

THE LIVING TRUTH FELLOWSHIP® PRESENTS

One Day WITH THE Creator

SEMINAR
SYLLABUS

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE AUTHOR OF LIFE AND HIS SON

One Day WITH THE Creator™

“Better is one day in your courts than
a thousand elsewhere....”

Psalm 84:10a



The Living Truth Fellowship

MAGNIFYING JESUS CHRIST, THE LIVING TRUTH

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NOTE: All Scripture quoted in this syllabus are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Words in all bold letters indicate our added emphasis. Words inside [brackets] within quotes or verses are also our additions.

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The sacred name of God, Yahweh, is indicated by “LORD.”

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To receive our monthly newsletter, *FRUIT OF D’VINE*, and to be put on our mailing list, contact us at:

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Overview

As to the content of the teaching, we first establish the integrity and accuracy of the Word of God, and that it is what it claims to be: the “God-breathed” revelation of the Creator to mankind, i.e., TRUTH. We biblically define “truth” and note the only three possible responses one can have when he hears it.

We talk about the life in God’s Word, the purposes of God’s Word, and the promises in God’s Word. We define “faith” so as to understand that Christianity is a reciprocal relationship, not a “religion.”

We look at the battle between TRUTH and TRADITION, and see how man’s made-up notions contradict what God says in His Word and destroy people’s confidence in the Bible. If the Bible is what it claims to be, it CANNOT CONTRADICT ITSELF. But when we read the Bible with alertness, we see many apparent contradictions. We show how to resolve them and at the same time maintain the integrity that this absolutely unique book boldly claims for itself.

Errors about what God really says in His Word are either in our understanding or in the transmission or translation of the original text. We show this by expositing several examples of simple biblical truths that most Christians overlook or misunderstand, such as how many times was Jesus tempted, what day of the week did Jesus actually die, how many others were crucified with Christ, etc.

Then we look at Genesis 3:1–15, both to see how Satan attacks God’s Word, and to introduce the main subject of the Bible, Jesus Christ, on whom we focus for the rest of the class. We show why he is the only way God could have redeemed mankind. We then present an exciting one-page overview of the whole Bible (a chart of which is in the syllabus) so that we understand what parts of Scripture are written to Jews, Gentiles, and Christians—past, present, and future.

We expound upon the most unique aspect of this current “...Administration of the Sacred Secret...” (Eph. 3:9), the New Birth, as the means whereby people who adhere to Romans 10:9 are saved—PERMANENTLY. We then look at the gift of holy spirit that each Christian receives at the moment of his New Birth, and what the Word says about speaking in tongues as one of the nine manifestations (not “gifts”) of the spirit.

We set forth who we are IN CHRIST as members of the Church, his Body, and we touch upon the five basic activities of the Christian life: prayer, reading the Word, functioning in the Body of Christ, sharing your faith, and material giving.

After examining the relationship between Jesus and God, and what happens to a believer if he dies, we close by looking at the Christian’s Hope, which is the appearing of the Lord Jesus to meet us “in the air,” and how that should motivate us to live until that glorious day.

— SEGMENT 1 —

What Is Truth?

Welcome to the most exciting adventure in learning available to anyone on earth today: learning to know the Lord Jesus Christ and His Father, the One True God.

Some people call this “the Good Book.” Actually, it’s the BEST BOOK! Why? Because it flawlessly reveals to you **The Man (Jesus Christ)**, and The Man perfectly reveals to you the very heart of God. Without the written Word and its subject, Jesus Christ, the living Word, God is nothing but an abstraction, and those who don’t take His Word for it have no choice but to make up their own gods. And that is exactly how most people live their lives. **Why do you believe what you believe?**

Among all the billions of people alive today, and who have ever lived, YOU are absolutely unique. YOU are the only you God has. God loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son to rescue you from death and give you everlasting life in a glorious Paradise to come.

In the meantime, GOD wants you to KNOW Him and His Son, to LOVE Him and the Lord Jesus, and to find the true meaning of life in this crazy world. So He “put it in writing.” Of course, the choice is yours, because when God made man, He gave us *genuine free will*. Our goal in this class is to motivate you to invest 24 hours, **one day of your life**, to learn the keys to unlocking the heart of God as He has revealed it in His Word.

Jesus invested his whole life in making everlasting life available to you, but consider for a moment his last 40 hours. He was taken from Gethsemane late Monday night, and then beaten and tortured until 9 A.M. Wednesday morning when he was nailed to the Cross, where he spent six agonizing hours before he died.

Our hope is that you will use this class as a tool in your family, your church, your circle of friends, for, as you will see, it will give anyone a firm foundation for his life.

2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV) speaks of "...repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth." "Repent" sometimes has a negative connotation but it simply means "to turn around" or "to change one's mind." Therefore, *learning requires turning*. Yes, because learning anything is at least an implicit admission of either ignorance or error. It's not pleasant to find out you've been scammed, but it's better to find out than not to find out.

Learning requires (a) *desire* to know something, and (b) some *humility* to realize you *don't* know it, or *might* not. One way to tell is to ask yourself: "*How's it working for you?*"

Most people seem to think that what they believe about God is right just because they believe it, even though they have no rational basis for the belief.

Here's the deal: Unless you can make a frog, you can't make up Truth. You can't just make up stuff about anything, including God, and have it be right. After all, you wouldn't want people making up things about you, especially if they were *bad* things.

If you make up your own god, then you will have a God who corresponds to you in some way, who is obliging, who is connected with your own nature, and who will ask little of you.

If one makes up a god, he is worshipping a god made in his own image, rather than The True God, who made man in His own image. In essence, he is making himself god.

The Word of God is not written for those who think they know it all; it was written for those who desire to know the Truth about life. God designed people (you) to believe the Word, and He made the Word believable. That is why God's Enemy has worked so hard to obscure the Word from mankind, because he knows many will believe it.

God doesn't expect you to believe something about Him without proof, and as we walk together through these next 24 hours, Jesus Christ will prove himself, and God, to you.

John 7:17

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

Now think about this: **If you really want to know Truth, you love to find out you're believing error. If you really want to be right, you love to find out you are wrong.**

Acts 13:43 (After a powerful overview of the Old Testament pointing them to Jesus and the Resurrection)—“Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”

In this class, I will do my best to persuade you to trust the written Word and the living Word, Jesus Christ, and act on what they say.

If you are a Christian and you currently hold spiritual beliefs, there is an excellent possibility that I will contradict some of them by showing you what the Bible really says. Please do not abandon your current convictions unless I prove otherwise to you line-by-line and verse-by-verse with all the verses about a topic fitting together.

I'm sure I won't be the first person in your life to help you by pointing out to you something about which you are off track. We've all had that happen countless times, like when you asked a kid on a tricycle if that was so-and-so's house and he told you that you were driving in the wrong neighborhood.

Even though we are taking this journey “together” via the medium of film, my goal is to become family with you as we spend this **one day with the Creator**. “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere...” (**Psalm 84:10a–NIV**).

In the next 24 hours, we will walk together into the heart of God as He has perfectly revealed it in His Word.

Why the King James Version?

2011 was the 400th anniversary of KJV. It could have been written in the blood of the many martyrs who have given their lives to make known God's Word to all people.

Modern versions have been marketed extensively as being easier to read than the KJV Bible, but recent computerized document analysis programs have objectively revealed that the KJV vocabulary has fewer syllables per word than modern versions, and fewer complex sentences. In reality, *the KJV is easier to read* than its modern counterparts in the manner of vocabulary and syntax. Moreover, the English language was at its zenith in the early 17th century, and the KJV is renowned for its poetic beauty and eloquence. Also, it was written for about a sixth grade reading level.

“What Is Truth”?

John 18:37 and 38—In essence, Pilate echoed the question of the ages that Jesus had asked Peter and his other disciples some months earlier: “Who do you say that I am?”

The Greek word for “truth” is *aletheia*, which means REALity, and it must come **from a source outside oneself**.

Proverbs 28:26a (NASB)—“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool...”

You must have some FIVE SENSES proof of something, i.e., something that comes from OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF.

God's Truth is our only valid moral compass, without which life is chaos. For example, what if there were no civil law? “My truth” is to take your money, and that is just how some people live.

Our goal in this class is to GET REAL, i.e., to get in touch with what is REALLY going on in life, and the only way to do that is to base our perspective on the Word of God, the Author of Life.

John 14:6, 17:17, 8:31 and 32

1 Timothy 2:3 and 4—“the” truth, meaning there is none other.

This class is all about JESUS CHRIST, the flawless revelation of the invisible God. He is the Living Word, and is made known by the Written Word. As we see him, we see the Father. **Jesus is God’s definition of Himself.** And thereby we will see that God is LOVE, LIGHT, GOODNESS, KINDNESS, etc. Without JESUS, “God” is only an abstraction. Jesus Christ is the *crisis* of life for every human being: “Who do you say that I am?”

It is JESUS who separates Christianity from religion (defined as man’s attempts to make himself pleasing to God). In all religions, man is the subject and God is the object. But in Christianity, God is the subject (He was here first) and man is the object of His relentless love. In all religions, the key word is “**Do**,” (kneel, dip, dunk, count, bow, scrape, kiss, travel) but in Christianity the key word is “**Done**.” Why? Because “Jesus paid it all.” It cost him his life to make salvation available to you as a gift you can freely receive.

