

CHURCHIANITY vs TRUE CHRISTIANITY

MP3: CHURCHIANITY vs TRUE CHRISTIANITY

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

The Canonised version of the original manuscripts of the Holy Bible has been available for inspection and scrutiny for over 6000 years. Now that the Holy Bible is so readily available to anyone who wants a copy, one would think that true Christianity would be being preached worldwide, but this is not the case. A brief look at the history of the Christian Era will reveal how very early on, Churchianity embraced paganism, and blended it into Christianity.

After the end of the 1st Century and the beginning of the 2nd Century, the Bible became 'lost' to the average person, as very few people were able to read or write, and the copies of the manuscripts were kept under lock and key by the church authorities so to speak. One Christian denomination forbid its members to read the Bible at all. Church services were held in Latin, a language which was known only to a few educated people, but was not at all understood by the masses in Europe. People would sit in churches baffled by the words of the service.

Even before the end of the 1st Century A.D., true Christianity began to be distorted by paganism, and infiltrated by many heathen ideas, teachings and practices. For the vast majority of the population of that era, the worship of pagan gods was the norm. Christians were completely surrounded by people practicing pagan activities.

Over the centuries, the migratory movement of large numbers of people meant that gods from a variety of cultures, including Etruscan and Greek, merged together. As a result, Roman gods of Christ's time and thereafter were a blend of deities, with close similarities to the gods worshipped by the ancient Greeks.

Greek, then Roman pagans in the 4th and 3rd Century B.C. had introduced the holiday of Saturnalia, a week long period of lawlessness which was celebrated between December 17th-25th. It included drunken debauchery, feasting, the exchange of gifts, and mourning over the death of the Sun at

its lowest ebb. Wreaths were fixed on doors and evergreen trees hung with lights were used to encourage the Sun to return.

As over three hundred years passed, many of the new converts to Christianity who had Jewish roots, would have been affected by the masses who celebrated 'Easter' (Ishtar) in the Passover season in the Spring. So it will come as no surprise for us when we look back at history to see how the worship of Ishtar (Easter) came to be blended into Christianity. Ishtar, or Easter, the goddess of new life and sex, with its sex symbols of eggs, rabbits, hot cross buns, other paraphernalia, and Sunrise services was celebrated at the end of the first quarter of the year in the Spring at the same time as the Passover and the crucifixion.

In the 4th century A.D., Christian Church leaders officially imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to bring the pagan masses in with it. Christian leaders succeeded in converting to Christianity large numbers of pagans by promising them that they could continue to celebrate the 'Saturnalia' as Christians.

The problem was that there was nothing intrinsically Christian about Saturnalia, although human sacrifice (like Christ's death appeared to be) was originally part of the celebrations. To remedy any hesitation on the part of new 'Christians', these Christian leaders named Saturnalia's concluding day, December 25th, to be Jesus' birthday. Which it was not, as Christ was born in the late Autumn of the year when the shepherds in Israel were still in the hills, before they 'came down' to avoid the winter weather.

The gradual transition from the purist form of Christianity to the currently 'accepted' form which includes the rituals of Christmas and Easter and other pagan beliefs and practices was apparently 'seamless' as we would say today.

Then at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., overseen by the Emperor Constantine, and later at the Council of Chalcedon around 415 A.D., doctrines which were not supported by the Bible or true to its revelations were 'locked in' to the body of belief known as 'Christianity'.

So in the ensuing centuries, these false teachings of 'Saturnalia' or Christmas, and 'Easter', the Immortality of the soul, and the Trinity, and other false notions became part of the accepted body of Christian teachings, and have been perpetuated to this day by most in Christendom.

Very, very few people are aware of this part of the history of the body of Christian dogma preached by most churches in our era now. Most are not at all bothered by observing Christmas and Easter or other false ideas, but without doubt, God is not at all pleased with this situation as we shall see from the scriptures.

So despite the fact that the original Bible with its many incorrect interpretations of some words, and although now many modern translations are freely available to everyone in most countries of the world, the core of true 'Christianity' continues to be obscured by the traditional Churchianity teachings of almost all the 'Christian' denominations, most of which accept what has become to be considered 'Christian' as perfectly 'normal' including the practice of Easter and Christmas, the belief in heaven and hell, and other completely false teachings.

