays.

Be sure that every spiritual statement that they pronounce to you is founded in the bible or supported by scriptural verses and that they are truly existing and happening; otherwise, they are fallacious pronouncements that should be accursed! According to the bible's instructions, if any man or angel shall preach the doctrine that is different from the doctrine of Christ, he is accursed! Galatians 1:8, " 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.”

See to it that spiritual statements are biblically founded because only the bible must be the source of every pronouncement that church leaders should cite when teaching. It must be affirmed by all Christians that the teachings of Christ are the key to salvation, and not by merely accepting Him as Lord and Savior. How can you be saved if you don't know his instructions and teachings? How will you do His will and commandments without knowing it? 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 says, “ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

But, we should realize that the bible teaches us that those who do not want the Word (law) or teachings will be condemned in the last day. Romans 2:11-15, “for there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.” In other words, by knowing the true teachings in the bible, we shall be able to know about salvation.

Emergence of False Prophets

As events occur around the world, some phenomena foretell the signs of the times. We should be aware that some events that occur are foretold in the bible. There will be confusion and deception when it comes to current events now. Realistically, misinformation creates commotion. How can we identify the true messenger of God nowadays? Are today's evangelists, preachers, and teachers telling the truth of the gospel? When the teacher of truth teaches the Word that no other teachers can defy, nor can it be denied based on the facts in the bible, then he is telling the truth. Justify and test him by the way he lives, if it is in adherence to what the bible is teaching about the true teacher of faith. Not all of them are telling the truth, because they have different motives and interests.

The bible tells that not all who call on the Lord will be saved, but only those who do the will of the Father. Not all will be saved in the last day, but many of them will say that they drove out evils in the Name of the Lord, but the Lord will say unto them, “ *Away from me, evil doers, I do not know you!*”

Why were they driven away by the Lord? It is because these people could have done evil in the performance of preaching the Word perversely, while the Lord searched their hearts and found them to be wicked. They do and teach things that are not founded in the bible and do not conform to the teachings of Christ. Many false

prophets are doing it in this world nowadays. Try to find the true teachings of Christ in order not to be misled by these deceivers. In II Corinthians 13:5 says, “ *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.*”

Many self-professed believers believe that they are still in Christ and yet are doing what is against the will of the Lord. The verse is telling us to examine and test ourselves, if we are still following the teachings of Christ. You can't say that you are already saved even on the judgment day because you are already a Christian and have accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. No, it doesn't count because how will you be saved if you have been doing wrong and keeping yourselves away from the teachings of Christ? No way to be saved. Test yourselves if you are still on the right track of the instructions of the gospel; otherwise, Christ will deny you on the last day.

In some events, some religious groups are indoctrinating their beliefs. People should feel free to watch and hear their teachings to determine if it is from God, as the instruction says, in 1 John 4:1 says, “ *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*” It is not bad to compare one teaching with another teaching to test the doctrine of the teachings and thereby giving way for the truth to come out. This is instructed to us in Ecclesiastes 7:27 “ *Behold, this have I found, saith the Preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account.*”

It may be normal that one may say that he or she is already a Christian and spiritually saved, as some modern-day Christians claim. They claim it that way after receiving their conversion from their respective churches in professing their Christian faith. Some may still be babes in faith, being fed with milk or the basic teachings, and some have been eating meat or having been elders in the Word. It may not be easy for one who receives a new faith in Christ to say that he is already saved when he has to pass through the process of being a Christian. You will pass the test of fire, as in gold that is being polished to see its authenticity. There are lots of tests to pass that should be overcome while you keep embracing the faith you received.

One may even say he is saved until the last day. It is wrong to have that notion because being a Christian is a long process while on earth. One will pass through the eye of a needle before he can say he is already saved on the last day. One should finish the race like Paul, who said with assurance that he had finished the race. That

was said by Paul when he was already old enough and had finished the propagation of the gospel. He said that phrase because he knew he was nearing his death.

The apostle Paul went through a rigorous process of being a disciple of Christ, which in the end made him. He was the only apostle who had a great task of performing the work of a disciple, and to him, the mysteries were revealed that were not revealed to other apostles. His long and adventurous journey in propagating the gospel was full of struggle, to the point that he even imperiled his life in many instances. He fought his enemies, but not in the flesh but in the spirit, to win them and reveal the mystery of the gospel.

The book of Ephesians 6:12-17 says, *“For we wrestle not against the flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the ruler of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, stand having your loins girt about the truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the sword of God.”*

This was how the apostle Paul shielded and protected himself in all his undertakings before he went to confront the spiritual enemies of the Lord in spreading the gospel of Christ in the enemy’s jurisdiction.

Chapter 6

Discipline when Praying

Positions of the Body when Praying

How Do We Position Ourselves When Praying? Normally, when we are in the room, we pray sitting or kneeling on the floor and bow our heads as we pray. But in some situations, Christians who cannot properly sit and kneel down because of a physical problem may just position himself or herself in a position where they are comfortable, for God knows your situation.

In addition, the normal and biblical form of prayer for Christians is that we may pray by facing our bodies flat on the floor and facing towards the ground, also because Jesus prayed in that same position when He was in the garden of Gethsemane. He prayed fervently, while his body was on the ground, facing down. He wept when he prayed in the same manner that Christians pray with weeping and groaning solemnly.

How did Jesus position himself as he prayed? Let us read Matthew 26:39," *And he went a little further, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.*"

Righteous Ways of Praying as Taught by Christ

One of the teachings of Christ during his time on earth, which present-day Christians should follow, is the right way of praying. Perhaps everyone is praying in their own desired way. We pray before eating and sleeping, and even when we leave the house or go somewhere down the road. However, Christ had instructions for men and women when praying. Man should observe due respect when praying. He should remove and avoid any head covering, while women must have a covering on their head, which is an observance of due respect in praying to God. This is written in 1Corinthians 11:4-5, which reads," Every man praying or prophesying having his head covered, dishonoreth his head; for that is even all one as if she were shaven."

As these verses testify to the fact of Christ's command, the woman and man should observe and obey, so judge for yourselves as what the bible tells in 1Corinthians 11:13, which says, "Judge in yourselves; it is comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered."

On the other hand, everyone is being asked to pray in designated places, that is, inside the room. The bible, in one scenario, reveals those hypocrites in the past and

present who pray in open places, in public, where people could see them, and in loud prayers so people could notice them. The bible teaches us to pray properly, as what the book of Matthew 6:6 says, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. The verse is self-explanatory and understandable."

As we pray, the righteous praying should be whole-hearted, no matter if you cry, because that is biblical. Let us read Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." Prayers must always be associated with thanksgiving because that is pleasing and one way of worshipping God. Let us read Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." A Prayer of Thanksgiving is the most important part when praying.

Prayers Heard and Prayers Not Heard by God

If others have sinned against you, it is necessary to ask God that they may be forgiven, but you should not harbor in your heart hatred nor let animosity dwell in you, because if you don't forgive them, you will not be forgiven by God. Matthew 6:14 says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." God will not hear the prayers of a sinful person, as the bible tells in Lamentations 3:44, "Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through."

In other words, the prayers of sinners cannot reach God. Another reference verse tells us that God only hears the prayers of a righteous man. Proverbs 28:9 says, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Another verse in John 9:31 attests, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." The preceding verses are self-explanatory that the prayers of a righteous man and a worshipper of God are heard.

Much more God will not hear our prayers when we use vain repetitions in praying. This is what the bible tells in Matthew 6:7, which reads, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them; for your Father knoweth what things ye need of, before ye ask him." Now it is understood that God does not want repetitions in praying. He knows the things we want even if we have not asked Him, yet.

But we should always pray to Him for whatever blessings we receive day and night. Luke 18:1 says," And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." The instruction says that we should always pray and not faint. Faint here means do not neglect because the book of 1 John 5:15 says," And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petition that we desired of him".

First and foremost for us is to give thanks unto the Lord, and even the Apostle Paul taught us to give thanks to the Lord. This is taught in II Timothy 1:13, which says," Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus. To this, " I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day."How often shall we pray?

According to the verse, pray without ceasing, and ceasing does not mean literal here. It means in the nighttime and daytime only.

How Do We Pray And What Shall We Pray?

We should pray in this manner according to Matthew 6:9-13, which reads,

"Our Father which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

In earth, as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors

But deliver us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

However, in a given situation, for instance, when you are trapped amid a traffic jam along the road and you ought to be in the office because of an urgent meeting with your boss, will you utter the same prayer? Not anymore, you will ask and pray that you get to your office on time for a meeting. You need not pray that way because

prayer depends upon the demand of the circumstances, and our God knows our circumstances and understands the prayer that we want to utter in a given situation. Prayer depends upon a given situation. If suddenly, an earthquake shakes the environment and everybody is panicky, what prayer should you utter at that moment? Should you ask for food or forgiveness? Of course, not anymore. You may suddenly utter a word, “ God save us from this earthquake!” or “ God, please stop the earthquake!” or “ Gold help us!”

When you pray, don't forget to give thanks to the Lord, which is very necessary, so that we may always be blessed as we make known to Him our requests. Philippians 4:6, “ Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Chapter 7

Serving and Worshipping God

Remember that *God is a spirit, and they who worship him must worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:34)*. When we worship Him in spirit, we have to present ourselves with a clean spirit, meaning we should have asked forgiveness for our transgressions. God searches our hearts, and he knows whether we are sincere and repentant of our shortcomings. In that manner, we serve Him in spirit. On the other hand, in the physical world, we serve God by doing good as we lead a clean life that is pleasing to Him. We sing praises and hymns and utter phrases with thanksgiving.

We submit ourselves to His will while we keep ourselves away from lusts and sins of this world. Romans 6:12 says, “ *Let us not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*” Submitting the parts of our body for righteousness to perform acts that may produce good results and benefit others is an act of worship and serving God. Serving and helping others in times of need is an act of worship and service. If you work for others, such as your employer, an individual who has contracted you, your elders, authority, or anybody else that you have dealings in good faith with, and you perform acts sincerely, then you are already serving and worshipping God. Romans 6:13 says, “*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*”

Extending and giving alms to the poor and needy, especially those who are victims of nature's fury, who are in dire need of material necessities in times of crisis, are ways of serving God. The bible says, in Proverbs 19:17, “ *He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*”

Parts Of The Body That Incite Men to Sin

The Eyes and Hands

When praying, we should realize that there are parts of our bodies that are exposed to sin, which may drive us to dwell in sin. Because of these parts of our body, we keep sinning, and our prayers may not be heard. Why? Because they aggravate and even drive us to a filthy living. The bible warns us in Matthew 5:29, which reads, “ *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. “ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee; for it is*

profitable for thee that one of their members should be punished, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

Should you pluck out your eyes because they keep you from sinning, and your right hand drives you to sin? Should you cut it off literally to keep you away from sinning? Of course, not. Don't take those verses literally; otherwise, you will be unable to continue a normal and decent living, and you will find no more chance to spiritually renew yourselves. All you have to do is keep yourselves out and abandon filthy activities in your life. Hold your hands and control your eyes from temptations. As we all know, it is easy to become a Christian, but we find it hard to live a Christian-like life. It is a daily struggle, but eventually, as you grow and become Spirit-filled, you and I will learn to get hold of these things.

The Heart

The heart is part of the body that keeps men from sinning. The book of Jeremiah 17:9 tells us, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart."* The Lord God knows if a person is hiding filthy things in himself. We can hide nothing from God because He searches every man's heart. The heart is a body part that keeps man's sins, which others cannot see. The danger is that the heart keeps evil thoughts and plans, dreadfully against an enemy. The heart, in other words, is the habitat of all evil thoughts against men's enemies. All the filthy plots and evil thoughts are kept in the heart. The bible attests to this fact in Matthew 15:19, which reads, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.' These are the things which defile a man; but to eat without washing hands defileth not a man."

In the last line of the verse, it may be better for us to eat without washing our hands than keep all those evil thoughts in our hearts because you may not die without washing your hands, but the worst thing that may happen is that you die a sinful life. Because of the evil heart, God saw the wickedness of men through their hearts, and He punished them with the great flood. The same thing may happen to men nowadays, to be punished in different ways. But in the past, the first race of mankind was punished. Let us read the book of Genesis 6:5, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

So God brought the Great Flood in the history of mankind and killed all living creatures. The aftermath was so horrible and mournful that God said He would not punish mankind with the same kind of punishment. Genesis 6:6-7 *"Had it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and*

beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air, for it repenteth me that I have made them." The promise of the Lord was symbolized by the appearance of the colorful rainbow. However, in the end of time, mankind would not suffer the same punishment again, but would be destroyed by the blazing fire. (Revelation).

The Danger of Tongue

The tongue is another part of the body that can lead man to hell. The book of James 3:6 reads, "*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*" The tongue is so small, but it can lead us to trouble and make things worse for us. It is a big problem that in its littleness it can create a big fire or trouble. James 3:5 says, "*Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth.*"

Man may be able to tame the beast, but our tongue is so wicked and poisonous that it cannot be tamed by anybody. The tongue can spark trouble and can curse others into a big mess. It can curse and bless others, like what James 3:7,10 says, "*For every kind of beasts, of birds, and of serpents and things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame: it is untruly evil, full of deadly poison. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.*"

However, we can make our tongue useful and keep us upright if we hold it upright. The book of Proverbs 15:1 reads, "*The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.*" In the same manner, we could avoid trouble with others if we hold our tongue. Evil tongue creates and spreads maligning words, a filthy gossip. Proverbs 11:9 says, "*A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor; but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.*"

There is no other way to stop the evil tongue but to stay pure and clean in the sight of the Lord by remembering His laws, by reading and obeying the Word. It cleans us from all our inequities, particularly the filthiness of the parts of our body that drive us to a sinful life. John 15:3 says, "*Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.*"

Speaking in Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:27 says, "*If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two or at the most three, and that by course, let one interpret.*" The first apostles during Pentecost spoke in tongues because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke the tongues of many nations. Let us read the verse in Acts 2:4-6, "*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews devout men, out of every*

nation under heaven. Now even when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded because that every man heard them speak in his language.”

In this situation, the apostles spoke in tongues, meaning they were able to speak the languages of other nations, such as the native languages of the Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia. They were amazed upon knowing that everyone could speak in different languages, which were not their native languages, and they understood each other's languages.

These were the kinds of tongues they were able to speak in Pentecost, and not those unknown tongues that just come out from the mouths of the present-day performers. Let us read Acts 2:7-11, “And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” What should believers do when somebody speaks in tongues? Let us read 1 Corinthians 14:28, “ But there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church: and let him speak to himself and God.” This verse tells us that there is no need to speak in tongues, but to keep quiet and speak to himself and God.

This is an indication that there is a need for an orderly worship within the church. Like what this verse in the bible tells in 1 Corinthians 14:33 says, “ for God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” Conclusively, speaking in tongues belongs to the instructions of the Old Testament in the early church during Pentecost. This is part of the law that was changed. In Hebrews 6:1-3, it says, “ Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death...”

We can also refer to Hebrews 7:12, “ For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.” It is also a fact that there are many religious groups these days that exercise the casting out of evil spirits, diseases, and whatever kinds of spirits there could be. Do these things conform to the word of God in this present dispensation? The answers can be read again in Hebrews 6:1-3 and Hebrews 7:12, which are often quoted due to the demand of the situation. In these verses, Christian believers are instructed to abandon these teachings already due to the change in the law. The proper thing to do is to pray fervently to God to stop nature's

fury and the destructive calamity, heal diseases, and ask Him to drive away all evil spirits, or pray in the Name of Jesus to drive away filthy spirits around.