Acts 14:15–17—Obviously there is a Creator, a Designer. We see that GOD, THE CREATOR OF LIFE, IS GOOD.

Romans 1:18–23 (NJKV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown *it* to them.** ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by **the things that are made** [*poiema*], *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse,** ²¹ because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** ²² **Professing to be wise, they became fools,** ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Hey, how about a four-inch seahorse that's 68 colors, a hummingbird, a woodpecker, a giraffe, a dragonfly, a butterfly, the moon and its relationship on the earth?

What about the human body? A baby, the brain, an eyeball? What about the woman in my cell phone who always knows where I am and talks to me to get me where I want to go? The achievements of mankind are a testimony to our CREATOR.

Mathematically, the odds of the universe as we know it “evolving” out of nothing, or out of some primordial soup, are *lower* than the odds of an explosion in a print shop producing a dictionary or a tornado sweeping through a huge junkyard assembling a 747—**and those odds are ZERO.**

References:

The Evolution Handbook

The Integrity of God's Word

Everything in this class is predicated upon the truth that the Bible is what it claims to be. If it is not, this class is nothing more than my opinion, and life is nothing but billions of people treading water in a sea of speculation. You can put this before or after everything I say: "...IF THE BIBLE IS RIGHT..."

Psalm 33:11—The testimony of God about His Word. He wants you to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him.

Numbers 23:19—The closer you look, the better God looks. How closely have you looked?

The point is that no human being can say that about anything he has made, but God can say it, *and He does*. He claims to have spoken to about 40 people on three continents during a 1500-year period, and they claim to have written what He told them—in three languages. The idea that those 40 people collaborated to produce the remarkable cohesion that even a cursory glance at Scripture yields is ludicrous. AND THE FULFILLED PROPHECIES! No other document in history comes close in that regard.

There is but *one Author* of Scripture, and that One is also *the Author of Life*. He has expended great effort to prove to us that His Word is what He says it is. Either the Bible is what it claims to be—the only “God-breathed” source of Truth and a manual for human living—or it is not. But how can you say it isn't if you don't study it?

1 John 5:9—“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.”

Maybe you've tried to look at the Bible, but someone gave you distorted lenses to look through. How does that work for you?

God will absolutely prove Himself to you, but only on His terms. That's fair, isn't it? After all, **He was here first.**

2 Peter 1:16–21—Jesus Christ: “IT IS WRITTEN”—the only standard.

Psalm 12:6—Always ask: WHY THE LIE? What is Satan's purpose in telling the lie? Believing ERROR leads to a diminished quality of life.

Matthew 15:1–9—Because there is SO MUCH ERROR being taught in Christianity, we will often need to point out “WHAT IT IS NOT.”

Acts 17:13–34—THE THREE RESPONSES TO TRUTH

References:

The Bible, You Can Believe It, by John Schoenheit.

Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion, by Alexander Keith (Written in 1836, this is an exposition of biblical prophecies that have come true [450 pp.]

The Life in God's Word

Who is its *Author*? The Word contains as much of His autobiography as we need to know now.

2 Timothy 3:16 and 17

Exodus 34:5 and 6—Who is GOD? Let's allow Him to answer for Himself. God had to name Himself because there was no one else to do it. Yahweh emphasizes His relationship to people.

Genesis 2:4—The first use of Yahweh after many *Elohim* from Genesis 1:1 = CREATOR.

Some Yahweh titles/functions in the Old Testament:

- Provides (Gen. 22:14)
- Heals (Exod. 15:26)
- Our Banner (Exod. 17:15)
- Sanctifies (Exod. 31:13)
- Shepherd (Ps. 23:1)
- Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
- Peace (Judg. 6:24)
- Re: Israel's future, Yahweh is There (Ezek. 48:35)

THAT'S WHO OUR GOD IS.

Matthew 1:20 and 21

²⁰But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹And she shall bring forth a son, and **thou shalt call his name JESUS [*Yeshua*]: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

What's in a name? Your name? Are you a "Junior"? Parental purpose: live up to your name. **Jesus was "God, Jr.,"** and to him were delegated the Yahweh functions of the Old Testament. Jesus gave the world *Previews of Coming Attractions*: he provided food at the company picnic; he healed those who came to him with faith; he raised some people from the dead; etc. As we will see, the people killed him, but God raised him from the dead, and when he comes back to earth in his Millennial Kingdom, he will provide for everyone, make everyone whole, alive forever, etc.

GOD IS THE LIFE IN THE WORD, and JESUS IS THE LIFE OF GOD IN THE WORLD.

- Psalm 138:1 and 2
- Jeremiah 15:16, 20:9
- Matthew 4:4
- John 6:35, 63
- Ephesians 4:17 and 18
- Jeremiah 36:1-7, 15-32

The Word is indestructible! Ditto for the Living Word (**Heb. 7:16-NIV**).

2 Corinthians 13:5-8—GOD'S TRUTH IS TIMELESS.

References:

If You've Seen Me, You've Seen the Father (audio teaching - www.tlft.org)

The Purpose of God's Word

One of the biggest lies propounded today is that “God is mysterious.” Atheists aren't saying that as much as are Christians who lack answers to the honest questions people are asking. God gave us His Word so we can KNOW Him and LOVE Him, chiefly by knowing and loving the Lord Jesus, who is the subject of the Word.

The Written Word makes known the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and the Living Word makes known God.

The Bible is a love letter from God to you. If you are *pursuing* someone you love, you do all you can to make known your good qualities. JESUS CHRIST is GOD'S “Valentine” to you. God wants you to have everlasting life, as well as *wisdom* so you can be salt and light in this fallen world.

The Bible is a manual for living, written by the Author of Life.

When all else fails, READ THE DIRECTIONS!

Deuteronomy 29:29—The Word is pr-ACT-ical.

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

Proverbs 2:1–12

Proverbs 25:2—God wants relationship with you. Not everything about God is in His Word, but all we need is there.

Psalms 19:7–14, 119: 9–16

Jeremiah 9:23 and 24—God's truth is the only true standard for living, as opposed to brains, beauty, and bucks.

Joshua 1:6–9—To give you COURAGE amidst the battle.

Nehemiah 8:6–12

The Promises in God's Word

2 Peter 1:2-4

Promise: A declaration, either written or verbal, that binds the promisor to the promisee and gives the promisee the right to expect either the performance or the forbearance of the deed.

PROMISE is the basis of every successful relationship, the quality of which is directly proportional to promises made and kept.

How do you know if someone loves you? He keeps his Word. GOD keeps His WORD, which is made up of w-o-r-d-s. God does not ("cannot"—Titus 1:2) lie, like people do. Nor does he speak without making sense, as people do. WORDS HAVE MEANINGS! Nor is He silent, as people often are.

2 Timothy 1:1—"...the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus"

Psalm 62:8, 11 and 12—A promise is worthless unless the Promisor has both the ability and the willingness to keep it. It is also worthless if you don't know it. LOVE is at the root of God's promises. God so loved that He gave His only begotten Son.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE PROMISE

Genesis 3:15—God's promise to Satan

Psalm 16:8-11—God's promise to Jesus

Acts 17:31; Romans 1:4—God's promise to you

2 Corinthians 1:18-20—Jesus = "YES-S-S!!!" The God being preached to most people is definitely a "Yes-and-No" God: "He loves you, but He'll let you get cancer."

Romans 15:8

John 10:10

1 Timothy 4:8

Ephesians 3:16-21—Seeing who God is and what He has done for us leads us to love Him

1 John 4:19-NKJV—"We love Him because He first loved us." Loving God is the key to loving people.

— SEGMENT 6 —

What Is Faith?

Good news! You are not a robot for Jesus. That is, God is not in control of you. He is not running a big puppet show. You have a say in the matter and without your say-so, it won't happen.

Hebrews 13:5 and 6

Here's how it works: God goes first, and makes a promise. Then it's your turn to say, "Yes" or "No." If you say, "Yes," God responds by keeping His promise. If you say "No," He can't. The merit is on the part of the Promisor who keeps His Word.

God is saying: "TAKE MY WORD FOR IT." Saying "Yes" to God is having FAITH. So "KEEP THE FAITH, Dude!" What is "faith"? Faith IN WHAT? Faith is TRUST; so faith requires, and is generated in response to, an object: the promises of God. Then GOD'S POWER makes something happen.

Romans 1:16

Hebrews 4:1 and 2

Faith is trust in an understandable promise. Faith is the simplest thing God could require of mankind—or we would be robots.

Faith is not superstition (Dictionary: "A belief not based on reason"). Too many preachers say, "Take it on faith." That shows they do not know what faith is—and that they can't give you a logical answer to your question.

As we will see, **faith is not a force**. Faith alone makes nothing happen. Your mind directly affects *nothing* outside your own skin. It can indirectly affect others if you decide to slap someone.