There is no harm in that, is there? Not if you take man's view, but if you are interested in what God thinks... it is a different matter entirely. However, that is man's view, it is not God's view at all. God says worship me the way I have asked you to do, do not use what you learn from the heathen to worship me because I HATE it!!! God says:

Isaiah 1:14 **Your** new moons and **your** appointed feasts (Xmas and Easter!) my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Here, Jeremiah is clearly talking about Christmas trees.

Jeremiah 10:1 Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: 2 Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 5 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.

1 Kings 11:33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth (Easter) the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites synonymous with sorcery, adultery, incest, prostitution and the sacrifice of unwanted children in the fire; Milcom the god of the children of Ammon (based on sacrificing babies, abortion is a modern sanitized equivalent), and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in

mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

These are the Idols, demons and gods of adultery, incest, prostitution, child abuse, molestation, homosexuality, and sacrifice all of which in one form or another are practiced in this era, even by priests and ministers within so-called 'Christian' churches. This fact emerges from time to time in the publication and legal prosecution of their activities.

Homosexuality was a widespread practice in the 4th and 3rd Century B.C. among the philosophers like Plato and Socrates and the intelligentsia. It was also interwoven into the worship of pagan gods. Paul makes it abundantly clear in his first epistle to the Romans, and his first epistle to the Corinthians, also in 1st Timothy that sex between those of the same gender is totally unacceptable behaviour.

Romans 1:26-27 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

It is remarkable in this era how the practice of same sex interaction has apparently become so quickly and so widely accepted in Christendom, to the point where many churches now agree with same sex marriages. Governments are also voting to make these practices legal. This behaviour is very much against Biblical teaching, and is condemned from Genesis to Revelation.

Amos 8:10 And I will turn **your** feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon

every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

Malachi 2:3 Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of **your** solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.

That is strong talk from God and Christ! He will spread dung, faeces, on the faces of those who keep **their** fun days and **their** solemn feasts! What are their 'solemn feasts'? Easter, Christmas, Hallowe'en which they think are harmless'.

The time is coming when a revival of Christianity will sweep away these pagan practices and Greek philosophies in a resurgence of the pure worship of the True God.

Christ warned that there would be false ministers and a false Gospel.

This is almost always seen by religious folk as meaning 'other people', 'other churches', 'other denominations', but of course, not what one believes oneself! Smug, self-satisfied, self-righteous religious people will certainly be offended at the plain statements of Christ who they claim to be disciples of, and to follow.

Christ also warned of being careful not to be 'deceived', and it is a frightening thought that **those who are deceived do not know they are deceived**, and that included this author. All is asked of the reader, whether Christians or non-believers alike, is carefully to examine what is offered here in careful, prayerful study to see whether this information is of help to arrive at a clearer knowledge, understanding, and wisdom regarding the truth of the Gospel of Christ.

God takes responsibility for everything in this world, He is in charge.

The false Gospels are taught by false ministers and religious evangelists with vigour on television, radio, and every available media. It is not entirely their fault. God takes full responsibility for the failure of the leaders of Churchianity to preach the true Gospel. God explains that he is responsible for both educated and uneducated people being unable to understand the Bible properly. To the 'learned' theologians God says:

Isaiah 29:9 Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. 10 For

the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. 11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

So it is true today, that even the most 'learned' theologians get bogged down in the scriptures, even when they consult the original manuscripts. It seems to them that the Bible is 'sealed', and they cannot understand it despite all their degrees and learning. Without God's help, they never will! And what about the unlearned, and those who are religious, who fail to glean the true Gospel from its pages?

Isaiah 29:12 And the book (the Holy Bible) is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. 13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Here is the crux of the problem, God says, the reason you do not understand my Word is because your hearts are not right, and you have mixed my Words with the precepts of men. Oh yes, you go through the motions of mumbling repetitive prayers in your church services, but you are not following God's wishes in His Word.

