

# **Authentic Christianity**

by

**Keith Bishop**

# Table of Contents

Keith Bishop.....	1
1 – What Do Christians Believe?.....	4
God.....	4
God the Father.....	4
God the Son.....	5
God the Holy Spirit.....	6
Man.....	6
Salvation.....	6
Election.....	7
Regeneration.....	7
Justification.....	7
Sanctification.....	7
Security.....	7
Separation.....	7
The Church.....	8
Angels.....	8
End Times – Eschatology.....	8
Death.....	8
Rapture.....	8
Tribulation.....	9
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming & Millennial Reign.....	9
Judgment of the Lost.....	9
Eternity.....	9
2 - What is the Bible.....	10
Scripture is Literal – Grammatically & Historically.....	10
The Bible is Incapable of Being Wrong.....	11
God Managed the Recording of His Word Through Humans.....	11
One True Interpretation for Each Bible Passage.....	12
3 – How Should Christians Behave.....	13
What does the Bible say about Christians behavior?.....	13
Proclaim the revelation of Christ.....	13
Defend the revelation of Christ.....	13
Demonstrate the revelation of Christ.....	14
Share the revelation of Christ.....	14
Suffer for the revelation of Christ.....	14
Don't hinder the revelation of Christ.....	14
Be not ashamed of the revelation of Christ.....	15
Preach the revelation of Christ.....	15
Be empowered by the revelation of Christ.....	15
4 – How To Follow Jesus: The Lord’s Prayer.....	17
How to Follow Him.....	17
My Father.....	17
Your kingdom come.....	18
Give me this day.....	18

Forgive me my debts.....	18
Deliver me from the evil one.....	18
Yours is the glory.....	19
5 – How Do I Know I’m Saved.....	20
Love for God.....	20
Repentance from Sin.....	21
Genuine Humility.....	21
Devotion to God’s Glory.....	22
Continual Prayer.....	22
Selfless Love.....	22
Separation from the World.....	22
Spiritual Growth.....	23
Obedient Living.....	23
Hunger for God’s Word.....	23
Transformation of Life.....	23
6 – Things That are Meaningless to Your Faith.....	25
Visible Morality.....	25
Intellectual Knowledge.....	26
Religious Involvement.....	26
Active Ministry.....	26
Conviction of Sin.....	26
Assurance.....	27
Time of Decision.....	27
7 – Is The Church Age Ending?.....	28
The Biblical Timeline.....	28
God's Countdown Clock.....	29
The Antichrist Sign - The Final Sign.....	29
When You See These Things.....	30

# 1 – What Do Christians Believe?

Being a genuine Christian means that you are a follower of biblical Jesus who is not the Jesus of our imaginations. He is the Christ, the image, the icon, and the physical manifestation of God. He is God.

He offered Himself as sacrifice for us on the cross to die in our place. He took our individual punishments and gives us the free gift of salvation.

All we have to do in return is:

1. Recognize that we are sinners in need of a savior
2. Make Him the master of our lives
3. Try to follow Him in faith as best we can.

Believing anything else disqualifies us for salvation and is the mark of cults like the Mormon and Jehovah's Witness organizations.

New age, deconstructionists, and progressive "Christians" do not believe in Jesus from the bible. These people are apostates who are wolves within the church that would do you harm and follow it up with a "praise God!"

Biblical Jesus being equal with God is the defining characteristic of a true Christian. Everything else is cult behavior.

So what else does the bible say about God?

## God

Isaiah 45:5-7 tells us that He is the only Lord, the only God, and He is the cause of all things.

This means that idols are nothing but our imaginations. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians says that "there is no such thing as an idol in the world" because there is only 1 God.

He has a monopoly on truth because He is the only truth.

The Gospel means good news. Christians are expected to spread the Gospel through the nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 validates the trinity which is 1 God in 3 forms.

## God the Father

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:6 says there is only one God, and He is the Father. One Lord that is Jesus who made all things and also that we live through Jesus.

God promises universal blessing through Abraham. We are all descended from Adam, through Abraham, and eventually Noah after the flood. Christians will eventually become one united body according to Ephesians 3:9.

John MacArthur claims that “God is the source, the sustainer, and the rightful end of everything that exists.” (study bible note: Romans 11:36) We simply could not exist without God. Science doesn’t claim to know what holds everything together, but Christians know from the bible that God is the glue.

John 1:12 shows us God’s grace: “but as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He (Jesus) gave the right to become children of God (the Father), even to those who believe in His (Jesus) name.”