“The Secret” is very big today. Supposedly, it is “The Law of Attraction,” i.e., what you think is what you get. Again, **WHO SAYS?** That’s very heady when you get what you want, because you can take credit for it, which kind of makes you God. But it is very deflating, if not devastating, when tragedy comes your way, because you must take credit for that too, which kind of makes you a very poor god.

The assumption is that some kind of creative power is somehow generated within your mind, and that power somehow goes forth to somehow affect something and make your thoughts come to pass.

The problem is that no one can define what the power is or how it works, so the whole thing is made up. By whom? It’s basically the same old, same old lie Satan told in Genesis 3:5 (NJKV)—“...you shall be like God...” i.e., You can take matters into your own hands and create your own world. No way.

Fear vs. Faith

Mark 5:24–36—Fear displaces faith, and vice versa, but neither affects anything outside of you—(**Job 3:25?** No.)

Mark 11:11–14, 20–24

Jeremiah 24:4–10—Israel=fig tree

1 John 5:14 and 15

Romans 10:9–17

Acts 27:20–25—What do you expect? Faith = “I can’t *wait* to see what my Father is going to do about *this* situation!”

Romans 4:16–22—How BIG is GOD to you? Magnify Him.

1 Thessalonians 3:2, 5–7, and 10—Faith can grow.

Luke 8:11–15—patience = (Greek: *hupomone*)

“Per-severe-ance” is a key to growing in faith.

Hebrews 10:35 and 36, 12:1 and 2

James 1:17–25

Habakkuk 3:17–19

No matter how steep the circumstances, we can track with God’s promises and stand firmly on them.

Errors in Understanding the Bible

[PART ONE]

Truth versus Tradition

(**Matt. 15:6**) The Battle. *Why is there so much tradition in today's Christianity?* This is vital to grasp because if you currently hold “mainstream” Christian beliefs, you may be disconcerted when we show you one thing after another that is NOT what the Word actually says. Hey, Truth Seeker, you'll love it, so hang in here, because you can document why there are so many errors in Christian teaching today.

Historical overview: Most Christians had turned away from Paul by the time he wrote 2 Timothy from a jail cell in Rome in about 66 A.D. The great truth set forth in Paul's Epistles was buried from circa 100 A.D. onward. Early Church “Fathers” like Augustine who were influenced by Greek philosophy and propounded non-biblical ideas did not help.

In 312 A.D., Constantine “saw the light” and that was the birth of Roman Catholicism, a collection of pagan, polytheistic ideas designed for political expediency in a troubled empire. It is certainly not what the Bible says, which is why for years they did not want people reading it. Chief among the errors Roman Catholicism teaches is salvation by works, which is the hallmark of every false belief system.

Then came 1000 years, part of which is called “the Dark Ages,” after which came the “Reformation.” The “Reformation” was not complete and therefore many pagan myths and traditions became a part of Protestant doctrine and still are. Thank God for the many people down through the centuries who did love Him and His Word, and who helped preserve its truths.

If the Word is what it claims to be: the God-breathed revelation of the Creator, the same Creator who came up with the seahorse, human eyeball, *et al.*, it cannot contradict itself. But when we read the Bible with alertness, we see many apparent contradictions.

Q: How do we resolve them and at the same time maintain the integrity that this absolutely unique book claims for itself?

2 Timothy 2:15—God chose *words* as His medium of communication.

There are three main categories of misunderstanding:

- Errors in Understanding
- Errors in Transmission
- Errors in Translation

Errors in Understanding

Genesis 6:19–22—How many sheep were on the Ark?

Genesis 7:1–3

Genesis 7:11–13—40 days of rain

Genesis 8:13–20—370 days on the Ark

The Temptations of Christ

Luke 4:1–13

Matthew 4:1–11

6pm

Wednesday

9 am

Jesus Crucified
(Mark 15:25)

3 pm

Jesus Died
(Mark 15:34)

Thursday

Passover
A High Sabbath
(John 19:31)

Friday

Woman Bought
& Prepared Spices
(Mark 16:11)

Saturday

Weekly Sabbath

Sunday

Women Came
to the Tomb
(Mark 16:2)

6pm

[PART TWO]

Errors in Understanding (cont.)

The Day Jesus Christ Died

There is much traditional error about the last week of Christ's life. It was Monday night when he was taken from Gethsemane, after which he was tortured and interrogated non-stop until Wednesday morning. He was crucified at 9 A.M. and died at 3 P.M. He was buried before sunset and rose from the dead on Saturday afternoon between 3 P.M. and sunset.

Matthew 12:38–40

Mark 15:25, 33, 37, 42

Leviticus 23—special “Sabbaths” like Passover, Day of Atonement, etc. It is like when Christmas falls on a Tuesday.

John 19:30 and 31

“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani”

John 12:24–27, 16:32 and 33

Matthew 26:53, 27:35–46

2 Corinthians 5:19

Psalms 22:1–31

John 19:30—“It is finished.”

[PART THREE]

Errors in Transmission (copying in the same language)

1 John 5:7 and 8 (KJV)

⁷For there are three that bear record [in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth,] the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

1 John 5:7 and 8 (NKJV)

⁷For there are three that bear witness [in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness on earth:] the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

1 John 5:7 and 8 (NIV)

⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

The spurious words are not found in any Greek manuscript before the 16th century!

“The New Testament” page in your Bible

“Hebrew Scriptures” vs. “Christian Scriptures”

Why Four Gospels?

Matthew—The King (**Zech. 9:9; Jer. 23:5 and 6, 33:15**)

Mark—The Servant (**Isa. 42:1; Zech. 3:8**)

Luke—The Man (**Zech. 6:12**)

John—The Son of God (**Isa. 40:9, 4:2**)

As we will see, the Gospels conclude the “Old Testament” because they are the record of the fulfillment of all the prophecies about JC’s first coming to the earth to Israel. Jesus spoke only to and about *Israel*, not to or about anyone who could be “born again of incorruptible seed.”

Structure of Each Gospel:

Kingdom proclaimed / King proclaimed

King rejected / Kingdom rejected

Matthew 16:13–21

Matthew: The King

Royal Genealogy (**1:1ff**) from Abraham and David down. About 60 references from the Hebrew Scriptures!

“Kingdom of heaven” = 32x, never in Mark, Luke, John.

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken”/“it was spoken” = 13x, none elsewhere.

Mark: The Servant

No genealogy—get to work (**1:14ff**).

73x called “Lord” in Matthew, Luke, John, but never in Mark (**7:28** should be “sir”/**9:24** not in texts).

Detailed references to his activities—what he said and did.

Luke: The Man

Human genealogy upward to Adam (**3:23–38**); much about his tenderness, compassion to outcasts and sinners; many references to women and how he interacted with them; Jesus always dependent upon the Father—in prayer; six miracles and eleven parables only in Luke, e.g., the Good Samaritan.

John: The Son of God

Never praying, but “saying” or “speaking” to his Father; many key words used more in John than in Matthew, Mark, Luke combined, e.g., believe, the Father, glory, glorify, life, love, true, truth.

Errors in Translation

(copying from one language into another)

Exodus 20:13, 21:12, 15 and 16—“Thou shall not kill”?

Three kinds of justified killing:

1. Execution of criminals
2. Personal self-defense
3. Social self-defense (a just war)

1 Samuel 28:4–7

1 Chronicles 10:13 and 14; 1 Samuel 31:4

The Four Men Crucified with Christ

Luke 23:32–43

Matthew 27:32–44

John 19:17, 18, 31–33

The Four Crucified with Christ



Luke 23:32-40

Jesus and Two Malefactors Crucified

- Cast lots for clothes
- Sign put up
- One malefactor mocked Jesus
- Other malefactor rebuked the one who mocked him



Matthew 27:32-44
Mark 15:16-32

Jesus Crucified

- Cast lots for clothes
- Sign put up
- **THEN...** Two robbers crucified
- Both robbers mocked Jesus



John 19:18
2 (M) + 2 (R) = 4

Keys to Understanding the Word

Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are not a copout when someone can't explain something, as in: "That's just a figure of speech." No, Figures of speech are legitimate grammatical constructions integral to every developed language, and which enhance communication by emphasizing key points. How to recognize a figure? **IT IS NOT LITERALLY TRUE TO FACT.**

Examples:

"I'm as clumsy as a hog on ice."

"He's in the paint and he may go glass."

"I'll Google it."

The figure of speech often gives you a more vivid mind picture that better communicates the point. Consider the universe with its 200 billion+ galaxies! How precise and how awesome do you think God is with WORDS? There are more than 200 recognized figures of speech in the Bible! Most English PhDs know only a few dozen.

Some familiar examples:

(Simile) James 1:6—"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

(Metaphor) Luke 22:19—"...This is my body which is given for you..."

(Idiom) 2 Corinthians 12:7—"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."

(Heterosis, an exchange) here, an exchange of tense—Isaiah 53:5 (NIV) "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

(Cultural usage) John 13:18 (NIV)—"...[Judas] has lifted up his heel against me."

Light Through an Eastern Window

The Bible was written in the cultural context of the ancient Middle East, and being aware of the cultural nuances in the text helps us understand it in greater depth.

John 4:1–42—True love is costly.