It is stated in Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." In other words, God will work for those righteous servants who are deserving in His sight, and that is according to what he wants them to do. Servants do not have to perform spiritism that may cause others to stumble. What was taught in the bible when someone is sick? In James 5:14-16 read," Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Again, anointing of oil means teaching the sick with the Word of God. By prayer and petition for the sick, God may heal him. The elderly who shall pray should be clean and unblemished because God hears the prayer of a righteous person.

Chapter 8

Servants of God are called gods

As you may know from the bible, many gods are mentioned in the books. The bible asserts the existence of other gods. In Philippians 3:19, “ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” This verse refers to alleged servants of God, whose bellies have become their god because, undeniably, they keep enriching themselves without feeding their flock at the expense of their followers. Even during the time of Jesus Christ, there were already priests, teachers, and professed servants of God who enriched themselves but did not mind feeding and helping their followers. The bible warns us of these false prophets nowadays, in Isaiah 56:11, which reads, “ Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.”

These self-professed preachers and false prophets know nothing and cannot understand but to gain for themselves, and yet do nothing about the Word of God. They only know their routine works and even memorize what to preach as they prophesy in the congregation, and yet their prophecies are not happening because they are fake teachers. Do not be misled and be wise, the bible says. Ask them about the teachings of Christ in the bible, hence instructed by the bible in Haggai 2:11, “ Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying,”

The law that is asked of us to ask the priests (preachers, evangelists, and pastors) is the teachings of Christ. If they cannot answer about the written Word, then you begin to doubt that they are not a real servant of Christ. Try to monitor his ways and manners of living, and you may identify who she or he is. There are three supernaturally powerful beings called God in the bible, and as we have already learned and known, they are the same God yesterday, today, and forever. On the other hand, God has created other gods that do not possess supernatural powers. Since God is the Supreme God of all, he is the overall authority and judge among other gods.

The book of Psalm 82:1 says, “ God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.” Human beings are called god if they were born of God. We can all be called gods if we are children of God. This is what the book of Psalm 82:6 says,” I have said, ye are gods and all of you are children of the Most High.” This verse refers to men of God who are said to be gods and children of God, who obey the laws of God. They are those who have received the teachings of Jesus Christ and

are walking in the Spirit of God. Jesus Christ, in a given situation in the bible, told the people that men are gods, too. This means that men, if they were born of the Spirit of God, will become children of God. In John 10:34-35, "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods. If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken."

In one scenario in the bible, Moses was made and called god by God. This is attested in the book of Exodus 7:1, which reads, "And the Lord said unto Moses, See I have made thee a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet." However, men have become selfish; for they do not serve the real Most High God, but themselves. In the book of Romans 16:18, it reads, "For they that are such serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." These facts that are quoted are all derived from the bible as commanded and told by God.

It would be very unusual and seem muddling if we know there are many gods, however, one should learn and be enlightened to the fact that it is no ordinary fact and no wonder because thousands of years ago, there were many pretenders who emerged to be good men of God and what more in this present generation there are many who appear before men to be prophets of God and even introduce themselves as the Christ. People should not be misled upon knowing the facts from the bible that even Satan is called the god of this world, 2 Corinthians 4:4 "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Based on the bible, these sins can be forgiven and not deadly. In Matthew 12:31-32 (KJV): "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come". And therefore, what cannot be forgiven is the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Other bible verses are telling us that sins can be forgiven as follows:

Hebrews 8:12 (KJV): "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and their sins and their lawless deeds will I remember no more".

Colossians 1:13-14 (KJV): "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins".

However. If one keeps repeating the same acts of sinning, God will not forgive him at all, as cited in Hebrews 10:18, which says, "And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary."

The bible tells us in 1 John 1:9 is a key passage about confessing sins to God. It states, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* In other words, a Christian need not confess his sins to a priest simply because priests are mere human beings who have no authority to forgive sins. They also sin and need to ask for forgiveness from God. In addition, John 20:23 - Jesus says, *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* The word of God teaches about humility for the forgiveness of sins.

The Fall of Men

In the beginning, the first man and woman sinned against God. The sin of disobedience was the first sin committed, which caused the first human beings to be punished. Take note that our first parents, Adam & Eve, sinned because they ate the physical fruit called the Apple. They did not eat an apple when they sinned because apples during that biblical time were already being eaten as fruit by the Israelites. Adam & Eve sinned because they chose to commit sin, which is the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Let us read Genesis 2:16-17, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

In other words, God gave us free will to choose between good and evil. If you choose evil, your life will be misled, astray, and consequently, you end up destroyed; but if you choose good, of course, you are not far from good, but you are enlightened while you lead a right path to a bright future and good living. We all know that sin has its recompense and that every sin that we make has to be accounted for in the end. To sin is an inevitable act in this world. There are big or weighty sins and small or light sins that we commit in our lives. How do you know that when you repent, your sins will be forgiven or are forgiven?

The bible answers, in Psalms 32:5, which says, "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Therefore, acknowledge and confess your sins only unto the Lord, but to no man, because we should realize that Christians

commit sins, but we pray for forgiveness and do the same thing while still living. But for Christians, repeating the same sins would mean death in the end. He would not be saved and forgiven anymore. But if you sin without any intention of committing it, you may be forgiven. This is affirmed and cited in the bible.

The Sins Of Back Sliders

Back Sliders are those who have become believers but turned away from the faith they received, as they do the same works as the world of unbelievers. There are reasons why they turned away from the faith. It may be because they could not resist the devil's calling; weak in their faith; they cannot bear the test in their lives and in their faith; they have not received the fruits of the Holy Spirit or they have not received the faith in Christ intentionally or truly; they got stumbled with other believers and other reason that may cause their turning back. They cannot resist the calling of the flesh. As the bible says, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The book of Hebrews 6:4-6 read, "For its is impossible for those who were once enlightened; and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance seems they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame." The fate of the backsliders may become worse because if they do worse things, they will be condemned to spiritual death. When they turned away from their faith, they re-crucified the Son of God anew. It means they have put to shame the Son of God for what they did.

Back Sliders may be rebuked for wrongdoings, so they may make up their minds and turn away from sinning. The bible teaches us in Titus 3, 10 which reads, "A man that is a heretic, after the first and second admonition, reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself." You may rebuke him or her one or two times, and he or she does not listen, reject, or abandon him or her. You will not be held responsible for his infirmity. Other backsliders may not be saved anymore if they continue in their evil ways until the end. They are like dogs that come back to their vomit. II Peter 2:20 says, "For if they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

The Two Kinds of Sins

Mortal Sin

This is the kind of sin that sinful men cannot be forgiven anymore, and literally in the end, sinners will be bound to damnation. We believe that if we sin and pray for forgiveness, we are forgiven, as the bible says; however, we should realize that there are sins that cannot be forgiven. Mortal sin is a fatal type of sin that, even if somebody else prays for that sinner, he can no longer be saved. This is a very critical issue that believers should contemplate profoundly. Christians in the Church of God, the chosen Church, know about this sin, but some do not know this mortal sin, particularly those outside of the Church.

The sin against the Holy Spirit is the type of sin that cannot be forgiven. Our Lord Jesus Christ may forgive those sins against Him, but the sin against the Holy Ghost literally cannot be forgiven. In the book of Mark, 3:24 says, “but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.” In one scenario, in the book of Matthew, Jesus cast devils from the possessed, blind and dumb person but was mocked by the Pharisees which said that he cast out devils but, by Beelzebul, the prince of the devils, however, Jesus rebuked them in Matthew 12:30-31 which read, “He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattered abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men. But the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

Jesus himself said, Sin against the Holy Ghost is not forgiven. Therefore, it is very clear that sin against the Holy Ghost is literally unforgiven, and no amount of prayers shall work to save the one who has sinned. The sins that believers keep on doing or repeating can no longer be forgiven. This is testified in Hebrews 10:26:” If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice is left.” So if a believer keeps repeating the same sins, there will be no more sacrifice or no way to be forgiven, even if somebody prays for him or if he repents for his sins, because chances have been forfeited or lost.

Immortal sin

Immortal sin is the sin that can be forgiven by God, even if we sin against the Son of God; He is ready to forgive us. If a man sins against the Lord Jesus Christ, he can still be forgiven if he wholeheartedly asks for forgiveness. Matthew 12:32 says, “And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Even if the Son of man was mocked when he was on the cross, the mocker could be forgiven. The bible tells how the Son of man was mocked. Matthew 27:42 says, “He save others, himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.”

These are the words of one of the thieves who cast insulting words against the Son of Man. What do you think he was forgiven for? The bible says, you may be forgiven if you sin against the Son of Man.

Chapter 9

Confession of Sins

To whom shall we confess our sins and inequities? The bible says, Confess your transgressions unto the Lord. Let us read Psalms 32:5, “ I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” We should not say that we have not sinned. There are times when we do not know that we have offended God or that we have committed sins in our daily undertakings. We should confess them all.

Let us read 1 John 1:8-9,” If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” When you sin against your brethren, confess and forgive one another. Let us read James 5:16, which reads, “ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.”

Shall we clean ourselves from our sins by harming or punishing ourselves in such a way that we feel that it is the best way to be cleansed? No. It is unchristian to punish yourselves by way of whipping your body or walking on your knees. But the more you are sinning by doing those vain things.

Let us read Colossians 2:23, “ which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.” It means that one cannot repent and compensate for the sins he has committed by harming the body as a means of sacrifice just to be forgiven and satisfy the requirement for forgiveness. It is not that way.

Are Sins Inheritable and Transferable?

Many superstitious and non- bible reading people say that the sin of a man is inheritable from birth because the first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned before the Lord God. In this situation, enlightened Christians can firmly rebut this allegation that sin is inheritable and transferable to kin.

How can an infant or newborn child sin if he or she does not know anything in this world? Can you blatantly accuse an innocent person of an offense he has not committed? Apparently, unfair and inequitable because it is bad to punish an innocent person. To prove that we really do not inherit the sins of parents, let us read Matthew 12:41, “ Jesus said, let the little children come to me, and do not for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” The verse says that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the little children. How can such little children sin? This also

implies that children or babies are assured of salvation because Christ said the kingdom of heaven belongs to little children. Sin is only committed by persons who can already discern what is right and wrong. What does sin mean?

The bible will answer the meaning of sin. In 1 John 3:4 reads, “ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness”. It is defined as lawlessness. Men sin intentionally or unintentionally. Sins or transgressions of men are punishable in due time. Did you know that you committed a sin if you knew what was right and you did not do it? This is what the law says in James 4:17 which says, “ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” Another verse proves that little children do not sin is found in Hebrew 5:13, “ Anyone who lives in milk, being an infant is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.” Conclusively, we can’t reason out that sin is inherited from birth. This verse tells that something is inherited and not a sin. Proverbs 19:14 reads, “ Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”

Furthermore, people know that sons of men will not inherit nor share with the Father’s sin. This explains that sin is not inherited by children. This is testified in Ezekiel 18:20, “ The souls who sin are the ones who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son.” Perhaps you may ask, How about the law of God in Exodus 20:4-5, which reads, ‘that children of the third and fourth generations because of the sins of their father?’ This is one of the Ten Commandments given to Moses for the people of Israel, and not for the Gentiles. Although that commandment is appropriate to the Gentiles, even nowadays, Exodus 20:5 does not apply to Christians. This is because this law has been changed.

The proof that can be read in Hebrews 14:33, which reads, “ for when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.” In fact, men are the ones creating their own sins. Read this in Proverbs 16: “ In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”

Note: The aforementioned laws are only applicable to the Christian members of the Church of God that are written and taught in the bible.

Apostles and Prophets Also Sin

Who among the servants in the bible sinned?

Like Angels that sin, Prophets and Apostles were human beings who were given free will, also to choose what is right and wrong on earth. Therefore, they also sinned. Moses was a prophet and deliverer sent by God, together with Aaron and Miriam, to free their people from the bondage of Egypt. Aaron and Miriam sinned when they criticized Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman. They talked against Moses, and

God heard them. This scenario can be read in Numbers 12:1-2, “ And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord heard it?”

On the other hand, Moses sinned when he disobeyed God. They were not able to enter the promised land, but only Caleb and Joshua. Moses was not able to enter, either. Let us read Numbers 14:30: “ doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephun’neh, and Joshua the son of Nun. Abraham also sinned for disobedience. He heeded Sarah’s request to sleep with their house servant, Hagar, which Abram did, and they bore a son, Ishmael. God did not want him to do that, and yet did not wait for the command and will. Let us read Genesis 20:6-7, “ And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me; therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now, therefore, restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live; and if thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.”

Let us read Genesis 16:1-4, “ Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, bare him no children: and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar, her maid, the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.”

Abraham did not wait for God’s promise that he would be made a father of many nations. In the New Testament, the apostles and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ also sinned when they went home to their respective homes without fully knowing the truth written in the bible of the promised resurrection of Christ on the third day. They ignored the knowledge from Christ about the resurrection and instead went their way home.

The vigil and waiting were in vain when they did not wait, but instead went home without knowing the fact of the resurrection of Christ. The fact can be read in John 20:9-10, “ For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.”

The disciples did not know the importance of the teachings they should have known at that time. The Apostle Peter sinned when he disobeyed the Lord’s command in Acts 10:9-16. “ On the morrow, as they went on their journey; and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour; and he became

very hungry, and would have eaten; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air,, And there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat."

But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time. What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice, and the vessel was received up again into heaven."Peter and all the disciples sinned when they denied the Lord. Let us read Matthew 26:34-35 ' Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That his night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.

Likewise, all the disciples."During that time, the chosen people (Israelites) were forbidden to dine with the Gentiles, as it was considered a grave sin for them. However, the question is, did Peter eat with the Gentiles? Yes, that is why when he went to Antioch, he was rebuked by the Apostle Paul. Let us read Galacia 2:11-14 " But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that, certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles; but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled, likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

The Apostle Philip also sinned when he asked our Lord Jesus Christ an impertinent question, requesting Him to show the Father for them. Let us read John 14:8 " Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it suffieth us." Philip's request of Philip is ignorance of the teaching and showed impertinence because nobody has seen the Father. Let us read John 4:24: " God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," And because God is a spirit, nobody can see Him, and it is impossible for those who see to live.

Let us read Exodus 33:20: " And he said, Thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me, and live."It is only the Son of God who is with Him that sees him face to face. Therefore, Philip was at fault when he asked that request of the Lord for he did not understand what he was saying." Therefore, all men on earth have sinned and

nobody lives without sinning except our Lord Jesus Christ and the infants. Let us read Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Sins of Angels

What kind of transgressions did angels commit? Angels crossed-bred with human beings and begotten abnormally grown siblings (giants). They sowed wickedness and continued to sin. Let us read Genesis 6:4-5, “There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The angels that were assigned to do their tasks left their habitation or post. Let us read Jude 1:6, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” Note that these angels were made perfect in spirit but eventually became perfect in flesh. Meaning they did the work of the flesh. Let us read Galatians 3:3, “Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

While angels have committed sins in the past, the question is: Will they(angels) commit sins again? Yes. Let us read Revelation 22:8-9, “And I, John, saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.” These verses prove that angels are like human beings, who could sin again because judgment has not yet come. They are also created to serve God like human beings waiting for the last day of judgment. They will also be subjected to being judged, as we have discussed in earlier discussions.

Saints Judge the Angels

Would you believe that Saints (referring to Christians) shall judge the angels on the last day? On the last day or judgment day, Christians would not be the only ones to be judged, but also the sinning angels who were commissioned to do certain tasks by God would be judged by Christians. What is surprising is that these celestial beings, whom we normally thought of as being saved already in heaven, would be judged by Christian saints, and those condemned would be thrown to hell. Let us read 1 Corinthians 6:2-3: “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the smallest

matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How many more things that pertain to this life?"

