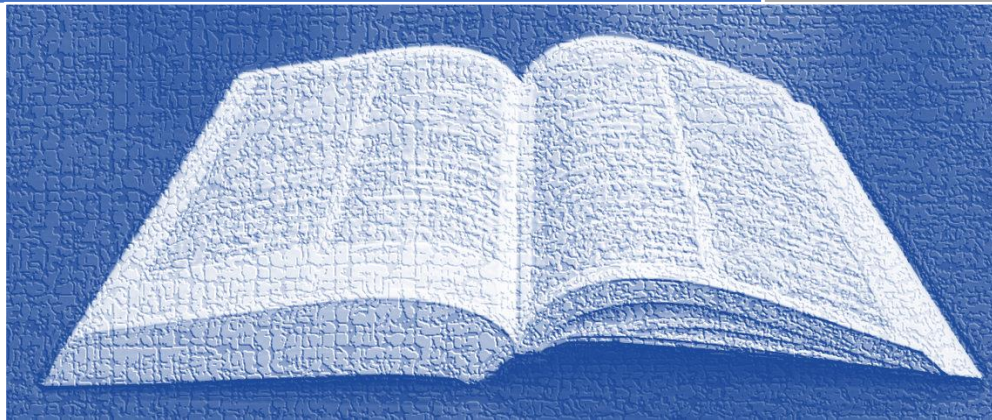


Bible Authority

Understanding Key Principles
and Making Application



Forward

The purpose of this book is not to promote myself as some so-called popular, religious personality, and the purpose of this book is not to present a man-made creed to replace the Bible (the Word of God), but rather the purpose of this book is to serve as an aid ([Rom.10:14](#)) to the Bible, for the serious Bible student.

The names mentioned in this book are in no way an implication of their agreement or endorsement of the thoughts and teachings included. I have been exposed, impacted and influenced to Bible Truth through many sources – from sermons presented, articles and books written, through written correspondence and private conversations with various teachers and preachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The inspired apostle Paul said,

- “I have **PLANTED**, Apollos **WATERED**; but **God gave the INCREASE.**” ([1Cor.3:6](#))

It is our hope and prayer that the teachings included in this book will help plant and or water the Word of God more fully, so that God can give the increase in you.

One poet said,

- “I am a part of all that I have met.”

If I have printed a thought that someone else has originated, I assure you, it has not been my malicious intent to deceive and promote the work of others as my own. My only intent is to document what I have learned, and share that gospel message with others who may benefit and who are sincerely interested in pleasing The Only True and Living God.

Some of the thoughts documented in this book are my own, but I know full well that many are the thoughts that I have learned from others, including the chart, which to be the best of my understanding, originated from Robert Harkrider and used by many preachers since, and therefore I claim no originality for the thoughts presented in this book. The Bible says that “**Jesus is the author and finisher of our Faith**” ([Heb.12:2](#)) and so I suppose the only originality that anyone can claim Biblically, is the style in which a person chooses to present those spiritual Truths.

Jesse G. Beeson, a dear friend IN-Christ, encouraged me with these words:

“**No man can monopolize (gospel) Truth;**

You can teach and I can teach just as much Truth as anyone else.”

And I’ll add,

- “You can learn and I can learn just as much Truth, as our humility to put away any religious prejudice and as our prayer, desire, study and preparation will take us. ...and it helps to receive a little encouragement along the way.” ☺

In short, we must love God **FIRST** ([Matt.22:37-38](#); [Matt.6:33](#); [Matt.10:37](#); [Lk.14:26](#); [2Jn.vs.9](#)).

It is my prayer and hope that you will give good attention to the Word of God and not unto the words and traditions of men.

Quotes are from the King James version of the Bible and are in crimson red, which contain underlined words and words in **BOLD** for emphasis and in my opinion, ease of reading.

This material may be freely copied and shared, to God’s glory.

Michael Wright

March 2016

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Consider the Restoration Principle, which really has to do with one's spiritual attitude.

True people of God will desire to think, speak, practice, teach and worship as those followers of Christ did in the first century. Bible followers will have a reverential attitude toward God, as the Bible says:

- "God is **GREATLY** to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in **REVERENCE**, of all them that are about him" ([Psalm 89:7](#)).
- "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may **SERVE** God acceptably with **REVERENCE** and godly **FEAR**:" ([Heb.12:28](#)).
- "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them **REVERENCE**: shall we not much rather be in **SUBJECTION** unto the Father of spirits, and **LIVE**?" ([Heb.12:9](#)).
- "...he that **FEARETH** Him, and worketh **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, is accepted **WITH** Him." ([Acts 10:35](#)).
- "The **FEAR** of the LORD is the **BEGINNING** of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" ([Prov.1:7](#)).

Followers of Christ realize the importance of God's thought's or His printed Words, over and beyond the thoughts or words of men, as the Bible says:

- "For **MY THOUGHTS** are **NOT** your thoughts, **NEITHER** are your ways **MY WAYS**, saith the LORD. For **AS** the heavens are **HIGHER** than the earth, so are **MY WAYS**, **HIGHER** than your ways, and **MY THOUGHTS**, than your thoughts" ([Isa.55:8-9](#)).
- "If we yet **SEEK** to please men, **RATHER** than God, we should **NOT** be the servants of Christ" ([Gal.1:10](#)).
- "We **OUGHT** to obey God, **RATHER** than men" ([Acts 5:29](#)).

Christians need to remember that it is the Word of God,

- that is a **LAMP** and **LIGHT** unto our feet and path ([Psalm 119:105](#)) ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that one **REASONS** from ([Acts 17:2](#)) ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God where one gets **UNDERSTANDING** ([Psalm 119:104](#)) ...not the words of men!
- God's Word is "**God's POWER**" to **SAVE**
(Read [Rom.1:14-16](#); [1Cor.15:1-4](#); [Jms.1:21](#)); ...not the words of men!

The Bible says,

- "According as His **DIVINE** power, hath **GIVEN** unto us **ALL** things that **PERTAIN** unto life and godliness, **THROUGH** the knowledge of Him that hath **CALLED** us to glory and virtue: Whereby are **GIVEN** unto us **EXCEEDING** great and **PRECIOUS** promises: that by these ye might be **PARTAKERS** of the **DIVINE** nature, having **ESCAPED** the corruption that is **IN** the world **THROUGH** lust." ([2Pet.1:3-4](#))

...and so it is the Word of God that gives us all things, not the words of men!

- "the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man... to direct his steps." ([Jer.10:23](#)).

Richard Fox – faithful gospel preacher for many years in Texas, would very often point out the obvious that,

- One can't follow after the great multitudes, as most will perish ([Matt.7:13-14](#));
- One can't follow after Mama, Daddy, son or daughter or the closest of family members ([Mtt.10:37](#); [Lk.14:26-27](#));
- One can't follow what a preacher says, just because he says it ([Gal.1:6-9](#));
- One can't follow after their own thoughts or what one thinks ([Isa.55:8-9](#));
- One can't do that which seems right ([Prov.14:12](#));
- One can't add to, nor take away, from the Words of God ([Rev.22:18-19](#); [Deut.4:2](#); [Prov.30:6](#)).

The same gospel preacher mentioned earlier, He would very wisely state something similar to this:

Good stewardship demands that one,

- “Choose that **Bible way**, that is **RIGHT** and can**NOT** be **wrong**”.

Richard Fox would go on to say that,

- “One should choose that way that is unquestionably and absolutely correct (scripturally speaking). One should **NOT** choose that way that **MIGHT** be right, or that way that **MIGHT** be wrong, but rather, one should choose that way that **IS** Right and can**NOT** be wrong!”that safe and cautious way.

One should,

- “**PROVE** all things, **HOLD fast** that which is **GOOD**” ([1Thess.5:21](#)),
- and don’t accept any and every wind of doctrine (or teaching), that comes along ([Eph.4:14](#)).

Every christian’s attitude toward the gospel, **SHOULD** be:

- “As the hart panteth **AFTER** the water brooks, so panteth my soul **AFTER** thee, **O God**. My soul **THIRSTETH** for **GOD**, for the **LIVING God**: when shall I **COME** and **APPEAR** before **God**” ([Psalm 42:1-2](#)).
- “How **LOVE** I, thy **LAW!** It is my meditation **ALL** the day” ([Psalm 119:97](#)).
- “How sweet are Thy **WORDS** unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than **HONEY** to my mouth!” ([Psalm 119:103](#)).
- “Thy **WORDS** were found, and I did **EAT** them; and Thy **WORD** was unto me, the **JOY** and **REJOICING** of mine heart” ([Jer.15:16](#)). “O earth, earth, earth, **HEAR** the Word of the LORD” ([Jer.22:29](#)).

Like the attitude of Ezra, christians will:

- “**PREPARE...** (their) heart to **SEEK** the law of the LORD, and to **DO** it, and to **TEACH...**” ([Ezra 7:10](#)).

With a restoration and reverent attitude, christians need to “go forward, by going back to the Bible!”, as the faithful of the past proclaimed. Great men of the past recognized this restoration principle by expressing the following motto’s:

- Insist on speaking as the **BIBLE** speaks ([1Pet.4:11](#); [Rom.4:3](#));
- Insist on being silent where the **BIBLE** is silent ([Lev.10:1-2](#); [Deut.17:3](#); [Heb.7:14](#));
- Insist on doing **BIBLE** things in **BIBLE** ways ([Jer.6:16](#); [1Pet.2:21](#); [Jn.13:15](#); [Phil.4:9](#); [Heb.8:5](#));
- Insist on calling **BIBLE** things by **BIBLE** names ([Col.3:17](#); [Acts 4:12](#));
 - and christians are called by and through the teachings of the gospel ([2Thess.2:14](#)),
 - and not by their own “**THINK** so’s” ([Isa.55:8-9](#)) or by what “**SEEMS**” right ([Prov.14:12](#)).
- In short, christians should believe in plain **BIBLE** teaching and preaching on all religious and moral matters ([2Tim.4:2](#)).
- True people of God must have Bible Authority for all things done in the name of religion ([Col.3:17](#); [2Jn.1:9](#)).

If one follow’s the Biblical recipe, they too can **DO** what those first century followers **DID** and **BE** what those New Testament followers of Christ **WERE**. Stray from the Biblical recipe and the end result or product is something other than christianity.

Patriotic, conservative constitutionalists, or those that appreciate the heritage of the founding fathers for this country (the United States of America), can get bent out of shape when liberal politicians make or attempt to make laws that go beyond, or are in total opposition of the U.S. Constitution and rightly so. **When it comes to the spiritual things that belong to God ([Mark 12:17](#)), are we as concerned?** Some of those same people that are interested and concerned about going beyond the U.S. Constitution, are not at all concerned about going beyond the Bible or being in total opposition of those things taught from the Word of God. Some of these same individuals care more about offending friends and family, than offending God. God clearly says we are to **LOVE Him** and His Truth **MORE** than brethren, both physical and spiritual (Read [Matt.22:37-40](#); [Matt.10:37](#); [Lk.14:26,27,33](#); [Matt.6:33](#)).

Without a doubt, one of the most important Bible subjects that anyone could ever consider, is understanding how principles of Bible Authority, are established; So one can avoid being:

- “evil men and seducers (who) shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” ([2Tim.3:13](#)).
- Who “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” ([2Tim.3:5](#)).
- Who “changed the truth of God into a lie,” and who do “not like to retain God in *their* knowledge,” ([Rom.1:24-32](#))
- “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” ([Acts 20:29-30](#)).

It is our hope and prayer that Bible believing folks would be interested in how they can and should have a restoration or grassroots, conservative attitude, in handling or dealing with the Word of God, in all religious matters. It is also our hope that once a person learns that they are in opposition to God’s Word, they will be honest enough to do something about it – they will repent, which is a change of mind that leads to a change in action ([Matt.21:28-30](#)) – they will change their religious practices to be in harmony with God’s Word, so that they can have God ([2Jn.1:9](#)).

Consider The Authority Principle.

The kindred of the high priest at Jerusalem ([Acts 4:6](#)), once asked,

- “By what POWER (or by what name) have ye done this?” ([Acts 4:7](#)).

In other words, “by what AUTHORITY”, have ye done this? All should ask this same question for everything done as individual christians and for any practice or activity engaged in by the collected assembled saints (that is the local church). One should realize and recognize that,

- “**ALL power** (that is, all authority) is given unto **ME** (that is, Christ) **IN heaven and IN earth.** ([Matt.28:18](#)).

The Bible teaches us to,

- “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. And whatsoever ye **DO** in word (that is teaching) or deed, (that is practice) do **ALL** in the name of the Lord Jesus (that is, by the authority of the Lord Jesus), giving thanks to God and the Father **by Him**” ([Col.3:16-17](#)).

God the Father, in reference to Christ Jesus, gave **SPECIFIC instructions** for His children to “Hear ye HIM” ([Matt.17:5](#)), as opposed to Moses or Elijah ([Matt.17:4](#)).

- “God... hath in these last days (that is the era of Christ vs. the Mosaical era) spoken unto us **BY His Son**, whom He hath appointed HEIR of **ALL things**, **BY whom** also, He **MADE** the worlds;” ([Heb.1:1-2](#)).

Jesus is described in the Bible as our,

- **SHEPHERD** ([Jn.10:11](#)),
- **CAPTAIN** ([Heb.2:10](#)),
- **HEAD** ([Eph.5:23](#)),
- **KING & LORD** ([1Tim.6:15](#)),
- And our **CREATOR** ([Isa.43:7](#); [1Pet.4:19](#); [Jn.1:1,14](#)).

So when God speaks, instructs or gives a direct statement or command, one **MUST** take heed or **DO** what he says. Because **HE**, has **ALL authority** ([Matt.28:18](#)) – We **MUST obey** ([Heb.5:9](#)).

Consider The Example Or Pattern Principle – Including God’s Silence.

We must make **ALL** things according to the **PATTERN** ([Heb.8:5](#)).

The LORD saith,

- “**STAND** ye in the ways, and **SEE**, and **ASK** for the **OLD** paths, where is the **GOOD** way, and **WALK** therein, and ye shall **FIND** rest for your **SOULS**” ([Jer.6:16](#)).
- “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also **SUFFERED** for us, leaving us an **EXAMPLE**, that ye should **FOLLOW** His steps:” ([1Pet.2:21](#)).
- “Those things, which ye have both **LEARNED**, and **RECEIVED**, and **HEARD**, and **SEEN** in me, **DO**: and the **God** of peace shall be **WITH** you” ([Phil.4:9](#)).