References:

Figures of Speech in the Bible (E. W. Bullinger)

Manners and Customs of The Bible (James M. Freeman)

Jesus, the Middle Eastern Storyteller (Gary M. Burge)

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes (Kenneth E. Bailey)

Historical Commentary on First Corinthians (William M. Ramsay)

Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament (John H. Walton)

Foundations in Genesis

[PART ONE]

The first three chapters of Genesis contain countless truths that lay the foundation for understanding much of God's Word. Genesis and Revelation are bookends in that the book of Revelation shows the rectification and consummation of everything that went wrong in Genesis.

Ruin and Reconstruction

Genesis 1:1 and 2

Verse 2: The Hebrew word for “was” is translated as “became”/“become” 39x (e.g., **Gen. 3:22, 19:26, 21:20, 37:20, 48:19; Ps. 69:8, 79:4, 83:10, 109:25**).

Isaiah 45:18

Romans 8:18–21

Genesis 1:3–19

Biblical usage of the word “heaven” establishes that the **first heaven** is the earth's “atmosphere,” i.e., anywhere above earth (e.g., “the birds of heaven”). The **second heaven** is the celestial universe, where the stars are (e.g., “the stars of heaven”). The **third heaven** is the “highest,” the “heaven of heavens,” where God lives. Jesus passed “through the [first two] heavens” (**Heb. 4:14**) to get there. He went “far above all heavens” (**Eph. 4:10**).

Psalm 19:1–7—Jesus Christ is The Star of the Show.

Isaiah 60:1–3—Both Suns are always shining.

Malachi 4:1 and 2

Luke 1:76–79

Revelation 21:22–23, 22:3–5

References:

The Witness of the Stars (E. W. Bullinger)

The Star That Astonished the World (Ernest L. Martin)

[PART TWO]

Genesis 1:20–2:25

References:

The Evolution Handbook (Vance Ferrell)

Exploration Films.com, creation.com, illustramedia.com

Marriage on the Rock (Jimmy & Karen Evans, MarriageToday.org)

— SEGMENT 10 —
The Two Adams

[PART ONE]

Genesis 3:1–24 (vs. 15ff—SUFFERING & GLORY)

The First Adam: “I’ll do it my way.”

The Last Adam: “I’ll do it thy way.”

Each Old Testament book points to a particular aspect of Jesus Christ’s life and ministry. The Hebrew Scriptures were written primarily for Jesus: to show him **who he was, what his mission was, and what reward he would receive for carrying it out**. Each time you read something in Genesis–Malachi, ask yourself: *What did Jesus learn from this?*

WANTED: REDEEMER OF MANKIND

Psalm 40:1–11

Hebrews 10:1–7—*A Tale of Two (oops—Three) Bodies*

References:

The Silence of Adam (Larry Crabb)

[PART TWO]

Statement of the problem: Sin and death

Genesis 22:1–14—Suffering

Genesis 41:37–46, 55—Glory

Hebrews 1:1–5, 2:5–18—Suffering and Glory

Luke 4:14–21

Isaiah 61:1 and 2

Luke 24:13–32

The Biblical Motif: “THIS IS WAR!”

The battle started *before* Adam and Eve showed up. The “purpose of the ages” finds its fulfillment in the “...new heavens and new earth...” of **2 Peter 3: 13**—Paradise regained, and much more. God is also coming back, not just Jesus. Man’s “walk in the garden relationship” that was lost will be reestablished.

We saw in Genesis that the will of God was for mankind to live forever in Paradise, but that both Lucifer (aka Satan) and Adam chose to disobey Him and thus brought calamity upon the whole earth and all its inhabitants.

Genesis alone should convince us that God is all love, all light, all good. It should also impress upon us that Satan’s goal is to make God look bad and to get people to blame Him for bad things that happen. It is imperative that we understand the WAR *motif* (“a distinctive idea, or a theme”) of Scripture, which **Genesis 3:15** clearly defined. But it was not until Jesus Christ came that Satan was revealed.

Now we understand that we are living “behind enemy lines.” We must KNOW OUR ENEMY.

Problem: 1 John 5:19 (NASB)—How Satan got such power (**Luke 4:6**)

Solution: 1 John 3:8b—“...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

Isaiah 14:12–15—What went wrong?

2 Corinthians 2:10 and 11, 11:3, 13–15—an angel of light (“Lucifer”= “lightbearer, shining one—a brilliant, enchanting being”). Satan is the Master Counterfeiter and is the expert at blending into the environment.

2 Corinthians 4:3 and 4—He despises Jesus and always tries to diminish him and his accomplishments. He uses WORDS.

Acts 10:37 and 38

Luke 13:10–13—Satan responsible for ALL evil, tragedy, etc.

1 Corinthians 15:24–26; Hebrews 2:14 (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 2:18—He constantly opposes God’s people, but we can stand on Truth, drive him out of our lives (and others’), and remind him of his future (**Eph. 3:10**).

Ezekiel 28:12–18—verses 12–15 (past); verses 16–18 (future)

Revelation 12:7–10—future

1 Peter 5:6–9

When not in power, Satan uses manipulation. When in power, he uses violence and intimidation.

Ephesians 6:10–17

Galatians 1:3 and 4

References:

God at War (Greg Boyd)

Know Your Enemy (The Fuel Project)

— SEGMENT 12 —

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:1-46—Don't Baal out on God

Don't Blame God!

Why is Satan not revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures? Because Jesus had not yet lived and died and been raised from the dead and poured out the gift of holy spirit to equip believers with spiritual power to fight a spiritual enemy.

The Word says that (before he died) Jesus himself "...made a show of them (principalities and powers) **openly...**" (Col. 2:15).

So in Old Testament Scripture written to and about *Israel*, God uses figurative language (**Prophetic Metonymy** and **Metonymy of the Subject**) to "take the rap" for Satan's deeds.

Luke 10:1, 17–24—There is nothing in Genesis through Malachi about the spiritual battle that Jesus later revealed.

Job 1:20–22

Exodus 3:1–4:17, and 21

Joshua 7:1–13

1 Kings 17:1–24

References:

Don't Blame God! (John Lynn, Mark Graeser, John Schoenheit)

God's Foreknowledge and Man's Free Will

It takes a greater God to steer a world populated by people with genuine free will than it does to steer a world of pre-programmed automatons. (Greg Boyd)

Calvinism: God is in total control of every event on earth, and whatever happens is exactly what He has willed. Thus His foreknowledge is absolute and nothing can turn out other than how He already sees it.

Arminianism: God is not determining all that happens on earth, but He has known from eternity exactly what will happen. Thus His foreknowledge is absolute and nothing can turn out other than how He already sees it.

God's Word: God gave man genuine free will, and thereby limited Himself to work within the framework of man's choices. Thus His foreknowledge is not absolute and how things turn out is a combination of man's choices and God's working in the world.

References:

Don't Blame God (Lynn, Graeser, Schoenheit)

God of the Possible (Gregory A. Boyd)

God at War (Gregory A. Boyd)

The God Who Risks (John Sanders)

God's Foreknowledge and Man's Free Will (Richard Rice)

The Administrations in Scripture

“Get a chart, get a life!”

1 Corinthians 10:32

Revelation 20:1–15

Why the Millennial Kingdom?

(1) God will keep His promises to Abraham, *et al.*

(2) Israel will be the nation of priests God intended them to be.

(3) The sin nature of fallen man will be shown for what it is, and that nothing short of total regeneration will suffice. God will be proven just once and for all.

Why the “Sacred Secret”?

(1) To make Jesus known to the whole world

(2) A bigger family for God

Romans 16:25–27

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

Ephesians 2:8–15, 3:1–11

Remember the “Star” verses from **Psalm 19:1–7**. The only thing not written in the celestial message is the Sacred Secret.