Isaiah 29:14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work (not a good work, but one to be marvelled at!) among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

Even the most sincere of scholars will find their wisdom does not work for them. Again unless they have the help of the Holy Spirit, the truths of the Bible will remain a mystery. What about those who actually set out to deceive?

Isaiah 29:15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? 16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

The 'Illuminati', and those others whoever they are, that work in secret behind closed doors, cannot hide their work from God who sees all.

God says plainly, this mixture of truth and error embraced by Churchianity is a poisonous combination which results in false doctrines and teachings being mingled with the true Gospel and the Plan of God. The result is that it turns everything upside down.

The result is that 99% of all the leaders of Christian denominations, without realizing it, have got the teachings of the Gospel back to front, the cart before the horse, so to speak. Almost all of them are preaching a false Gospel without appreciating that they are.

The simplicity and awesome truth of the True Gospel is hidden by their mixing traditional pagan beliefs which run contrary to the teachings of God in the Holy Bible and the manuscripts upon which it is based.

The author is aware that this statement may offend many very sincere and dedicated Christians who feel that they are in possession of 'the truth', but a change is needed. In truth, God is allowing this deception to happen and is responsible for it.

The author was an enthusiastic and sincere Christian for over fifty years. Then prompted by God to undertake a renewed interest in an intense, earnest study of the Bible, its history, geography, chronology and structure made him realize that much of what he had been taught and had accepted on faith from 'Christian' ministers, was not backed up by the clear statements in the Bible. In fact that what he had been taught and believed for so many years was the opposite of what the Word of God actually states. Hard to accept, and humbling too!

Here presented is a prime example of the possibly unwitting deceit practised by many Christian ministers. A verse they frequently quote and emphasise is not actually false or a lie, but the way they use God's Word to support their determination to get people to act and be 'saved, it really is simply a half-truth which conceals the whole truth. So much so that the half-truth is actually not true at all. It is a verse which most people are very familiar with.

Paul says in Philippians 2:12 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.

Ministers usually stop there at the end of verse 12, and do not read the next verse which actually contains the real truth about salvation how we are saved. They want to emphasise what **you** have to do to be saved.

Remember, that the verses and chapters of the Bible are not inspired, they were only inserted to help find our way and our place in the scriptures.

This quote of Philippians 2:12 seems to suggest, or even to solemnly warn, that each person needs to obey Paul, whether with Paul or in his absence, to 'work out' their own salvation with fear and trembling. This emphasis reinforces the idea that we each have 'work' to do to be saved.

This half truth is actually not true at all as we see if we take the next verse as the completion of the statement Paul is actually making as we shall see when we look carefully at the next verse and other scriptures talking about the same thing.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

We do not have to do ANY work towards Salvation, nothing. The work involved has already been done by Jesus Christ, a) It was planned before the world was created by Him, and b) By His fulfilling the Plan He and His Father had imagined and thought out before the creation of the world, it was His life and His works that put the seal on our being saved.

God does ALL the work involved with out Salvation, not 99.999% ALL of it! Do we have a contribution to make in the whole process? Yes, but the outcome does not depend upon anything we do. So what do we have to do? We have to receive and act upon the gifts of calling, repentance, belief and faith, but even that ability to respond has to come as a gift, and only determines the timing not the fact that we already have been saved.

So in quoting part of a thought in the inspired Word of God, the truth is unwittingly obscured. This is just one example, many more could be cited.

So here is what is false about the Gospel currently being taught by most Christian church ministers, especially those who evangelise. The preached information or mis-information falls into three major errors:

Point 1. The central teaching of the Gospel, what Gospel means, what it actually is, or what is involved in Salvation is not understood by the ministers, so they are not able to preach it to others. They think that the job

of Christian organizations is to a) To get people to accept Christ into their hearts. b) To bring people to Christ. c) To try to get as many people as possible 'saved', and d) To try to get people to repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ. To this end, most denominations issue strong appeals to the public proclaiming these aims.