Angels sin because they are also given free will to do right and wrong; however, they are accountable for their actions, although angels know all things on earth and are powerful spirit beings. However, not all of them are given the right to know more things beyond what has been given to them by God. Does God trust all angels? Not all angels are trusted nor entrusted with the knowledge of the mystery in heaven, nor are they superior to the Son of God (Lord Jesus Christ). This is asserted in Job 4:18, " Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly."

Neither the angels were told about the Sonship of Lord Jesus Christ. Let us read Hebrews 1:5, " For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" Therefore, as angels are prone to sin like Christians, they would be judged in the last days and thrown into hell. Let us read II Peter 2:4, " 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."

The Death Of A Sinning Soul

The bible states in Ezekiel 18:4, " The soul that is sinning –it itself will die." The prophet Elijah began to ask that his soul might die (1Kings 19:4). Likewise, Jonah kept asking that his soul might die."(Jonah 4:8). The soul dies when a person dies because we are mortal beings. Since a person is a soul when he dies, his soul, which is a physical being, dies. Concerning what happened to Rachel when she gave birth to a son, the bible in Genesis 35:18 says: As her soul was going out, she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin."

And referring to the resurrection of a widow's son, in 1Kings 17:22 states: " God listened to Elijah's voice, so that the soul of the child came back within him and he came to life." The life that returned to the boy was the spirit that is life. Life means the spirit that is in our nostrils, so we can breathe.

To further our knowledge about this study, we should know the composition of man. Man contains three elements: The spirit, the soul, and the body. Let us read 1 Thessalonians 5:23," May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of Jesus Christ." The bible also tells us that there is what is called the inner man, which is the spirit. The inner is renewed upon baptism after receiving and believing the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ. The old inner man (spirit) is renewed or replaced with a new inner man, which worships God.

Notice nowadays that there are false teachings about Christianity. The bible tells us of the emergence of the false prophets in later times. Let us read the proof in Romans 14:33, “ for such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of native people.” People should beware of these kinds of disguised servants of the Lord; otherwise, your souls will be in danger. In this instance, if you have been listening to uncertain teachings while you have been abiding by what you have been taught, as you are already doing things outside the biblical standards, you ought to examine and search yourselves if you are still on the right track.

The bible tells us in 2Corinthians 13:5, “ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.”. Therefore, the verse tells us to test ourselves. Do you realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless of course, you fail the test? We are told by this verse to examine ourselves to see if we are still in the faith. Are you still in the faith? Or have you been repudiated by Christ? See if you are still in the faith.

Nowadays, we are living in a dangerous time. Many men are wicked and merciless. These are the times when men are living dangerously, as may be compared to the past. Criminality is rampant. Notice the changes in the society of men now. What do you observe in your environment and in the news around the globe? What is now common? You can really never trust a stranger or any man. Illegal drugs cause many men to commit crimes and suicide. Poverty causes a person to die; likewise, suicide and the commission of a crime happen most of the time. Many things could happen in many places at most unexpected times.

The bible tells us in Romans 3:10, As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one. “ Despite this assertion, the bible tells us that there are still perfect men in the past and in the present time. No one was found righteous in that particular place, but the bible reveals there are places also where righteous men dwelt. Let us read Job 1:1, “ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.”

Chapter 10

Forbidden Food Served to Idols

The Roman Catholic church does not forbid the Catholics from eating foods unless certain foods are forbidden due to existing and pre-existing health conditions of a person. Whether or not animals are killed violently and strangled as meat they are good as meal. However, in the church of God members are limited and forbidden to eat certain foods, such as food served and offered to idols.

It is forbidden by God to believers to keep themselves out of the food such as blood, or food with blood of any animals, and the meat of strangled animals. Let us read the book of Acts 15:29, "that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well, fare ye well." The said verse testifies to the fact of the abstention from eating the specified foods. In the past, God's command to his people was not to eat strangled animals, but instead to give it to those people who did not belong to the church or His people. The book of Deuteronomy 14:21 says, "Ye shall not eat of anything that dieth of itself: Thou shall give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien; for thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God."

You will feel and notice that God is keeping His people out of danger of sinning. The strangled animals can be given and sold by the Gentiles or people that do not belong to His flock, or they may be sold by them to an alien. Nowadays, it still exists. His people in the Church who obey these laws. You may ask, are these laws from the past still existing and being applied nowadays? Definitely yes, because there are laws in the past that are still applicable to present-day Christians, and there are laws in the past that are no longer applicable today, which were only applied during that time in the Old Testament.

Idols and Images

The bible tells us that God abhors idol worshipers, and even in the Old Testament, it was commanded not to make idols or any graven images for you to bow down and worship. Exodus 20:3-5, God speaks these words to the Israelites: "You shall have no other gods before me". "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below". "You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me".

Likewise, idol worshipers will be judged on the day of Judgment and thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 says, “ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Why vow and worship vain images when they have ears but cannot hear, noses but cannot smell? It is attested in Psalm 115:6 (KJV) reads: "They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not". In the Old Testament, Idolatry is all about kneeling down before graven images, but in the New Testament in Colossians 3:5, which says, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Therefore, Idolatry also includes today sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed. For those who are committing these kinds of idolatry you must repent now.

The Blood

God does not want us to eat blood because it is a symbol of our salvation and redemption from our sins. In Leviticus 17:10-11 read,” For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” The verse reasons out why blood is forbidden by God to be eaten by believers or his people. Another verse in the bible which attests the significance of the blood in the remission of our sins can be read in Hebrews 9:22: “ And almost all things by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” These idols or graven images of people of the past, which caused them to sin, are still being worshipped today by many people who have been blinded by false teachings.

However, aside from idols, which unbelievers worship today, there are other sins of idolatry in which these idol worshippers shall be held accountable to God on the last day. What are these other sins of idolatry? Let us read Colossians 3 5-6,” Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.” If idol worshippers would turn away from these despicable ways of worship, they would be forgiven. If they get enlightened and realize the truth, they will be freed from the bondage of sin.

They just don’t realize that graven images cannot do any harm against them if they throw and abandon them because they are just mere stones and pieces of wood, and some nowadays are made of plastic or resin materials. In Proverbs 115 4 7. “However,

Jeremiah 10:5 proves they are nothing and can't do any harm. The verse reads, " they are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne; because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

God is a jealous God. He does not want us to worship idols or any creations. God is a spirit, and all who worship Him shall worship in spirit and truth. To prove this statement, let us read John 4:23-24, " But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and truth."

Chapter 11

Beliefs About Life After Death

Like other Christian Fundamentalists, the Catholics believe that their dead need prayers to be able to reach heaven as they offer masses with the priest, who would even tell them that their dead loved one is already in heaven by their offerings. They keep remembering the dead by embedding candles and flowers in their niche in observance of their annual tradition. With their impression, when the dead did not abide by their standards and were disobedient, he would not go to heaven but to hell. Literally, they believe that the dead ones are already in heaven, and hell for the naughty ones.

But what does the bible tell us about the living and the dead? Ecclesiastes 12:7, “*7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*” Therefore, the body of the dead shall be reduced to the ground, while the spirit shall go back to God who gave it. Explicitly cited and understood. With their belief, the spirit of the dead will go back to visit their loved ones. With this fiction, they create horrifying stories. But the bible denies their falsehood. The book of Job in Job 7:9-10 (NLT), which states, “*Just as a cloud dissipates and vanishes, those who die will not come back. They are gone forever from their home— never to be seen again*”. This belief was passed from one generation to the next.

There are several profane words that many have heard and believed, especially fables and hearsays, but the bible in 1Timothy 1:4 says, “*Reject profane and old wives' fables: The priority must be on God's Word, not on the words of man. Paul cautioned Timothy to keep focused on the Word, not on things that come from man. The greatest effort must be put into God's Word, not man's word*”. Therefore, those who are not well-informed about the biblical doctrine of God will be deceived, like those who live all their lives in fables and die without knowing the truth.

In addition to this issue so that everyone may have an idea of what will happen next in the future, the dead in Christ will rise first when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to earth as stated in 1Thessalonians 4:16 which says, “*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*” The said event will take place soon, as we now live in the last days.

Everyone, even the blind, will be able to witness the coming of the Son of God in the clouds, while the dead who resurrected together with the living whose earthly bodies will be transformed to heavenly bodies at the twinkling of an eye, shall meet

Him in the air. The testimony of the bible can be read in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, which says,” *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*”

They will be with the Lord and shall rule the earth for a thousand years while preaching the gospel to those who are left behind to be saved on the day of judgment. Revelations 20:5-6 says, “*The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*”

There will be gnashing of teeth, hardships, and sufferings on earth on that day, and many will seek death, but they will never find it. Death shall escape earth, and nobody will die but will continue to undergo unbearable sufferings. And after a thousand years has ended, the Lord and the faithful shall go to heaven; thus, earth and its remaining inhabitants who rejected Christ will be annihilated. Judgment shall ensue where all shall be judged according to their works, while the book of life shall be opened, which shall be the basis of everyone's salvation. According to Revelation 20:12, “*And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*”

Number of Books in the Bible

The Holy Bible is a book that contains the Word of God, which was written by His chosen people, particularly the prophets and disciples in the Old and New Testaments. The Holy Bible consists of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament, which is the first part, contains 39 books, while the New Testament contains 27 books. This makes a total of 66 books in the bible and written by more than 40 people of God. Where must we derive the basis for our salvation, but from the holy bible and not from men's own conceived ideas and ideology. Never say that we have become bookies when we base our assertions on the Bible, because it is the only source of truth, and no other book. But, if we say that when a church leader is no bookies in his preaching, then begin asking yourselves where he got his assertions and pronouncements.

Remember, salvation is no joke and that truth must never be distorted, otherwise, the bible instructs us to curse those who distort, change and add anything in the word (thus, the bible says) So, watch out those professing prophets, God's messenger or those who claim that they are sent to teach, when in fact, he is fooling around. Your material and spiritual losses are at hand. You can be bookies when the source and

foundation of your allegations are derived from man's intellectual creations, but setting aside the bible.

Origin of the Holy Bible.

Who wrote the Holy Bible?

Not like the Doctrina Christiana that was first written and published in 1593 by the Spaniards in the Philippines, the biblical Doctrina Christiana was told by God to the prophets to be written in the tablets of stone, and during the time of Jesus was written in scrolls. (Jer,36:2) How did the bible become the basis for man's salvation? Is this written by ordinary men? Many people who do not believe in the bible would skeptically say, it was just written and conceived by ordinary men. We can say that everything on earth was created by God, while He gave us the power to produce things out of our effort to survive and live according to what we can afford. Man manufactures many things for our benefit so that life may continue and progress. You can just imagine that everything we eat, wear, and read is made by the hands of men, and, conclusively, the bible was written by men.

Speaking of the bible as the focal point of the issue, we may think about how it came to be. How was it assembled and made into an organized book? How does it differ from all other books? All we know is that it is a compilation of the Word of God, containing the books of Genesis, which tells about the beginning and creation of everything, up to Revelation, which tells us about the end of the whole story. Let us refer to one of the verses that tells us who wrote this book. In II Peter 1:20-24, it reads," *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation*".

In other words, the verse tells us that it cannot be written by just an ordinary man. This proves that the bible did not come from men's conceived story or imagination, because according to the verse, it cannot emanate from man's private interpretation nor his own will, but from the holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Word came from God, who spoke to men.

Where else do you think the bible would emanate? Who do you think would write it? It is not the animals who would write it because if chickens were to write it, it could not be read by humans; it would be scratched and mutilated instead. If you believe God gave it to men to write, He would give it to men to write to be read and understood by human beings. Otherwise, if the bible was not written by men, what would be the basis of our salvation and our future? If we were to read everything from the bible, this would contain words that man could never think or conceive in

their minds. This consists of words of prophecy, words of exhortation, and, as a whole, the laws of God.

If men could think of their ideas to write and say, a certain verse in Proverbs 16:9 proves that men think of their course. We can notice from the bible that ordinary men could not think such phrases and wisdom that are written in the bible. It is said that men by nature are sinners; therefore, men would not dare to write about holiness nor heavenly ideas, except the holy men of God. Just think that these were given by God to the chosen people, to be taught and spoken of, and finally to serve as the basis of our salvation.

What do you think would be the foundation of men's source of knowledge about salvation? Will you just believe and entrust your soul to a few men whom you do not know? Where did they get their teachings about salvation? The book of II Peter 3:15 reads, "*And account that the long suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you.*" The verse tells us that the Word of instructions is only given to the chosen ones who have the Holy Ghost, and not to just ordinary men. The chosen men were moved by the Holy Spirit of God to write the bible.

As it is written in 1 Chronicles 28:9. which reads, "*And thou Solomon, my son, know thou the God of the father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou forsake him he will cast thee off forever.*" This verse proves that men who wrote the bible were chosen by God because they could not write and prophesy without the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The holy men of God would not be able to write the bible if they were not tested, while their hearts were searched by the Holy Spirit sent by God. It doesn't mean they did not sin. They did, but God chose them and had plans for them even before they were conceived in their mothers' wombs. They feared God as they obeyed His commandments. In the same manner that Scriptures provide us with wisdom and knowledge toward righteousness. II Timothy 3:16 reads, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*"

The verse mentioned will attest to the truth that the written Word will provide us with knowledge about salvation and make men wise. Let us read another basis to make the testimony concrete, which tells us that our knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ will save us. II Timothy 3:15 reads "*and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which can make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*" So, if anyone wants wisdom and knowledge, he or she may ask God for it by

means of prayer. This is attested in the book of James 1:5, which reads, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. That giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*”

The Authentic Word Of God

Let us read Proverbs 8:8, “*All the words of my mouth are in righteousness, there is nothing forward or perverse in them*”. God Himself is the one confirming that His Word is Righteousness. There is nothing forward and perverse in them. There is no doubt that everything written in the bible is authentic, as attested by the said verse that answered the question. What is some knowledge that man never knew until revealed by the bible? Another proof that the bible is the original and authentic Word of God is the mystery of men’s innocence about the facts that have happened or are happening on earth, which the bible reveals and has been known to men.

For example, in the past, people believed that the earth was flat; however, an astronomer named Galileo Galeli found out that it is round. Galileo revealed his findings and became one of the controversial figures in Italian history. Another one is the disputable theory of Charles Darwin of the evolution of life, in which it was stated that men transformed from the so-called Apemen. The Java men and Cro- Magno men transferred to natural men, accordingly. It was believed that the so-called Apemen were the transformatory origin of natural men.

Logically, if Darwin asserted this theory and belief, that would be a disputable issue nowadays, because if man transformed from the ape to Java man, then to Cro Magno man, and gradually to natural man, it would happen the same thing all over again, that man would transform again from gorillas or apes nowadays. It may become a continuous life cycle, because according to the theory, it is the evolution and origin of man. In the 20th century, the first men made a historic landing on the moon.

They took photographs of the Earth while on the space capsule. It showed the beautifully rounded figure of the earth. Would you believe that had it not been for the first men on the moon who took photos of the Earth, it would not have been proven that the Earth is round in the 20th century? This fact is already proven and told in the bible thousands of years ago, which came ahead of modern technology of modern men. The prophet Isaiah attested the fact in Isaiah 40:22, “*It is that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them to put as a tent to dwell in.*” This assertion of the prophet Isaiah proves that thousands of years ago, the earth was confirmed to be round (circular as stated in the verse), which the succeeding generations had never known until the 20th century. This became a dispute for many generations

among scientists, philosophers, and mathematicians as well in olden times. These stated facts also confirm that the bible is also a scientific book.