So whoever turns away from sin, accepts Jesus as their savior, and believes that Jesus is who He said He is will be adopted as a son or daughter of God the Father. This person will receive eternal life and be allowed to live in Heaven.

Fortunately for us God is not fair. He is good, so we get grace and mercy instead of instant judgment and destruction for our sins.

## **God the Son**

A wonderful sacrifice came down from Heaven through a virgin birth, lived a perfect life, and purchases all believers out of eternal damnation. His name is Jesus Christ.

Many Christians don’t realize that Jesus was involved in creating everything in the universe. He existed before the universe. In fact, “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” according to John 1:3.

Jesus was the person of God who walked with Adam and Even in the garden. We were created in His image with a face, arm, legs, etc. We just need to remember that He is God and we aren’t.

It’s odd that most people accept Alexander the Great historically but struggle with Biblical Jesus even though there is 10 times more proof that Jesus came and did all that the bible says He did.

The world allows anyone to believe in aliens, unicorn, and anything else that contradicts what we know from the bible, but will happily murder and persecute Christians. This is because Jesus is real and alive.

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd.” Christians are His flock. He owns us and gave His life for us.

John 10:14-18 shows that Jesus is not like a simple employee who will run at the first sign of danger to protect himself.

Believers are commanded to model our lives after His example. Philippians 2:5-8 gives a good summary:

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

## God the Holy Spirit

Genesis says that the spirit of God was moving over the surface in the dark when the earth was still “formless and void.”

The Holy Spirit guides all believers into “all the truth” according to John 16:13 and baptized all the church into one body of believers regardless if you’re a Jew or Gentile. Genuine Messianic Jews and authentic Gentile Christians have the same beliefs and the same teacher in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does the work of transformation in Christians as they read the bible. This explains why so many people who set out to prove the bible wrong end up worshipping Jesus as born again believers.

## Man

The Lord (Jesus) formed man out of the dust, created them in His image, and put in them the breath of life. Humans are created beings with the purpose of knowing the creator (Jesus).

God gives us a chair in Heaven, not a throne. He makes the rules, and His word never changes. He says that believing in Jesus is the only way to Heaven, so it’s the only way according to authentic Christianity.

All men fall short, and the situation quickly headed downhill. It went something like this: cultivate the garden and keep it, eat freely, don’t eat from one specific tree or you’ll die, here’s a partner so that you’re not alone, hello wife, you ate what, now we die.

We all fall short of His glory. That’s what sinners do, but there is hope!

## Salvation

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise and the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. - Ephesians 1:4-7

What a gift for genuine believers! Let’s dig a little deeper into what that means:

- **Election** – to be formally chosen
- **Regeneration** – to be reformed
- **Justification** – to be declared righteous
- **Sanctification** – to be declared holy or set apart
- **Security** – to be guaranteed salvation
- **Separation** – to be different from the sinful world

## **Election**

He chose Christians to be His before He made the world, which also means that He made the world for us. Earth is uniquely situated to mesh well with all of our senses, but that's another story.

Being chosen is a gift of grace and mercy because He knows that we can't measure up to the standards of a perfect God. Christians realize that our lives depend on the gift of His mercy because none of us are good. We fell for the devil's lie in the garden and need a savior.

## **Regeneration**

This is the wondrous work of the Holy Spirit. Believers evolve towards the image of Jesus through God's word with understanding imparted by the Holy Spirit.

True regeneration produces obedience to God and righteous attitudes.

## **Justification**

Only God declares who is righteous. He chooses those who have faith in Jesus, repent or turn away from their sins, and confess Jesus as their sovereign Lord. Lord is another word for master, so Jesus literally owns true Christians.

Jesus made us and then came to earth and paid for our sins with His blood. He took responsibility for us and He holds the key to Heaven.

## **Sanctification**

Authentic Christians are set apart from the rest of society and declared holy. This is why Christians are called saints. We have been moved from the dark into the light.

## **Security**

True believers can't lose their salvation. The new trend of people publicly renouncing their faith, deconstructing their faith, and all the other apostate stunts means that they were never saved to begin with.

It simply means that they have stopped faking it and want to be openly evil.

Christians are expected to be thankful and rejoice in the knowledge that they are secure in Christ. God forbids Christian liberty to be used as an excuse for sinful living. It's not a get-out-of-jail card.

## **Separation**

Separation from sin is an obvious theme in the bible. Christians believe that His gift is so big that we should strive to live lives that demonstrate our adoration for the Lord Jesus.