Philippians 2:15 and 16

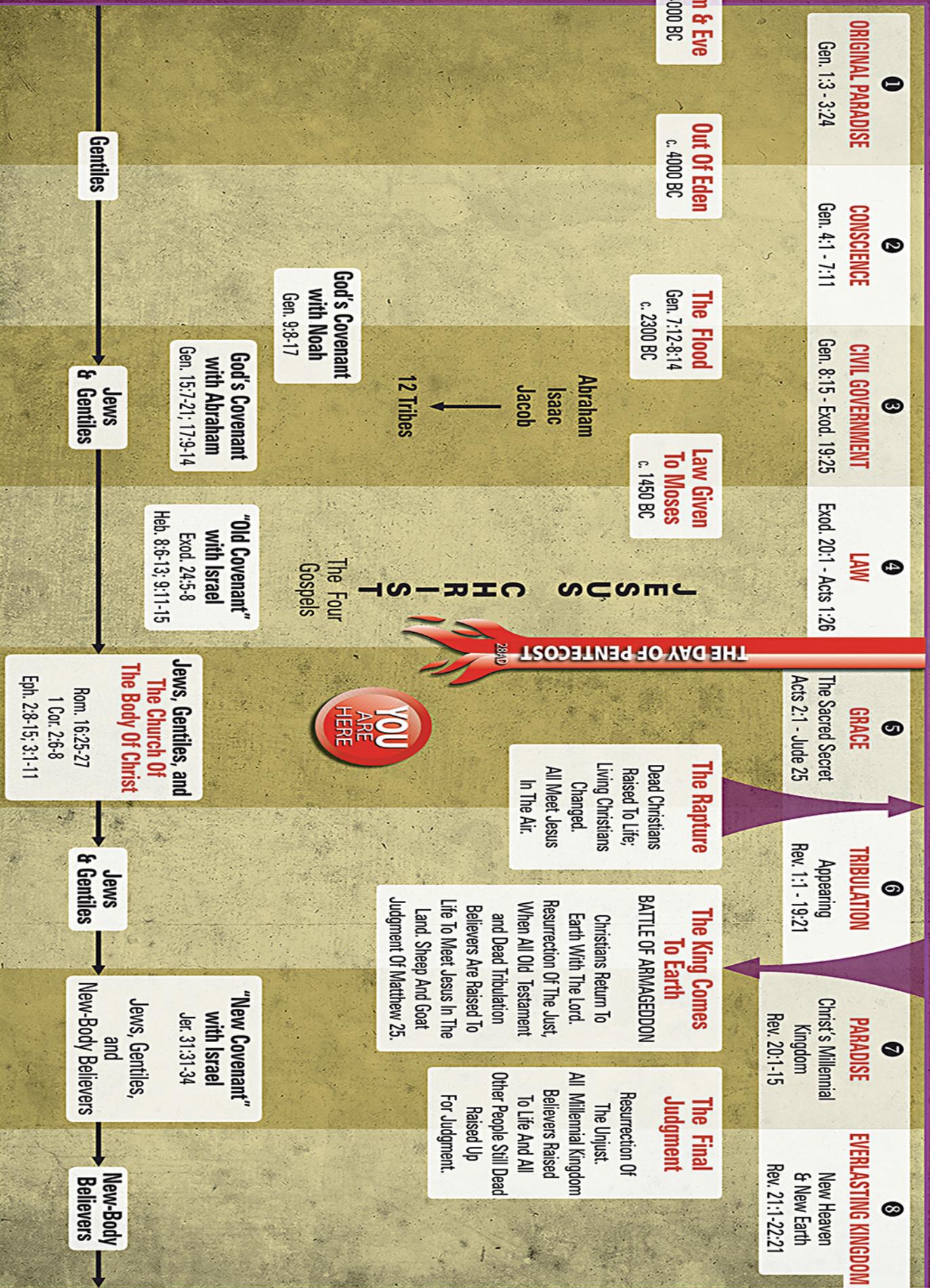
References:

Things To Come, J. Dwight Pentecost

First The Rapture, J. F. Strombeck

THE END Times (video seminar –TLTF.ORG)

THE ADMINISTRATIONS IN SCRIPTURE



TIME = THE AGES

— SEGMENT 16 —

Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church

No one could be “born again of incorruptible seed” until it was available, and it was not available until Jesus Christ had lived, died, been raised from the dead, ascended to the right hand of God, and poured out the gift of holy spirit.

Luke 24:36–53

Acts 1:1–2:47

Salvation Now: The New Birth

As we saw on THE CHART, God made salvation available as soon as man sinned and salvation has been available in each administration. But never was it, or will it again be like it is now, when anyone who makes Jesus Christ his Lord is “**born again of incorruptible seed.**”

Before Pentecost	After Pentecost
Holy spirit only upon some (Num. 11:17)	All Christians have holy spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
Holy spirit by measure (2 Kings 2:9)	All Christians filled with holy spirit (John 3:34; Acts 2:4, 32 and 33)
Could lose holy spirit (1 Sam. 16:14; Ps. 51:11)	Cannot lose holy spirit (1 Pet. 1:23)
God’s choice who received (Num. 11:17)	Each person’s choice to receive (Rom. 10:9 and 10)

By far the biggest thing that changed on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was SALVATION, and **the signs on the path to salvation are written in BLOOD, the precious blood of The Lamb.**

Statement of the Problem, and the Solution: another Adam.

Romans 5:12–19, 6:23

1 Timothy 2:3–6

Hebrews 9:6–14, (15–21), 22, (Lev. 1:3–5)—Someone had to pay the price for the sin of mankind, and it had to be a man, that is, a “lamb from out of the flock” (**Exod. 12**). But all descendants of Adam were tainted by the sinful nature they received from him. Only Jesus was genetically equipped to be the perfect sacrifice—**IF HE CHOSE TO LIVE A SINLESS LIFE**. Because he did, he could pay the price for the SIN (nature) and the SINS (behavior) of man.

Ephesians 2:8 and 9—SALVATION BY WORKS is the hallmark of every false faith system

Romans 10:6–17

1 Peter 1:21–23—To be saved in this administration is to be *born again*. You know the old saying: “If at first you don’t succeed, get born again!”

Notice the difference between the KJV and a more modern version: of **1 John 3:1**

(KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

(NIV) How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called the children of God! **And that is what we are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Romans 8:15–17

The Greek word translated “adoption” is *huiiothesia*, and literally means, “to place as a son.” *Louw and Nida’s Greek Lexicon* says: “to formally and legally declare that someone who is not one’s own child is henceforth to be treated and cared for as one’s own child, including complete rights of inheritance.”

Birth seems so much more desirable than adoption that it is fair to ask why God would even use “adoption.” The answer is that the Romans recognized that when a baby was born, the parents had no choice in who they got. Thus, according to Roman law, a naturally born baby could be disowned from the family.

However, people *adopting* a child knew exactly what they were getting, and no one adopted a child unless that specific child was wanted as a family member, so according to Roman law an adopted child could not be disowned. He or she was permanently added to the family. **Many early Christians were Roman citizens, so using the word “adoption” was one way God let the Church know that those children He brought into His family could not be taken from it.** It is remarkable that the adopted son should have a stronger position than the son by birth, but that’s how it was.

Permanent salvation for Christians was radically different than anything up until Pentecost, prior to which there were only Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). The “one new man,” the Body of Christ, was composed of both former Jews and former Gentiles.

Thus, Scripture with a distinctively Jewish flavor, such as Peter and James, speaks of “birth” (*anagennao*, **1 Pet. 1:3 and 23**; *apokueo*, **James 1:18**), because birth and genealogy were very important to the Jews. They would immediately understand that a child “born” into God’s family was a permanent member of His family. God also uses a word for “birth” (*paliggenesi*) in **Titus 3:5**. All three of these Greek words for birth are unique to writings to the Christian Church, another indication of the permanence of Christian salvation.

However, in books such as Romans, Ephesians, and Galatians, which were addressed to people with a Gentile background, He also speaks of “adoption.” The same truth is communicated by both terms: the Christian becomes a permanent member of the family of God because he is forever sealed in Christ and has a guaranteed hope.

1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20

Galatians 1:6–9

Ephesians 1:13 and 14—sealed

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

(See also **Rom. 8:23, 9:4**; **Gal. 4:5**; **Eph. 1:5**.)

References:

A Historical Commentary on St. Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians (W. M. Ramsay)

Just and the Justifier (Charles Welch)

The Giver (Holy Spirit) and The Gift (holy spirit)

Satan attacks that which he knows is most vital for Christians to understand, and when it comes to the subject of the Holy Spirit, he has leveled his biggest guns at the Church. He has succeeded in causing such rampant confusion that it is indescribable.

In English, we capitalize proper nouns. Some words in English do not change in meaning when they are capitalized, e.g., “dog,” “cat.” But what about “mark” changed to “Mark”?

The Giver		The Gift
God	&	His divine nature
The “Holy Spirit”		The “holy spirit”

2 Peter 1:4

Acts 2:38—the gift

Acts 5:3—the Giver

What you have in the gift of holy spirit

Romans 8:22 and 23—“firstfruits of the Spirit” in earthen vessels.

When you receive the gift of holy spirit, you are **saved, justified, sanctified, sealed IN CHRIST, anointed, and baptized.**

Your Identity IN CHRIST—When God looks at you, he sees Christ, and when he looks at Jesus, He sees you—IN HIM.

Ephesians 1:3–23

Ephesians 2:1–22

References:

The Gift of Holy Spirit: The Power to Be Like Christ (John Lynn, Mark Graeser, John Schoenheit)

JohntheBaptist TV– *Kundalini Warning* – YouTube

What Is True Baptism?

Statement of the Problem: Most Christians have been taught that *water* baptism is applicable to them. Thus, Christians through the centuries have fought about whether they should be sprinkled, dipped, dunked, or “dry cleaned” (a mental baptism), and even killed one another while fighting over this issue. All who advocate any such form of baptism are arguing for a far lesser possibility than what the Word of God says.

The word “baptize” simply means “to immerse.” It means to be soaked, like a dyed shirt or a donut in a cup of coffee. When most people hear the word “baptism,” they think *water*, which is understandable, because water baptism was prescribed in the Mosaic Law, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, and many early Christians practiced water baptism.

But do the Church Epistles prescribe it for Christians? No.

Why not? Because the old EXTERNAL WASHING has now been replaced by the new INTERNAL WASHING: the “baptism of holy spirit.”