To determine a Bible pattern or an authorized example, one needs to take into consideration, all of God’s revelation on a particular Bible subject and not just some of God’s revelation. By excluding a portion of God’s thoughts, one would be guilty of adding or taking away ([Rev.22:18-19](#); [Deut.4:2](#); [Prov.30:6](#))

Carl Allen stated that one should study the **text**, **pre-text**, **post-text** and **extended** texts; and by doing so, one would have all of God’s thoughts on any given subject. Johnny Ramsey has stated that Biblically speaking, to study in context, is to study the whole counsel of God. God truly is His own best commentary.

There is a growing trend among Bible students, to study a single passage and thereby drawing an incorrect Biblical conclusion, as a result of failing to consider the extended text or the whole counsel of God, on a particular subject. It is true that one should be very careful to consider the immediate text of a particular Bible passage, but we should not go so far, as proclaiming that “topical lessons should be avoided”.

Example of failing to consider the whole counsel of God on a particular subject.

When pointing out that the local church should not have an eating facility, where spiritual worship is conducted, Some will quickly point out that the text is dealing with abusing the Lord’s supper. But they fail to realize, that regardless of the action (text) that resulted in the expanded text (Bible context), In many instances, the Word of God has more than one application. Regardless of the immediate Bible text, a spiritual truth was revealed for all time and that is, common meals are to be eaten at home ([1Cor.11:20-22](#)). Of course we want to harmonize the whole counsel of God and consider other Bible passages on the same subject, such as:

- Our worship is spiritual and not physical ([Jn.4:23-24](#))
- Kingdom of God is not meat and drink ([Rom.14:17](#))
- Some walked no more with Jesus because they sought Him for physical food and not spiritual ([Jn.6:26-27;66](#))
- Distinguishment between spiritual worship and physical meals are clarified separately in [Acts 2:46](#)
"And they, continuing daily with **one accord in the temple** (spiritual worship), and **breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat** (physical meal) **with gladness and singleness of heart,**"
- Eating facilities, are not an expedience or aid to the work and worship of the church. ..we’ll clarify more later.

Along with the pattern principle, we can learn a **Principle regarding God's Silence**. In the past, some did what God did **NOT** specifically command them – that is, God was **SILENT** on the matter.

In [Leviticus 10:1](#) we read:

- “Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he **COMMANDED** them **NOT**.” That is, God was **SILENT** on the matter. As a result of doing what God “commanded them not”, The Bible says: “There went out **FIRE** from the LORD, and **DEVoured** them, and they **DIED** before the LORD” ([Lev.10:2](#)).

The Bible reveals that some ,

- “hath gone and served **OTHER** gods, and **WORSHIPPED** them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which **I have NOT commanded**” – that is, God was **SILENT** on this matter ([Deut.17:3](#)).

The Bible tells us that the Levite tribe was the priestly tribe. The Bible also said,

- “it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake **NOTHING** concerning priesthood” ([Heb.7:14](#)). So therefore, Jesus could not be a priest while on this earth. What did the Bible say about the tribe of Juda being a priestly tribe? The Bible “spake **NOTHING**” – that is God was **SILENT** on the this matter.

Gospel preacher, Richard Fox said this, “**the SILENCE of the scriptures does not authorize anything.**” and how true that is. In other words, one can't find authority to do anything by saying, “The Bible doesn't say **NOT** to do this or that”. Please don't ever forget, that one has an obligation to,

- “**PROVE** all things, **HOLD fast** that which is **GOOD**” ([1Thess.5:21](#)).
- We need to put our “**APPROVAL** (on the) things that are **EXCELLENT**” ([Phil.1:10](#)).

We need to,

- “**RECEIVE** the word with all **READINESS** of mind, and **SEARCH** the scriptures **DAILY**, (to prove or determine) whether those things were so.” ([Acts 17:11](#)). “**STUDY** to shew thyself approved unto **God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY** dividing (or handling aright) the **WORD** of Truth” ([2Tim.2:15](#)).
- We cannot think of men “above (or beyond) that which is written” ([1Cor.4:6](#)).
- “The scripture(s) **canNOT** be broken (or violated)” ([John 10:35](#)).
- We must “observe **ALL** things” ([Matt.28:20](#)).

Consider The Principle Of Necessary Inference Or Implication, Which Is An Inescapable Conclusion.

Notice this example in nature:

- If one exits their home and notices that there is ice on their car windshield, one can necessarily reason, infer, imply, prove or conclude, that the temperature dropped below 32 degrees.

Now notice a few biblical examples

[example borrowed from a lesson presented by Tracy Pierce].

In [Acts chapter 8 and verse 5](#), the Bible says:

- “Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached **CHRIST** unto them.”

In [Acts chapter 8 and verse 12](#), the Bible says:

- “when they believed Philip **PREACHING** the things concerning the **KINGDOM** of God (that is, the church of God), and the **NAME** of Jesus Christ (that is, the authority and power of Jesus Christ), they were **BAPTIZED**, both men and women”.

One can necessarily reason, infer, imply, prove or conclude, that to preach **CHRIST**, necessarily includes **BAPTISM**.

In [Acts chapter 8](#), the Bible says:

- “Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And **AS** they went on their way, they came unto a certain **WATER**: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be **BAPTIZED**? And Philip said, **IF** thou believest with **ALL** thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ **IS** the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they **WENT** down **BOTH** into the **WATER**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he (Philip) **BAPTIZED** him (the eunuch). And when they were **COME** up **OUT** of the **WATER**, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **REJOICING**“ ([Acts 8:35-39](#)).

One can necessarily reason, infer, imply, prove or conclude, that to go “**DOWN** ...into the water” and to “come **UP** out of the water”, necessarily concludes that there must have been enough water to do so – implying that there was a full immersion and not a sprinkling or pouring.

Consider The Expedience Principle.

[borrowed from a lesson presented by Richard Fox].

The definition of expedience is:

- “That which serves to promote or advance” [Webster New Twentieth Century Dictionary (Unabridged); page 616; Standard Reference Works Publishing (1956)]
- In other words, expedience aids to accomplish a particular task.

For something to be expedient, it must do two things:

It must first be **LAWFUL** or **Biblical**:

- “All things are **LAWFUL** unto me, but all things are not **EXPEDIENT**: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any” ([1Cor.6:12](#)).

Secondly, for something to be expedient, it must **BUILD UP** or **EDIFY**:

- “All things are **LAWFUL** for me, but all things are not **EXPEDIENT**: all things are lawful for me, but all things **EDIFY not**” ([1Cor.10:23](#)).

To serve as an example, one might consider “when can christians meet for worship”?

[example borrowed from a lesson presented by Richard Fox]

FIRST, one must consider what is **LAWFUL**?

- The first day of the week ([Acts 20:7](#); [1Cor.16:2](#)).

SECONDLY, one must consider what would **BUILD UP** or **EDIFY**?

- Could christians meet for worship at 3:00am on Sunday morning? Well, it would certainly be lawful, because it would be on the first day of the week – But would it edify or build up? It is not likely that anyone would be very edified, by assembling for worship at 3:00am in the morning. Most christians that I know, meet some time between 9:00am and Noon on the first day of the week, because that time frame is edifying for most.

Consider The Application Principle – With Illustrations (Applications) Or Examples Of Generic And Specific Authority (Bible), Including Aids (Expedience) vs. Additions (No Bible).

[example and format borrowed from a lesson presented by Richard Fox and from an article authored by Robert Harkrider, titled "Establishing Bible Authority"]

Consider Noah's Ark:

Think about the command or instruction given to Noah to build an ark.

- In the book of Genesis, we find that God gave a **GENERIC command** for Noah, to build an ark.
- Then God gave **SPECIFIC instructions** for Noah in [Genesis 6:14](#) to build that ark out of gopher wood.
- Notice that God did not tell Noah what **tools** he could use, so Noah would have authority from God, to use an axe, hammer, nails and a saw as an **AID** (or expedience) to carry out the command given him, to build an ark.
- However, If Noah had decided to utilize **pine wood** as the source to construct the ark, **rather** than **gopher wood**, Noah would **NOT** have had authority to do so, because God gave **SPECIFIC** instruction for Noah to use **gopher wood** and that specific instruction would have **EXCLUDED** any other kind of wood. Utilizing **pine wood** to construct the ark, instead of **gopher wood**, would have been an **ADDITION** to what God had instructed.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Build an Ark	Build Ark out of Gopher wood (Gen.6:14)	Axe, hammer, nails, saw. White Gopher, Red Gopher ?	Pine, Oak or Cherry wood

With these principles and some attention to detail in our study efforts, one can have confidence in their spiritual convictions on any Biblical subject.

If one is to have a grassroots, conservative, reverential attitude toward the Word of God, one needs to firmly believe that **God IS**, so let's consider some **Evidences**, utilizing these principles on Bible Authority.

GENERICALLY life exist. SPECIFICALLY,

- “in the beginning, God **CREATED** the heaven and the earth” ([Gen.1:1](#)).

To **AID** in establishing the evidences that God is the **CREATOR** of life, the Bible says:

- “the **INVISIBLE** things of Him from the **CREATION** of the world are clearly **SEEN**, being understood by the things that are **MADE**, even his eternal **POWER** and **GODHEAD**; so that they are without **EXCUSE**.” ([Rom.1:20](#)).

In his home Bible studies, gospel preacher Richard Fox, pointed out that “God’s Word always agrees with true science”. Long before man knew it, The Bible teaches that,

- The Earth **IS** a circle; **NOT** flat ([Isa.40:22](#)).
- The Earth **HANGS** on nothing; **NOT** suspended by the Greek god atlas ([Job 26:7](#)).
- The stars **ARE** innumerable; **BEFORE** man knew it ([Jer.33:22](#)).
- The Blood of man **IS** all the same; **BEFORE** man knew it ([Acts 17:26](#)).
- The Paths of the Sea **EXISTED**; **BEFORE** oceanography was discovered ([Psalm 8:8](#)).

God didn’t have to reveal these evidences, but He did so as an **AID** or expedience, to confirm that He **IS**. But on the other hand, if one attempted to reason with him or herself that it took eons of time, even millions and billions of years for just one man to evolve from a tadpole and or a monkey into a man, would be something in **ADDITION** to the revealed evidences.

- As pointed out by gospel preacher Foy E. Wallace, Jr, One would have to realize, that not only would such an event have to occur **ONCE** by accident for a man to evolve, but such an event would have to occur **TWICE** for man to be able to reproduce with a woman, at the **SAME TIME**!
- With such reasoning, one would be demonstrating a darkened, foolish heart in their vain imagination ([Rom.1:21](#)).
- Truly , “The **FOOL** hath said in his heart, There is no God” ([Prov.14:1](#)).

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Life Exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth (Gen.1:1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (Rom.1:20) • The Earth IS a <u>circle</u>; NOT flat (Isa.40:22) • The Earth HANGS on <u>nothing</u>; NOT suspended by the Greek god atlas (Job 26:7) • The stars ARE <u>innumerable</u>; BEFORE man knew it (Jer.33:22) • The Blood of man IS all the <u>same</u>; BEFORE man knew it (Acts 17:26) • The Paths of the Sea EXISTED; BEFORE oceanography was discovered (Psalm 8:8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolved from a tadpole or a monkey as a result of some accidental so-called “big bang theory”.

An extension to believing that “God is” AND an absolute necessity of being apart of the religion of Christ, is to acknowledge that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. Consider some thoughts regarding the Deity of Christ. [Resource: series of lessons titled “What Think Ye Of Christ”; presented by Richard Fox - <http://www.gospelnotes.info/recorded-lessons/richard-fox.html>]

GENERICALLY, Jesus was born. SPECIFICALLY,

- Jesus left Heaven to be born of a woman ([Gal.4:4-5](#)) miraculously without a fleshly father ([Matt.1:18-25](#); [Lk.1:26-28](#)).
- Jesus “**TOOK** upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” ([Phil.2:7](#)).
- “In the beginning was the **WORD**, and the **WORD** was with God, and the **WORD** was God” ([Jn.1:1](#)).
- “And the **WORD** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the **ONLY** begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth” ([Jn.1:14](#)).
- “When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, **MADE** of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” ([Gal.4:4-5](#)).
- “**LET** this mind be **IN** you, which was also **IN** Christ Jesus: Who, being in the **FORM** of God, thought it not robbery to be **EQUAL** with God: But **MADE** himself of no reputation, and **TOOK** upon him the **FORM** of a servant, and was **MADE** in the likeness of **MEN**: And being found in fashion **AS** a man, he **HUMBLED** himself, and became **OBEDIENT** unto death, even the **DEATH** of the cross” ([Phil.2:5-8](#)).
- “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the **SON** of **MAN** hath not where to lay his head” ([Matt.8:20](#)).

Notice some of the attributes of Jesus. Regarding His **HUMANITY**, the Bible says that,

- Jesus **HUNGERED** ([Lk.4:2](#)),
- Jesus got **THIRSTY** ([Jn.19:28](#)),
- Jesus grew **WEARY** or got tired ([Jn.4:6](#)),
- Jesus **SLEPT** ([Mk.4:38](#)),
- Jesus **SUFFERED** ([Heb.5:8](#); [1Pet.2:21](#); [1Pet.4:1](#)), **BLEED** ([Heb.13:12](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [Rom.5:9](#); [Col.1:14,20](#)), and **DIED** ([1Pet.3:18](#)).

Regarding the attributes of His **DEITY**, the Bible says that,

- Jesus demonstrated His omnipotence or His eternal **Power** by performing miracles ([Mk.2:1-12](#); [Jn.2:1-11](#); [Jn.20:30-31](#); [Acts 2:22](#)).
- Jesus demonstrated his omniscience or His eternal **Knowledge** ([Matt.12:25](#); [Lk.6:8](#); [Jn.21:17](#); [Matt.22:1-6](#); [21; 47](#); [Matt.26:31-35](#); [69-75](#); [Jn.16:30](#); [Jn.13:11](#); [Matt.22:18](#)).
- Jesus demonstrated His omnipresence or His eternal **Presence** when the Bible said that:
“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these” ([Jn.1:45-50](#)).

So Jesus was both man and God at the same time. His body was 100% human and His Spirit was 100% Deity. God did not have to reveal or prove to mankind (to His creation) that Jesus was God. But to **AID** in further proving that Jesus **IS** the Son of God, the Bible teaches us that,

- His birth was prophesied thousands of years prior to his physical birth ([Gen.3:15](#) “her seed”; [Isa.7:14](#)).
- The wisemen saw His star that followed Jesus (a miraculous event) ([Matt.2:2,7,9,10](#)).
- Jesus was worshipped while He was in the flesh ([Jn.4:24](#); [Matt.2:11](#); [Matt.21:9](#); [Jn.12:13](#); [Matt.14:33](#); [Matt.28:9](#)), But men or angels were **NOT** to be worshipped ([Acts 10:25-26](#); [Rev.22:8-9](#); [Matt.4:9-10](#)).