Chapter 12

Prophecy in the Bible

God's People From The East

The Catholic church is said to be a universal church because it is ubiquitous, meaning it is global, as there are millions of Catholics in all parts of the world. But, they cannot be people of God simply because they have spiritual deficiencies that are required to become one, unless they hear and do the will of God and cleave to what is good. What is that good according to the bible? Based on the bible in Romans 12:9, which reads, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good". It is the church of God which is good. The church that was redeemed by his blood. Acts 20:28, which says, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,[a] which he bought with his own blood."

Are there churches on earth that were redeemed by the blood of Christ other than the church of God? Nothing but the church of God.

The bible has told a prophecy that in the last days, there will emerge people of God from the east who will be saved and will make the God of the bible their true and real God. These people are not people from Israel but the Gentiles from the east. It is clear in the verse of the bible in Zechariah 8:7, which says, " Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; and I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness."

A country and nation in the east where this group of people (church) will become God's people in the last day will serve God. These people which include the wise men will teach the gospel of salvation up to the ends of the earth that is, the west country or nation where those people who would believe will also be saved.

It should not be misinterpreted that a certain country located in the east is being referred here is not Israel although it is located in the east (east Asia minor or middle east) it was the first nation in the east that became the first nation to serve and worship God but in the end time a certain country in the east has been appointed to be His nation and that is revealed in Isaiah 24:14-15, which say, " They shall lift their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea. Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea".

Take note of the last phrase, “ isles of the sea” that are being referred to here are the islands of the sea. Which country in the east comprises a thousand islands of the sea? Could it be Japan, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines? Try to check it out on the map, the locations of these countries that possess a thousand islands in the east. Which nation is most likely to have those islands? It cannot be Japan, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, or Vietnam because they do not have a hundred or a thousand islands.

And yet, those countries or nations mentioned are not Christian nations where Christianity is a minority religion. It may be astonishing and surprising to know the truth that the islands of the sea being referred to in the bible verse in the book of Isaiah are the Philippines, because it has a thousand islands, and that the Christian religion is the most dominant in the country. See the rest of the countries in the east, if they comprise a thousand islands.

The certainty that it is the Philippines is that no other Christian country in the east believes God as the nation of the church of God that already exists nowadays. Philippines has the most Catholics in the Far East, however, history books must be revised to amend that citation that the Philippines is the only Christian country in the Far East but a Catholic county. In addition, it cannot be the neighboring countries in the east because Japan has the most populous people who believe in Shintoism and Buddhism. China also believes in Buddhism, which is a dominant religion there. Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other neighboring countries believe in Buddhism, Mohammedanism, or Islam, whereas in India, that have many religions, Christianity is a minority religion. The people in the Philippines are God-fearing people as they are very religious in character, so when they are preached about Christianity, they have the tendency to listen, respect, and if convinced, may eventually accept what other preachers offer.

Although the majority is Catholic-Christian, there are numerous Christian congregations that exist in the archipelago. People welcome foreign teachers or evangelists coming from different parts of the world, bringing with them a faith called Christianity or fundamental Christianity. In other words, Christianity is a dominant religion in the country, although people embrace the Christian religion in different ways.

But only in the Philippines, there is the so-called church of God, not founded by mere men, but they cleaved to that which is good (Book of Romans 12:9) as instructed by God. They are the end-time people who will receive the promise of God, in which the fulfillment of the prophecy shall be absolute on the last day. However, the church of

God is not alone in the Philippines; there are several churches of God that are registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission, representing the church.

Christians may be confused about this church because there are many claims about this church; theirs is the genuine church that is in the bible, which is why they use the name. But despite the many claims about the churches of God, we can still identify which of these churches is the one that has the standard that is required by the bible.

The church of God that has cleaved to that which is good (Romans 12:9) and not founded by men. The measurement is the teachings, whether they are of God or not. Whether the church administrator is sent by God or not, you will come to know when you hear and listen until you believe. That it is the church of God in the last days as prophesied by the bible.

Because Israel had become His people in the past but the promise and prophecy in this situation is located in the east where the bible attests and supports this allegation in 1 Peter 2:10. "which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God, which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." It is not Israel that is being referred to in this verse because the Gentiles were not God's people in the past but, the Israelites or Hebrews first, and then in the end time the Gentiles will become His people who will be partakers in the promise of salvation as these wise Gentiles will preach and teach the gospel of Christ in many parts of the world particularly in the west where many will also be saved.

The wise people of the East will be the key people who will be given insight to understand and preach the sealed books of the bible, and they will herald this understanding of the gospel to the people of the world. As they preach and teach in these last days, many will be purified or cleansed, and those who believe will be part of the church or group that will be saved in the end times. These groups did not establish their church, but they cleaved to that which is good and commanded in the bible.

To confirm that this group of people (believers) in the east will emerge to be the church of God that will be saved in the end time, we must refer to and know the answer or confirmation from the bible. 1 Peter 2:10 says, "which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." We should think that in the past, the Hebrews were the first people of God and not the Gentiles, and this group of people in the east will only emerge in the 20th century or in the end time as prophesied in the book of Zechariah.

Take note that these wise people will emerge in the last days and that they will be the ones to understand and open the sealed books of the bible. Perhaps, we may ask, why? Has the bible not been understood and opened by various church-people in the past generation?

Yes. But not since the time of Christ and the Apostles. The bible says that many false prophets, false churches, and false Christs will emerge on earth with different motives. They built their own churches for different motives, as they even confess in their mouth about God, but their hearts are full of inequities and superficiality. They will never understand the bible, even if they interpret it in their own ways, because they are not bound to receive the understanding of the sealed Word because of their filthy hearts and intentions.

But the church of God that was built by Christ will be restored in the last day, where the wise will understand and open up the seal of the bible. In other words, for many centuries since the time of Christ and the Apostles, the bible had been sealed and not understood by the generations of various congregations. Yes, because the church of God was not yet restored, and those wise men who would be appointed in the end time had not yet come. But now they have come, the bible has been opened and unsealed. This proves that we are already living in the last days before the coming of Christ, as the bible tells.

To prove that the bible had been sealed or understood in the past, let us read Daniel 12:4, which says, “ But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” In Daniel 12:9, “ And he said, Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” From that verse, we already know that since the time of the prophet Daniel, the bible was already shut out or sealed until the time of the end. Until the time of the end means that it will be opened and unsealed in the last days, where the following events shall occur: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Added to these occurrences are the succeeding verses in Daniel 12:10, which say, “

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand;” The sealed book therefore will be opened and understood in the end time when knowledge shall be increased, many people will be purified, many shall run to and fro, the wicked shall do wickedly, and none of them shall understand, but the wise shall understand. The question is, in which era are events happening?

Just observe and notice that these events are happening today. This is the last days or end time generation. How did I say that we are living in these events mentioned in

those verses, and that our time is the prophetic generation being referred to in the book of Daniel?

Just think about each event, and we would come up with the conclusion that this is true and applicable to our time. First, knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4). Apparently, almost all modern inventions, discoveries, and successful and amazing explorations under water and space are being launched by men today. Modern technologies, weapons, robotics, and computers have been manufactured.

Did all these things happen in the past? No. Only in this present time. Space has been explored by modern and advanced spacecraft. Fast-moving and modern vehicles can transport people to different places in a short span of time. Knowledge of men has really increased when modern methods in finances were introduced, such as the e-card replacing money to obtain cash from the ATM(automated teller machine), buying goods using this e-card or credit card can make transactions easy and fast when no cash is available, hence, safer than to show and bring money in the pocket.

A laser machine is now used in surgery to remove gallstones inside the human body, as it can also perform eye surgery to remove cataracts in the human eye. Production of robots in manufacturing and assembly plants has almost been reduced, and displaced manpower has been employed, as many superpowers are manufacturing fatal weapons for mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons. A nuclear weapon might be the ultimate destructive discovery of mankind in this instance of advanced knowledge of man.

Unlike in the past centuries, man started from spears and swords, then powder guns, and eventually, in the 19th and 20th centuries, since the industrial revolution, a rapid technological transformation occurred, particularly in the West, where flying machines were developed. Until the 21st century, more amazing discoveries, inventions, and developments have taken place. These are the manifestations of the increasing knowledge of men that is stated in the verse of the bible.

Second, when the wise people of God understood the gospel of salvation, many were cleansed and will be cleansed or purified. Notice that in this present dispensation, when people believe the gospel and get baptized, they turn away from their wicked ways, such as fornication, idolatry, stealing or robbing, and other forms of filthiness.

People seek the truth through the gospel and teachings of the wise men of the appointed time. Although nowadays many false churches and false prophets appear, the teachings of the wise men in the last days will persist and save many. Third, the

wicked men will continue to do wickedness according to the verse in the book of Daniel, while many are purified.

This is the present scenario which we can see, read, and hear in the news on TV, print media, and radio almost every day. Almost every day, these media show brutal killings, murders, massacres, robbery, arson, cruelty, and other wickedness of men happening today. The situation is much worse than in the past, where today wicked men take drugs to aggravate wickedness.

Fourth, the sealed books of the bible will be opened in the last day. While it was closed before, the wise men and people of God in the east have cleaved to that church of God, learned and understood the words in the bible. Therefore, the church of God that was lost in the past has been restored and is now preaching the word to many nations.

No churches in this generation nor in the past have opened up and understood the words, but in this era, when the end is at the threshold, and when the signs and indications that are stated in the bible are being fulfilled. This is the church of God in the east, the fulfillment of the prophecy that one church that has opened the sealed book of mystery in the last days.

Chapter 13

Scrolls of Manuscripts

Two thousand years ago, the first Apostles wrote the teachings of Jesus Christ on animal skin, or the so-called scrolls. Apostle Paul, who has the most writings in the bible, traveled Asia Minor and preached the gospel of salvation to the people. The scrolls were preserved and kept by the church-people from generation to generation and were eventually found by the Jewish group in Israel called Essenes. They took care of it until it was finally handed to the bible scholars, who translated the Hebrew writings into Greek and eventually into the English language.

In the 17th century England, scholars translated the bible into an English version by a certain priest named William Tyndale. During those days, there was a great persecution among the true believers and disciples of Christ. The reigning King at that time ordered the burning of Bibles and other Christian paraphernalia. The tyranny of the ruling king prohibited the readings of the gospel and gatherings among Christians. The defiant, who would disobey the order, would be branded as heretics. They would be prosecuted in the Inquisition, and if found guilty of violating the law, they would be mercilessly burned alive. The Inquisition was the court of trial by the Inquisitors in the Dark Ages of Europe.

In the 19th century, in Palestine, a shepherd boy, while on his way to the farm near the Dead Sea, discovered earthen jars in a cave. He found out that these jars contained scrolls with Aramaic writings in them. These pieces of scrolls were later brought to Italy for analysis by the bible scholars. Scholars concluded that writings in the scrolls could be part of those writings by the Apostles during the time of Jesus Christ.

Honor to Whom it is Due

Believers are obedient and respecters of men's laws. They submit to authority because a governing authority will not be installed and inducted for men to obey if it is not the will of God. If you believe that God is in control of situations, even if you hate the authority, you are compelled to obey because their emergence to power would not be possible had it not been for the will of the Supreme authority, that is, God.

What does the bible say about the inducted authority in the government of men? Let us read 1 Peter 2:17 *"Honor all, but as the servants of God. Honor all men, love your brothers, and fear God. Honor the king."* In 1 Peter 2:13-14, read, *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake. Whether it be to the king as supreme, or*

unto the governor as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of them that do well." For the sake of Christ, believers obey whatever situations arise because God knows who deserves to rule and who deserves to be removed from power at the right time.

As believers submit to the law of man, they should politely and respectfully render what is due to others. If others are honored because of their accomplishments and achievements, believers should also honor and respect them, as the book of Romans 13:7 says, "*Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom wisdom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.*" Again, for the sake of Christ, we give what is due them, respect and honor as commanded. While Christian believers are inevitably mingling with unbelievers with wisdom, the former shall also believe in a manner that is in conformity with the church's laws. Let us read Matthew 10:16," *Behold, I send you forth as sheep amid wolves, be ye therefore, wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*"

Believers would not cause unbelievers any trouble, but rather would treat others gently, wisely, and harmlessly. It is also an instruction to the believers to love their enemies despite differences in beliefs and doctrines. For genuine Christians, the fruits of the Holy Spirit are manifested and serve as light to unbelievers. Matthew 5:42-44 read, "*Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you. Do good to them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*" The bible also affirms that you, as Christians, are the light of the world.

Servants Debate For the Faith

Did you know that the Apostle Paul was the only apostle of Christ who received heavenly learning when his spirit was taken up to the third heaven by God and experienced things that were not heard and learned by any prophets, apostles, and servants in the bible? The Apostle Paul was given the wisdom and secret knowledge that neither Peter and other disciples nor Angels, nor Moses and all the prophets, the bible ever had did not receive. Paul was the man referred to in the New Testament who was taken by God in spirit to the third heaven to receive the teachings. Let us read 2Corinthians 12:2 "*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such a one caught up to the third heaven.*"

Is it bad, unbiblical, and unethical to debate with non-believers and religious fanatics about the true teachings of Christ? – NO. Did disciples Paul and Stephen confront and debate with their religious adversaries to defend the teachings of Christ to non-

believers who tried to question them? -Yes. It is attested in Acts 6:9, which says, “*Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and Asia, disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.*” The said religious organizations during those days were all non-Christian believers who criticized the faith that Paul and Stephen were preaching. Those were the sects that believed in Judaism.

According to Acts 9:22, it reads, “*But Saul (Paul) increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*” Therefore, this verse explains how Paul, who was called Saul, defended his faithful stand on Christ against the Jews, which was his former religion. It is not ridiculous to debate and defend your faith in Christ as long as it is peaceful, non-violent, observing sportsmanship, and for the sake of declaring your adversaries the real teachings of Christ. Paul debated with the Herodians as cited in Matthew 22:16, which says, “*And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.*” But if the parties in the debate who would like to question your faith in Christ are violent, harmful, and have malicious intentions, do not engage with them.

However, beware of false teachings as the bible warns us, because many acting in true-Christian faith may mislead you. 1Timothy 6:3-4 says, “*if any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strife of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising,*” Another verse in Colossians 2:8, says, “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*”

The Christ Of The Bible

Who is Christ according to the bible? Christ means the Anointed One. Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. St. Peter was speaking and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What was the answer of Christ to this statement of St. Peter? Let us continue reading verse 17 of the book of Matthew 16, “*Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but my Father in heaven.*” Take note that our Lord Jesus Christ told Peter the phrase, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but my Father in heaven.

What was the meaning of the article in this phrase? It means the recognition of Peter of Christ as the Son of the living God, who was not revealed by flesh and blood of

man, but by the Father in heaven. That is why this Christ, who is called the Son of the living God, has a Father in heaven. Why must we know these facts from the bible? It is because in the book of 1Timothy 4:10, Paul said," That we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially those who believe."

We give credit to our Lord Jesus Christ for saving us in the last days on earth as we wait for his return, and much more, we should give credit to the One who sent Him here on earth, the living God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the overall Savior. When the Son saves mankind, then He will deliver them to God the Father, who will now become the Savior of all, with whom all and even the Son will be under His authority. We must understand that Christ is our mediator between God and men.

The book of 1Timothy 2:3-5 reads," *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth, for there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*" In these testimonies of the preceding verses about the truth on Saviors, we now realize that we need to know and read the Word in the bible because it is not enough to say literally, to accept Jesus Christ to be saved. We need to know the law to be obeyed and know Him better.

Are we opposed when we say that our Lord Jesus Christ is a Savior?

Definitely, No. He is the Savior of mankind, sent by God on earth, and died for us. In the last day, He will return to save mankind.