Then why did some early Christians baptize in water, and why do some Christians today still do so? The answer to the first question is that most all the earliest Christians were formerly *Jews*, and they were still zealous for the Law. The first Church Epistles weren’t written for about 20 years after Pentecost, and Ephesians about 30 years after Pentecost. Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world, but for many years they preached *only to Jews*.

Acts 10:44–48a, 11:15–17

Hebrews 7:18 and 19, 9:9, 10 and 14

1 Peter 3:20 and 21

Christians are to live *inside out* rather than outside in.

Two Baptisms

Acts 18:24–28, 19:1–6—baptized **into the name of the Lord Jesus**

Throughout the Word, water is a symbol of the gift of holy spirit (**John 4:13 and 14, 7:37–39**)

Ephesians 4:5 (Acts 1:4 and 5)—Choose your baptism.

Acts 2:32 and 33—In Jesus, both baptisms interfaced. When Jesus was baptized in water by John the Baptist, God baptized him in holy spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13—“baptism of holy spirit” = salvation

Colossians 2:11 and 12—The “one baptism” of holy spirit is paralleled to circumcision so as to make clear that the figurative, inner baptism is the true baptism for Christians, just like the figurative, inner circumcision.

Baptized into What, or rather Whom?

1 Corinthians 10:1–5—JESUS CHRIST is the element into which we are immersed. We are “baptized into Christ” and thus identified with him.

1 Corinthians 1:13–17—Ritual is important to some, but *water baptism is not pertinent to Christians*. Is it a sin? No, but it is a sin to teach people that it is required for salvation, as some do.

Titus 3:3–7

References:

What is True Baptism? (John Lynn)

The Gift of Holy Spirit: The Power to Be Like Christ (Lynn, Graeser, Schoenheit)

The Manifestations of Holy Spirit

One Gift: Nine Abilities

[PART ONE]

Structure of the Church Epistles

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

The Manifestations of Holy Spirit

- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues
- Prophecy
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Discerning of spirits
- Faith
- Working of miracles
- Gifts of healings

[PART TWO]

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

References:

The Gift of Holy Spirit: The Power to Be Like Christ, (Lynn, Graeser, Schoenheit)

10 Lies The Church Tells Women (J. Lee Grady)

I Suffer Not A Woman (Richard & Catherine Clark-Kroeger)

God's Word To Women (Katherine Bushnell)

God's Guarantee: Speaking in Tongues

“I would like every one of you to speak in tongues...”

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NIV)

Acts 2:1–4

The first time anyone was born again they all spoke in tongues. Thus, God set the pattern. He has two primary reasons why He wants every Christian to speak in tongues much.

Reason #1

Speaking in tongues is your only absolute, indisputable proof of salvation and your assurance of life in the coming age. Speaking in tongues makes you a firsthand witness of the Resurrection.

Matthew 9:1–8

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

1 John 3:24

Tongues is **not a “gift,” but a “manifestation”** of the gift of holy spirit. Seven of the nine manifestations are in the Old Testament. Why not tongues or interpretation of tongues? Because they were not relevant when salvation was conditional.

There are only five accounts in the book of Acts where someone manifested holy spirit by speaking in tongues.

- Acts 2—Speaking in tongues
- Acts 8—Simon “saw” that holy spirit was given.
- Acts 9—Paul: “...I speak in tongues more than all of you” (NIV).
- Acts 10—Speaking in tongues
- Acts 19—Speaking in tongues

1 Corinthians 14:5—What are other benefits?

- Perfect praise and worship (**Phil. 3:3**)
- Giving thanks well (**1 Cor. 14:17**)
- Speaking the wonderful works of God (**Acts 2:11**)
- Magnifying God (**Acts 10:46**)
- Edifying yourself (**1 Cor. 14:4**)
- Building up yourself in faith (**Jude 20**)

Reason #2

By speaking in tongues, one immediately experiences the reciprocal relationship that is Christianity.

The bottom line of walking with God is *trusting* Him.

God always goes first: He gave the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Your turn: “I believe.”

God: “Jesus just filled you with holy spirit, and I want you to know that for sure, so speak in tongues.”

You: “You want me to speak a language I’ve never learned?”

God: “Yep.”

You: “How?”

God: “Open your mouth and SPEAK, trusting me to give you the words.”

John 20:21 and 22

Matthew 14:22–32

When it comes to speaking in tongues, there is *only one way to fail*, and that is NOT TO SPEAK. LET’S DO IT!!!

References:

The Gift of Holy Spirit: The Power to Be Like Christ (Lynn, Graeser, Schoenheit)

Spiritual Growth: The Five Basics

[PART ONE]

The Five Basics of Christianity

- (1) Being in the Word (The Word being in you)
- (2) Prayer (Communication with God and Christ)
- (3) Functioning in the Body of Christ (Do your part)
- (4) Sharing your Faith (Somebody's gotta do it)
- (5) Financial / Material Giving (Laugh it up!)

Acts 2:42-47

(1) Being in the Word (The Word being in you)

This is #1 because it defines everything else, e.g., what is prayer? *Internalizing the Word* so as to walk in the light.

Psalm 51:6, 119:11

Proverbs 4:20-23

Romans 12:1 and 2

2 Corinthians 3:17 and 18

Romans 8:5 and 6

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Colossians 3:8-17

Biblical study aids: Concordance, Lexicon, Inter-Linear, Word Study Concordance, Bible Dictionary, etc.

(2) Prayer (Communication with God and Christ)

Christianity is all about relationship, first with God/JC, then with people. Relationship involves giving/receiving, talking/listening.

1 John 1:3

Matthew 6:9–13—The Lord’s Prayer

2 Corinthians 1:8–11

Mark 1: 35–38—Learn to love your quiet time.

God invites us to participate in his Mission. Tag-team wrestling!

1 John 5:13

[PART TWO]

(3) Functioning in the Body of Christ (Do your part)

Fellowship with other Christians is vital for spiritual growth. We need “one another” (about 40 New Testament verbs used with “one another”). The Body of Christ is to be interactive and inter-dependent.

Mark 12:28–31 (1 John 4:20 and 21)

Ephesians 4:11–16—Jesus’ personal curriculum for you

Romans 12:4–8

Why not start a local fellowship?

(4) Sharing your Faith (Somebody's gotta do it)

People are crying out to God, and *you* can be the answer to someone else's prayer.

1 Peter 3:15 and 16

Acts 4:7–14

Acts 16:9–40

John 4:38–42—We bring people to JESUS CHRIST.

(5) Financial/Material Giving (Laugh it up)

The Adversary is trying to control the world economically. We must meet economic aggression with charitable aggression.

Matthew 6:19–21

Malachi 3:10 and 11—[Context=Israel] Only here: “**Prove me.**”

2 Corinthians 8:1–12, 9:6–15

Galatians 6:6–10—Ministry is a legitimate profession.

More verses about supporting a genuine minister: **Romans 15:27; 1 Corinthians 9:1–15; 1 Timothy 5:17 and 18**

We hope you will give all you can to TLTF in response to a blessing.

2 Cor. 9:8 (NKJV)

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

References:

The Tithing Dilemma (Ernest L. Martin)

Living with the Sin that Dwells in You

As a Christian, you not only live in a War Zone, you *are* a War Zone. It is critical to understand the battle between the two natures (*old* and *new*) in each child of God. Jesus Christ has set you free from the *penalty* of sin, but its *power* is still resident within you, and you must choose to exercise his power (*dunamis*) to overcome it, which you can.

Galatians 5:16 and 17

Romans 6:1–14, 7:14–25

John 1:5–2:5

References:

Romans (audio seminar - www.TLTF.org)

Who Is Jesus Christ?

“Who do you say that I am?”

Given that Jesus Christ is the lynchpin of Christianity, his identity must be the most important truth there is. So, if you were Satan, would you try to obscure or distort that truth?

2 Corinthians 4:3 and 4—Jesus is the IMAGE of God. God looks like Jesus.

If you followed the above question with the question, “Is Jesus also God?” most Christians, and especially those in positions of leadership in a church, would emphatically say Yes. *Huh?! If words have definitive, fixed meanings, how could Jesus be both the SON OF GOD and GOD? Is that not a valid question?*

If words have meanings, is it not valid to question such statements as:

- Jesus is 100% God and 100% man.
- Jesus is all God and all man.
- Jesus is the “eternally begotten” Son of God.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one God.

In this class, we have seen that the Word of God cannot contradict itself. We have seen many things that most Christians today are being taught that are not what the Bible really says. Now we must address the most “sacred cow” in Christianity, the so-called “Trinity.”

Do you know that the word “Trinity” is nowhere in the Bible?

Do you know that Christian leaders admit that they neither understand it nor can they explain it to you? Do you know that there are many variations of the “Trinity” among Trinitarians? Do you know anything about the history of how this incomprehensible notion came directly from pagan mythology? Do you know that quite a few pagan religions have a “Trinity?” Do you know that from the 5th–18th century tens of thousands of people were put to death because they refused to believe it and other fables?