But on the contrary, if one were to suggest that Jesus was only a man, that He had both a human flesh and a human spirit, and that any power He had was only through the Holy Spirit, they would indeed be teaching another Jesus ([2Cor.11:3-4](#); [Gal.1:6-9](#)) and such would be an **ADDITION** to what has been revealed through the Word of God.

- God the Son, has always been God and He has always had an **ALL powerful**, **ALL knowing**, **OMNIPRESENT** and **ETERNAL** Spirit. When God the Son left Heaven and came to Earth, He put on a new fleshly body for His Spirit to dwell in. He did not give up His Eternal Spirit, He temporarily gave up His spiritual body. It is His **ETERNAL** Spirit that makes Him God’s Son!

Jesus asked in the first century and still asks today:

- **“What think ye of Christ? Whose son is He?”** ([Matt.22:41-46](#))?
- Jesus “asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **UPON** this **ROCK** I will **BUILD MY church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” ([Matt.16:13-18](#)).

What is the **“ROCK”** mentioned in [verse 18](#)? Peter’s statement: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”, is the bed-**ROCK foundation** of the religion of Christ.

- **“For other FOUNDATION can no man lay, than that is laid, which IS Jesus Christ”** ([1Cor.3:11](#)).

In fact, that is **THE** great confession that the Eunuch made and the confession that everyone who desires to be a christian, **MUST** make. Notice the context of [Acts chapter 8](#):

- **“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him **JESUS**. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ IS the Son of God**. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing”** ([Acts 8:35-39](#)).

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Jesus was born	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus was all God and all man at the same time. • Jesus is the Son of God; the only begotten of God the Father, • but he was also Miraculously from the seed of woman or the son of man. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth prophesied hundreds of years prior to the miraculous event. • Jesus performed miracles. • Jesus was worshipped 	<p>Such statements as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus had a human spirit. • Jesus was only a man. • Jesus only performed miracles through the Holy Spirit. <p>...deny the Deity of Christ.</p>

Believing and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God ([Acts 8:35-37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#)) is essential to the religion of Christ. Referencing the scene of the burning bush in [Exodus chapter 3](#), The Bible says,

- “ye shall **DIE** in your sins: for **IF** ye believe **NOT** that **I AM**, ye shall **DIE** in your sins” ([Jn.8:24](#)).
- “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I AM**” ([Jn.8:58](#)).
- “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath **NOT** believed in the name (that is, in the power or authority) of the **ONLY** begotten **SON** of God” ([Jn.3:18](#)).
- “For **IN** Him (that’s **IN** Jesus, the Son of God) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” ([Col.2:9](#); [Rom.1:20](#)).
- “He that **REJECTETH** me, and receiveth **NOT** my **WORDS**, hath one that **JUDGETH** him: the **WORD** that I have spoken, the same shall **JUDGE** him in the last day” ([Jn.12:48](#)).
- “Whosoever therefore shall **CONFESS** Me before men, him will I **CONFESS** also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall **DENY** Me before men, him will I also **DENY** before my Father which is in Heaven” ([Matt.10:32-33](#)).

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but notice some things that the Son of God has done for us, which should spur us on and motivate us, to do everything Biblically necessary, to be His.

In [Isaiah 53:4-8](#), it was prophesied,

- “⁴He hath **BORNE** our griefs, and **CARRIED** our sorrows:
YET we did esteem him **STRICKEN**, **SMITTEN** of God, and afflicted.
- ⁵But He was wounded for **OUR** transgressions, He was bruised for **OUR** iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was **UPON** Him; and **WITH** His stripes, we are **HEALED**.
- ⁶**ALL** we like sheep have **GONE** astray; we have **TURNED** every one, to his **OWN** way;
and the **LORD** hath **LAI**D on Him, the **INIQUITY** of us all.
- ⁷He was **OPPRESSED**, and He was **AFFLICTED**, **YET** He opened **NOT** His mouth: He is **BROUGHT** as a lamb to the slaughter, and **AS** a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth **NOT** his mouth.
- ⁸He was **TAKEN** from prison and **FROM** judgment: and **WHO** shall declare His generation?
for He was cut off, **OUT** of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people, was He **STRICKEN**”.

We read in [1 Peter 1:18-21](#),

- “Forasmuch as ye **KNOW**, that ye were **NOT** redeemed with **CORRUPTIBLE** things, **AS** silver and gold, from your **VAIN** conversation, received by **TRADITION** from your fathers; **BUT** with the **PRECIOUS** blood of Christ, **AS** of a lamb **WITHOUT** blemish and **WITHOUT** spot: **WHO** verily was foreordained, **BEFORE** the foundation of the world, **BUT** was manifest **IN** these last times, **FOR** you, Who **BY** Him, **DO** believe in God, that **RAISED** Him up from the dead, and **GAVE** Him glory; that **YOUR** faith and hope, **MIGHT** be **IN** God.”

[Phil.2:8](#) says,

- “being found **IN** fashion, **AS** a man, He **HUMBLED** Himself, and became **OBEDIENT** unto death, even the **DEATH** of the cross.”

In [1Pet.2:24](#), we read:

- “His **OWN** self, bare **OUR** sins, in His **OWN** body, **ON** the tree, that **WE**, being **DEAD** to sins, should **LIVE** unto righteousness: **BY** whose stripes, ye were **HEALED**.”

In [2Cor.5:21](#), Paul wrote

- “For He hath **MADE** Him to be sin **FOR** us, who knew **NO** sin; that we might be **MADE**, the righteousness of God **IN** Him.”
- “He **IS** the propitiation (Strong’s# 2434 - atoning sacrifice or an offering to appease God’s wrath) for **OUR** sins: and **NOT** for ours **ONLY**, but **ALSO**, for the sins of the **WHOLE** world” ([1Jn.2:2](#)).

An inspired apostle said,

- “we have **SEEN** and **DO** testify that the Father **SENT** the Son, to be the **SAVIOUR** of the world. ([1Jn.4:14](#)).

[Colossians 1:20](#) said he

- “made peace **THROUGH** the blood of His cross, **BY** Him, to reconcile **ALL** things unto Himself;”

And [2Cor.8:9](#) says,

- “For ye **KNOW** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was **RICH**, yet for **YOUR** sakes, He **BECAME** poor, that ye **THROUGH** His poverty, **MIGHT** be rich.”
- “But Christ, **AFTER** he had offered **ONE** sacrifice, for sins for **EVER**, sat **DOWN**, on the right **HAND** of God” ([Heb.10:12](#)).
- “**WORTHY** is the Lamb that was **SLAIN** to **RECEIVE** power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. **BLESSING**, and honour, and glory, and **POWER**, be unto **HIM**, that **SITTETH** upon the throne, and unto the **LAMB**, for **EVER** and ever” ([Rev.5:12-14](#)).
- “Unto Him that **LOVED** us, and **WASHED** us, from **OUR** sins, in His **OWN** blood,” ([Rev.1:5](#)).

Jesus stated in [Matthew 26:28](#)

- “this **IS MY** blood, **OF** the **NEW** testament, which is **SHED** for many, **FOR** the remission of sins.”

The Bible says, when

- “**ONE** of the soldiers, with a spear, **PIERCED** his side, and forthwith **CAME** there out, blood **AND** water” ([Jn.19:34](#)).

In [Acts 20:28](#), we read that Jesus,

- “...**PURCHASED**, ...the church of God, ...with His **OWN** blood.”
- “Christ **DIED** for our sins, **ACCORDING** to the scriptures; And that He was **BURIED**, and that He **ROSE** again the third day, **ACCORDING** to the scriptures.” ([1Cor.15:1-4](#)).

In fact, [1Tim.2:6](#); [Matt.20:28](#) and [Mark 10:45](#) says that Jesus ,

- “**GAVE** Himself, a **RANSOM** for all.”
- “In **WHOM** we have redemption, **THROUGH** His blood, the **FORGIVENESS** of sins, according to the riches **OF** His grace.” ([Eph.1:7](#)).

[Heb.2:9](#) says,

- “we see Jesus, who was **MADE** a little lower than the angels, **FOR** the suffering of **DEATH**, **CROWNED** with glory and honour; that **HE**, by the **GRACE** of God, should taste **DEATH**, for **EVERY** man.”

Truly Paul said for all of us

- “**THANKS** be unto God for His **UNSPEAKABLE** gift” ([2Cor.9:15](#)).
- “Who **GAVE** Himself, for **OUR** sins, that he might **DELIVER** us, **FROM** this present **EVIL** world, according to the **WILL** of God **AND** our Father.” ([Gal.1:4](#)).
- “This is a **FAITHFUL** saying, and **WORTHY** of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus **CAME** into the world to **SAVE** sinners; **OF** whom I am **CHIEF**” ([1Tim.1:15](#)).

In comparison and in contrast, muhammed of the muslim religion or the nation of islam, did **NOT** and could **NOT** accomplish what the Son of God accomplished!

Before one can equip themselves with a conservative, grassroots attitude, they need to know how to apply the teachings of the Old Testament today – So Consider the Purpose of the Old Testament.

GENERICALLY, the Old Testament (O.T.) is for one’s learning ([Rom.15:4](#)). **SPECIFICALLY**, the purpose of the O.T. IS:

- To Reveal sin to man ([Rom.7:7](#); [3:20](#));
- To be a school master unto Christ ([Gal.3:19-25](#));
- To Reveal a shadow of good things to come ([Heb.10:1-9](#));
- For our learning ([Rom.15:4](#));
- (WAS) for the physical Jewish Nation at Horeb ([Deut.5:1-3](#)) and never for the gentiles; Even those physical Jews that want to remain faithful to God are under grace now and **NOT** under the old law ([Rom.6:14-15](#)).

To **AID** in Man’s quest to understand God more fully, one might study from the Old Testament to learn that:

- God is **ALL**-Powerful or Omnipotent and is solely responsible for creation and life ([Gen.1:1](#); [Psalm 8:3](#); [Gen.2:7](#); [Job 12:10](#); [Isa.42:5](#)).
- God is **ALL**-Knowing or Omniscient and knows all about what **HE** has done ([Isa.40:26](#); [Psalm 139:1-6](#)).
- God is **ALL**-Present or Omnipresent ([Psalm 139:7-12](#)) and unlimited by time and or space ([1Kings 8:27](#)).
- God has a fierce attitude toward evil ([Ez.18:20](#)).
- God has a saving attitude toward righteousness ([Gen.6:7-9](#)).

But on the contrary, if one would refer to the Old Testament for law today, they would err indeed. To pull something from the Old Testament as a binding law, will sever one’s relationship with Christ or cause one to fall from Grace ([Gal.5:2-4](#)). The Bible clearly teaches that even the Jew’s of old, were no longer under the Old Law, but under grace ([Rom.6:14-15](#)), if they wanted to remain faithful to God.

- **Keeping the Sabbath day holy** is not mentioned in the New Testament and thus not demanded. New Testament, 1st century christians did assemble on the first day of the week (Read [Acts 20:7](#); [1Cor.16:2](#)) and 21st century christians should also; to worship God in spirit and in truth ([Jn.4:24](#)).
- **Animal sacrifices** are not demanded, instead christians are instructed in [Romans 12:1](#) to “**present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable** (or spiritual) **service.**” As Jesus washed us of our sins with His own blood ([Rev.1:5](#)).
- **Tithing** is not demanded, instead christians follow the New Testament example to **give**. There is no New Testament examples and thus no Bible authority for **tithing** or **raising** money (such as bake sales, etc). Such would be something in **ADDITION** to New Testament **giving**, which is employed “**as God hath prospered**” ([1Cor.16:2](#)) and as one “**purposeth in his heart**”, ...cheerfully ([2Cor.9:7](#)).
- Remember, to go back to the Old Law will sever one’s relationship with Christ ([Gal.5:2-4](#)).

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
For our learning (Rom.15:4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for the Jewish Nation prior to the Death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Deut.4:7-8; 5:1-3; Rom.6:14-15). • To reveal sin to man (Rom.7:7; 3:20). • To be a school master unto Christ (Gal.3:19-25). • To reveal a shadow of good things to come (Heb.10:1-9). • For our learning (Rom.15:4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from O.T. teaching regarding God’s power, God’s fierce anger, & regarding the creation, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to O.T. as a binding law or practice for christians today. (Gal.5:2-4; Col.2:13-16; Eph.2:13-16; Heb.8:6-9)

To adequately equip oneself with a conservative, grassroots attitude toward the Word of God, they need to Understand the Seriousness of Sin. Notice these thoughts from the Word of God.

GENERALLY, one is to be wise. To **AID** in being wise, one might,

- “**REDEEM**... (make the most of) the time, because the **DAYS** are evil” ([Eph.5:16](#)).

SPECIFICALLY, one is to be

- “wise **IN** Christ” ([1Cor.4:10](#));
- “See then that ye **WALK** circumspectly, **NOT** as fools, **BUT** as **WISE**” ([Eph.5:15](#)).

But on the contrary, If one were to be,

- “**WISE** in their **OWN** eyes and **PRUDENT** in their **OWN** sight” ([Isa.5:21](#)), such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible teaching.

If one were to claim that willful sin is okay, such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible teaching.

- “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God **FORBID**. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” ([Rom.6:1-2](#)).

We need to be careful about willful sin and having pleasure in sin or unrighteousness; As the Bible says that some,

- “received **NOT** the love of the **TRUTH**, that they **MIGHT** be saved. And for this cause God shall send them **STRONG delusion**, that they should believe a **LIE**: That they all might be **DAMNED** who believed **NOT** the **TRUTH**, but had **PLEASURE** in unrighteousness” ([2Thess.2:10-12](#)).
- “He that despised Moses' law **DIED** withOUT mercy under two or three witnesses: 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?” ([Heb.10:28-20](#)).

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Be wise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be wise in Christ (1Cor.4:10). • Walk circumspectly as wise (Eph.5:15). 	Redeem our time or make the most of our time (Eph.5:16).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise in one’s own eyes (Isa.5:21). • Sin willfully (Rom.6:1-2). • Participate in the sins of others (1Tim.5:22; 2Jn.1:10-11). • Give their hearty approval for sin or Have pleasure in sin or in unrighteousness (2Thess.2:10-12; Rom.1:28-32).