Point 2. Virtually all denomination teach that people must of their own accord and volition make a decision to 'accept Christ', to repent, to believe, and to have faith in Christ. This is a totally incorrect premise because nobody can even have any interest in Christianity unless God opens that person's heart to give them that interest in the first place; and also God has to call that person, and give them personally the necessary gifts of belief, faith and repentance for them to be able to understand it at all.

Point 3. The central issues of Christ Jesus' role in Christianity and what people have to do to be 'saved' is completely incorrectly presented. This will be explained by the scriptures that clearly define Salvation and Christ's role in the process.

The Bible is true, and is God's Inspired Word.

Please forgive the repetition. Anyone who wants to understand the basis of the true Gospel must first have to trust in and come to believe that the Bible is indeed the Word of God, and that it is true, regardless of any apparent 'errors' or 'mistranslations'. To gain that position, one would be wise to ask God for help to believe that fact, because that belief is another gift that does not come naturally to human beings.

If anyone does not accept the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures, then everything about religion and Christianity must come down to man's opinions which frankly are worthless. So we now proceed here on the basis that the Scriptures are indeed God's word to us and for us today.

Point 1: Here presented from the information contained in the Bible is the clear scriptural meaning of the Gospel and Salvation.

Paul is the consummate inspired writer in the Bible who explains the latest complete version of the revelation of the Gospel and the 'Mystery' as revealed directly to him by Jesus Christ. In his last epistle Paul wrote to Timothy his 'son' and good friend just before his death, he explains:

2 Timothy 1:9 (God) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Paul starts out by stating that God has 'saved us'. This is in the aorist tense in the original Greek, which grammatical structure means the verb has the force and action of past, present, and future, or the meaning of present continuous. So we were, are, and will be saved. The same verb tense is used where it says 'God has called us with a holly calling' which has nothing whatsoever to do with any 'works', either good or bad we might have done; but according to God's own purpose, and his Grace.

And furthermore, note when this calling we now have actually took place: 'before the world began'. That is before each of us existed individually as a human being, our calling was already in place 'before the world began' or was created. Paul goes on to explain the making plain of our 'calling'.

2 Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: 11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Our calling was not made 'manifest' (dictionary: apparent, clear, evident, obvious, open, plain, unmistakable, visible) to human beings until Jesus Christ died and brought life and immortality to life through the Gospel. Previous generations did not really understand this.

Modern day preachers implore people to 'come to Christ', and that is a great hope they have, but it is important that they get it right! The ministers do not realise that an individual's calling was in place before the world was created, and that is not up to them to 'call them', that is God's prerogative.

Ministers are calling people to be saved, they are trying desperately to get people saved, but Salvation is not something anyone gets NOW. Christian ministers should be putting their energy into telling people what they have now.

Each and every person, every human being who has ever lived or will ever live was given Salvation before the foundation of the world, as a free gift, by Grace or unmerited pardon and forgiveness.

Paul says that the calling is nothing to do with any works of ours. No it is not, because ALL the work involved in Salvation was done by Jesus Christ. It had to be done by Him because no human being is capable of living a righteous life.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Because we have been 'in Christ' since before the world was created, we are legally and spiritually in type in receipt of spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. We have always been there with Him, we just have not known it.

Nor have the ministers known it who say we have to do this and do that to attain salvation. Some 'Christian' churches mistakenly believe it is vital to keep ritual parts of the Mosaic Law, albeit imperfectly. It is actually impossible to observe them all perfectly in this day and age. Reading the law today puts a veil of blindness over the eyes who do so to observe it.

2 Corinthians 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. 16 Nevertheless when it (we) shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

The veil of blindness is done away in Christ. Plain enough! The 'Mosaic Christians' understand that the sacrificial system is done away, but do not realize that Christ's keeping the rituals of the law perfectly was a substitute for us so that we no longer need to. This is explained by Paul in great detail in the whole of the tenth chapter of Hebrews, as is the seriousness of going back to the Law now Christ has kept it for us.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Keeping parts of it would achieve nothing, as by keeping the Sabbath or Holy Days, observing the clean food laws, or tithing they are actually

denying Christ's sacrifice and doing despite to Him, His grace, and in a sense treading Him underfoot! It is actually illegal and fraudulent to ask people to tithe, or for them to do so, as there is no priesthood authorized to take tithes, nor is there a Temple to store and use tithes in. The verse they use in Malachi to suggest that people today are 'robbing God' if they do not tithe has nothing whatsoever to do with Christians today, as a careful reading of the whole context will clearly show.