As we examine a few verses about this critical issue, please know that I, too, once believed it because that's what I was taught as a youth in my Protestant church. It made no sense, but I never heard a rational alternative. If you are now an ardent Trinitarian, I beseech you to listen to what I present from the Word of God and see if it is not more intellectually and emotionally satisfying—and it will make Jesus look MUCH BIGGER, not smaller.

As we go along, I assure you that every verse you may think of to “prove” the Trinity or that Jesus is God is covered in our book, *One God & One Lord: Reconsidering the Cornerstone of the Christian Faith*. Each fits smoothly into all the verses relative to the topic. On the other hand, there are countless questions that Trinitarians cannot begin to answer if we restrict them to biblical terms and concepts.

Why the Lie? Remember the motto of TLTF: *Magnifying Jesus Christ, The Living Truth*. Satan's goal is to diminish Jesus, and that is exactly what the lie that he is God does. Think about it: if Jesus is God, it is no big deal that he lived a sinless life and then endured unspeakable torture for 40 hours, because nothing is hard for GOD. But for a human being to do what he did, and then to tell me that I can be like him...WOW!

Who Jesus is determines who he is not. Thus far we have seen that he is the Son of God, the Last Adam, a lamb from out of the flock, a male human being who began as a seed in the womb of Mary. If he is even one of those things, he cannot also be God.

Look at the following chart: In logic, *one point* of dissimilarity is enough to prove that two things are not identical.

One God & One Lord

God is spirit (John 4:24)	Jesus is not a spirit (Luke 24:40)
God is not a man (Num. 23:19)	Jesus is a man (1 Tim. 2:5)
God does not get tired (Isa. 40:28)	Jesus got tired (John 4:6)
God cannot be tempted (James 1:13)	Jesus was tempted (Heb. 4:15)
God is all-wise (Rom. 11:33)	Jesus grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
God knows everything knowable (Job 21:22)	Jesus did not (Mark 13:32)
God was always perfect (Ps. 18:30)	Jesus attained perfection (Heb. 2:10)
God cannot die (Deut. 33:27)	Jesus died (Luke 23:46)

Trinitarians even defend the mysteriousness of this concept, and look down upon those of us who prefer to stake our lives upon something logical and rational and sensible.

Millions of Christians believe that the Trinity is the “cornerstone” of the Christian faith. Here’s a good question: *Why would God make the most important truth there is absolutely impossible to see in Scripture?* Would He not instead have made it crystal clear? Yes, and *He did*.

John 17:3—The Dynamic Duo

1 Corinthians 8:6

1 Timothy 2:5

1 John 4:1–3

2 John 3, 7–9

John 10:30–39

1 Corinthians 15:22–28

Revelation 22:1–3

Believing this truth will likely cost you something in this lifetime, but you will be honoring the Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying the Father he too loved.

A Closing Story (from our book, *One God & One Lord*)

In concluding this historical overview, we would ask the reader to join us in considering that we are now at a point in history when the Church has the opportunity to again have both its eyes open. The Reformation started the process by reasserting the final authority of Scripture. The Enlightenment, the Renaissance and the rise of science revived interest in reason, nature and human freedom. The history of science has demonstrated that when faith in nature's orderliness, integrity and uniformity is combined with rational methodology, the result is the growth of real knowledge and power to shape man's environment. If we can escape the assumption that "religion" must operate by its own set of rules, and can instead come to view God as the Author of both His Word and Creation, perhaps we can approach the Word of God as honestly as true science approaches the physical universe. Then we can present, especially to thinking people who have not yet been reached by traditional Christianity, a consistent and rational faith that could cause the Word of God to prevail in our day as it did in the first century Church.

As long as Christians persist in teaching that God is essentially outside the realm of reason, even to the point that He embraces contradiction and absurdity, many will be limited in their ability to grow in real and practical knowledge of Him. Then various competitive sects and denominations will work only to preserve their own traditions and assumptions instead of discovering truth and building on these discoveries as the scientific community is able to do. A parallel expansion of true spiritual knowledge could happen in the Christian Church if the evidence of Scripture were upheld with the same conviction that scientists have about their final authority, the observable facts of nature. In science, if a hypothesis is contradicted by the evidence, it is revised. But in theology, even if a hypothesis is not supported by the whole of Scripture, or if it contradicts particular verses, it may well be accepted anyway.

"Ockham's Razor" is the philosophical maxim that whenever two or more theories are in competition to explain the same facts, the simpler of them is probably the truth. A good example of this is Copernicus' theory of the sun centered solar system. One of its most compelling aspects was its elegant simplicity. Traditionally, Christian theologians have favored complexity and mystery over simplicity and clarity. Roman Catholic apologist Cozens even says that what characterizes "heresy" is most often "oversimplification." While we recognize the importance of avoiding oversimplification, we also think that William of Ockham was onto something. Indeed, we believe that the Christology we are advancing in this book is very simple to understand and communicate, even to a child. This becomes compelling if we think about the fact that God would have us trust Him with childlike simplicity.

In fact, the widespread acceptance among Christians of the doctrine of the Trinity despite the fact that it is admittedly unbiblical and unintelligible, even after more than 1700 years of attempting to rationalize it, reminds us of the children's story titled "The Emperor's New Clothes." The Emperor needed a new wardrobe and summoned tailors to provide it. The "tailors" were actually "con-men" who pretended to labor over an invisible robe that only those who were wise could see. Neither the Emperor nor anyone who came in to "see" this robe would admit that he could not see it, because no one wanted to be called a fool.

Finally the day came for the Emperor to parade his new clothes before all his subjects. As he passed through the crowd, all “oohed” and “aahed,” pretending to be impressed with his outfit for fear of being thought a fool. But suddenly, from amidst the din of this massive chorus of adult fools, a small voice of reason pierced the pretentious proceedings. A little boy cried out, “Hey, look, the Emperor is in his underwear!”

At first the crowd reacted with horror, and turned to see who could be so foolish, so insolent and so presumptuous as to challenge what “everybody” believed. When they saw it was a child, one too innocent to be caught up in their pretense, they realized that he had stated what each of them knew in his heart but were silenced by the fear of public scorn. With relief, and then with joy, they laughed and laughed at the absurdity of the whole situation.

So it is in regard to the Church’s parade throughout the last 1700 years, clad in its mystical Trinitarian robe, which was fashioned by theologians who told the people that they were fools if they could not “see” that the Trinity was true. Its “emperors” have intimidated Christian people along the way with the threat of social and religious ostracism, and even death. They have then used the resulting acquiescence of the vast majority to reinforce their elitist “wisdom.” Among the onlookers, however, there has been a remnant, a steady stream of dissenting voices, men and women not afraid to be thought fools by their fellow men in pursuit of the wisdom of God. Surely God and His Son must weep to think of how many of them through the years have been silenced, not by Scripture or through rational and friendly persuasion, but by intimidation and by the sword.

We add our voices to a growing chorus that cries out for a rational faith in an insane age, a faith that harmonizes reason, Scripture, and authentic Christian community. We pray that many Christians will recognize the unbiblical nature of Trinitarian orthodoxy, throw off the shackles of theological tyranny, and embrace the simple truth that liberates the mind to worship and serve the one true God, the Father, and the one Lord, Jesus Christ, in spirit and in truth. Amen.

References:

One God & One Lord: Reconsidering the Cornerstone of the Christian Faith (John Lynn, Mark Graeser, John Schoenheit)

Our Heavenly Father Has No Equals (Don Snedeker)

34 Reasons Why The Holy Spirit Is Not A Separate “Person” From The Only True God, The Father (tltf.org)

47 Reasons Why Our Heavenly Father has No Equals or “Co-Equals” (tltf.org)

When Jesus Became God (Richard Rubenstein)

Is God A Trinity? (The United Church of God) [www.ucg.org/booklet/who-god/god-trinity]

Is There Death After Life?

Why the Lie? What difference does it make? (John 8:31 and 32)

1. It makes death a false hope.
2. It makes resurrection superfluous.
3. It undermines the will to live.
4. It makes people think they can talk to the dead.
5. It minimizes the accomplishment of Jesus Christ.

Usually, along with the lie that there is no such thing as death, comes the corresponding lie that it is *God* who determines when a person's life ends. Isn't that *murder*? **Hebrews 2:14** plainly says that it is the Devil who is responsible for death.

Of course, Christians speak in euphemistic terms like: "God called him home" or "He graduated." Actually, he was hit by a cement truck. God needs good people—why kill them?

Genesis 3:4 and 5

Romans 6:23

Historically, where did the lie come from? From pagan fables, such as a conscious, incorporeal part of you that lives on without a body. There are all kinds of Babylonian, Sumerian, Greek, Roman myths like that. Now, in Christian circles, it's called an "immortal soul." But the Bible never uses the word "soul" like that. A "soul" is a person, a being, and there are only two kinds: *dead* and *alive*. Some say it's your "spirit," but Scripture doesn't use that word like that either.

1 Corinthians 15:12—Then why did God need to raise Jesus?

Verse 26: How could death be an *enemy* if it is the gateway to eternal bliss?

Genesis 2:7

1 Peter 3:20

Acts 27:37

Ezekiel 18:20

Psalm 6:5

Psalm 115:17

Ecclesiastes 9:4–6, 10

Psalm 116:15—It costs God when a believer dies.