Life Is What We Make It

The famous Shakespearean quote, "Life is what we make it," is true because man is the driver of his own future, and God is a guide on our path. Does God destine man's future? Man's thinking attitude towards his future should be analyzed and studied. People believe that a person's fate is already predetermined from birth. According to some people's insight, the fate of man has already been prepared and predetermined, whether good or bad. And that it has been destined by God that the future of a man is fixed to happen while he lives on earth. But this kind of notion is wrong. We should realize that man makes his destiny and future while keeping himself to survive the rigors of life on earth.

Life may be good or bad according to the one who makes it. In reality, man does not know what lies ahead. This is proven in Hebrews 9:27, " Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." This verse is certain that man is destined to die once. Precisely, all men will die, but we are not certain about anybody's future on earth. The fact is, God wants us to have a good future, and he does not want us to suffer in this troubled earth. And it is also a fact that man is the one who is going to

make and mold his future while on earth. He has two choices: to make good and to make things bad for himself. Let us read Deuteronomy 30:19: "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

In the said verse, man's mind is programmed to choose life, meaning he has to exert effort to succeed in life and do good to live; however, if he makes things bad for himself, he will reap the fruit of his actions. Man will eat the fruit of his labor. If he does not work, therefore, he will not eat and will be impoverished and ultimately succumb to death. Whatever comes out of his endeavor will be what he will be in this life. As the famous English poet, William Shakespeare, said, "Life is what we make it." He even described life as a stage where every man shall play a part. Whoever is strong and endures life's struggles survives. The weak are pathetically understood to give way.

The young ones take over the work of the old ones so that life may move on. For this reason, there is the existence of the rich and the poor on earth. The book of Proverbs 22:2 says, "Rich and Poor have this common: The Lord is the Maker of them all." Perhaps some people may ask, "Why are there rich and poor on earth?" Why aren't we all created rich so that everybody is happy? The answer is logical; if there are no poor, nobody will work, nobody will produce something to eat, something to serve us, and something that will keep us alive and going. How shall we survive on earth if both things do not exist?

Not all shall be rich and not all shall be poor. The poor shall always work to lift their status in life, as there are always poor to come, while the rich shall also struggle to preserve their wealth and make their lives worth living. They will enhance their wealth for the benefit of the poor. The rich are also working and serving others, like the poor, who also do their part. Everything on earth has its purpose so that it may serve for the benefit of both parties. If nobody studies, nobody advances; that is why it is instructed in the bible that we serve one another. God permits men to explore everything for their benefit. The only thing that is pre-determined on earth is death.

Death is the only circumstance that is certain on earth. Everyone will die in their own time. Every human shall die along the way as he makes his living, but it is not certain when it will happen. Some die young and some die old according to their circumstance. If God destines man to die, would He change what He had destined? The answer is Yes. A certain verse will prove that the pre-determined death of man could be changed by God. Let us read Isaiah 38:1-7, "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah, son of Amos, went to him and said, 'This is what the Lord says, 'Put your house in order because you are

going to die; you will not recover.” Hezekiah turned his face to the call and prayed to the Lord. “ Remember, Oh Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes, and Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: Go and tell Hezekiah, this is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears: I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city. This is the Lord’s sign to you that the Lord will do what he has promised.” In these verses, God changed the scheduled death of Hezekiah by adding fifteen years to his life. God has the sole authority to change things as He wills. To have a lengthy life on earth, we must fear God, as this verse tells in Proverbs 10:27, “

The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.” There are people whose future on earth is already pre-destined, as their destination is determined by God. It means they are chosen or pre-selected by God to do certain things on earth. Who are they? They are the sent or messengers of God. In the past, the prophets were destined to do the work as prophets of God; even before they were formed in their mother’s womb, they were appointed at the right time to be a prophet.

Let us read, Jeremiah 1:5, “ Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Even the apostle Paul had a pre-determined destination to become an apostle of Christ. Before he was in the religion of the Jews (Judaism), he persecuted and even killed Christians, but when he was called to serve God, he converted to Christianity and became an Administrator of the Church of the Living God.

However, ordinary people were given free will to choose which kind of life they wanted to live and enter into for their future. We don’t all know what lies ahead of us. You may be rich today, but tomorrow you may find yourself poor. You may be strong today, but tomorrow you find yourself sick or bedridden. Life is like a mist, according to the bible. Now you see him, now you don’t. You may not be able to tell what kind of person you could be tomorrow. But some men had been given assurance from their mother’s womb of what they would be in the future. Paul, for example, was chosen and was destined to be a disciple before he was an enemy of the Gospel. In Galatians 1:13-15, “ For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jew’s religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it, and profited in the Jew’s religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more

exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."

The Impossible Thing With God

There are many religious groups today that say nothing is impossible with God. The verse in the bible is in Matthew 12:41, "*Jesus looked at them and said. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*" It is the truth that everything undoubtedly happens by God's will. If we look at the other verse, it appears that something is impossible with God. Let us read the verse in Titus 1:2, "*a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised the beginning of time.*" In the said verse, there is something that God is impossible to do, and that is to tell a lie. Unlike men who lie, God never lies as He is true in everything. Romans 3:4 says, "*Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: So that you may be proved right in your words and prevail in your judging.*"

Even Jesus Christ did not lie nor sin. This is proven in a certain verse in 1Peter 2:21-22, "*he did not sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*" We can out rightly say that men are liars. These liars are people who are under the curse of sin and who continually sin, for their father is a liar. Be warned of the emerging false prophets and self-professed Christian pastors, evangelists, and preachers because they might be teaching a different doctrine other than that of Christ in the bible.

The bible in Galatians 1:8 tells us, "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed.*" The instruction in this verse is strictly to be enforced, while we are warned of those false teachings not pertaining to the teachings of Christ. "Let those false prophets be accursed accordingly!"

Liars are rampant nowadays; these false prophets are sowing their false teachings, and some continue their wicked ways as they serve their father, the devil. Let us read John 8:44, "*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" Beware that you are not deceived.

How will you know whether they are of God or not? John 7:17-18 says, "*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his glory; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*" In other words, they speak for themselves, basically founded on their knowledge, imagination, and notion. We should all be reminded that wicked men do not stop from deceiving and sowing wickedness, and they even act as true or real people, like their father, the

devil, who also acts like an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:13 says, “ *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.*”

So, beware of the false prophets and workers acting as real but deceitful in their deeds and creeds. One way you can test them is by their teachings, if they are founded on the teachings of Christ. Be sure that every statement that they pronounce to you is attested by verses in the bible as you test the spirit.

Do not be comforted and persuaded by their sweet flattery and self-uplifting words, but rather test the spirit that they bring and pronounce. Because when man comes to you with spiritual deliverance, we are already talking about our soul's salvation, and this is a delicate issue to tackle. There is no such thing as instant salvation. Let us read I John 4:4, which says, “ *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*”

When you are convinced by false teachings, you have already entrusted your soul to a false prophet, and thereby you are led to death on the last day of judgment. Because when you are led by a false prophet, both of you would plunge to the pit of the burning lake of fire on the last day. It is not bad to see and listen to every teaching of any church because in that manner, you will be able to discern whether they are of God or not. By then, God will reveal to you, according to His purpose in your life, the truth if you continue to seek His word. Because hearing the word is the beginning of your wisdom and belief.

Chapter 14

Demonstration of God's Power

Why do crippled, ill-starred, deformed, and freak-looking men exist? They exist so that God's power and work may be revealed to all men. John 9:3," *Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*" We may wonder why God created all these things in men. We cannot question the one who created us. Can we question the Maker of everything that exists? Can a pot that man molds question why it has been formed this way or that way? No. Romans 9:20, "*Nay, O man who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?*"

Exodus 4:11, "*And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have I not the LORD?*" Therefore, the LORD has the power to create all these things and makes things exist according to his will.

Steps Of Salvation

How can we be saved on the last day? Life does not end after death. There is life after death, and this is proven by the bible as we already know. The question is, how can you attain salvation when judgment day comes? Is it by just accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and then you are already saved? Do not be misled by this notion because Salvation is a process and not an instant act. Salvation is believing the Word of God. When you hear the Word and believe in your heart after proving it in the bible, then accept it. The bible in 1 John 4:1 reads, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" When you have proven and tested that it is the teachings of Christ, believe it in your heart. Let us read Acts 16:31, "*If you believe you have the right teachings, then you believe it. You will now be baptized for the cleansing of your sins.*"

Let us read Acts 22:16, "*And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*"

When you have been baptized, you are converted into a Christian, and you should be called a Christian in your faith. Let us read Acts 11:26, "*and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass that for a whole year they*

assembled themselves with the church, and taught many people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” This verse proves that true believers in Christ are called Christians. When you receive baptism, you become a new creation.

Let us read, Romans 6:4,6,7 which read,: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” When you have received the true teachings you will work for it and take care of what you have received as instructed in 1Corinthians 15:1-2 which read, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

Remember that Salvation is not that easily attained. You will persevere and live according to the will of God until the end. Let us read Matthew 10:22, “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake, but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” This verse proves that salvation is a long suffering.

When you become a follower and disciple of Christ, and as you live a Christian living observing and obeying the laws you are tasked also to teach others as instructed in Matthew 28:19” Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;” teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.” You should realize that all these things will not end in vain because you will certainly be saved when that day comes.

Remember that there is tribulation on earth, and believers are always experiencing tribulation, but they are not alone. Where there is tribulation, there is strength that Christians will experience to overcome their problems. This is an assurance that you are a Christian destined to walk the right path.

However, your salvation must not be entrusted to any person or to any religious authority because you alone will work out your own salvation. This is what the bible is telling us in Ezekiel 14:20, “though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver own souls by their righteousness.”

Knowledge of Salvation

What are the ways to be saved before the last day comes? As stated previously, we continue with the Word in the bible because it is the source of knowledge by which

we shall know what to do and how we are going to obey God. Let us read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2. “ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, the gospel which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; by which also are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

In this verse, Paul is telling the believers that the gospel that he preached should be kept in memory, by which we can be saved. In another verse, he also affirmed that the gospel is the power of God to salvation. In Romans 1:16, “ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Therefore, the gospel is one way to be saved. In the near future, many things will happen as that day draws nearer. As we have already tackled the signs of the times, another sign is that many will be cleansed and purified, meaning many will try to find the truth in the bible for understanding, but those wicked whose purpose is awkward will never find it, even if they read the bible.

Many will travel to and fro because of the advanced and modern transportation that men have invented and built, and knowledge will increase. Let us read Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Take note that, being a baptized Christian, you walk by faith to a new path to maintain your salvation. You must be aware and realize that there is tribulation for those who follow the ways of Christ.

Expect all sufferings of being a Christian as the bible says in Mateo 24:9, “ Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.” You should also realize that a Christian who has become a disciple will experience the reality of tests. Do not be surprised that a Christian shall experience hatred, and he may even be left lonely by the world. Matthew 10:22, “ And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” But the price to those who endure these sufferings shall be salvation.

Do not be surprised that in the midst of a Christian’s tribulation, he will be hated by your very own family. Matthew 10:36 “ And a man’s foes shall be his household.” But He promised that despite man’s tribulation, he will have peace in Christ because since He has overcome the world, His disciples will also overcome it with cheer. John 16:33 says, “ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Therefore, being a Christian is not that easy, especially for those newly-baptized Christian converts. They will pass through the test of fire. A process that will purify them like gold to edify their Christian faith. Can salvation be forfeited or lost? It is not true that when you become a believer, you will forever be saved. As discussed, it is not easy to be saved. It is a process until the end. Salvation can be forfeited or lost. You have to take care of it. Let us read II Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye not your own faith; prove your own selves; know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

Therefore, Christians in the long run should take care of what they have received because there is danger in neglecting their salvation. It doesn't mean you can do anything you want to do because you have been saved. You must keep the teachings of God and obey them. It is difficult to live a Christian way, but it is a key to salvation. We must do good and keep His word. According to the bible.

Those who will persevere in this world will be saved on the last day. Therefore, as parting word, Brethren, while there is still time, seek the Lord and find His will so that you may also be saved on that day. That day is near. The Lord has been instructing us to ask our pastor, minister, church-head, evangelist, or teacher of faith concerning the genuine teachings of Christ and biblical issues about salvation.

Let us read Haggai 2:11, which reads, “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying...” It is necessary to know things from the bible and ask our church leaders if they know what they are teaching. You can prove if they are of God by asking issues about the laws of God. This is one way by which you may not be deceived because false prophets are out to deceive people; otherwise you and your leader will go down to the pit of death, as the bible tells and in the same way it was told us to be wise in this world particularly at this point when we are living a dangerous time.

Therefore, if you are a Christian work out your salvation with fear and trembling as what the bible teaches in Philippians 2:12 say, “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Path to Salvation

In II Timothy 2:22 reads, “Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of pure heart.” If we maintain our hearts' inequities, we will suffer the consequences of it. The book of Isaiah 59:11

says, “ we look for judgment, but there is none, for salvation, but it is far off from us.”. Therefore, salvation for people whose hearts are filthy is far and cannot be found.

This is what I Thessalonians 4:1-5 read, “ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor: not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:”

A pleasing life is a life that is according to the will of God in the bible. Live a holy life as the bible instructs believers. A verse in the book of Luke says, “ And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” No man can say he is free of sin. According to the bible, “ All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Therefore, if all have sinned, we can be free from being sinners. I John 1:8-9 say, “ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Therefore, we can only be cleansed of our sins when we confess them to God. And God will forgive you of your iniquity, hence, you leave your old self and sin no more. Psalms 32:5 says, “ I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”

If you are forgiven, then you should not go back to your old self as you do because if you commit the same sins repetitively, you will not be forgiven anymore; however, you should avoid sinning while you sin willfully. If we keep on doing the same sins, then we shall not be forgiven anymore. This is proven in Hebrews 10:26. “ For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”

Forfeiture of Salvation of Christians

Some Christian-professed leaders teach their members that once they have become Christians or converts, they are already saved for all the days of their lives. It is the premise of one Western church which now operates around the world. They did not know that salvation can be lost if they have neglected it. This is what 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, “ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

A Christian who is proven to have lost his belief and gone astray may find himself repudiated by our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, a Christian can lose his or her salvation after neglecting what he or she has received. We should realize that salvation is not only accepting our Lord Jesus Christ, but we must also realize that accepting His teachings is accepting our Lord Jesus Christ. When we listen and believe in His teachings and are baptized, we receive a new Spirit, and we walk in a new life. We should always keep in mind, (1 Corinthians 15:1-2, " Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.") Hearts and actions are the teachings of Christ, but if we neglect the teachings and continue in wicked ways, salvation is lost.

Hebrews 6:4-6 say, " For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Those who have found themselves to have lost their salvation and turned away from their faith, as backsliders do, have crucified the Son of God anew.

How can we say then that those who are saved are always saved? We cannot always justify their repetitious sins as an excuse for being Christians who have become children of God before. No. Because a Christian who sins unintentionally may have a chance to be forgiven and saved, but those who repetitiously commit sins intentionally will not have a chance to be forgiven and saved.

The bible says in James 1:14-15, " but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." If you let yourself be tempted by the lust of sin, it may bring you death. The bible says, there is no more sacrifice left for them, which means, they cannot be forgiven anymore. Hebrews 10:26-27 " For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Many Christians interpret that salvation in scriptural verse in Ephesians 2:8-9," 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.", is attained without works anymore, but mere faith alone is enough for one to be saved.

That is not correct because without works we cannot be saved, as Philippians 2:12 says, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

This is very clear: salvation must be worked out with fear and trembling. There are two laws involved in Ephesians 2:8-9. The laws of Moses and the laws of faith in Christ. In the past, of course, people of God repented and did good works by sacrificing to be saved, but in the Christian era, we live by faith with works also in Christ Jesus in order to be saved. The question now in the said verses of the book of Ephesians is, which law are we justified by? In Romans 3:28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Acts 13:39 says, "and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Therefore, in this Christian dispensation, we are no longer justified under the law of Moses by doing those things that they did before.