Holiness could never come by any form of law-keeping, otherwise there would have been no point in Christ giving up His Power in the Godhead to become a man and die for us. Christianity is all about Christ, not about the law .

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Again Paul emphasises that we were chosen to be 'in him', i.e. 'in Christ' before the foundation of the world. Not only that, but that we should be 'holy' and 'without blame'; but we know that is totally impossible for any human being to be 'holy' and certainly not 'without blame', for 'all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God' according to the scriptures which cannot be broken! Only God and Christ are Holy, and we can be holy only if Christ's Holiness is put onto us when we are 'in Him', we put it on as a cloak.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

This destiny of all human beings was 'predestined' all those aeons ago. Amazing Grace!!! This incredible plan was not according not to our will, or our pleasure, but according to the pleasure of God's Will (the Father and the Word) who planned it all before the creation of the world. Selah!

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

These plain unequivocal words of Paul cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted or spiritualised away as allegory unless the reader wrests the simple plain statements of truths to their own destruction.

Our redemption was assured before Christ shed His blood and died on the tree, but that was the seal that made our actual future manifest when the time was right exactly as planned all that time previously.

It is a specific gift to each person who comes to the realization of the truth, **when** the timing fits in with God's plan to open the mind of that individual, to 'turn the switch', and give them the gifts to access the miracle of understanding through the power of the Holy Spirit. Until that moment, the whole matter remains a mystery to all human beings.

It would be very rude to say to another person, "I want the gift you are going to give me NOW." At the very least one might say, "May I have the gift I understand you have for me?" and even that would not really be polite. So for ministers to demand that we ask for, even demand and claim these gifts at their behest is not appropriate to say the least. Should we not be a great deal more polite to God about when he dispenses His gifts to any of us?

The information concerning the Salvation, belief, faith, and repentance can only be understood by a human being as a result of the gifts of these four things given specifically to an individual at the time God appoints.

Christ said, however, ask in the right way, seek me and you will find me. Knock and doors will be opened in your mind.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

If we do have a desire to know the truth, God will know it, and maybe give you a 'call' if it is your time. But not at the insistence of ministers who do not understand the Gospel themselves!

It is a staggering thought that you and I as individuals were known to God, my personality and exactly who I am was known perhaps millions of years ago.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the Mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

The Mystery of His Will was revealed to Paul directly from Jesus Christ in 63 A.D. just before Paul's death. Ephesians 1:9 actually defines the meaning of the Mystery which was hidden to all men until that time, and is now plain to us in this era if we have the gift to understand it.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a Mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:26 Even the Mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest (dictionary: apparent, clear, evident, obvious, open, plain, unmistakable, visible) to his saints:

That not only are we 'in Christ' now, but we are also destined to be part of the 'One' of all things as God's spiritual Children with all the powers and attributes of God and Christ when in the fullness of times, God will gather together all things in Christ, that it ALL THINGS both which are in heaven, the heavenly spiritual beings, those on the earth, all of us, and all of the entire Universe.

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Romans 8:26 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. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Here follows Paul's clear logical step by step progression of the process:

Romans 8:29 For whom he (God) did (1) foreknow, he also did (2) predestinate (3) to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Every human being has been individually 'known' of God since before our time began or earth was created. God and the Word planned the birth of their extended family from a beginning too long ago to count in earth years.

They looked down the stream of time and knew each of our human personalities, our mental and spiritual makeup, our faults and failings, and our sinful nature and activities, and loved us anyway and predestinated us to become His Children.

They planned for the Word to make an incredible sacrifice to forego and relinquish His position in the Godhead to become a human being and live and die and be resurrected for us. A terrible price to pay so that we could inherit kinship 'to be conformed to the image of His Son' as fully fledged 'firstborn' children of God with the gift of eternal life forever in their Family. This is what the Bible teaches, but that teaching is not included in the Gospel message of most churches!