Job 7:21—Death is *the end* of you. You no longer exist, and you never will exist again unless Jesus died for us and God raised him from the dead.

Malachi 4:1—Another corresponding lie, necessitated by the first lie that there is no such thing as death, is that bad people will forever be tormented in fire. Therefore, they must go somewhere. The Hebrew word *sheol* means “the grave.” The Hebrew conception of a human was an integrated being who is either *dead* or *alive*.

Problem: The Greeks had no corresponding word for *sheol* because they didn’t believe in total death. The Greek conception of a human was a two-part being, body and soul. *Hades* was the closest word or concept they had, but that carried with it many mythological connotations. Modern versions correctly render *hades* as “the grave.”

Acts 2:27

Matthew 23:33—Greek: *gehenna* = Valley of Hinnom

Revelation 19:20—The Lake of Fire: God’s ultimate death penalty.

The few difficult verses must fit with the many clear verses. See *Is There Death After Life?* (Chapter Seven)

1 Samuel 28:1–20—Saul asked for someone with a “familiar spirit,” i.e., a medium. The demon impersonated Samuel, who was dead.

2 Kings 2:9–17—See Acts 8:39–40a

Matthew 17:1–9

Luke 16:19–31

Luke 23:39–43

The Christian’s true hope is not death because death is the end of life. Our hope, and our true comfort in the face of death, is that the Lord Jesus will come to rescue us from this present, evil age when we meet him in the air.

References:

Is There Death After Life? (John Lynn, Mark Graeser, John Schoenheit)

The Christian’s Hope (John Schoenheit)

The Fire That Consumes (Edward Fudge)

The Christian's True Hope

All's Well That Ends Inconceivably Well

You and I will be in the Millennial Kingdom because we will be coming back to the earth with the Lord Jesus. Prior to that, he will have taken us out of here to meet him in the air, and that is our True Hope.

The reality that at any second all we Christians could be caught up to be with him forever is what should put a song in our hearts, a spring in our steps, and a smile on our faces—not in an oblivious, Pollyanna kind of way, but in a “No matter how bad it gets everything is going to be way better than OK” way. This Hope is the bottom line of our endurance.

1 Corinthians 15:1–58

- What's in a seed, or, more accurately, **The Seed?**
- Jesus Christ is the Promised Seed (**Gen. 3:15**).
- The Son has “life in himself” (**John 5:26**).
- The Seed must be planted in order to produce fruit (**John 12:24**).
- Each seed has its own body (**1 Cor. 15:38**).
- Christians are born again of incorruptible seed (**1 Pet. 1:23**).
- Incorruptible seed produces an incorruptible body (**1 Cor. 15:44**).

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Titus 1:1 and 2, 2:11–14

References:

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt (www.tlhf.org)

The Christian's Hope (John Schoenheit)

At Last! The Kingdom of God

Today, when God looks down at “this terrestrial ball,” He sees an ocean of tears that is not on any map—6000 years-worth of tears shed by billions of men, women, and children.

Romans 8:18–23—Creation is groaning, we are groaning, Jesus is groaning. Think of the indescribable horror God has had to watch for 6000 years and Jesus for 2000. Does it look like man is inherently good? No. So what is the Hope that God and Jesus are eagerly anticipating, upon which we also should be focused?

Remember in the famous Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “The meek will inherit the EARTH”? Then why do most Christians believe that they will live forever in a place called “heaven”? Where did that idea come from? NOT from the Bible, which contains three uses of the word “heaven”:

- (1) the earth’s atmosphere
- (2) the celestial universe
- (3) the “heaven of heavens,” where God, Jesus, and angels abide

Matthew 4:17: “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

Many Christians talk about advancing *the kingdom* of heaven/God now, but there is no KING-dom without a KING. One day Jesus will be the King on earth, but that is still future.

Hebrews 6:19 = Our hope is the **anchor** of our lives.

Remember that the Millennial Kingdom is the prelude to the new earth, and, technically speaking, Paradise restored. Because of what Jesus Christ did, God is now able to keep all His promises to Israel (**Rom. 15:8**).

Ezekiel 37:11–14

Jeremiah 31:10–17

Daniel 2:44, 7:13 and 14

Jeremiah 31:31–34—The New Covenant is *not* with the Church, but with Israel, because it is they with whom God made the Old Covenant.

Isaiah 9:1–7—JESUS will make it happen. His first coming to the earth to Israel was filled with *Previews of Coming Attractions*.

Isaiah 61:1–8

What will it be like on earth for the 1000 years?

Isaiah 11:1–5—No more injustice.

Isaiah 2:1–4—The horrors of war no more.

Isaiah 11:6–10—Peace and safety. No danger.

Zechariah 8:3–5—No sickness. People will live to an old age.

Amos 9:11–15—Food aplenty! Yum, yum!

Revelation 21:3 and 4

NOW	THEN
War	Peace
Danger	Safety
Poverty	Prosperity
Injustice	Justice
Sickness	Health
Sadness	Joy

References:

The Christian's Hope (John Schoenheit)

What Kind of People Should We Be?

Faithfulness: Standing for a Lifetime

1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

Mark 14:3–9

Philippians 1:9–11

2 Peter 3:9–14

We should be who we are *in Christ*.

The “last word”? *God will have it.*

1 Peter 1:3–9

Acts 20:32

Closing prayer

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Holy Bible (God & Son, Inc.)

“That’s all, folks!”

See you at the Bema!

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

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Further Study Material

Other Books, Booklets, and Audio Teaching Seminars available from:

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Books

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One God & One Lord: Reconsidering the Cornerstone of the Christian Faith

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What is True Baptism?

Audio Teaching Seminars:

Jesus Christ, the Diameter of the Ages (www.TLTF.org)

Romans (www.TLTF.org)

Video Teaching Seminar:

THE END Times (Video Seminar JustTruthIt Channel on YouTube)

What is The Living Truth Fellowship?

The Living Truth Fellowship is an international community of Christian believers connected by the love of God, the spirit of God, and a common belief of the truth as it is revealed in the written Word of God. We desire to make known that truth to as many people as possible. As a legal entity, we are a non-profit church, tax-exempt United States (Indiana) corporation: The Living Truth Fellowship, Ltd.

The name of our ministry contains an intentional double entendre. The Word of God is the truth (John 17:17), and because it contains the very life of God (Eph. 4:18), it is the living truth (John 6:63; Heb. 4:12). As such, the word “living” is an adjective. But God intends that His truth be practiced, that is, He wants us to make “living” a verb by being living epistles of His truth. In that sense, being “verbal” means more than just speaking the Word; it also means doing it.

Our Father desires that we put His truth in our “inner parts” (Ps. 51:6) so that we might not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11). God looks on the heart of each person, and He does not measure the quality of one’s life by how much Bible he knows, but by how much knowledge of the truth he practices in his relationships, that is, how much of the heart of God does he manifest. We can objectively measure the quality of our lives by the quality of our relationships with people (Mark 12:28–31; 1 John 4:20 and 21).

Jesus Christ is our supreme example. In John 17:17, he said: “your word is truth,” and he exerted a lifelong effort to learn it precisely. But Jesus also LIVED the truth so flawlessly that he could say, I AM the truth (John 14:6). In other words, he BE true. And those are the two sides of the coin of truth, if you will: doctrinal and practical, propositional and relational. Without both sides, that coin won’t spend, that is, people won’t “buy” what we have to offer.

Our mission is to provide accurate biblical teaching so as to make known the Lord Jesus Christ, The Living Truth, and thus facilitate a worldwide community of mature Christians committed to following him by living the truth of God’s Word and sharing it with others.

We accomplish that mission by way of live teachers, camps and conferences for all ages and categories of people, books, newsletters, audio and video teachings, and internet outreach via our website. Those who choose to partake of and participate in these aspects of our ministry are free to utilize our resources as they see fit, whether by starting their own local fellowship or using our work in an already established group of Christians. Our goal is to provide avenues for individual Christians to exercise their unique callings in the Body of Christ.

The basis of all our belief and practice is the Bible, which is the revealed Word of God, flawless in its original writing by those 40 or so believers who wrote during a period of about 1500 years “...as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21 - NKJV). An honest look at the Bible reveals a coherence that is impossible for those writers to have achieved by collaboration. So-called “errors” or “contradictions” are due to man’s subsequent interference in the transmission of the text, or to mistranslations, or to misunderstandings of what is written. We seek truth rather than the religious traditions of men.

Our goal in setting forth the Scriptures is to enable each believer to understand them for himself so he can develop his own convictions, become an effective communicator of God's Word, and fulfill his individual ministry in the Body of Christ. Jesus said that knowing the truth would set one free (John 8:32), and our teachings have practical benefit in terms of one's quality of life—spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

One of our goals is to teach the Word to "...faithful men who are able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2–NKJV). We plan to produce seminars and courses of study whereby those who so choose can become able ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will ordain to Christian ministry those whom our faith community recognizes as meeting this criterion, whether by training in our ministry or via an ordination they received elsewhere that we recognize.



The Living Truth Fellowship

MAGNIFYING JESUS CHRIST, THE LIVING TRUTH

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