We, Christians, now have to live and be saved by faith with works in Christ. The phrase, "so that no one could boast," refers to works that man is capable of working to be justified for salvation.

These works of salvation that we should do is instructed in 2 Peter 1:3-9, "According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Remember in the book of Ephesians in 2:8-9, there are two laws involved: the law of Moses and the law of faith in Christ, in which the latter law shall govern all Christians.

Salvation Belongs to God

Now, if saving is the work of the living God, how does He save? Will God, who is in heaven, come down to save men? Will He speak to men for salvation? The book of Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets many times in various ways, but in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe." With

whom did God speak to be instrumental for the salvation of men? One of them was Moses, the prophet. The book of Acts 7:35 reads, "This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, who made you ruler and judge? He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God Himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and for forty years in the desert. This is the Moses who told the Israelites, God will send you a prophet like me from your own people." Father God did not personally come down from heaven to save men. He sent a ruler or judge who would do the acts of deliverance, and this is no other than Moses. To sum up the works of salvation, we must not bypass the authority of God the Father as Savior because, in the end, overall salvation will be by Him.

Our Lord Jesus Christ had done his work of salvation, and the promise of His most-awaited coming in the end time on earth is another work of salvation. Moses and other prophets in the bible had done their share in the work of salvation. The works of salvation were done by men of God in different times and in various ways. They have become instrumental in the mission of the deliverance of mankind.

Are those who have not had a chance to hear about the gospel of Christ be saved? What does the bible tell about those who are non-believers and not under the law of Christ? The bible tells us in Romans 2:11-15, which says, "For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Therefore, those who have not heard of the gospel of God shall be justified according to their beliefs and the law they follow in their conscience, and those who are under the law of God shall be justified according to that law. But those who are not under the law but with pure conscience shall have the chance to be saved, and those who are under the law but do not do and obey them shall be in danger of losing salvation. All men shall be justified according to what they have done. But if you hear the correct teachings of the gospel of Christ and you do not hear or take action to listen, you are in danger of not being saved.

Let us read Proverbs 1:24-26, "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and

would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you, Then shall call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD; they would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.”

Therefore, anybody is being warned that if you refuse to listen to the knowledge of the Word of God, even though it is being taught today, nor do you pretend you don't hear them preached, you will find the consequences mentioned in these verses. Are those outside the true Church of God to be saved in the last day? Let us see what the bible answers in 1Corinthians 5:13, which reads, “ But them that are without God judgeth.

Therefore, put away from among yourselves that wicked person.” Therefore, God is the One who will judge those who do not believe and are outside the true Church of God, and those who have not heard of the gospel of Christ. Remember that on the last day, men will be judged according to their works. 1Peter 1:17, “ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

CHAPTER 15

The Law Of Christ

The Law on Orderly Worship, Gifts of Tongues, and Prophecies

There are many worshippers in this Christian era who worship with the accompaniment of speaking in tongues and litany. This manner of worship is becoming utterly disorderly and creating mere noise in the church. Some still practice speaking in tongues and prophesying in the midst of church service. Everyone does not understand each other, while others are shouting and uttering words nobody understands. There is neither an interpretation of what they utter, nor do they believe and feel that it is glorifying their way of worship.

And on some occasions, from certain churches, church ministers and members tame the snakes, believing that they would not bite them. Consequently, some who had attempted to hold it were killed, and even the pastor who demonstrated in the presence of the church members that he would not be bitten suffered the same fate as they were surprised that their belief did not work. Church cultures have become chaotic, confusing, and destructive, leaving no assurance of salvation for the innocent and pathetic followers.

Prophesying is misunderstood by those worshippers in the sense that they define or interpret this term only as “ prediction of the events to come”. Prophesying in the bible means teaching the word of God. To Prophecy is to teach. For information and confirmation, all prophecies can be found in the bible and have been prophesied by the chosen people of God during the Old Testament until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They were the early prophets of God and disciples of Christ. Whatever predictions are being told now by bible teachers and preachers can be read in the bible. Phenomenal events and mysterious occurrences can be found in the bible such as the coming of Christ, the emergence of false prophets, murders and killings, persecution, long-sufferings, the phenomenal occurrences of earthquakes, sudden storms and typhoons, whirlwinds, tornados, volcanic eruptions, lunar and solar eclipses, war and rumors of wars in many countries and others.

Prophecies and predictions were written and foretold by the early prophets in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah, Samuel, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others to mention. Other than that, we will have to scrutinize whether it belongs to the bible. Certain verses in the bible will give us the definition of prediction, which is foretelling and

prophesying. 1 Corinthians 14:5 says, “ I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.” 1 Corinthians 14:3, “ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation and comfort.”

In the said verses, speaking in tongues was encouraged if it can be interpreted by an interpreter of the one speaking in tongues and be understood by other believers; however, if nobody does it, it should not be done instead prophesy or teach the law of God to exhort and edify the church (worshippers). Speaking in tongues is not encouraged but rather prophesy, as said in 1 Corinthians 14:6, “ Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophesy or word of instructions or teachings.”

Others may interpret prophesying as predicting or foretelling what is to come, like a visionary or fortune teller. Nowadays, Fortune tellers or visionaries do not play a vital role in the bible, but they appeared to be villains because their astrological activity is forbidden in the bible and is of the devil. Their predictions had been foretold in the bible as inspired by the devil. In fact, even today, fortune telling is prohibited because they do not have certainties, nor do their predictions come into reality.

The bible has teachings concerning the orderly worship in the church. The bible also teaches that in the assembly of brethren, everyone should bring a hymn, an instruction, and a revelation. 1 Corinthians 14:26, “ how is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath interpretation, let all things be done unto edifying.” There is precisely a teaching about speaking in tongues.

The Law of Christ on Tithing

Is tithing of ten percent a law for Christians nowadays? Will a man rob God if he does not pay ten percent of his income? What is meant by tithes? Tithes are a form of payment that was commanded by God to the sons of Israel to bring into the house of the Levites in order to be used by the priesthood of the sons of Levi in the Old Testament. It was usually ten percent of the herd or livestock that could be consumed or used.

In Leviticus 27:30 reads, “ And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem aught of his tithes, he shall add thereto to the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord, continue in Leviticus 27:34,” These are the commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses for the children of Israel in

mount Sinai.” In other words, tithing was the command of God to Israel during that time.

Many Christian and even non-Christian churches today preach the tithing of ten percent in aid for the church. They teach the law of tithing ten percent as a valid law nowadays because the book of Malachi says so in chapter 3:10, “ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” The verse commanded to bring all the tithes into the storehouse, then, if you don’t, in Malachi 3:8-9, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”

The verse in Malachi 4:4 says, “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws, I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.” This verse may be understood and confused by today’s Christian believers as the law to be remembered and applied, the application of tithing ten percent, as it may justify the compulsory delivery of ten percent tithe offerings to the church. To reveal the misapplication of those verses today, we should ask first, For whom did God command that law?

The verse says, “ for all Israel.” Do present-day believers belong to the house of Israel? In which era or time do we belong? We are not Israelites by race, nor do we belong to the house of Israel; rather, we belong to the Christian era. We are ethnically non-Israelites, but from the roots of the Gentiles. Gentiles means races outside the house of Israel. Gentiles, as the bible teaches us, are the heirs together with Israel in the promise in Christ Jesus.

To prove this allegation, we can read this in Ephesians 3:6, “ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” What is our testimony that we don’t belong, nor are we under the law of Moses? In Acts 13:39, “ and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

You will notice from the verse, the line that says, “ you could not be justified from the law of Moses.” This obviously means that we are no longer under the authority of the law of Moses. Christians do not have to follow this law because it was for Israel. Nevertheless, they may not accept this verse until we support it with another verse to strengthen this claim. Accordingly, one will sin and rob God if one fails to obey this command.

Their claim can be read in Malachi 3:8-10, “ Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, how do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse- the whole nation of you, because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgate of heaven and pour out so many blessings that you will not have room enough for it.”

You must remove the feeling of guilt in you if you don't obey this command because this is not for you to obey, but for the early Israelites or Hebrews at the time of Moses, for the sons and priests of the Levites. Furthermore, to prove that this is not for present-day believers, let us read Matthew 23:23: “ Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-mint, dill, and cumin- but you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness.”

Believers could misunderstand the verse upon reading this line, “ You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” What is this line trying to point out? Is it the tithing of ten percent? What was being pointed out in this term “former”? With whom was Jesus Christ talking in this verse? It is not the tithing of ten percent that was being pointed out here. Rather, it is no other than justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was talking to the Pharisees and Scribes, who had been practicing the tithing of ten percent during that time. While this gives us awareness about the practice of the Pharisees and Scribes, what else do we expect more from Christ when he accused them of neglecting the more important things? Apparently, by analyzing the weight of this verse that Christ uttered to the Pharisees and Scribes, there is the presence of an accusation. Why? Because they were not doing what was right. If we were to ask again, to whom was this verse told? Let us read Hebrews 7:5-12, “ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people – that is, their brothers – even though their brothers are descended from Abraham.” Verse 12 goes this way, “ For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.”

In these two verses, a clarity in the statement is noticeable that the law was requiring the descendants of Levi to collect a tenth from their brothers and not from the Christians. In fact, the law has been changed when we read Hebrews 7:12 “ When there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.” Take note of the clarity of the verse. Nowadays, what is the law in giving since the old law was changed or already repealed when Jesus Christ came to earth? The answer can be read in 1 Corinthians 9:7, “ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart

to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This is a very clear verse in our time that commands us to give what we have decided in our hearts.

The apostle Paul was emphasizing in this verse that giving must come from the heart. Man’s willingness to give without hesitation is one way of offering love and service to God. During the time of Jesus Christ, there were many people who were already giving what they had decided in their hearts. We cannot say that this was tithing of 10% because in a particular scenario, Jesus Christ saw the givers were not counting their offerings as ten percent; instead, they were depositing their money into the temple treasury.

Let us read this testimony in Mark 12:41, “ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.” The last line, “ That people threw in large amounts.” It is implied that, as they got the money from their safe, they threw it right away into the treasury. Apparently, there was no accounting for ten percent; shall we then say that they had accounted for it when they went there?

It may not be because most people then who were converted to Christianity knew the law of Moses on ten percent that they had to bring in their goods, crops, and flocks and account for ten percent together with silver and coins. We should be aware that the Pharisees are different from Christians when it comes to giving or offerings. They had laws to obey. Pharisees still had tithing of ten percent, while Christians have none, but they give according to the dictates of their hearts.

Although our Lord Jesus Christ had commanded those who taught and preached the gospel of salvation they live by the gospel, but not to the extent of abusing, enriching, and living lavishly from the tithes of the church. Let us read the command in I Corinthians 9:7, “ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.”

The apostle Paul, despite the command to receive their living from the gospel, did not make his living out of the church’s tithes. He did not intend to be a burden to the church. Paul had to earn a living by selling tents while he preached the gospel. He struggled for the gospel and exerted efforts for a living. He experienced a great deal of sacrifice. His testimony can be read in 1 Corinthians 4:11: “ Even unto this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked and are buffeted and have no certain dwelling place.”

This verse testifies to the reality of Christian sacrifice for the sake of Christ during those days. They were even persecuted, maltreated, and separated from the world.

Today, this really happens, as it was said in the bible that in this world you will suffer tribulation, and tribulation will become even more intensified in the last days and in the great tribulation.

The Law of God on Believer's Manners and Conduct

The bible is not a mere book but a book that contains many laws of God to adhere to so that believers will be led to righteousness and to the path of salvation. The early Christians were taught to dress up properly when going to worship houses or centers, and even to this present day, that law in fashion shall be obeyed by His followers. Modern-day church-goers may not observe the proper church dress code. It appears that in many churches today, the professed Christians do not observe proper attire. Let us read 1 Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefulness and sobriety, not with braided hair, or gold or pearls or costly array."

In fact, you will notice that some women are dressed up with an eye-catching attire enough to entice the lustful eyes of men. Apparently, women intentionally wear enticing attire with glitter on their bodies. It is not only indecent attire that the bible forbids, but it warns us that women shall not wear the garments of men. However, nowadays, pants and shirts have been worn by both sexes, and even women have their hair cut short while men have their hair long.

The book of Deuteronomy 22:5 says, "The women shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

Nowadays, it is obviously not obeyed; instead, men and women share the same kind of sin. Notice that the hair of men now is grown long like that of women, while women have their hair cut short like that of men. 1 Corinthians 11:14-15 says, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering."

In these verses, it is clearly said that long hair is only given to a woman for her covering, while it is a shame for a man to have long hair. In some instances, the indecent and seductive manner of wearing garments by women causes men to sin. Naturally, from the lust of the eyes springs the lust of the flesh. II Peter 2:14 says, "having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls, a heart they have exercised with covetous practices, cursed children." Because of continuous transgressions, God gave them up to a wicked kind of love.

The book of Romans 1:26-27, say, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affection; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against

nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust one toward another men with men working that which is unseemly and receiving in themselves that recompense of them error which was meet.”

While men and women turned away from their affection, men turn to men for affection and women to women. In the same manner that men have changed into a feminine behavior or the so-called swards, likewise, women, lesbians. The laws of Christ forbid women to wear tantalizing jewelry and precious gems while leading a Christian life. In the past, women of Zion were compared to women today because of their vanity, pride, and arrogance in their attitudes, and they were even assailed for wearing many ornaments on their bodies.

Isaiah 3:16, 20,25 say, “ Moreover the Lord saith, because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet; the bonnets and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings. The rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins. The glasses and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. Thy men shall fall by the sword, and they mighty in the war.” In the said verses, you will notice how women of Zion were described in their manners, while these resulted in the downfall of men.

The Law of Christ on Socializing with Unbelievers

Are you living with unbelievers? Do you mingle with unbelieving friends, relatives, and family? Neither your husband nor your wife may be a believer by this time, but if you are a believer, you may find it difficult to deal with them and suffer a terrible situation. Your dilemma may not be ordinary with other Christian believers. The choice is, you get vexed and quit, or you live and practice Christian virtues.

It may be said that it is easy to be a Christian, but it is difficult to apply or live a Christian-like life. If you have an unbelieving wife or husband, be extra careful in handling your situation or your marital affairs because religious differences can be a possible cause of separation. You may be annoyed because of your differences in principles, but the bible instructs believers not to quit nor leave a husband or wife.

Let us read I Corinthians 13:14,” And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”

The Believing and Non-Believing Couples

If a wife has an unbelieving husband, the bible teaches the wife not to separate nor leave her husband. In 1Corinthians 7:10-11, say, “ And unto the married I command yet not, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband; and let not the husband put away his wife.” The verse clearly tells that if a wife departs her husband, she should not marry but reconcile in due time with the latter, and the husband should not depart his wife as well.

1 Corinthians 7:12-14 says, “ But to the rest speak, I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman who hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the wife, else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”

Therefore, the one who leaves the other should not initiate marrying another man or woman, but if she/he remain unmarried, the one who is left alone has the right to remarry. This law is also applied under civil law on family relations of the Civil Code. In the observance of Christian living, a husband and wife should give each other a chance to avail each other of personal and religious freedom. Religious freedom should not be impaired according to the Constitution, while criminal law punishes the offender who compels his or her husband or wife to embrace his or her religion. However, this provision of law has always been abused without any complaint from the offended person.

This may be done in such a way that compulsion to adhere to one's belief is not made a reason for separation, but in some other reason, husband and wife part their ways. In employment, this is also abused but not apparently made as the ground for a person's expulsion, particularly in local companies where the culture emphasizes adherence to their religious practices or beliefs; otherwise, an applicant or employee can be terminated constructively.