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, (4) them he also called: and whom he called, (5) them he also justified: and whom he justified, (6) them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The process of being 'called', each human at the time God would decide, would be 'justified' by Christ's sacrifice, and then 'Glorified' as a Spirit Being. What an amazing future we have.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall

tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul continues on in chapter nine of Romans to give a crystal clear example of how God works with people according to his Will and election, not necessarily in ways that humans would work.

Romans 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Before they were even born, God elected to give preference to Jacob over Esau. From a human perspective that hardly seems fair, especially when we observe that Jacob was a lying, deceiving scoundrel who obtained his inheritance by stealth and deception! So Paul asks, "Is God unrighteous?" God forbid we should think like that. We would do well to respect God, and remember:

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

Romans 9:15 For he (God) saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

God has plans and reasons for what He does when He does anything that we cannot possibly understand in relation to His purpose. God can and does do anything He chooses to do, and we need to trust Him. This is part of where real faith in God's goodness comes in, which we would do well to continue to ask for throughout our lives.

Romans 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

Pharaoh would have let the Children of Israel go earlier in the saga, but God hardened his heart so he would not. That is God's prerogative.

Romans 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20 Nay but, 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? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

God the Potter certainly has the power to do as He Wills over all the clay He works with.

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

It was very hard for the Jews to accept that the Gentiles were being offered Salvation also. This despite the fact that all through history they had failed to respect their Maker, and thrown His love back at Him. He made Israel His people, and 'married' them, but because of their rejection of Him, God also said they were not His people and divorced them!

Romans 9:25 As he saith also in Osee (Hosea), I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

In churchianity, 99% of preachers on television, or when giving out tracts on the street, or in 'revival' meetings are telling people what they have to do to be saved, rather than telling them the 'Gospel' the 'Good News' that they already are saved. They put the cart before the horse and tell people that they have to 'believe', 'repent', 'confess', and have 'faith', and yes, this is all true, but what they do not say is that those attitudes of mind are not possible without them first being given as gifts by God.

Again Christ said, by all means: Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

But just do not think you can demand to become a Christian!

Christ is our example, and we should follow His lead, and say to Him and to the Father, "Not my will, but thine." We certainly should pray that, "thy Will be done" in our lives, not our own will.

Paul says over and over again that salvation is not by works.

Romans 11: 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Point 2. Ministers imply or say outright that people must of their own will, choice, and accord seek Jesus and accept Him as their Saviour.

This simply is not true. It is God that does the predestinating, and God who issues the 'calling', and grants repentance as a gift, it does not come from us.

Acts 11: 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Why do ministers not believe Christ when he says very clearly that no man can come to Him except the Father draws him. Not by a minister, not an evangelist, not a priest, but God draws a person to Himself.

John 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of (or from) the Father, cometh unto me.

The ability to 'confess' Christ is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say (confess) that Jesus is the Lord (my Master), but by the Holy Ghost.

The ability to 'believe' is a gift.

Philippians 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Faith is also a gift.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Salvation is not of works, not of our own volition, not our own belief, not our own repentance, not our own faith, but our connection to God is through His workmanship not ours.

Salvation is for all, but being in the 1st resurrection, and being given entrance into the Kingdom is a reward for some.

Jesus told the religious leaders and people of His day that because they had not kept God's wishes but criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath day that they would not be in the Kingdom.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Many **self**-righteous religious people who think today may well find themselves in the same position when Christ arrives.

Ephesians 2:9 (Salvation is) Not of works, lest any man should boast.
10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We have a measure of freewill and self-determination concerning how we conduct our lives, and God will help us with these choices too.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

How do we choose life? Part of those choices is that we walk in works, yes! What works, and to what end? We have been awarded salvation already which our works have no part in.

So the works God wants us to walk in have a different function and purpose. How we live our lives responding to our loving God, and how we behave towards our fellow human beings affects the quality of our character. Our conduct also partly determines the rewards we shall get from God for making responsible wise decisions in our lives. Our works of love for God and our fellow humans are counted as treasures.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Salvation is a gift, but being in the Kingdom of God at the first resurrection is a reward to those who walk in the light, and walk in good works also. What we do with our lives, how productive we are in this life may well have something to do with our position in our eternal life.