We are privileged to live lives in continual pursuit of holiness according to Matthew 5:2-12.

## **The Church**

Every saved believer is a member of the church, and the purpose of the church is to glorify God. MacArthur makes this exact statement about Ephesians 3:21.

One spirit, the Holy Spirit, baptized us all into the church. Each of us has own own role to play and walk to walk. This is a reality that Christians need to accept because Jesus calls for obedience.

## **Angels**

Angels are created beings that worship and serve God. Fallen angels rebelled against God and have become demons.

Satan was an angel as is known as “the author of sin.” Satan brought down other angels with him and fell under judgment.

Fallen angels are not allowed redemption. All of them will eventually go to the pit.

## **End Times – Eschatology**

Roughly 25% of the bible is prophetic. God says that He told us the end from the beginning so that we know that he is the beginning and the end. It is comforting to know that His word is always solid. What He says will happen always happens through history.

## **Death**

The words of Jesus: "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). This means that you seemingly meet Jesus immediately when you die. Barabbas was a murderer being crucified next to Jesus that came to believe in Him while hanging there and was saved. Barabbas had no works, but turned to Jesus and said “remember me when you come into Your kingdom.”

Revelation 6:9 says that many Christians will be martyred for their faith. God will avenge these souls and liberate them. Jesus was murdered for the truth, so we shouldn't be surprised when persecution comes knocking at the door.

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.” - Danial 12:13.

Jesus said “it is finished” just before He died, but He didn't stay dead. He rose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and showed us that we can follow Him to heaven.

## **Rapture**

We learn that "the dead in Christ will rise first just before the living church gets "caught up" or snatched away (1Th 4:16, 17).



Jesus tells us in Matthew 14:1-3 that He goes to prepare a place for us so He will naturally be coming back for us too. We are His.

## **Tribulation**

Jeremiah 30:7 calls this 7 year period "the time of Jacob's distress" and is associated with the final restoration of Israel just preceding Christ's Second Advent (2nd coming).

This period leads to all the true Christians being raised at the "Resurrection of Life" in stages while the non-believers stay asleep until the end of the millennial reign according to Revelation 20: 4-6.

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming & Millennial Reign**

This is the period that begins with Jesus touching down at the end of Tribulation and goes until new heaven and new earth are created (See Revelation 20:1-22:21).

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory...He will sit on His glorious throne" from Matthew 25:31. Jesus will rule with the saints on earth for 1000 years. The earth will be repopulated by Tribulation survivors.

Isaiah 65:17-25 tells us a lot about the 1000 year reign of Christ. Lifespans will increase again as in the days of Noah who lived 950 years from what I can tell ("as the lifetime of a tree...") It says that anyone dying before 100 will be like a child dying. Interesting.

## **Judgment of the Lost**

And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. - Revelation 20:9

I'm not sure how cults get around plain Scripture, because John 5:22-23 clearly shows equality between Jesus and God:

“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgement to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father.”

## **Eternity**

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:10 shows us what will eventually happen to this world. He says that this world system will be put to an end and burn up.

This is in contrast to the 1<sup>st</sup> time God destroyed the planet with water during the days of Noah. The second destruction is a flood of fire.

Then we will live with Him redeemed forever after.

## 2 - What is the Bible

The Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is also the "physical manifestation of truth in this universe" according to Jordan Peterson. Wow and I agree!

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:20,21

We learn in 1 Corinthians 2:7-14 that we don't receive the spirit of the world when we submit to Jesus. We receive the Holy Spirit. This is so that we may know the things that God wants us to know. The things that God wants us to know are found in the bible and taught to us by the Holy Spirit.

**Salvation, then, is the foundation of wisdom.**

It sounds crazy to some people (I get it), but ask someone who has accepted Jesus and received the Holy Spirit about how much different reading their bible is. My guess is that they say it comes alive in their hands and hits home.

That's the Holy Spirit helping you absorb God's wisdom. So pray, read, & contemplate on the things God wants you to know. All you need to do is pray about it and dive in. The MacArthur Study Bible is the way to go.

### **Scripture is Literal – Grammatically & Historically**

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that "all Scripture is inspired by God...so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Take notice that the Bible does not say that the Scripture writers were inspired. Scripture is inspired.

God either directly told them what to write or showed them scenes of events that they were to record in their own words. From these words (the Bible) we receive:

- **teaching** – divine instruction
- **reproof** – the correction of our beliefs through the exposure of sin
- **correction** – bringing something back to it's proper condition
- **training in righteousness** – adopting a life of Godly behavior

So Scripture is God directly teaching us who we are, what we are, why we are, and when we are in the Biblical timeline.