Having a better understanding on the seriousness of sin, illustrates the necessity and importance of being wise **IN** Christ. Notice how the Bible describes **SIN**:

- Paul tells us that **SIN** is exceedingly sinful ([Rom.7:13](#)).
- John tells us that **SIN** is transgression of God’s law ([1Jn.3:4](#)),
- And that **SIN** is ALL unrighteousness ([1Jn.5:17](#)).
- Paul says that **SIN** is the sting of death ([1Cor.15:56](#)).
- The Hebrew writer tells us that **SIN** is temporary pleasure ([Heb.11:25](#)).
- The Bible says that **SIN** is grievous ([Genesis.18:20](#)),
- That **SIN** is deceitful ([Heb.3:13](#)),
- AND that **SIN** is OF the devil ([1Jn.3:8](#)).

Consider What Sin DOES,

- Notice, that the Psalmist taught, that **SIN** carries a **HEAVY** burden ([Psalms 38:4](#)).
- The Bible teaches that **SIN** separates mankind **FROM** God ([Isaiah 59:1-2](#); [Matt.7:21-23](#)).

James says that:

- “**EVERY** man **IS** tempted, **WHEN** he is drawn away of his **OWN** lust, and enticed. **THEN**, when lust **HATH** conceived, it bringeth forth **SIN**: and **SIN**, when it is **FINISHED**, bringeth forth **DEATH**” ([James 1:14-16](#)).
- So, “the wages of **SIN** is **DEATH**” ([Romans 6:21-23](#));
- “The **SOUL** that sinneth, it shall **DIE**” ([Ezekiel 18:20](#)).

No wonder the Bible teaches that we are to,

- “**HATE** and **ABHOR**, that which is evil;” ([Amos 5:15](#); [Rom.12:9](#)).

We need to ask ourselves: Just How Sensitive to Sin are we? Do we take sin lightly? Are we quick to joke about sinful conditions? One’s sensitivity to Sin, may very **WELL** determine, whether or not one is,

- “**WISE** in their **OWN** eyes and **PRUDENT** in their **OWN** sight” ([Isa.5:21](#)).

SADLY for some, the

- “abominations” committed are considered “a **LIGHT** thing” ([Ezek.8:17](#)).

[Jeremiah 6:15](#) reads:

- “Were they **ASHAMED**, when they had, committed abomination? **Nay**, they were not at **ALL** ashamed, **NEITHER** could they blush: therefore they shall **FALL** among them that **FALL**: they **SHALL** be cast **DOWN**, saith the LORD”.

And [Isaiah 5:20-21](#) reads:

- “**WOE** unto them that call **EVIL** good, and **GOOD** evil; that put **DARKNESS** for light, and **LIGHT** for darkness; that put **BITTER** for sweet, and **SWEET** for bitter! **WOE** unto them that are **WISE**, in their **OWN** eyes, and **PRUDENT** in their **OWN** sight!”.

If we are going to be “Wise **IN** Christ” ([1Cor.4:10](#)), one can’t call evil good, and good evil. We can’t call the homosexual lifestyle **GOOD** And those that oppose that sinful act as **EVIL**; **NOT** if we’re going to be “Wise **IN** Christ” ([1Cor.4:10](#)). Some have given their “**heartly approval**” or “have **pleasure** in them that **DO**” such things ([Rom.1:28-32](#)); But we **MUST** not, **canNOT**, **IF** we are to be “Wise **IN** Christ” ([1Cor.4:10](#)).

Consider How Sin OUGHT to be Viewed. We **ALL** need to understand, that it was **MY** sin, and it was **YOUR** sin, that crucified Christ. The apostle Paul said:

- “For I delivered unto you, **FIRST** of all, that which I **ALSO** received, How that Christ **DIED**, for **OUR** sins, according to the scriptures;” ([1Cor.15:3](#)).

Paul said to the Galatians:

- “Grace be to **YOU**, and **PEACE** from God the Father, **AND** from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who **GAVE** Himself for **OUR** sins, that He might **DELIVER** us, from this present **EVIL** world, According to the will of God **AND** our Father:” ([Gal.1:3-4](#)).

Concerning Jesus, Paul said to the Philippians:

- “Being found in fashion **AS** a man, He **HUMBLED** himself, And became **OBEDIENT** unto death, Even the **DEATH**, of the cross.” ([Phil.2:8](#)).

You reckon Jesus would have left Heaven, If disobeying God were **NOT** serious, if **SIN** were not serious?

- **Surely** one can see the seriousness of sin,
- and that We are **truly** indebted to Christ Jesus our Lord ([Matt.18:21-35](#)),
- that **Christ** is the **only** way ([Jn.14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)).

Gospel preacher, Johnny Ramsey once said,

- **“Surely** one could see the **NEED**,
- to place their FAITH,
- and to place their TRUST,
- where God has placed **OUR** sins,
- **ON JESUS CHRIST** ([Isa.53:6](#); [2Cor.5:21](#); [Gal.3:13](#))”.

If one wants to have a conservative, grassroots attitude, one needs to be taught the whole counsel of God on how to be a child of God or a christian, so they themselves can respond accordingly and be able to teach others to do the same – so Consider the Subject of Salvation or Redemption. [Resource: gospel sermon presented by Johnny Ramsey, titled “The Chain of Salvation”]

GENERICALLY, one is saved by God’s grace ([Eph.2:8](#); [Acts 15:11](#)), **through** the blood of Christ ([Eph.1:7](#); [1Pet.1:18-20](#)).
SPECIFICALLY, salvation has two parts – God’s part & Man’s part.

With **God’s part**, one is:

- Saved by **God’s Grace** ([Eph.2:8](#); [Acts 15:11](#)),
- Saved by **God’s Mercy** ([Titus 3:5](#)),
- Saved by the **Blood of Christ** ([Eph.1:7](#); [1Pet.1:18-20](#)),
- and Saved by the **Gospel of Christ** ([Rom.1:16](#); [1Cor.15:1-2](#); [James 1:21](#)).

With **Man’s part**, one is:

- Saved by Hearing the gospel or by Calling on the name or the authority of our Lord’s gospel ([Rom.10:1-3,13-17](#); [2Thess.2:14](#); [Acts 4:12](#); [Matt.7:21](#));
- Saved by **Faith** or **Belief in Christ** ([Acts 16:31](#); [Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#); [Jn.3:16,18](#));
- Saved by **Repentance** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 11:18](#); [Acts 17:30](#));
 - **Definition:** A change of mind that leads to a change in action ([Matt.21:28-30](#)).
 - **Examples:** “Let him that stole, steal no more” ([Eph.4:28](#)); “Go and sin no more” ([Jn.8:11](#)).
- Saved by **Confession** ([Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#); [Acts 8:37](#));
- Saved by **Baptism** ([1Pet.3:21](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [Acts 22:16](#); [Lk.7:30](#));
- Saved by **Works of Righteousness**, not works of men ([Acts 10:35](#)), as we’ll be judged by them ([Rev.20:12](#) & [22:12](#)) and please consider [James 2:17-24](#);
- Saved by **Hope** ([Rom.8:24](#));
- Saved by **Endurance** ([Matt.10:22](#)).

To **AID** in Man's part of salvation, one might be baptized in a creek, river, lake or baptistry. These are **AUTHORIZED expedients**. He or She may confess their belief that Jesus is the Son of God ([Acts 8: 37](#)) to one person or to an entire audience of people. But on the contrary, if one were sprinkled with water, instead of buried with water ([Rom.6:3-9](#); [Col.2:12-13](#)) or fully immersed, by going down into the water and coming up out of the water ([Acts 8:38-39](#)), such would be something in **ADDITION** to New Testament baptism and thus another **kind** of baptism, than what God specified. If one were to argue that Grace alone or Faith alone is all that God requires of an individual to receive salvation, that also would be an **ADDITION** to what God has specified.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Saved by God's Grace (Eph.2:8 ; Acts 15:11) through the blood of Christ (Eph.1:7 ; 1Pet.1:18-20).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved by God's Grace (Eph.2:8; Acts 15:11) • Saved by God's Mercy (Titus 3:5) • Saved by Blood of Christ (Eph.1:7; 1Pet.1:18-20) • Saved by the Gospel of Christ (Rom.1:16; 1Cor.15:1-2; James 1:21) • Saved by Hearing (Rom.10:1-3,13-17; 2Thess.2:14) • Saved by Faith or Belief in Christ (Acts 16:31; Jn.8:24) • Saved by Repentance (Lk.13:3; Acts 11:18) • Saved by Confession (Matt.10:32-33) • Saved by Baptism (1Pet.3:21; Mk.16:16) • Saved by Works of Righteousness, as we'll be judged by them (Rev.20:12 & 22:12 & let's not forget James 2:24) • Saved by Hope (Rom.8:24) • Saved by Endurance (Matt.10:22) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptistry • Lake, River, Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace alone • Faith alone (James 2:17, 24) • Confession alone or Death bed confession • Sprinkling • Baptism alone • Once saved always saved (1Cor.10:6-10,12; Heb.3:8-12; 10:26-29; 1Tim.4:1-3; Gal.5:1-4)

Now, which one of these **requirements** of God, can one deny or reject? Or can one **ADD** another requirement that will **SAVE**? One needs to understand,

- That **God** is the "**AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of our **faith**" ([Heb.12:2](#)); ...not man!
- That **God** is the **CREATOR** of all things ([Isa.44:24](#); [Psalms 8:3-9](#); [Col.1:16-17](#)); ...not man!
- That Jesus has **ALL** power in Heaven and on Earth ([Matt.28:18](#)); ...not man!

One needs to also understand, that he or she can**NOT** pick and choose what one is to receive, as the Bible teaches:

- "Every **Word** of God, is pure: **HE** is a shield unto them, that **PUT** their trust **IN** Him. **ADD** thou **NOT**, unto His **WORDS**, lest he **REPROVE** thee, and thou be found a **LIAR**" ([Prov.30:5-6](#); Read also [Rev.22:18-19](#); [Deut.12:32](#); [4:2](#)).

The Gospel is the story of the **Death, Burial** and **Resurrection** of the **Son of God**, by which one is **SAVED**:

The Bible says

- "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the **GOSPEL** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are **SAVED**, **IF** ye keep in **MEMORY** what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received,
 - how that Christ **DIED** (Death) for **OUR** sins according to the scriptures;
 - And that he was **BURIED** (Burial),
 - and that he **ROSE** (Resurrection) again the third day **ACCORDING** to the scriptures" ([1Cor.15:1-4](#)).

Baptism is that instruction from God, that is in the likeness of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Son of God.

- “Know ye not, that so many of us, as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ were baptized INTO his death? (His death being representative of the Blood of Christ) Therefore we are buried WITH him, BY baptism INTO death: that like AS Christ was raised UP from the dead, BY the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in NEWNESS of LIFE” ([Rom.6:3-4](#)).

Gospel preacher Richard Fox, has pointed out many times in his sermons that, 13 verses later in [Rom.6:17](#), the apostle Paul acknowledged,

- “ye have **OBEYED** from the heart, that **FORM** of doctrine, which was **delivered** you”.

Then Richard Fox would ask and explain,

“What form of doctrine was he speaking of? A form of the Death, Burial & Resurrection:

- Coupled with Repentance, one **DIE’S** to sin through a watery grave of Baptism,
 - which is a form of Christ’s death;
- One is **BURIED** with him, by Baptism,
 - Which is a form of Christ’s burial;
- One is **RAISED** in newness of LIFE, after baptism,
 - Which is a form of Christ’s resurrection
 - And a form of **salvation** or eternal life”.

In his sermon titled “The Chain of Salvation”, gospel preacher Johnny Ramsey pointed out that just like a chain has many links all connected together and each of those links are just as equally vital to the strength of the chain; baptism is critically important in God’s plan of salvation or redemption. The Bible says,

- “the Pharisees and lawyers **REJECTED** the **COUNSEL** of **God** against themselves, being **NOT** baptized of Him” ([Lk.7:30](#)).

Will you reject the counsel of God by not being baptized for the **RIGHT** reason? Will you reject that baptism is part of God’s plan of salvation for man, as the Bible teaches?

If one can Learn from an Old Testament story ([Rom.15:4](#)), I think one can see how Baptism truly is equally significant as any other Bible **SAVING** Truth. Consider the story of Naaman and the cleansing of his leprosy ([2Kings 5:1-14](#)). **IF** He had only dipped once, this would **NOT** had been in **COMPLIANCE** with God’s instructions and would **NOT** have **RESULTED** in his cleansing of leprosy. But only **AFTER** dipping the seventh time, did Naaman **COMPLETE** his act of obedience and thus became **CLEANSED**.

The **1st** step , the **2nd**, **3rd** , **4th**, **5th** & **6th** steps, are **ALL** just as **EQUALLY important**, as the **7th** and final step, as each of the steps or dips in this case, are all linked together. This story illustrates wonderfully that **EACH** and every link or instruction from God, on the subject of Salvation, are **EQUALLY significant**. Remove any instruction that God has declared and the reward or promise becomes **NULL & VOID**.

Now, regarding salvation or redemption, what’s stopping you from obeying **ALL** of God’s commands? Remember, Faith, Repentance & Confession precedes Baptism and the Bible clearly teaches that **BAPTISM** saves ([1Pet.3:21](#); [Mark 16:16](#)).

- Unlike the baptism of John the baptizer, which was a baptism of repentance and of preparation – looking forward to the Death of Christ (Read [Matt.3:1-12](#)). You see Bible believers today are baptized in the likeness of the Death, Burial & Resurrection of Jesus Christ ([Rom.6:4](#); [Col.2:12](#)); And so the Baptism of John the Immerser was invalid **AFTER** the death of Christ (Read [Acts 19:1-5](#)).

Faithful conservative christians, should be concerned with things about the Lord's church.

Consider the Purpose of the church.

GENERICALLY, the local church has a **PURPOSE**.

SPECIFICALLY the purpose of the church is to **GLORIFY** God.

- “unto Him *be glory* **IN** the church **BY** Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” ([Eph.3:21](#)).
- Hence we are to please God, not ourselves.
- The church doesn't exist to entertain themselves, but to glorify God.

The church glorify's God by making known, God's wisdom or Truth ([Matt.28:18-20](#); [Phil.1:5](#); [Rev.3:8](#); [1Tim.3:15](#)).

- “Herein is my Father **GLORIFIED**, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye **BE** my disciples.” ([Jn.15:8](#)).

To **AID** in making known the wisdom of God, one might teach publicly or privately ([Acts 20:20](#)).

But on the contrary, if people make up ways to glorify God such as offering strange fire unto the Lord ([Lev.10:1-2](#)), such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation. People do similar things when they “ride for Christ” and build horse corrals to ride horses, which is a popular thing known as “Cowboy church”.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION or SUBTRACTION (No Bible)
The church has a purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “unto Him <i>be GLORY</i> IN the <u>church</u> BY Christ Jesus” (Eph.3:21).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public or private Bible studies to aid in making known God's Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glorify God through riding horses.• Glorify God with tattoos• Glorify God by any means outside the teachings of Christ (2Jn.9).