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

What we do with the gifts God has given each one of us may well determine our position in the Kingdom of God.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which

I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

The person who does not use the physical and spiritual gifts they have from God wisely, may lose out on being in the Kingdom at the first resurrection. They may have to wait to a later time for their redemption and their new life. If we do not use the gifts God has given us profitably, then they might even be taken away. This is not speaking of salvation, but of the rewards that God wants us to have for responding to Him in how we use them. Being in the Kingdom is a reward for making the right choices with God's help who is working with us, and we are His workmanship, and that is a gift too!

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Growing in grace and knowledge is part of the work we do, as well as producing fruit among our neighbours. Who is our neighbour? Everyone.

Churchianity is also called upon to choose who they will serve, God? Pagan, heathen, mythical, powerless gods, or the One True God

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Point 3. The central issue of Christianity is most wrongly presented.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Salvation is being granted to stand before God the Father being **holy**.

No person in the history of humankind has been holy, nor can they be, apart from One, and that was Jesus Christ. If we are 'in Him' we are **holy** and without spot or wrinkle. Because we are 'in Christ', and He is 'in us' God the Father sees us as perfect exactly as He sees His Only begotten Son.

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church (ekklesia), not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy** and without blemish.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 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.

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 (Christ) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 6 For by him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church (ekklesia): who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you (to God the Father) **holy** and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Yes, we have to continue in the faith, with God's help of course. Paul spells out very clearly, and in great detail how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians in Christ:

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. 18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. 22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

That just about covers the subject of the works we need to continue to do throughout our Christian life. Quite a tall order! But the reward is to be in

the 1st resurrection. Not a lot of denominations teach that fact. Why would that be? It is because the ministers do not understand the scriptures.

The power of the Law over humankind was abolished, and the penalty of the Law was abolished when Christ fulfilled the Law. What exactly does that word 'fulfil' mean?

By Christ being circumcised according to the law, because Christ kept the Law perfectly throughout His life, and died with all our sins on his back, Christ fulfilled the law. Christ's sacrifice brought about the end of the old physical law, it ceased to have any relevance because he had 'fulfilled' it.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

This is what Christ meant when he said:

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Christ's life was lived for us. When we are in Him, when He lived, we lived. When He was circumcised the 8th day, we were circumcised (both male and female it makes no difference because it is a spiritual matter). When He was baptized by John the Baptist, we were baptized, so physical water baptism is no longer necessary.

Because lived a sinless life, He was sinless, and we are in Him, (Aorist tense, present continuous, we are instantly forgiven as we live in Him) and so we do not sin, so we are sinless.

When He was crucified, we were crucified, when He died on the tree we died.

When He was resurrected, we were resurrected,

When He went to the Father and Christ was judged perfect, we were judged perfect.

When He was glorified, and caused to sit at the right hand of the Father, we were glorified and now legally and in type made to sit 'in Him' with Him at

the right hand of the Father where he is now and we are with Him; but at the 2nd advent we shall be changed, and we will then be with Him as He is.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

How many denominations teach that we ARE saved, and glory in that fact? Instead, how many preach that we have to get ourselves saved?

How many church organizations tread Christ's sacrifice underfoot by telling people that it is our works of belief, faith, repentance, and confession that are involved and needed for our salvation? They are, but not in the way they suggest. It is God that does all that for us if we ask Him properly, and provided it is our time to be given those gifts.

How many teach that we have to be 'righteous' in order to be saved? No human being can be 'righteous' or even come close, not by a million, or trillion miles which is why Christ had to do it for us, and He did.

How many denominations follow a distorted version of man's 'Christianity' mixed with a liberal amount of pagan idolatrous teachings which God hates, and is an abomination in His sight?

The time is coming when all vestiges of 'Churchianity' will be swept away, and True Christianity will be restored. Christ's sacrifice will be understood and appreciated, not ignored and trodden underfoot.

God speed that day.