

The way God deals with man has varied over the ages, but Jesus’ nature never changes [Hebrews 13:8]. God always expects mankind who was created in His image to obey Him, or they will suffer dire consequences [Read Leviticus 10:1-6. Aaron was the High Priest of God, but his sons were immediately struck dead for altering worship to Jehovah God]. Solomon told of all his mighty accomplishments, and then he concluded man’s overall purpose by saying: **“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person”** [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14].

Men in all eras are to obey God. The patriarchs were commanded to obey God [Genesis 17:1-5, 26:4-5]. Under the Old Covenant or Mosaic Law, the Israelites were commanded to obey God [Leviticus 18:1-5, 26:14-18]. During the current age, or New Testament era, we are commanded to obey God or perish [2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Hebrews 5:9]. It is *impossible* to “*know Jesus*” as a saved believer without keeping God’s commandments [1 John 2:3]. **According to God’s Word, if any man says he knows Jesus and does not keep His commandments, he “is a liar, and the truth is not in him”** [1 John 2:4]. If you love Jesus you will keep His commandments [John 14:15].

Sin has always separated man from Jehovah God. God has dealt with man’s sin differently in the various ages (i.e. Patriarchal age, Mosaic age, and Christian age). Sin separated man from his Creator in the Mosaic age [Isaiah 59:1-3]. In today’s age, there is *only* one way in which man can have his sins removed from him—and that is through the cleansing blood of Jesus the Christ. Without Jesus’ blood cleansing man’s sins, man has no hope in the age to come [Romans 5:8-10]. Without conforming to the Scriptures instructions on **how to benefit from Jesus’ sacrifice**, one remains lost in their sins and will be lost for eternity [Romans 6:16-18].

The Word of God (which we call the Bible) is the foundation Christianity is built on [1 Thessalonians 2:13]. The Bible is where God’s inspired message is recorded for all humanity. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...”* [2 Timothy 3:16]. Since Scripture equips man “*for every*

good work”, man does not need any later day revelation to reveal God’s will for his life. The good news or **gospel** is revealed in God’s Word and is **“the power of God unto salvation”** [Romans 1:16].

Everything a child of God does in a religious sense should be authorized by the Scriptures. We read in Colossians 3:17 that *“whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord”*. Scholars agree that the phrase *“in the name of the Lord”* actually means “by the authority of the Lord”. We *only* read the Lord’s message for us in the Bible, and no where else.

Does it matter what we preach or what we believe? According to God’s Word, if any one preaches a gospel *contrary* to the Bible’s gospel message, that person is accursed, which literally means condemned to hell [Galatians 1:6-9; Cf. Matthew 25:41 & Romans 9:3]. Believers are warned about false teachings and false teachers [2 Peter 2:1]. If any one *“goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, [he] does not have God”* [2 John 1:9]. Believers are forbidden to receive such a teacher of false doctrine into their house and are not allowed to even give him a greeting [2 John 1:10-11]. If a Christian gives such a one a greeting, they participate *“in his evil deeds”* [2 John 1:11]! Therefore, it is extremely important for us to follow God’s Word, and not man’s teachings or doctrines [2 Timothy 4:1-4; Titus 1:9] if we are going to please God.

A very important question is this: **“How can you know if someone is a true teacher of God’s Word or a teacher of false doctrines?”**. The answer is two-fold. If anyone is teaching the full gospel message—no more and no less—then they truly are a proclaimer of God’s Word. If they are teaching a “gospel” message that goes *beyond* what is written, or falls *short* of what is written, they are teaching a false gospel. We must be able to accurately divide the word of truth in order to discern whether a teaching is true or not [2 Timothy 2:15]. Keep in mind, *“no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation”*—it is God’s Word [2 Peter 1:20].

The only way you can accurately determine whether one’s teaching is true or not is for you to *personally* study and understand the Scriptures. **I**

encourage you *not* to accept anything in this brochure if it does not accurately reflect the truth in God’s Word. I beg you to *not* accept *any* man’s teaching if he can not back up *everything* he says with Scripture. We are told to study to show ourselves approved to God as a workman who *“handles accurately”* the word of truth [2 Timothy 2:15]. We should be as the Berean’s who were commended for searching the Scriptures daily to see if they were being taught the truth [Acts 17:10-11]. The Berean’s were not even taking the apostles word without verifying it with the Scriptures!

The reason for all the different religions is this: many people prefer following their own ideas or their churches doctrines rather than God’s commands [Matthew 15:1-14]. All of Christendom should go by one *“instruction book”* (for lack of a better term), which is the holy Bible. Yet most church’s have doctrines that conflict with teachings of other church denominations as well as the Bible. It is impossible for multiple sets of contradicting beliefs to be correct since the Bible does not contradict itself.

If one church teaches that faith is the only thing necessary for salvation, and some other church teaches that faith plus obedience to God’s commands is necessary for salvation, **both churches can *not* be correct**—since their doctrines are in opposition to each other. However, it *is* possible for both churches to be wrong. *Only* God’s Word holds the key to whether any doctrine is from God (and thus true) or from man (and thus false).

Christians in the first century were told to expect **false teachers** to arise and lead believers astray [2 Peter 2:2-3]. There have been false prophets or false teachers in all ages. Jesus teaches us much about false prophets in **Matthew 7:15-23**. They are deceptive and *“come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves”* [Matthew 7:15]. So outward appearance can not be relied upon. Someone can *appear* to be godly, but may be a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Jesus plainly tells how to determine whether a person is teaching God’s truth or not—you simply **examine their fruits or teachings** [Matthew 7:23]. If

they are producing rotten fruit (i.e. false teaching), they will be cut down and thrown into the fire—which is an obvious reference to hell [Matthew 7:19]. On judgment day, Jesus will tell those unlawful ones who prophesied in His name, cast out demons, and performed many miracles, to depart from Him into hell because of their lawless deeds (i.e. disobedience to God’s Word) [Matthew 7:22-23].

It is man’s responsibility to learn God’s Word for himself, which will enable him to quickly and accurately determine truth or error. A true gospel preacher will never intentionally teach error. If he teaches error out of ignorance or simply makes a mistake, he should be kindly shown his error (as Priscilla and Aquila illustrate in Acts 18:24-28). If he has a pure heart, he will immediately cease his erroneous teaching, and go about teaching God’s Word accurately. If he does *not* correct his false teaching, he should be considered as a false teacher, and should be appropriately disciplined by the church.

Jesus [Matthew 23:13-33], **Peter** [2 Peter 2:1-3], **Paul** [2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15], and **John** [1 John 4:1; 2 John 1:7-11] **all dealt very straightforwardly with false teachers**, and pointed out false teachers by name. Today in this politically correct society, many people think it is wrong to point out false teachers—even if they are teaching damning doctrines completely foreign to the Scriptures. **There is not one example of false teaching being condoned, and not confronted, in the New Testament! False teaching should be corrected so the false teacher can repent of this sin and be forgiven and saved** [2 Timothy 2:25-26; Acts 17:30]. Even more importantly, if a false teacher is not stopped from his spreading of damning doctrines, many people may be mislead and lose their souls to the Evil One [Matthew 15:13-14].

Jesus foretold the establishment of His one and only church (notice I did *not* say churches) [Matthew 16:18]. Scriptural proof of the oneness of the church will be covered on the back of this page. The church is also referred to as the **kingdom** [Colossians 1:13-18] and **Jesus’ body** [Ephesians 1:22-23].