Consider the Work of the church.

GENERICALLY, the local church has a **WORK**.

SPECIFICALLY, the work of the church is to,

- Preach to the Lost ([1Thess.1:8](#)),
- Preach to the saved or edify the saved ([Eph.4:16](#); [1Cor.14:5](#)),
- Provide benevolence to christians (saints) who are in need ([1Tim.5:16](#); [Acts 2:44-45](#); [Acts 4:32-35](#); [Acts 6:1-6](#); [Acts 11:27-30](#); [Rom.15:25-31](#); [1Cor.16:1-3](#); [2Cor.8:1-4](#); [13-14](#); [2Cor.9:1](#); [13-14](#)).

To **AID** in the Work, christians might have a gospel meeting (revival) to preach to the lost and edify the saved.

But on the contrary, if people take upon themselves of what the work of the church is, such as soup kitchens, church nursing homes or hospitals, such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation. Additionally, any institution, including colleges and religious publications, that would attempt to replace the work of the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth” ([1Tim.3:15](#)), would also be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION or SUBTRACTION (No Bible)
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach to the Lost (1Thess.1:8), • Preach to the saved or edify the saved (Eph.4:16; 1Cor.14:5), • Provide benevolence to christians (saints) who are in need (1Tim.5:16; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom.15:25-31; 1Cor.16:1-3; 2Cor.8:1-4; 13-14; 2Cor.9:1; 13-14). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach at morning noon or night. • Gospel meeting. • Help the needy christians with money, a service, food, clothing or shelter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace individual responsibility, as a work of the church, to feed the globe or non-christians; or to establish a “Church grocery company”. • Establishment of a “Church nursing home” or “church hospital” to do benevolence for christians, on behalf of the church. • Establishment of a “Missionary Society” to do the preaching on behalf of the church. • Any institution, including colleges and brotherhood publications, that would attempt to replace the work of the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth.” (1Tim.3:15). Example: There are colleges and brotherhood publications who conduct worship services known as “Lecturships”, which have a different name and a different organization than found in the pages of the Bible. These two examples are NOT the work of an individual, as some proclaim – they are both institutions with each having their own board of directors.

Consider the Work of Preaching.

- **GENERALLY**, gospel preachers have an obligation to preach.
- An expedience to preaching or to **AID** in preaching, a man might verbally preach; he might preach with the pen in correspondance, as the inspired New Testament writers did and he might preach publicly to an entire audience or he might preach privately “one on one” in someone’s home.
- **SPECIFICALLY**, man has an obligation to preach the Word ([2Tim.4:2](#))!
- But on the contrary, if a man were to preach anything other than the Word of God, such would be unacceptable! The apostle Paul said:
 - “**WOE** is unto me, if I preach NOT the gospel” ([1Cor.9:16](#)).
 - “**IF** our gospel be **HID**, it is **HID** to them that are **LOST**” ([2Cor.4:3](#)).
- Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Preach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach the Word (2Tim.4:2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach verbally or in writing. • Preach publicly or Privately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man’s Thoughts (Isa.55:8-9) • What seems right (Prov.14:12) • Women preachers (1Cor.14:34-37; 1Tim.2:8-15; NOTE: Woman can teach men privately (Acts 18:24-26) and other women all the time (Titus 2:3-5). <p>Woe unto (him) who preaches not the gospel (1Cor.9:16).</p>

In the movie, **Facing The Giants**, there was an old tale told,

- “about two farmers who desperately needed rain: Both of them prayed for rain, but only one of them went out and prepared his fields to receive it. Which one do you think trusted God to send the rain?”

Obviously, the one who prepared his fields for it. Now ask yourself this question, “**Which one are you?**”

Regarding the heavy responsibility of laboring in the gospel,

- If preachers want to be useful in the Lord’s service, If preachers want to be beneficial in the cause of Christ; **They have got to PREPEARE for it!**
- Preachers have got to be **READY** when the rain comes, Preachers have got to be **READY** when doors of opportunity are opened.
- Preachers and christians alike, have got to “be **READY** always, to **GIVE** an answer to **EVERY** man, that **ASKETH** you a reason, of the **HOPE**, that is **IN** you, with meekness and fear” ([1Pet.3:15](#)).
- “Holding **FAST** the faithful **WORD** as he hath been taught, that he may be able by **SOUND** doctrine (or teaching) both to **EXHORT** and to **CONVINCE** the gainsayers” ([Titus 1:9](#)).
- “Lift **UP** your eyes, and **LOOK** on the fields; for they are white already to **HARVEST**” ([Jn.4:35](#)).

The Bible revealed for us long ago that,

- “Ezra had **PREPARED** his heart, to **SEEK** the law of the Lord, and to **DO** it, and to **TEACH**” ([Ezra 7:10](#)).

In the secular realm, athletes practice and **PREPARE** themselves, for their game or competition. Marching bands at the High School and Collegiate level, practice and **PREPARE** for both the march and their instrument. Sadly, some are slothful and casual in their **PREPARATION** to teach and preach. The wisdom of proverbs had this to say:

- “He also that is slothful in his **WORK**, is brother to him that is a great WASTER” ([Prov.18:9](#)).

We are warned about the,

- “wicked and slothful servant” in [Matthew chapter 25](#).

The Bible tells us that we are to give our best, in all aspects of our lives, including our preparation for preaching.

- “**WHATSOEVER** thy hand **FINDETH** to do, **DO** it, with thy **MIGHT**; for there is **NO** work, **NOR** device, **NOR** knowledge, **NOR** wisdom, **IN** the grave, whither thou **GOEST**” ([Ecc.9:10](#)).
- “**WHATSOEVER** ye do, **DO** it, **HEARTILY**, as to the Lord, and not unto men” ([Col.3:23](#)).
- We are **NOT** to be “**SLOTHFUL** in business; (**BUT**), **FERVENT** in spirit; **SERVING** the Lord” ([Rom.12:11](#)).

And so preachers, have got to **PREPARE** to do their **VERY best** – their **VERY best**, when it comes to preaching the gospel!

- so that they can glorify God, and be servants to the flock of God;
- to help the local church, **AVOID** spiritual starvation.
- And Let’s not forget the **NEED** to influence the next generation of young preachers.

Contrary to popular belief, it doesn’t take a so-called spiritual elitest to preach the gospel. **You** can teach and **I** can teach, just as much **TRUTH** as anyone else, as there is **NO** monopoly on Bible **TRUTH**. What matters is the **PREACHING** of the gospel and that takes **GREAT** self-sacrifice and preparation. One cannot be casual or slothful about that **SPIRITUAL** responsibility – preachers are going to have to **PREPARE** for that work.

I am reminiscent of Gospel preacher, Richard Fox, in the spiritual advise he gave during his preacher training classes and of the example he gave in his labor of love, in preaching the gospel. I remember three things that Richard Fox emphasized:

- A. **FIRST** He said, study and prepare to teach with Bible Authority and be careful not to take any of God’s thought’s, from His printed Word, out of context or used in a way that would contradict other Bible passages. We are familiar with the Bible passages that establish the principle, not to add to, nor take away from the Word of God ([Deut.4:2](#); [Prov.30:6](#) & [Rev.22:18-19](#)).

The Bible tells you and I,

- “**But though we** (that is, the apostles of the Son of God in the first century), or an angel from heaven, **PREACH ANY OTHER** gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be **ACCURSED**. As we said before, so say I now again, if **ANY** man **PREACH ANY OTHER** gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be **ACCURSED**” ([Gal.1:8-9](#)).

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- B. **SECONDLY**, I remember that Richard Fox emphasized the importance of **MEMORIZING** the Bible passages that were to be used in a lesson (if at all possible), as the delivery would come across with much more conviction, confidence and thus more apt to ‘prick the hearts’ of men ([Acts 2:37](#)) and edify the saints ([Eph.4:16](#)). Preachers don’t need to be mean spirited – they need to be kind and loving, Yes! ...but at the same time, they need to remember that the Word of God is superior to that of an earthly King and boldness and straightforwardness is needed. ...constant joke telling needs to be avoided.

I fully acknowledge that every preacher is different by way of speaking abilities and some may be better at memorizing and quoting than others, but at the very least, preachers should **READ** from the Word of God.

Years ago, most preachers quoted, but now with entertainment, school activities of our children and grand children and a whole host of other distractions, READING has become boring and SOME preachers have leaned and drifted to making great speeches of **MAN’S thoughts**. As a result of no longer memorizing the Word of God, Christians are no longer walking Bibles, as they were once known, because the flock of God (the local church) is no longer learning that example from preachers and Christians are not exposed to that constant verbatim Truth.

- C. **THIRDLY**, Along with the “Bible Authority” principle of taking all that the Bible has to say on a particular subject, to gain divine revelation on that subject, as opposed to extracting or plucking a single verse out of context, I remember that Richard Fox emphasized the importance of “piggy-backing” or “coupling” Bible passage after Bible passage from the same Biblical subject, as this would allow the Bible to be its own best commentary.

Some men paraphrase, instead of reading or quoting straight from the Word of God – How sad. Some go to great lengths to tell story’s about the Bible, but such is not the same as preaching the Word ([2Tim.4:2](#)). It’s okay to make application, but **NOT** to the extent of **EXCLUDING** God’s word. Some men go on and on with **THEIR thoughts**, – with so-called application, without hardly mentioning the Word of God at all.

Around the year 2011 or 2012, I heard a man preach for about an hour and 50 minutes and he referenced, he didn’t quote, nor did he read from the Word of God, but he referenced about 7 Bible passages, during that time and indicated many of them on his power point presentation and said “there they are, you can take them home and read them if you’d like”. I got the impression that this man seemed to think very highly of his own thoughts, rather than being concerned about the Word of God. In the year 2014, I heard a man speak for about 25 to 30 minutes and **NOT** once, did he mention a single Bible passage – **NOT** once! ...How shameful! If only preachers today, would remember what Paul charged Timothy and I’m convinced **ALL preachers** are charged to:

- **“Preach the WORD, Be instant IN season, OUT of season; Reprove, rebuke, exhort with ALL longsuffering AND doctrine”** ([2Tim.4:2](#)).

Notice again:

- **“Be instant IN season, OUT of season,”**
That is, Preach God’s Word always – It is never okay to preach anything else, to the exclusion of God’s word; “Preach the Word when it is liked and when it is not liked”, as one preacher explained.
- **“Reprove, rebuke, exhort”.**
Preachers have got to declare the whole counsel of God ([Acts 20:27](#)); including those teachings that are uncomfortable and negative – not just positive preaching.

[Verses 3 & 4](#) tell us **WHY** one should, preach the Word of God:

- “For the time **WILL** come, when they will **NOT** endure **SOUND** doctrine; But after their **OWN** lusts, shall they **HEAP** to themselves, teachers, having **ITCHING** ears; and they shall turn away their ears, from the **Truth**” ([2Tim.4:3-4](#)).

The Bible says:

- “Take **HEED** unto thyself, **AND** unto the doctrine; (**NOT** unto man’s thoughts, but unto the **DOCTRINE**), continue **IN** them: for in **DOING** this, thou shalt both **SAVE** thyself, and them that **HEAR** thee” ([1Tim.4:16](#)).

Man’s thoughts will not save anyone! ...and so gospel preachers need to get BACK to BIBLE preaching.

In ancient times, God caused a famine of the Word, because men refused to hear Him. In [Amos 8:11-12](#) we can read:

- “Behold, the days **COME**, saith the Lord **GOD**, that I will **SEND** a famine in the land, **NOT** a famine of bread, **NOR** a thirst for water, **BUT** of **HEARING**, the words of the LORD: And they shall **WANDER** from sea to sea, **AND** from the north, **EVEN** to the east, They shall **RUN** to and fro, to **SEEK** the Word of the LORD, and shall **NOT** find it” ([Amos 8:11-12](#)).

What a sad time that must have been. The attitude of some then, and apparently even by some today is:

- “Prophecy **NOT** unto us **RIGHT** things, speak unto us **SMOOTH** things, prophecy **DECEITS**” ([Isa.30:10](#)).
- “Prophecy **NOT** in the name (or the authority) of the **LORD**” ([Jer.11:21](#)).

The Bible says

- “For do I now **PERSUADE** men, or God? or do I **SEEK** to please men? for **IF** I yet pleased men, I should **NOT** be the servant of Christ” ([Gal.1:10](#)). “We **OUGHT** to obey God, **RATHER** than men” ([Acts 5:29](#)).

Many gospel preachers of the past, have stated this slogan and how true it is:

- “One can’t **LEAD**, where one will **NOT** go, And one can’t **TEACH** or **PREACH**, what one does **NOT** know”.

Christians in the first century, **must** have,

- “**SEARCHED** the scriptures” ([Acts 17:11](#));
- They must have “**STUDIED**... rightly dividing (or handling aright) the Word of Truth” ([2Tim.2:15](#));
So that they could be prepared to restore erring brethren ([Gal.6:1](#)) through teaching and exhortation.

The Lord needs preachers and christians like that today, who

- “**Daily** in the temple, and in every house, ceased **NOT** to teach and preach Jesus Christ” ([Acts 5:42](#)).

As gospel preacher, Johnny Ramsey noted:

“The early christians

- “**FILLED** all of Jerusalem, **WITH** that doctrine” ([Acts 5:28](#)).
- They so “spoke **BOLDLY**, (that) great multitudes **BELIEVED**” ([Acts 14:1-3](#)).
- Their “**SOUND** went into all the earth, and their **WORDS** unto the **ENDS** of the world” ([Rom.10:18](#)).
- They believed that they were “**DEBTORS**” to preach the gospel;
- That they should be “**READY** to preach” the gospel;
- And they certainly would never be “**ASHAMED**” to preach the gospel;
- As they understood the gospel to be “**God’s POWER**” to save (Read [Rom.1:14-16](#); [1Cor.15:1-4](#); [Jms.1:21](#)).”

An inspired apostle said,

- “**IF** our gospel be **HID**, it is **HID** to them that are **LOST**” ([2Cor.4:3](#)).

In another passage, the apostle Paul said,

- “**WOE** is unto me, if I preach **NOT** the gospel” ([1Cor.9:16](#)).

Which should remind us, that:

- “We were **ALLOWED** of God, to be put in **TRUST** with the gospel, even so we speak; **NOT** as pleasing men, but **God**, which **TRIETH** our hearts” ([1Thess.2:4](#)).