But the essence of conjugal partnership, according to the teaching of God, is that the relationship between husband and wife should have righteousness, judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies, and faithfulness. Both of them should know righteousness which is the Word of God, correct judgment where both always apply sound and righteousness in time of controversy as to family affairs, one should not favor unfairly but instead weigh and qualify each party's contention; love and kindness should always take place with harmony and understanding among the family members with mercies at all times and the wife and husband should observe faithfulness that serves as the foundation of maintaining a stable family institution.

The bible attests to this fact in Hosea 2:19-20, “ And I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the LORD”

There are some churches' cultures where members do not associate or socialize intimately with those non church-members because of differences in culture and beliefs. Consequently, some treat others unkindly, superficially, and maliciously. Are Christian-believers forbidden by Christ to live, associate, or socialize with non-Christians? How do Christians interact in a society full of multi-cultural & religious beliefs? Of course, a mixed society is full of strangers with exotic beliefs.

Even the apostle Paul, a disciple of Christ, associated with the Gentiles in propagating the gospel to non-believers. Let us read 1 Corinthians 9 19-22, “ For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And I unto the Jews I became as a Jew, That I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means have some.”

Therefore, the apostle Paul associated with the unbelievers for the sake of the gospel. But the mere intention of Apostle Paul was to win them for the Lord. There must be a purpose why Christians associate most of the time today with non-believers. It may be for different motives, such as mere gatherings and acquaintances, friendship, business, spiritual, and many other reasons they themselves believe.

Being a friend to the Gentiles is not a problem because believers are also tasked to show them the kind of faith they have in Christ. And for that purpose, believers may lead them to the same faith. However, in socializing with the unbelievers, the bible warns not to conform to their unwanted ways because Christians received the law of Christ not to touch or dwell with unclean things from them. This is proven in Colossians 4:5 that reads, “ Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, reckoning the time.” There is a better way that believers could get along with the unbelievers, and that is mingling with them with wisdom.

Believers with wisdom in socializing with unbelievers know what to do, even though they are surrounded by temptations that may drag them to sin. The apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 3:15, “but if I tarry long, that those mayest know how those oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” God knows who His people are, even in the midst of many believers, those who are faithful and those who have turned away from their faith.

Faithful believers always keep on praying with thanksgiving. This is attested in I Timothy 2:1-2, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercourse and giving of thanks, be made for all men; kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty." God's people avoid all forms of inequities and evil thoughts in the midst of persecution and temptations.

In 2Timothy 2:19 reads, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his: And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Chapter 16

Baptism and its Importance

What is baptism? Who should be baptized? What is the proper way of baptizing, and how is it done? Baptism is immersion into the water, which signifies the cleansing of the one being baptized from spiritual filthiness, thereby renewing the spirit to a new one. When a person is baptized, he is given a new spirit, which is called the inner man. Accordingly, a person is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The inner man is a new spirit that worships God. Baptism is done where there is plenty of flowing water that will wash away the filthy spirits that may come out of the one being baptized when he or she is immersed. By Baptism, our sins are cleansed. Let us read Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." When you have been baptized, you are converted into a Christian, and you should be called a Christian.

Let us read Acts 11:26, "and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass that for a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught many people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Immersion in the water is very important for the spiritual cleansing of an individual, and it should not just be done by sprinkling water on the head of the one being baptized. Baptism is only applicable to adults who believe in the teachings of Christ and not to infants because the ones who are to be baptized have to be cleansed from their sins, while the infants have not sinned, so they should not be baptized.

As we all know, infants are innocent and sin-free human beings. They are of God, and even if they die in their infancy, they will go to heaven. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. One cannot be a Christian without being baptized because it is through baptism that a Christian convert is cleansed of his sins and can receive Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit according to the bible.

Let us read Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." This verse tells of the forgiveness of sins from the beginning they are committed until the time they are asked for forgiveness. When a sinful man repents penitently and opens his heart to receive baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, the gift from the Holy Spirit shall also be received as we begin to live a new life. Through baptism, the promise in the word of God that the one baptized shall have a new life is fulfilled.

Romans 6:4 says. “ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”The old self is buried upon immersion into the water as we resurrect for a new life; therefore, a newly-baptized individual shall now be called a Christian. He now lives as a new creature, and all things in the past must be forgotten and abandoned. New things for a Christian are new. After baptism, an individual becomes a Christian. This is attested in II Corinthians: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.”

Today, many born-again groups and fundamentalists do not even perform water baptism for their followers, but merely accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is enough for followers to be saved. It is wrong because without baptism, no one will be saved, as it is required by the doctrine of the Lord in the bible to be baptized that you may be saved. It is cited in 2Peter 2:3, saying, Peter 3:21 says, "And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

In the book of Matthew, we will notice that Jesus Christ went to the Jordan River and asked John to be baptized. Why did he have to be baptized when, in fact, He did not commit any sin? Definitely, He did not sin and was not a sinner. He asked John to baptize him to receive the Spirit of God, while it was also a situation in which the Father introduced him as His Son.

Significantly, it shows that baptism is defined for those who would be baptized that they would receive Jesus Christ and the gift from the Holy Ghost that the Father from heaven is sending. Let us read to prove the statement in Matthew 3:13-16. “ The cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus, answering, said unto him,

Suffer it to be so now; for this it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness, then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went; up straight way out of the water, and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him, and a voice from heaven, saying, “ This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The Soul and the Spirit After Death

What happens to a man's soul and spirit after death?

Some religious people believe and say that the soul of a dead person goes to heaven once they die if he is good and to hell if they are bad. Others believe in the saying that a dead man goes back to his house and his family after three days. It becomes the typical and customary beliefs of people who have not read or heard the teachings of Christ about life after death. It is a baseless and false belief that is not founded on the Word. The succeeding lines are unfounded and man-made beliefs: Some established practices of people are done by offering candles in the dead man's grave, believing that it would serve them food for them. Others would even serve different kinds of fruits, which, after the event, would be eaten when left by living men passing by. The truth is, some accustomed practices were observed without a biblical foundation.

Others do not mind whether it is biblical or not. What is important to them is that they have served their purpose. But a Christian faith is far from these kinds of practices because Christian believers are taught the teachings of Christ. We must bear in mind that the bible teaches us this verse in Luke 4:4, "Man does not live by bread alone." Meaning we have to read and study the word of God, which serves as our spiritual food, but not the material food we eat for our physical nourishment and living. Referring to Ecclesiastes 12:7, the said verse explicitly tells what happens to humans when they die.

We should know the teachings of God in the bible. We live by the word as we live by the food we eat. The Word is the food of our soul and spirit. If we don't know anything about the word in the bible, your soul will dry up, and you may be led spiritually empty. You have to feed your soul and spirit with the Word of God to worship Him who gives life. Let us read Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

There is only one day for a man to be judged whether he deserves to be in heaven or in hell on the judgment day. The verse quoted is not an immediate judgment when a person dies. The verse tells that men are destined for judgment after dying. It means all nations will be gathered together before the judgment seat of God. Matthew 25:32-33 says, "and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."

Another verse that will support my allegation of the one day judgment can be read in Acts 17:31 which says, "because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Take note in the verse "appointed a day" which means that there is one day for all to be judged.

What is the proof that we will all have to wait for one judgment day? Let us read Acts 17:31, “ God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed (Jesus Christ).” This is clear now that a certain day is set for mankind to be judged by our God.

Is there really a Paradise? Where is it? Yes, there is. It can be found in the third (3rd) heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4,” I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago,(whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell. God knoweth) such a one caught up to the third heaven.” Paradise was promised by Christ to a dying criminal on the cross. Luke 23:42-43 says,” And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

And this same paradise was a promise to all who will be saved. Titus 1:2 says, “ In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” It is also in Paradise where we can see the water of life and the tree of life. That is in Revelation 22:1-3, “ And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

When one is saved on the last day, they will be given a white stone that contains their new name. In Revelation 2:17,” He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches? To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth.” Hence, the overcomer or the triumphant will be with the Lord. Revelation 3:4,” Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk in white; for they are worthy.”

Spiritual Death

Many people have been misled by false teachings because of a lack of knowledge, and they have not tested the spirits of the doctrines of the preacher. Hosea 4:6 says,” My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” It is quoted in the bible that when the blind lead the blind, both of them will fall into a pit. The term “blind” refers to an innocent and unknowledgeable person.

This statement is supported by this verse in Matthew 15:14, “ Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” If the bible warns us of the emergence of false prophets in the last days, it also encourages and strengthens us with the promises of God. Days are evil, says the bible, and we ought

to strengthen our faith by knowing the Word that will shield and teach us what to do in these dangerous times. Certain verses in the bible will give knowledge about exhortations to Christians. Ephesians 6:10-11, read “ Finally, be strong in the Lord and His mighty power, Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Perhaps, many church-goers who are used to the rituals and sermons of their church leader do not know that the key to spiritual strength is knowing the Word when taught correctly. By hearing the correct teachings, faith in the word makes one alive. Christians grow and become mature spiritually and eventually change their minds into righteousness. Many teachers of faith claim they are sent to preach the gospel and show wonders and miracles to people, proving they are sent by God.

If one takes a look at the bible, in Matthew 13:22, “ For false Christ and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive even the elect, if that were possible.” This verse tells clearly that those who perform these wonders and miracles are deceivers. People must see to it that they are not deceived by these signs; otherwise, their faith will be in danger. A man of faith has infallible knowledge about the word if he claims to be a teacher of faith. If false teachers are claiming that their teachings come from God, what more to an appointed teacher who has an infallible word and truth. People must know that the chosen one should have the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and these are manifested in his way of living.

False teachers will even convince people of their miracles and wonders. People will be amazed if they see miracles and wonders happen. We remember that false prophets are instruments of the devil to show wonders and miracles. In Matthew 24:24, “ For Christ and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that is possible.” It does not follow that wonders and miracles nowadays are credible. Other teachers of religion could even discourage members of the church from consulting physicians when sick, and if necessary, they will avoid taking modern medicines to be cured and healed.

They would cast out diseases and other forms of illnesses from the body of a person instead. The miracles that God does nowadays are not in the form of those amazing spectacles and phenomena. Our daily survival in life’s struggle, as we see ourselves alive again the next day, is one miracle that most people don’t realize. The strength and peaceful living that we enjoy daily are another miracle. When we go out of the house and go somewhere else and get back alive, it’s another miracle. A person may not know what will happen when he goes out there along the road or wherever he may be, that all of a sudden a lunatic or a rascal may injure or kill him.

Or when you go out in the busy street, you might get side-swiped by a running vehicle, but when you run to and fro unscathed, even to the remote places on earth, and get back alive and well, it is already a miracle. Is that not a miracle when we all survive getting along in the world of strangers every day? Who says that we do not believe in God's miracles?

It is not that we don't believe in God's miracles. The thing is, God is doing miracles to all of us every day, but people just don't notice and acknowledge them. It is God who heals and cures diseases. It is God who provides our daily living and survival. God is instrumental in doing miracles in people's lives. But the sad thing is, false teachers make miracles for themselves to amaze people. They are doing strange spectacles that will convince people to believe him. We should know that modern science and technology help a lot in the progress and advancement of our civilization.

There are religious and fanatic people who would criticize and interpret the development in modern technology as the work of the devil. An example of their misinterpretation is the development and use of the card system in buying and withdrawing money in banks as a sign that the anti-Christ inspires its emergence.

How come when it is practically being used for people's convenience? We should understand that civilization is heading towards its progress, and it advances as the population grows tremendously every year. People have to think of ways to improve their way of living. We should realize that these things would not happen if it were not God's will, like the discovery of medicines for the cure of certain incurable diseases. In the book of Ecclesiastes 3:10-11, it says, " I have seen the thing beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning of the end."

In the King James version, it says, " I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." However, in the Filipino rendition of this verse, what was given to men were diseases and illnesses, which men should find the proper cure and remedy. In other words, problems like this one are allowed by God to exist in order for men to study and explore for survival. Notice the growth and advancement in science and technology that men are trying to explore and discover. Are they not necessities for men?

On the other hand, James 5:14-15 teaches us this way," Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make a sick person well; the

Lord will raise him.” In the said verses, anointing of oil in the Name of the Lord to a sick person refers here to the teachings of Christ and not the oil per se (not the literal oil), but the Word of God being taught in the bible as the elders pray for him. Faith in Christ is indoctrinated in the bible by the first Apostles of Jesus Christ.

The first disciples who received the doctrine of faith in Christ gave their lives for the sake of Christ. Other religious groups and even cults have also indoctrinated their followers with faith from their leaders. Some of them would even kill because of the faith they have received. Faith comes from the kind of doctrines the leaders teach their followers.

While false teachings are rampant, more false teachers appear. The emergence of these deceivers will be accompanied and supported by amazing wonders and miracles. Another instance in which people are misled in the interpretation of the verse in the bible is the people’s understanding of John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

They believe that the thief being referred here is Satan because Satan, in their understanding, steals, kills, and destroys. In the final analysis, the thief being pointed out here is the ordinary man who steals, kills, and destroys. How did we know that it was an ordinary man? Let us read John 10:1, “I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.” Is it not the thief who is a man who does not enter by the gate but by some other way? He intends to steal, kill if cornered by the police or the owners of the house, and destroy all possible means to get his way out to escape or fight back to be able to run away.

On the other hand, certain religious groups assert that Satan causes men to get sick and be killed. We would like to rectify these wrong notions, as we assert that a certain verse in the bible attests to the fact that, ironically, God is the One who is doing all these things to men. In Deuteronomy 32:39, it reads, “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me; I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal; neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.” The verse affirms that God is the One who takes the life of a man and causes him to get sick.

If we believe that God is powerful than Satan, then God allows and does not allow certain things to happen. Therefore, God has the sole power to cause all things to happen and not to happen. The proof can be read in the book of Job. When Job was put to the test, God warned Satan not to touch Job, but only allowed certain things to happen, like the infliction of wounds in Job’s body. People have reasons why they die and why they get sick. Observe those people who are physically weak but do not

die, and those who are strong but die soon. In other words, God has the sole will to allow us to live and die and to make us ill and strong.

In many parts of the world, famine, natural calamities, and wars are destroying human beings and their habitats. The bible warns mankind that this is just the beginning, but not yet the end. We shall experience tribulation on earth.

Satan & his Angels and Men

The story of creation in the book of Genesis tells that the heavens (there are three (3) heavens, 2 Corinthians 12:2) and earth were created by God and everything that is in them. In the same way that God also created all the angels, including Lucifer, who was called the Morning Star. Stars in the bible represent the angels. They were also given free will by God to know what is right and wrong. Lucifer became so ambitious that he wanted to be like God. He commanded his cohorts to rebel, and consequently, he was thrown down from heaven with his cohorts by God.

Let us read the fact in Isaiah 14:12-14, “ How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”

In the said verses, we will notice how Lucifer aspired to be equal and be like God in his ambition, which was cut or aborted, resulting in his downfall. When they were cast down to the ground, they sowed and continuously sow evil and wickedness among men. They even possessed men with unclean and evil spirits. They tempt men to do evil and detestable things on earth. In fact, the serpent, which symbolizes Satan, tempted Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden, who allowed sin to enter them, thus, the first sin was committed by them that caused them to be expelled from Eden.

Satan and his cohorts in the spirits have the power to transform into different forms that continuously tempt, scare, and drive mankind to destruction. Satan is even said by the bible to be acting as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14 “ 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 also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

In other words, Satan and his cohorts in the spirits can enter into a human body, particularly in the minds of the people, which is why those people who have the so-called evil minds perform evil things. They let themselves be used by the works of the devil. It is true, Idle mind is the devil's workshop. No wonder there are those evil

doers who rob, steal, kill, murder, corrupt, do heinous crimes, and other sorts of detestable works are rampant on earth, and even worse than before because of the evil spirits that drive them to do so.