As noted by gospel preacher, Johnny Ramsey,

“since men are,

- “**CALLED** by the **Gospel** of Christ” ([2Thess.2:14](#)), It needs to be preached **EVERYWHERE!**
- So that the “Word of God can **GROW** and **MULTIPLY**”, as it did in the first century ([Acts 12:24](#));
- “So mightily **GREW** the word of God and **PREVAILED**” ([Acts 19:20](#)).

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in [Matt. Chapter 4](#), through the **LUST** of the flesh, **LUST** of the eyes and the **PRIDE** of life ([1Jn.2:15-17](#)), notice that the **Lord**, in **every** arena, and in **every** area, with verbatim quoting of scripture, sent the devil **packing** with:

- “**it is written**” ([verse 4](#)), “**it is written**” ([verse 7](#)), “**it is written**” ([verse 10](#)).”

What a great example for preachers today. I’m convinced that preacher have got to demonstrate **MORE** respect for “**it is written**”, by being better prepared.

So do you think it would be okay to grab a book written by men and spend a good amount of time on those thoughts from that book, to talk about some good wholesome subject? **NO!** – that’s **NOT** preaching the **WORD** of **God!**

Preachers need to realize,

- It is the “**Word of God that is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword**” ([Heb.4:12](#)); ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that pricks one in the heart ([Acts 2:37](#)); ...not the words of men!
- It is the “**hearing**” of the “**Word of God**”, that “**Faith comes**” ([Rom.10:17](#)); ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that establishes one in the faith ([Acts 16:5](#)); ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that builds ([Jude 1:20](#); [Col.2:7](#); [Acts 20:32](#)); ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that is profitable ([2Tim.3:16](#)) ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that throughly furnishes ([2Tim.3:17](#)) ...not the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that causes one to Grow ([2Pet.3:18](#); [Col.1:10](#)); ...not the words of men!
- “Man shall... **LIVE** by... every **WORD** that proceedeth out of the mouth of **God**” ([Matt.4:4](#)) ...not the words of men!

With all of these thoughts in mind, shouldn't preachers, preach **MORE** of the Word of God, instead of less of it, and instead of paraphrasing? Let me tell you something – in the first century, **WHEN**

- the word of God **INCREASED**; ...the number of the disciples **MULTIPLIED** ([Acts 6:7](#)).

What do you think will happen if the Word of God decreases from the preaching pulpit?

In contrast, I've heard some preachers go too far with forcing a multi-part lesson, into a single lesson. If we consider the expedience principle that we referenced earlier, I think we can make a valued point in this regard. As a reminder, expedience must be lawful ([1Cor.6:12](#)), and it must edify ([1Cor.10:23](#)).

- Preaching the Word ([2Tim.4:2](#)), would be lawful.
- But it wouldn't be too edifying, trying to stay a wake, listening to a lesson at 3am
In like fashion, it wouldn't be too edifying, if a preacher preached for 5 hours straight, in one sitting, as the audience would lose their attention span.

So as one can see, a preacher must exercise good judgment, in determining how long to preach. As someone has said, "it's not wise to dump the whole barrel of apples all at once". People need time to digest, a little at a time.

I have heard it said, that one preacher informed some younger men in training,

- "you only need about five passages of scriptures to build a sermon on".

Is this an example of the Word of God increasing, to the point that the disciples multiplied ([Acts 6:7](#))?

Can one satisfy their physical hunger with just five bites of food?

I heard one elder of a local church say,

- "You've got to give them (the assembled church) something to chew on", with the clear implication that the Word of God, by itself, wasn't enough to spiritually chew on.

One former preacher told me,

- "I don't want to make it too difficult on myself".
Implying that preparing to preach was indeed hard work.

In regard to training young preachers, I have heard it said, that one older preacher instructed:

- "make'm laugh, make'm cry and tell'm good-bye".

What an unscriptural, anti-Biblical attitude!

Brethren don't need a friend in a preacher; although he may indeed be a friend, but that's **NOT** his job. A preacher's job is **NOT** to be a friend to the point of loving men more than God ([Matt.22:37-38](#)) and softening the Truth, so that one is not offended. A preacher has got to prepare himself to preach the Word, straightforwardly and honestly, and as loving as possible, all the while, reverently handling the Word of Truth and exemplifying that Truth in his own life. Preachers need to prepare for such and Christians need to encourage and pray for such.

Consider the Worship of the church.

GENERICALLY, the local church has a **WORSHIP**.

SPECIFICALLY, the worship of the church is to,

- Pray ([1Tim.2:8](#); [Acts 2:42](#); [1Cor.14:16](#); [Col.4:12](#); [James 1:6-8](#)),
- Sing ([1Cor.14:15](#); [Eph.5:19](#); [Col.3:16](#)),
- Remember the death of the Son of God, through the Lord's Supper ([Matt.26:26-29](#); [Mk.14:22-25](#); [Lk.22:19-20](#); [1Cor.11:20-34](#)),
- Preach ([Acts 20:7](#); [Acts 20:1](#); [Acts 20:20,27](#)),
- Give ([1Cor.16:2](#); [2Cor.9:7](#); [Acts 20:35](#); [Matt.16:24](#); [Mk.12:41-44](#); [2Cor.8:9](#)).

To **AID** in the Worship, Christians might,

- pray standing ([Mk.11:25](#)), or kneeling ([Acts 20:36](#)).
- Use a song book to sing "decently and in order" ([1Cor.14:40](#)).
- Preach for 30 minutes or until midnight ([Acts 20:7](#)). Referencing our Expendient example on page 7, it would be lawful ([1Cor.6:12](#)) to preach for two hours, but it might not build up and edify ([1Cor.10:23](#)).
- Use a hat, plate or box to take the collection from those who give.

But on the contrary, if Christians were to sing, **PLAY** and **ENTERTAIN**, such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray (1Tim.2:8; Acts 2:42; 1Cor.14:16; Col.4:12; James 1:6-8), • Sing (1Cor.14:15; Eph.5:19; Col.3:16), • Remember the death of the Son of God through the Lord's Supper (1Cor.11:20-34), • Preach (Acts 20:7; Acts 20:1; Acts 20:20,27), • Give (1Cor.16:2; 2Cor.9:7; 2Cor.8:9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY at beginning, middle or close of worship assembly. • SING at beginning, middle or close of worship assembly. • Preaching duration could vary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment of various kinds • Insist on praying while kneeling only. • Sing and play or sing and clap. Whistling. • Preach anything other than the Word of God (2Tim.4:2). • Raising money through bake sale, or garage sale, rather than giving. • Give grudgingly (2Cor.9:7).

A faithful christian will sing according to Bible teaching, so Consider Music in Worship.

GENERALLY, we are to,

- “teach and admonish WITH spiritual songs” ([Col.3:16](#)).

To AID or help ensure things are done “decently and In order” ([1Cor.14:40](#)), we might utilize books, a song leader and have adequate lighting; These are **AUTHORIZED expedients** or **AID’s** to carry out the command to sing.

SPECIFICALLY, we are to,

- “**SING**” ([Col.3:16](#); [Eph.5:19](#))
- and “sing with the UNDERSTANDING” ([1Cor.14:15](#)).

But on the contrary, if one were to play an instrument of music, such as a guitar or drums and **OR** if one were to vocally imitate the sounds of a mechanical instrument (such as “bebop boom”), or engage in whistling, yodeling or hand clapping, **NOTHING** would be produced which could be understood ([1Cor.14:15](#)); Only noise would be produced, rather than teaching & admonishment from God’s Word ([Col.3:16](#)). Such noises would **ALL** be something in **ADDITION** to singing and thus another **KIND** of music, than what God specified.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Teach & admonish with spiritual songs (Col.3:16).	Sing (Col.3:16 ; Eph.5:19 ; 1Cor.14:15).	Books, song leader, lights, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any mechanical instrument of music (piano, guitar, drums, etc).• Any sounds imitating instruments of music (bebop boom).• Any sounds that can’t be understood or fail to teach God’s word (whistling, yodeling, hand clapping, etc).

Remember, one can’t go back to the Old Testament to try and prove that mechanical instruments are authorized, as christians are **NOT** governed by the Old Testament, but rather by the New Testament (Restudy those things from page 15).

If one is to have a conservative, grassroots attitude toward the Word of God, and therefore be obedient in all His ways, one needs to Consider the Lord's Supper in Worship.

[borrowed from Robert Harkrider's article, "Establishing Bible Authority"]

GENERICALLY, Christians are to partake of the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner, by examining one's own spiritual condition ([1Cor.11:29, 28](#)).

To **AID** in partaking of the Lord's Supper, one might partake in the morning, noon or night, as God did not specify the time of day to partake. So the time of day or even the location, would be an authorized expedient or **AID** to carry out the command to partake.

SPECIFICALLY,

- We are to partake on the **FIRST** day of the week ([Acts 20:7](#));
- **EAT** unleavened bread and **DRINK** fruit of the vine ([Lk.22:1,18](#));
- Remember the Lord's death, until He comes ([1Cor.11:25-26](#)).

But on the contrary,

- if one were to partake of the Lord's Supper on a Wednesday or Saturday, such would be another day of the week, than the first day of the week ([Acts 20:7](#)) and thus an **ADDITION** to the pattern given by God.
- If one were to eat birthday cake and drink orange juice, such would be another kind of emblem and thus an **ADDITION** to what God specified.
- If one were to make a **PHYSICAL** feast of the Lord's Supper ([1Cor.11:20-34](#)), instead of a **SPIRITUAL** feast in remembrance of the Lord's death (a memorial), such would be **ANOTHER** purpose and thus an **ADDITION** to what God had specified.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Lord's Supper	First Day (Acts 20:7)	Time of day	Wednesday, Saturday
	Unleavened bread, Fruit of Vine (Lk.22:1,18)	Containers	Birthday Cake, Orange Juice
	Do this in Remembrance of Me (1Cor.11:25-26)	Location, lights	Making a feast 1Cor.11:20-34

Clearly, the Lord's supper is commanded ([Luke 22:18-20](#); [1Cor.11:23-32](#)). The first day of the week is our **ONLY** example for doing such ([Acts 20:7](#)). As previously mentioned, one cannot go back to the Old Testament for law ([Gal.5:2-4](#); [Col.2:13-16](#); [Eph.2:13-16](#); [Heb.8:6-9](#)), but one can go back for learning ([Rom.15:4](#)). Just like in that Jewish system – the old law, the Israelites understood, that they were to keep the Sabbath Day Holy,

- **EACH** and **EVERY** Sabbath Day,
- **52** weeks out of the year,
- **NOT** just once or twice out of the year (Read [Exodus 20:8-10](#)).

In like fashion, Christians today are to **REMEMBER** the Lord's death,

- **THROUGH** the Lord's Supper,
- **EACH** and **EVERY** first day of the week ([Acts 20:7](#)).

Bible believing folks need to be concerned with things about Giving or the Collection of the Saints.

GENERICALLY, there is a collection of the saints. The Bible says **SPECIFICALLY**:

- “Upon the **FIRST** day of the week, let **EVERY ONE** of you, **LAY BY** him **IN STORE**, **AS** God hath **PROSPERED** him, that there be no gatherings when I come” ([1Cor.16:2](#));
- “**EVERY MAN** according as he **PURPOSETH** in his heart, so let him **GIVE**; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” ([2Cor.9:7](#)).

Notice that one is to “**GIVE**” or “**lay by ...in store**”.

- The idea of “**lay by ...in store**” is a “**Store House**” or a “**common treasury**”.
- **This is the only command and example in the New Testament regarding christians having a collective treasury.**

Notice that God did not give specific instruction on what that common store house or treasury was to be utilized for. The context of [First Corinthians Chapter 16](#) and [Second Corinthians Chapter 9](#) are both dealing with benevolence to needy christians in other locations, But there are also other Bible passages that authorizes the local church to pay a preacher for his spiritual work ([1Cor.9:14](#); [Phil.4:14-18](#)). So as an **AID** to utilize those funds, the local church could necessarily infer or conclude that the same church treasury can be utilized to pay a preacher directly or even to pay the light bill ([Acts 20:8](#)), in addition to helping christians in need.

Keep in mind that we pointed out on page 22, of what the three works of the church are:

- Preach to the Lost ([1Thess.1:8](#));
- Preach to the saved or edify the saved ([Eph.4:16](#));
- Provide benevolence to christians (saints) who are in need ([1Tim.5:16](#); [Acts 2:44-45](#); [Acts 4:32-35](#); [Acts 6:1-6](#); [Acts 11:27-30](#); [Rom.15:25-31](#); [1Cor.16:1-3](#); [2Cor.8:1-4](#); [13-14](#); [2Cor.9:1](#); [13-14](#)).

Remember also that we mentioned previously on pages 7, that If something is lawful or Biblical ([1Cor.6:12](#)) **AND** if it edify's or builds up, then it may be used as an **AID** in accomplishing these three work's of the church.

So one can reason, imply or conclude that the funds of a local church, can be used as an **AID** in the three works of the church.

- Paying a preacher is scriptural or biblical in and of itself ([1Cor.9:14](#); [Phil.4:15-18](#)) and therefore the church funds can and should be used as an **AID** to help accomplish the work of preaching to the lost and preaching to the saved.
- Keep in mind that the Bible always reveals that money was given to the **NEED** or necessity and **NOT** to accomplish some great work that is beyond a single church's ability. The apostle Paul “**ROBBED** other churches, **TAKING** wages of them, to **DO** you (Corinthian church) **SERVICE**” ([2Cor.11:8](#)). One can reason, imply or conclude that the apostle Paul took from the church treasury to take care of his need.
- [Phil.4:14-18](#) informs us that money was sent **DIRECTLY** to the preacher and **NOT** to some **BIG** church work on Paul's behalf.

However, if a local church were to function as the “sponsoring church”, where funds are sent from one church to another church, that says they have the oversight of a preacher laboring in another location, such would violate [1Pet.5:2](#) , which says that elders have oversight of those “**AMONG**” them. Having oversight of a preacher that is not laboring “**AMONG** you” **OR** having oversight of the funds for a work that is not taking place “**AMONG** you” would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation.

Local churches need to contend, to “speak as the Bible speaks” ([1Pet.4:11](#)), to be silent where the Bible is silent ([Heb.7:14](#)), to do Bible things in Bible ways ([Jer.6:16](#), [1Pet.2:21](#), [Jn.13:15](#), [Phil.4:9](#), [Heb.8:5](#)) and to call Bible things by Bible names ([Col.3:17](#), [Acts 4:12](#)) by **NOT** considering the so called “sponsoring church” arrangement, as that word, organization and practice is not found in the Bible.

If a local church were to insist on utilizing church funds for only benevolent opportunities, such would be binding where God did not bind. Such reasoning would be parallel to insisting on being baptized in the Jordon river only or only reading from the original ancient manuscripts. Such reasoning would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation. Students of God’s Word have to consider **ALL** of God’s Word, which include these revealed principles on Bible Authority.