We may even think that Satan and his cohorts are evil spirits that drive and tempt people to commit sins; therefore, we, human beings, have the power and capacity to resist those temptations that they offer, thereby saving us from sins.

In other words, we cannot dwell in sins if we resist them and live a happy and sin-free life. Therefore, the main objective of Satan and his cohorts is to drive or tempt human beings to sin and destruction. Since they are spirit beings, they can dwell in our minds as they drive us to evil works. We human beings, therefore, have the free will to know and do what is right and wrong. So, if we choose wrong and walk on a wicked path, we perish. But if we choose right, we choose life, then we live. Man's free will has the power of control over those temptations.

We may think, therefore, that since we are the doers of the actions that are being dictated to us by Satan and his evil spirits, we tend to become worse as the case may be. We may also think that, since man is the physical being who perpetuates crime, being dictated by Satan may even become worse than Satan because Satan is only a dictator and not a doer (because he is not in the flesh or physical being), and is already judged to be in hell on the day of judgment.

Notice that there are unbearable, heinous crimes that evil men do against men. There are heinous crimes that evil men do, like the slaughtering of human flesh, which is unbearable and could hardly be imagined, and some may never think in their wildest dream that it can be done. Those evil men are already numb and animals; we can term it that way. Since we all know for a fact that Satan, the leader of all abominable works, together with his cohorts, is trying to sow abominations and to gain allies among evil men on earth. But we, who are still alive and wanted by Satan to be his cohorts, have the power to resist them. That is why the bible instructs us to resist the devil so that they may flee from us and not entertain evil works in our mind.

James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Take note that Satan is a great teaser or pusher of mankind to commit abominable acts. Men are the actors and performers in the perpetration of sins. Satan is a pusher, and Man is the performer, who has been given the free will to choose the right and wrong thing, while he has the capacity to resist the devil. Man will be liable for the consequences of his wrong choice in the end if he chooses wrong. Remember that Adam and Eve were given free will to choose what is right and what is wrong. They were told not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, as they allowed the serpent, which tempted them to sin. They sinned

because they allowed sin to enter their lives. Therefore, they chose sin, and as a consequence, they were ousted from the Garden of Eden.

If you are a learned Christian, you have realized that we should always be vigilant and aware that there are unseen evil spirits around us, and they are always ready to devour us. 1 Peter 5:8 says, “ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Chapter 17

Compositions of a Human Being

Many people believe that there is something in a man that separates him after death, though world religions have developed a bewildering array of beliefs about the hereafter. Something inside a person is immortal and goes on living after departing. According to the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, "soul is equated with the total person." In Genesis 2:7, it states, " God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. The first man, Adam, was a soul." In other words, when man was created, he was composed of dust from the ground and the breath of life, which is the spirit that God gave us. This spirit, which makes us alive, returns to God when a man dies.

The understanding that the word "soul" can mean the whole being of a person is supported by other scriptures. The bible speaks of a soul. In Leviticus 23:30, "The soul is spoken of as being impatient, irritated, sleepless, fearful, and depressed. Romans 13:1 states: " Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities." And at I Peter 3:20, we read: " In Noah's days, a few people, that is, eight souls were carried safely through the water." Apparently, it does not mention any soul that is some immaterial entity that lives on after death. The terms "soul" and "life" are used in parallel, one amplifying the meaning of the other. " Soul", then, can also refer to the life that one enjoys as a living soul, or person. The bible refers to Moses' enemies who were seeking to take his life as "all the men who were hunting for |his soul." (Exodus 4:19), Matthew 20:28 reads, " And concerning Jesus Christ, the bible says: "The Son of Man came to give his soul {life} a ransom in exchange for many."

While man has three compositions as affirmed in the bible, such as spirit, soul, and body. The bible tells in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.", we can say that man's composition will only become two because in Genesis 2:7, it is stated there that man is made up of dust and the breath of life which is the spirit that God gave us. And after that, man became a living soul.

The soul is the wholeness or entirety of a human being that makes the soul and body as one. When this soul has no spirit from God, it is lifeless, meaning the spirit that is dead in Christ, the one that is of the world, which is full of sin. But when a man is given a new spirit when baptized, he becomes a living soul with a new spirit. A man

without a spirit of God is dead according to the bible, and he is only pronounced alive when he is renewed or living a new life in Christ.

Therefore, having a new spirit, a man lives and now contains three compositions: spirit, soul, and body. Those who continuously live in sin in this world are not given a spirit, but they merely live in their body and soul because they are dead in their faith and therefore, spiritless. The body that has no spirit is dead, although living in the body and soul. They have no spirit from God because they have no faith. Faith without works is dead according to James 2:17, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." This spirit that the bible is referring to when given unto man will help him in many things, for example, in overcoming his weaknesses.

Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: "The reason they live is because of the breath of life, which is different from the spirit of the sons of God. In Judas 1:19 read, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Men should have a clean heart and a renewed spirit to have complete compositions. Psalms 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

The Perfect Man

In the Old Testament time, Job was a perfect man. Perfect means blameless and upright. The bible accounts another perfect man in the bible, in Genesis 6:9, "This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God." Do perfect men exist nowadays? The bible will answer in James 3:2, "We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check." If anyone is like the one mentioned in the said verse, he must be a perfect man. The apostle Paul, during his ministry, took a long journey to bring the gospel of salvation. He sacrificed and almost died on his way to the mission. This was the way Paul served God because the gospel that he brought to the people was the gospel of Christ.

He strictly warned the other workers and those who heard the gospel of Christ that others would emerge with different teachings. This warning can be read in Galatians 1:8, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned." In this case, Paul commanded to search and test all the spirits to see if it is from God in order not to be misled in hearing the word of God.. Don't just believe what you hear. Prove it in the bible. 1John 4:1 says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Every spirit refers to the teachings of the Preachers. Test it by affirming the verses in the bible if they are present and existing.

As it is said in Matthew 5:20, “ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Are there still Pharisees and Scribes nowadays? There are many of them today. In fact, they preach to a large crowd without knowing that their teachings do not conform to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Perhaps some are aware that they have false teachings, but they hide them for themselves for certain reasons.

Angels Appear Before Men

Once upon a time, angels of God appeared and mingled with human beings on earth. They had a personal relationship with humans. The verses that testify this fact can be read in Genesis 6:1-4, “ And it came to pass when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh, yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

There were giants in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old men of renown, and God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repenteth the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

We have known from these verses that angels or sons of God took with them daughters of men and bore children. Wickedness rapidly grew, and the anger of the Lord drove him to destroy the human race on the earth. Let us read Genesis 6:7, “ And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that have made them.”

In the preceding discussions, we learned that angels or sons of God bore children with daughters of men. The growth of wickedness changed the face of the earth because God destroyed them. Despite the deluge that annihilated human beings to creeping things, the family of the righteous man, Noah, and his family were saved by embarking on the ark. God made a covenant with Noah and commanded him to “ be fruitful and multiply.” In Genesis 9:1, “ And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.”

Today, despite the population explosion, particularly in third-world countries, the growth of population continues, which apparently brings poverty to more people. Nowadays, shall we say to ourselves and to others to be fruitful and multiply? No. It is not practical to multiply because of overpopulation, which causes distress, starvation,

immorality, and wickedness. Sometimes, man's reasoning is confusing and unacceptable because of a wrong understanding and interpretation of the Word in the bible.

To those who do not understand the phrase they read, they will claim that it is a command to multiply. You will see the results: poverty, joblessness, vagrancy, and criminality. These are the factors that overpopulation has brought to many poor nations. People have become aware of this problem, which is why birth control measures have been formulated and contraceptives manufactured for prolific families.

Some people believe they should multiply because it was commanded by God, despite their difficulties in life. People should not be misled and misinterpret the command of God. The question is, to whom did God command to be fruitful and multiply? Let us read the answer in Genesis 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them. Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth."

This verse is very clear that the command was given to Noah and not to the people of nowadays nor to the Gentiles. It was commanded to Noah to replenish the earth because of the aftermath of the deluge, and mankind had to scatter anew the face of the earth to make dominion over all creatures. The command is not for today's generation because of the apparent and self-explanatory situation of people on earth now. We should realize the fact that God will not order that command to the wicked people because it will mean the multiplication of wicked people also. Practically, multiplication is not for those bad and poor people but for those good and well off people.

Others may say, have we not the right to multiply? Nobody is holding you to multiply if you can. But it will multiply for the reason of having a big family, but without means, well, it's up to you to bear the burden. Economically and practically, living dictates your decision in life. You will see its effect after all. This elaboration is for spiritual reasoning only.

There is really a big effect on men, the lack of understanding and knowledge of the Word of God, which is aggravated by the false prophets who deceive and mislead many people. It follows that when the teachings are unrighteous, the works of the followers bear unrighteousness. The bible's instructions are not just taught to men, but they need a lot of study and understanding. We really have to scrutinize the Word that was said to read and study. It is not a question anymore; if we see and hear that many are misled and deceived. If these people are taught the right thing, it follows that they do the right thing. It also follows that these effects are attributable to abusive teachers.

A certain verse in Isaiah 56:11 says, “ Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, everyone for his gain from his quarter.”The angels were the first celestial beings that were created by God. Job 38:4-7, “ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner some thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” The angels know all things on earth. The angels of God watch human beings in their activities on earth and report them to God. Let us read Matthew 18:10, “ Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”

The servants of God are being watched and guided by angels. Let us read Proverbs 34:7, “The angels of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Another verse in Hebrews 12:22 reads,” but ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.”As you may know, the angels of God are the celestial beings that God allows to know everything on earth. They tell things and what transpired on earth and to human beings, and everything to God. They are so powerful and were given that amazing power to make things happen on earth. However, their superiority over human beings on earth will be reduced to the same fate as the fate of human beings on the judgment day.

The condemned angels who sinned will be thrown into hell. Do angels sin? Our perception of angels is heavenly beings that do not sin because they are in heaven, but the bible tells us that angels also sin. Let us read 2Peter 2:4, “ 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.”

Lucifer and the angels are also creations who will be judged on the day of Judgment. They are also creations of God, like human beings on earth, only they are celestial beings. Let us read 1 Chronicles 29:11, “ Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine, thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.” In this verse, the greatness and power of Our Lord God is proclaimed above all.

Satan or Lucifer was a fallen angel because he rebelled against God. Let us read, Isaiah 14:12-14, “ How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I

will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High," This tells of the ambition of Lucifer to equal God in His glory which consequently, turned Lucifer into a falling star who was later named Satan who keeps sowing wickedness since the dawn of time.

God is pleased with people who are naturally pure in heart and good in their doings. It is not only in the Old Testament that we can read about the angel's appearance before men. Let us read Acts 10:22, " And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by a holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee". Cornelius was an Italian centurion who feared God and was so helpful to the people that God saw his clean heart; thus, a holy angel was sent to his house so he could hear the message of God.

In this instance, we can never judge or accuse any person by reason of his sex, religion, affiliation, race, or color, but what counts most is his good deeds and heart. Remember that God searches the hearts of men. He hears the prayers of a righteous man. This proves that God not only hears the prayers of His people, but also that there are people who believe in God who are not yet in the flock.

An angel of God appeared before Cornelius, who was a Gentile but a God-fearing man. In other words, the teaching of Christ applies in this situation that some are not under the law that perform the law, but there are those who are under the law who do not perform the law. These people who do the law but not under the law would have a great chance of being saved on the last day. But there are those under the law that would not be saved on the last day.

False Prophets Perform Signs and Wonders

Today's miracles and wonders are being performed by false prophets anywhere in the world, particularly in some countries in Africa, where false prophets take advantage of the innocence of the inhabitants. In the presence of their congregation, they heal the sick and make the cripple walk, but with hidden trickery beyond the knowledge of the spectators, and even resurrect the dead to amaze the dead. What is terrifying is when the pastor arrives in the place of worship with a convoy of armed bodyguards as if there is a war to engage in. In the midst of their worship, members of the choir will begin singing along with the collectors of tithes from the congregation. Signs and wonders begin to manifest in television coverage of a preaching event in the African town, where a violent dust devil suddenly appeared behind the platform where the preaching was going on. No wonder the bible tells us in Matthew 24:24, which states, "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect". This

verse is echoed in Mark 13:22 and is a warning from Jesus about the deceptive nature of these signs and wonders used by false prophets to deceive people.

And because of their fanatic belief in what they believe in the book of Mark, that they could touch a snake without being harmed would amaze others in the congregation that they have power.

In the US, a church congregation that believes in the verses in the book of Mark touched and held the snake, but consequently, the snake resisted and bit her arm and died because of the venomous bite. This is the result of the said fanatic for being uninformed of the knowledge about the bible, together with the entire congregation, that the verses they claim in the book of Mark, chapter 16: 18-20, have been deleted a long time ago. Thus, the bible tells us in Haggai 2:11 to ask the priest about the law. If the priest or pastor does not know the law in the bible, then the bible is true upon telling us that for the lack of knowledge my people perish, unless they are really people of God. Hosea 4:6, which says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." "You shall touch a snake and will not die" is a reference to biblical promises, particularly in Mark 16:18 and Luke 10:19, where Jesus tells believers they will be given the power to handle dangerous things, including snakes, without being harmed. While these verses suggest a spiritual protection for true believers, they are not a literal endorsement to go and handle snakes. The story of Paul in Acts 28, where a viper bites him but suffers no ill effects, is often cited as an example of this spiritual protection in action.

False churches and prophets amaze their spectators by speaking in tongues that others do not understand. The bible is clear that all elementary teachings in the past have ceased to exist, as cited in Hebrews 6:1. This is a call for believers to move beyond the basic teachings of Christ and advance to spiritual maturity, urging them to progress in their faith rather than continually revisiting the foundational concepts of repentance and faith. This verse, which begins with "Therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity," encourages believers to deepen their knowledge of God and pursue greater spiritual growth.

The bible also tells us that if someone speaks in an unknown tongue in a Christian church, according to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14, they should only do so if there is an interpreter present, and no more than two or three should speak, one at a time, to build up the church. If no one can interpret, the person should remain silent and speak to themselves and to God instead. The problem is that nobody can really interpret what the speaker is talking about. He is merely speaking to himself and the air. Beware of false churches and false prophets. But cleave to that which is good. It is an instruction from the Bible, specifically Romans 12:9, meaning to cling tightly and

hold fast to what is good, virtuous, and right. The phrase implies a strong, unwavering commitment and active effort, rather than a passive acceptance, to embrace goodness and reject evil in life.

Prohibition For Women in the Church

Today, there are many women from different evangelical or fundamentalist churches leading and preaching to their congregations. It is likewise in the political arena, where women are allowed to lead their countries, but not in the church, as stated in 2 Timothy 2:11-12, which says, A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man;[a] she must be quiet.” Why does God forbid women to lead over men in the church?. Simply because women will lead the church to destruction as stated in Isaiah 3:12, saying, Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. My people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path.” In 1 Kings 9:5, which says, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’ God established the throne of royalty only for the Patriarchs who would lead Israel and not for women.

Author

Artusard Renault is an international pseudonym of Bro. Artemio Saguinsin is a natural-born Filipino citizen. He is a lecturer, teacher, story writer, historian, researcher, and an enthusiast of religion and spirituality. He wrote Deciphering the Verses of Codex Sinaiticus, Doctrina Christiana, Adultery in the Spirit, The Minaret, and Enemies Within the Reich. He has authored a number of academic books in law and business for students. In 2006, he was baptized with the Members of the Church of God International.

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