If the local church were to have a bake sale instead of giving, **such would be CONTRARY to Bible instruction**, as God gave **SPECIFIC** instruction for “every one” to give and lay by in store “upon the first day of the week”.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Collection of the saints (christians)	Upon the first day of the week (1Cor.16:2)	Time of day.	Wednesday, Saturday
	“Give” as a person “purposeth in his heart” (2Cor.9:7)	Cash, check, liberality to reason within oneself of how much to give.	Bake sale, garage sale, OR tithing. Gentiles have never had the responsibility to tithe. Only the Jews of old tithed.
	“Lay by ...in store as God hath prospered him” (1Cor.16:2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For benevolence to NEEDY saints; (1Tim.5:16; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom.15:25-31; 1Cor.16:1-3; 2Cor.8:1-4; 13-14; 2Cor.9:1; 13-14). to pay a preacher for his NEED or “necessity” (1Cor.9:14; Phil.4:14-18; 2Cor.11:8); to pay the light bill (Acts 20:8), etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <u>benevolence</u> ONLY store house or church treasury, would be binding where God did not bind and excluding authority for other expedient matters where Bible authority does exist, such as paying a preacher directly (1Cor.9:14; Phil.4:14-18). Sending funds for the need of a preacher to a BIG church <u>work</u> (such as through the so called “sponsoring church”) would be contrary to Bible teaching. As gospel preacher Carl Allen noted, “No SINGLE <u>treasury</u> of MULTIPLE <u>churches</u> existed in the first century”.

If one is interested in equipping themselves with a conservative, grassroots attitude, they need to Consider the Error of the so-called Social Gospel.

As mentioned previously on page 22, **GENERALLY**, God's collected, assembled people, or His local church, has a work. **SPECIFICALLY**, Bible revelation says there are three works, the local church is to be involved in:

- **Preach** to the Lost ([1Thess.1:8](#));
- **Preach** to the saved or edify the saved ([Eph.4:16](#));
- and provide benevolence to christians (saints) who are in need ([1Tim.5:16](#); [Acts 2:44-45](#); [Acts 4:32-35](#); [Acts 6:1-6](#); [Acts 11:27-30](#); [Rom.15:25-31](#); [1Cor.16:1-3](#); [2Cor.8:1-4](#); [13-14](#); [2Cor.9:1](#); [13-14](#)).

As mentioned previously on page 29, **GENERALLY** the local church has a **WORSHIP**.

SPECIFICALLY the worship of the church is to,

- Pray ([1Tim.2:8](#); [Acts 2:42](#); [1Cor.14:16](#); [Col.4:12](#); [James 1:6-8](#)),
- Sing ([1Cor.14:15](#); [Eph.5:19](#); [Col.3:16](#)),
- Remember the death of the Son of God through the Lord's Supper ([Matt.26:26-29](#); [Mk.14:22-25](#); [Lk.22:19-20](#); [1Cor.11:20-34](#)),
- **Preach** ([Acts 20:7](#); [Acts 20:1](#); [Acts 20:20,27](#)),
- Give ([1Cor.16:2](#); [2Cor.9:7](#); [Acts 20:35](#); [Matt.16:24](#); [Mk.12:41-44](#); [2Cor.8:9](#)).

It is both the worship and work of the church, to Preach the gospel.

To **AID** in preaching,

- the local church might rent or build a building for which to assemble ([Heb.10:25](#); [Acts 20:8](#));
- Or the local church might meet under a shade tree to assemble for worship.
- A building is an **AID** or expedience for christians to assemble for worship – it is not mandatory.

Gospel preacher, Mike Miller pointed out in his sermon on Bible Authority, that

- "Light's might be furnished for which to see ([Acts 20:8](#));
- The local church might provide a place to sit ([Acts 20:9](#))", etc.

If something is lawful or Biblical ([1Cor.6:12](#)) AND it edify's or builds up , then it may be used as an **AID** or expedience in preaching the gospel.

But on the contrary, if the local church were to provide an indoor gymnasium or an outdoor playground, such would be social entertainment, rather than spiritual worship ([Jn.4:23-24](#)), which would be something in **ADDITION** to what the Bible authorizes. The church does not come together to play, but to worship and worship is spiritual in nature, not physical. A gymnasium or a playground, is not an **AID** or expedience for any of the three **works**, or five acts of **worship** indicated above.

If the local church were to provide a kitchen or a so-called fellowship hall, to eat, such would be focusing on feeding the physical man and not the spiritual man ([1Cor.11:20-22](#)), which would be something in **ADDITION** to what the Bible authorizes. A kitchen is not an **AID** for any of the three works indicated above. Fellowship in the Bible is not eating and drinking, but joint, spiritual participation. Where christians gather for worship, would be a true fellowship hall. Notice the passage:

- "When ye **COME together** therefore into **ONE place**, this is **NOT** to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating, every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? **have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?** or **DESPISE ye the church of God, and SHAME them that have not?** What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not" ([1Cor.11:20-22](#)).

Somebody says,

- “oh, but this is talking about abusing the Lord’s Supper!”.

Yes the context is indeed talking about abusing the Lord’s Supper, but the context has a two fold message, as the Word of God does in many instances. The purpose of the church is **NOT** to come together to eat a common, physical meal:

- “not to eat the Lord's supper”;
- “have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?” “OR “despise ye the church of God?”.
- To eat in the place of worship, is to **DESPISE** the church of God.

The Bible says that

- “**TRUE worshippers** shall **WORSHIP** the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **MUST worship Him IN spirit and IN truth**” ([Jn.4:23-24](#)).
- This is spiritual, **NOT** physical.

Do you recall the miraculous event where Jesus feed the 5000 to prove He was the Son of God? They returned again wanting their bellies filled. But...

- “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, **NOT because** ye saw the miracles, **BUT because** ye did **EAT** of the loaves, and were filled. Labour **NOT** for the meat which perisheth, **BUT** for that meat which endureth unto **EVERLASTING life**, which the Son of man shall **GIVE** unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” ([Jn.6:26-27](#)).

Jesus did **NOT** feed them again, because they sought Him for the wrong reason and later the Bible says,

- “From that time, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him” ([Jn.6:66](#)). ...How sad.
- When will people realize that the kingdom of God (or the church – [Matt.16:18-19](#)) is **NOT meat and drink**; ([Rom.14:17](#))?

Distinguishment between spiritual worship and physical meals are clarified separately in Acts 2:46.

- "And they, continuing daily with **one accord in the temple** (spiritual worship), and **breaking bread from house to house**, did **eat their meat** (physical meal) with gladness and singleness of heart," ([Acts 2:46](#))

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preach to the Lost (1Thess.1:8)• Preach to the saved or edify the saved (Eph.4:16)• Provide benevolence to needy christians (1Tim.5:16; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom.15:25-31; 1Cor.16:1-3; 2Cor.8:1-4; 13-14; 2Cor.9:1; 13-14)	shade tree, building, lights, seats, etc.	Indoor gymnasium, outdoor playground, or kitchen

Consider the Organization of the Local church.

GENERALLY, the local church has an **ORGANIZATION**.

SPECIFICALLY, the organization of the church consists of,

- Elders ([Acts 14:23](#); [Titus 1:5](#); [1Tim.4:14](#); [Acts 20:17,28](#); [Acts 20:29-31](#); [Rom.12:8](#); [1Tim.5:17](#); [1Pet.5:1-3](#); [Heb.13:17](#); [1Tim.3:5](#)),
- Deacons ([Phil.1:1](#); [1Tim.3:8-13](#)),
- Preachers ([Acts 13:1-3](#); [Phil.1:5](#); [4:15](#); [2Cor.11:8](#)),
- Saints or christians ([Phil.1:1](#)).

But on the contrary, if people organized themselves in any other fashion, such would be an **ADDITION** or **SUBTRACTION** from the divine revelation.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION or SUBTRACTION (No Bible)
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1Tim.4:14; Acts 20:17,28; Acts 20:29-31; Rom.12:8; 1Tim.5:17; 1Pet.5:1-3; Heb.13:17; 1Tim.3:5), • Deacons (Phil.1:1; 1Tim.3:8-13), • Preachers (Acts 13:1-3; Phil.1:5; 4:15; 2Cor.11:8), • Saints or christians (Phil.1:1; Rom.1:7; 1Cor.1:1-2), 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young preacher or older preacher • Younger christians or older christians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One man pastor (elder or bishop) • Controlling preacher. • Catholic Pope, • Woman preacher, • Women elders (pastors or bishops), • Ladies committee, • Board of directors, • Missionary society, • Sponsoring church.

Peter charged elders to:

- **“FEED** the flock of God, which is **AMONG** you, taking the **OVERSIGHT** thereof, **NOT** by constraint, **BUT** willingly; **NOT** for filthy lucre, **BUT** of a ready mind” ([1Peter 5:2](#)).

GENERALLY, elders are to take the oversight of the local church or the flock ([1Pet.5:2](#)).

To **AID** in that work ([1Tim.3:1](#)), elders might utilize a Men’s meeting or a Business meeting.

SPECIFICALLY, elders are to take the oversight of the flock, **“AMONG”** them ([1Pet.5:2](#)); That is to say, the oversight of elders is limited to where they are members. Note: flock & church are also rendered singular (read [Acts 20:28-30](#) & [1Tim.3:5](#)).

But on the contrary, If elders claim to have oversight of a preacher or anyone else outside the **SAME** assembly, such would be an **ADDITION** to overseeing the flock "**AMONG you**" and thus **ANOTHER** kind of organization, than what God specified.

Elder's have authority to:

- Pay a preacher for his work ([1Cor.9:4-14](#); [2Cor.11:8-9](#); [1Tim.4:12-15](#));
- and Give direct support for a preachers work ([Phil.4:5](#), [2Cor.11:8](#); [1Cor.16:17](#); [Acts 18:1-3](#)).

But unless that preacher is "**AMONG**" them, in the same assembly (where they are members), it is **NOT** oversight that the elders have, **BUT** fellowship or joint participation ([Phil.1:5](#)). **Also:** If only one man claims to be an elder or a pastor for a particular local church, such would be an **ADDITION**, as the scriptures always reveal a plurality of elders in **EACH** local church ([Acts 14:23](#)).

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Elders have the oversight of the flock of God (1Pet.5:2).	Elders (always more than one – Acts 14:23) have the oversight of the flock of God AMONG them (1Pet.5:2 ; Acts 20:28).	Men's meeting or Business meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of anyone outside the SAME assembly; which would enact the church universal. This is exactly what Catholicism does. • A one man pastor system would be an addition to the New Testament pattern. This would include the Baptist faith and many other religious institutions. • The so-called "Sponsoring Church" arrangement would also be an addition to what the Word of God reveals.

Consider the Name of the church.

GENERICALLY, the local church has a **NAME**.

SPECIFICALLY, the church was referred to as:

- The church **OF Christ** ([Rom.16:16](#)),
- The church **OF the Lord** ([Acts 20:28](#)),
- The body **OF Christ** ([1Cor.12:13](#); [Col.1:18](#); [Eph.4:4](#); [Eph.1:22](#)),
- The bride **OF Christ** ([Rev.21:9](#); [19:7](#); [Jn.3:29](#)),
- The kingdom **OF HIS DEAR SON** ([Col.1:13](#)),
- The kingdom **OF God** ([Col.1:13](#)),
- The church **OF God** ([1Cor.1:2](#)),
- The temple **OF God** ([1Cor.3:16](#); [Eph.2:19-22](#)),
- The house **OF God** ([1Tim.3:15](#)),
- The flock **OF God** ([1Peter 5:2](#)).

An **AID** to the name of the church, might be any name that indicates **WHO** those followers belong to.

Hint: We belong to Christ, who is God. But on the contrary, if men were to name themselves after any other name ([Acts 4:12](#)), such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible revelation.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church OF Christ (Rom.16:16), • The church OF the Lord (Acts 20:28), • The body OF Christ (1Cor.12:13; Col.1:18; Eph.4:4; Eph.1:22), • The bride OF Christ (Rev.21:9; 19:7; Jn.3:29), • The church OF God (1Cor.1:2), • The kingdom OF God (Col.1:13), • The temple OF God (1Cor.3:16; Eph.2:19-22), • The house OF God (1Tim.3:15). 	Any parallel or synonymous name for God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any name not found in the Word of God. • Any name not referencing God and doesn't indicate that the church belongs to God or Christ, the Son of God who purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28) and of whom is the head of the church (Col.1:12-18). • Any name of men such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptist church, ○ Cowboy church, ○ Methodist church, ○ Lutheran church, ○ Episcopal church, ○ Pentecostal church, ○ Catholic church, ○ Seventh Day Adventist church, ○ Scientology church, etc.

If you want to be apart of the New Testament church, you have to follow the Biblical recipe to **RESTORE** the teachings of God and thus **BE** what the **Bible produces**, from **FOLLOWING** divine teachings, practices and patterns. Another name, another organization, another worship, another work, another pattern or recipe to enter that church, cannot be the church that the Son of God purchased with His own blood ([Acts 20:28](#)).

Sadly, the sin of Adultery and unscriptural divorces, have plagued our nation.

Consider the Subject of Marriage.

GENERICALLY, God instituted marriage ([Prov.18:22](#); [Heb.13:4](#)).

An expedience or **AID** in marriage, might be to marry in poverty or wealth. One might marry in good health or in sickness. One's stature does not matter – one might be short, tall, heavy or slender. These are all **AUTHORIZED expedients** to marriage.

SPECIFICALLY, God instituted marriage between a man and a woman ([Gen.2:18, 21-24](#); [Matt.19:5](#)) and God designed that relationship for life ([Mark 10:9](#); [Rom.7:3](#)). But on the contrary,

- If a woman were to assume the role as head or leader of that marriage, such would be an **ADDITION** to what God had specified ([Eph.5:23-25](#); [1Cor.11:3](#); [Col.3:18-19](#); [1Tim.3:5](#); [Titus 2:1-6](#)).
- If a man were to assume the role as keeper of the home, such would also be an **ADDITION** to what God had specified ([Titus 2:5](#)).
- If a man were to marry another man or if a woman were to marry another woman, such a relationship would be an **ADDITION** to the marriage that God instituted ([Lev.18:22](#); [Lev.20:13](#); [Deut.22:5](#); [Matt.19:4-6](#) (male & female); [1Cor.6:9-10](#); [Rom.1:26-27](#); [1Tim.1:9-10](#); [Jude 1:7](#)).
- If a woman were to take on a second, third or fourth husband and likewise if the husband were to take on a second, or a multiplicity of wives, such would be an **ADDITION** to Bible teaching ([Rom.7:3](#)).
- If one were to put away or divorce their spouse for any cause other than fornication (adultery) or unfaithfulness ([Matt.19:9](#); [Matt.5:32](#)), such would be an **ADDITION** to what God had specified.

Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Marriage (Prov.18:22 ; Heb.13:4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Between a man and a woman (Gen.2:18, 21-24; Matt.19:5).• For life (Mk. 10:9; Rom.7:3).	Tall, short, in sickness or in health, rich or poor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Man with man or Woman with woman (Lev.18:22; Deut.22:5; 1Cor.6:9-10; Rom.1:26-27; Jude 1:7).• Bigamy or polygamy (Rom.7:3).• Putting away (or divorce) for any cause other than adultery or unfaithfulness (Matt.19:9; Matt.5:32).

What does the Bible teach with regard to Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage?

Let's briefly consider three important passages:

- “**WHOSOEVER** shall put AWAY his wife, **EXCEPT** it be for fornication, and shall marry **ANOTHER**, commiteth adultery: and whoso **MARRIETH** her, which is PUT away, **DOETH** commit adultery” ([Matt.19:9](#); [Mk.10:11-12](#)).
- “So then **IF**, while her husband **LIVETH**, she be married to **ANOTHER** man, she shall be **CALLED** an adulteress: but **IF** her husband be **DEAD**, she is **FREE** from that law; so that she is **NO** adulteress, though she be married to another man” ([Rom.7:3](#)).
- “Whosoever shall put AWAY his wife, **SAVING** (except) for the **CAUSE** of fornication, causeth her to **COMMIT** adultery: and whosoever shall **MARRY** her, that is divorced, **COMMITTETH** adultery” ([Matt.5:32](#); [Lk.16:18](#)).

So what is the Bible definition of adultery? Those who divorce and marry another, commit adultery in the second marriage. There are **ONLY** two exceptions: natural death and the innocent victim of sexual immorality; That is, if a spouse is unfaithful and had sexual relations with someone else, other than his own wife or her own husband, then the innocent and faithful one, **CAN** remarry.

The Bible teaches:

- “Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and **IF she depart**, let her **REMAIN unmarried OR be reconciled** to her husband: and **let not the husband put away his wife.**” ([1Cor.7:10-11](#)) – “**EXCEPT** it be for fornication” ([Matt.19:9](#)).

The passages on this topic are **NOT** difficult to understand. Adultery as well as homosexuality, is so serious that the Bible says those guilty of such shall **NOT** inherit the kingdom of God ([1Cor.6:9-10](#)).

In reference to the woman caught in the **VERY** act of adultery, Jesus told her:

- “**GO** and **SIN** no more” ([Jn.8:11](#)).

He did not say,

- “oh since thou believest in me, thou art accepted in thou current marriage.”
Which **seems** to be the **popular** religious view of our time.

Recall the story of the Samaritan woman?

- “Jesus saith unto her, **GO**, call thy husband, and **COME** hither. The woman answered and said, I have **NO** husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast **WELL** said, I have **NO** husband: For thou hast had **FIVE** husbands; and he whom thou **NOW** hast, is **NOT** thy husband” ([Jn.4:16-18](#)).

The implication in this passage, says that one cannot stay in their adultery situation. Christ did not recognize the woman's **fifth** husband, as her husband. Couple this passage with the woman caught in the very **ACT** of adultery. Jesus told her: “**GO and sin no more**” ([Jn.8:11](#)). He did not say, “oh since thou believest in me, thou art accepted in thy current marriage.” You see belief in God, comes with the responsibility of **DOING** what God says, and that is to “**GO and sin no more**”. Some of our religious neighbors need to **STOP** listening to the devils excuses and **START** listening to God's instructions and **ACTING** upon them ([James 1:22](#)). What people fail to recognize, is that one does not become a new creature until they have left sin, left the world and truly turned to God in obedience. **That** is Repentance (Read and study [Matt.21:28-30](#); [Luke 15:11-21](#)).

It is sad that our religious neighbors will over look the **necessity** of repentance , for those **living** in adultery. But won't do the same for the thief. We all understand that for a thief to repent, he or she must return any stolen belongings to the **rightful** owner. The same is true for those guilty of adultery, **IF** indeed that window is still open, as the innocent/faithful one, may have scripturally moved **on** and **married** someone else.

John through the Holy spirit said:

- “And hereby we do **KNOW** that we know him, **IF** we keep his commandments. He that saith, I **KNOW** him, and keepeth **NOT** his commandments, is a **LIAR**, and the TRUTH is **NOT** in him. **BUT**, whoso keepeth his **WORD** (notice the contrast between WORD & Commandments, they are one and the same), **BUT**, whoso keepeth his **WORD**, in him verily, is the love of God **PERFECTED**: Hereby know we, that we are **IN** Him” ([1Jn.2:3-5](#)).

Let's try to make **practical** application to what John reveals to us, through the Holy Spirit:

- He or she that saith, I **KNOW** him, and **REPENT NOT** from Adultery,
- that **REFUSES** to **GO** and **sin** no more,
- is a **LIAR**, and the Truth Is not **IN** him or her.

It may difficult to hear for those who are living in the sin of adultery, but they are true words nonetheless. Sadly some in error, have wrapped their minds around the laws of this country, rather than the Word of God. The devil is actively causing many to deceive themselves over this subject.

Make no mistake about it, one can choose to put the other away without a legal document – without a legal divorce and often do. In other words, people unscripturally put each other away before it is necessarily a legal divorce and then go and commit the literal act of adultery later – that is, whoever commits the act of adultery first, the other says they were the innocent one and claims they can scripturally remarry. **NO!**

- **If one leaves their spouse (calls it quits or puts him\her away) without unfaithfulness or adultery being committed (even without a legal writing of divorcement), such a one has unscripturally divorced in God's eyes ([Matt.19:4-6](#)) and has opened the door and caused the other to commit adultery ([Matt.5:32](#)).**
- Some have referred to this act as “mental divorce”, which is contrary to Bible teaching.
- If you mentally put one away and then get a legal divorce after the unfaithfulness has literally occurred, **YOU** have sinned, because your putting away was for something other than fornication or unfaithfulness.
- **Don't let the devil deceive you and cause you, nor anyone else, to miss heaven ([Gal.5:19-21](#); [1Cor.6:9-10](#)).**

Some Concluding Thoughts.

Whether you believe or not, there are eternal and fatal consequences for not obeying God.

- “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” ([2Cor.5:11](#)).

The Bible says that,

- “**NOT** all (have) obeyed the **GOSPEL**” ([Rom.10:16](#)).

Peter asked:

- “What shall the **END** be of them that obey **NOT** the gospel of God?” ([1 Peter 4:17](#)).

And by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul answers Peter’s question:

- “The Lord Jesus shall be **REVEALED** from heaven, **WITH** His **MIGHTY** angels, **IN** flaming FIRE, taking **VENGEANCE** on them that know **NOT** God, and that obey **NOT** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **WHO** shall be **PUNISHED** with **EVERLASTING** destruction **FROM** the presence of the Lord, and **FROM** the glory of His power” ([2Thess.1:7-9](#)).

The Bible reveals that some,

- “Received **NOT** the love of the **TRUTH**, that they **MIGHT** be saved. And for this **CAUSE** God shall **SEND** them **STRONG** delusion, that they should believe a **LIE**, That they **ALL** might be **DAMNED**, who received **NOT** the Truth, but had **PLEASURE** in unrighteousness” ([1Thess.2:10-12](#)).

Sadly, some won’t “**REASON**... from the **SCRIPTURES**” ([Acts 17:2](#)) and will continue to

- “**WREST** (or twist) the scriptures, unto their own **DESTRUCTION**” ([2Pet.3:16](#)).

One should never forget the seriousness of accurately abiding in the teachings of Christ, as the Bible says:

- “Whosoever (that’s you, me and everyone else) transgresseth And abideth **NOT** (that is, to go beyond the bounds of) **IN** the doctrine of Christ (that is, the teachings of Christ), Hath **NOT** God” ([2Jn. vs.9](#)).

That’s a pretty harsh warning; so one need’s to be careful about what is practiced & taught from the Bible.

So, what will you do with this knowledge of the Bible, that you now have? **Will you be dishonest** and continue to disobey in neglect or continue to follow God in error because of family or close friendships that have been developed over the years? Remember this warning from the Word of God:

- “For **IF** we sin wilfully **AFTER** that we have **RECEIVED** the knowledge of the **TRUTH**, there remaineth **NO** more **SACRIFICE** for sins, **BUT** a certain **FEARFUL** looking for of **JUDGMENT** and **FIERY** indignation, which shall **DEVOUR** the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law **DIED** without **MERCY** under two or three witnesses: 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**? For we know Him that hath said, **VENGEANCE** belongeth unto **ME**, I will **RECOMPENSE**, saith the Lord. And again, **The Lord** shall **JUDGE** His people. It is a **FEARFUL** thing to **FALL** into the **HANDS** of the **LIVING** God” ([Heb.10:26-31](#)). “Therefore to him that **KNOWETH** to do good, and doeth it **NOT**, to him, it is **SIN**” ([James 4:17](#)).

OR **Will you be honest** and make the necessary corrections in your life to obey God’s instructions and truly put God first in your life ([Matt.6:33](#); [Matt.22:37-40](#))? ...the eternal survival of your soul depends on it! Restudy pages 18 - 20, carefully. Gospel preacher Richard Fox once said,

- “The honestly mistaken, when confronted with Bible Truth, will either cease to be honest or cease to be mistaken”.

I'd like to close with these few words of hope and endurance, for both those struggling to remain faithfully **IN Christ** and those who have yet to comply with God's instructions. Do you recall the sufferings of Job or the apostle Paul? (read the book of [Job](#) and [2Cor.11:24-27](#)). I am not making light of the suffering that anyone may currently have or may be experiencing in the future; Such experiences can overwhelm one and cause great pain – But I don't think anything endured today, can compare to the suffering of Job or the apostle Paul or those persecuted christians of the first century. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall **HAVE tribulation**: but **BE of good cheer**; I have **OVERCOME the world**." ([Jn.16:33](#)). Whether it is dating problems, current or future marital or health problems, whether it is job related, school related or problems with physical or spiritual brethren – In this physical realm, one can experience some great disappointments, heartache and suffering.

Life ETERNAL however, has NO suffering – therein lies the HOPE of a christian.

Indeed the Bible says we are "**SAVED by hope**" ([Rom.8:24](#)). So don't forget to "**REJOICE in hope of the glory of God**" ([Rom.5:2](#)). Don't **EVER** give up or abandon God – you be "**stedfast, unmoveable, ALWAYS abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is NOT in vain IN the Lord**" ([1Cor.15:58](#)). True christians don't loose hope, because they are Heaven bound and want to take as many souls with them, instead of tearing or dragging themselves and others down with the burdens of this life. Christians don't give up and say as Job's wife did "**curse God, and die**" ([Job 2:9](#)).

Christians put their best foot forward – they should do their best with whatever circumstances they are faced with. The Bible says, "**Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, DO it with thy MIGHT; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest**" ([Ecc.9:10](#)). "**And whatsoever ye do, DO it HEARTILY, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**" ([Col.3:23](#)).

It is sometimes easier said than done, but the christian must "**learn., in whatsoever state (they are faced with) therewith to be content**" ([Phil.4:11](#)) – they've got to roll with the punches and not be overwhelmed and embittered just because things are not going as expected – **NEVER** blame God for the burdens in this life ([Jms. 1:13-16](#); [1Pet.5:8](#); [2Cor.11:3](#)).

For the christian who reaps eternal life,

- "**God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away**" ([Rev.21:4](#)).

This is what **PROPELS** the christian to **DO** their **best**, in **THIS life**, so they can **HAVE life EVERLASTING** – that's a **BLESSING** of being **IN Christ** ([Eph.1:3](#)). In fact God said,

- "**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is ATHIRST of the fountain of the water of life FREELY**" ([Rev.21:6](#)). So **NEVER** stop hungering and thirsting for righteousness ([Matt.5:5-6](#)).

The Bible says,

- "**He that overcometh shall INHERIT all things; and I will BE his God, and he shall BE My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and ALL liars, shall have THEIR part, IN the lake which BURNETH with fire and brimstone: which IS the second DEATH**" ([Rev.21:7-8](#)).

You **SEARCH** the scriptures and **STUDY** daily to show thyself **APPROVED** unto God ([2Tim.2:15](#); [Acts 17:11](#));

- so you can increase and add to your faith ([Rom.10:17](#); [2Pet.1:4-8](#));
- so you can **GROW** in His grace and knowledge ([2Pet.3:18](#));
- so you can properly **EQUIP** yourself **SPIRITUALLY** ([Eph.6:14-17](#));
- so you can be **READY** always to **GIVE** an answer to every man that **ASKETH** you a reason of the **HOPE** that is **IN** you **WITH** meekness and fear: ([1Pet.3:15](#)); **HOLDING** fast the **FAITHFUL** word as (you) hath been **TAUGHT**, that (you) may be able by **SOUND** doctrine both to **EXHORT** and to **CONVINCE** the gainsayers. ([Titus 1:9](#));
- so you can be **SET** for the defence of the **GOSPEL** ([Phil.1:17](#));
- so you can **FIGHT** the good **FIGHT** of faith, **LAY** hold on **ETERNAL** life ([1Tim.6:12](#)).
- You **GO** on unto **PERFECTION!** ([Heb.6:1](#)),
- Lest the Lord find you to be a wicked and slothful **SERVANT** ([Matt.25:1-30](#)).

Those that **CHOOSE** to remain,

- “**FAITHFUL** unto death,” will **RECEIVE** “a crown of **LIFE**” ([Rev.2:10](#)).

Those that **CHOOSE** to

- “**ENDURE** unto the end, the same shall be **SAVED**” ([Matt.24:13](#)).

It is that simple!

I don't understand why anyone would not want to be a christian and abide in the soul saving gospel of our Lord, rather than in the religious traditions of men ([Col.2:8](#)), which has zero spiritual blessings in this life, or the life to come ([Eph.1:3](#))!

Resources:

- Sermons by Richard Fox [“Bible Authority”; series of lessons on “What Think Ye of Christ”; & many more]
- Sermons by Johnny Ramsey [“Chain of Salvation”; “Joy of Christianity”; “Nailed To The Cross”; & many more]
- “Establishing Bible Authority” by Robert Harkrider (published online)
- “The Church – The Greatest Work of God” by David Bonner Sr [1971; self published by author]

Come study and worship with us!

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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We assemble at the following time:

- Sunday Worship: 11:00am