We're basically God's adopted children that He created in His own image. Then Adam & Eve listened to Satan, and brought Sin into "the hive" as it were. Finally, God loves us too much to destroy us so He purchased us on the cross. We are His. Created, bought, paid for, and redeemed (some of us).

My advise is to dig into the word and see what the historical meaning of it was to the people at the time it was said. That connection is where we can begin picking out the true meaning of God's inspired words. Scripture is literal and we need to remember that it's not our story as much as it is His story of saving man.

We can learn much from that story.

## **The Bible is Incapable of Being Wrong**

Jesus tells us that the Old Testament is the accurate and genuine Word of God down to the smallest stroke or letter. Check it out:

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

*Matthew 5:18*

This is why I use the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the New King James Version (NKJV). These translations are considered to be very accurate. There are another couple of versions that are more poetic and still accurate, but beware the neutered versions like the NIV.

### **Gender studies have gained a foothold in some translations.**

Jesus wraps it up nicely in John 10:35 where He says "...and the Scriptures cannot be broken," and puts an end to the argument as far as I'm concerned.

Fragile minds like to deny the authenticity of the Bible. They have yet to prove any word of it to be wrong. You can go to Egypt and visit Joseph's section of history and artifacts in the museum today if you want to.

Believing the Bible should be easy for us in these last days of the Church Age because we get to look at most of it from a historical perspective. It's really hindsight at this point, and the Word has thus far been accurate. I'm guessing the remainder will also be spot on.

## **God Managed the Recording of His Word Through Humans**

The Bible was written with dual authorship. We get this from the opening paragraph above that quotes 2 Peter 1:20, 21. "Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

According to a quick search result, the book of Job goes back to around 1900 B. C. Job was written over 400 years before Genesis and is the sole drama in the Bible. And on a personal note, Job is the toughest book for me to read, but you'll have to read it to find out why.

## **One True Interpretation for Each Bible Passage**

The MacArthur Study Bible teaches that while there can be many applications for each passage of Scripture, there can be only one true meaning.

Another important tip to keep in mind when studying Scripture is to realize that much of what's covered in the Bible is covered in multiple books within the Bible without contradictions.

### **Scripture interprets Scripture.**

The true meaning of each passage can only be determined at the crossroads of where all the the passages agree with each other on any given topic. This is because Scripture is the infallible Word of God. All of it, down to the smallest symbol is inspired by God.

This means that the truths from Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jesus all have to jive with each other concerning end times prophecy. One passage cannot make a liar out of another passage. That's the outer perimeter of Bible study IMO.

## **3 – How Should Christians Behave**

The Gospel is the revelation of Christ. He is our Lord, and our Savior, and our God. We should all strive to behave as He does according to God's Word and the example He left for us.

### **What does the Bible say about Christians behavior?**

1. Proclaim the revelation of Christ.
2. Defend the revelation of Christ.
3. Demonstrate the revelation of Christ.
4. Share the revelation of Christ.
5. Suffer for the revelation of Christ.
6. Do not hinder the revelation of Christ.
7. Be not ashamed of the revelation of Christ.
8. Preach the revelation of Christ
9. Be empowered by the revelation of Christ
10. Guard the revelation of Christ

These 10 basic behaviors comprise the responsibilities of a believer. They keep us on the path of truth. They are what separates us from false teachers, progressive preachers, and evil influences. They are what God requires of us.

Let's unpack that a bit and dig into the basic beliefs of Christianity.

#### **Proclaim the revelation of Christ**

Jesus focused His ministry on teaching, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom (sharing His faith publicly), and healing people.

I believe Jesus is who He said He was. He is risen. I believe He is coming for the Church soon because we are the generation that sees all the signs given preceding His return. He tells us in the Bible that the world we now see around us will be the setting for Tribulation.

#### **Defend the revelation of Christ**

Apostate and false teachers have been around since the beginning. Jude 3 calls us to battle for the truth to prevent those selling counterfeit salvation from prevailing.

These snakes are literally everywhere in the modern church as evil is considered good and good is now considered evil.

Look up! It's harvest season friend. We know this because we see all the signs that Jesus warned about all across the globe.

## **Demonstrate the revelation of Christ**

Simply live like you believe it, but prepare for the long haul as He could be 20 or more years out still. Have integrity. Live your beliefs. Read your Bible and grow. Check out Philippians 1:27. We're not out of here until the "fullness of the gentiles comes in."

So we can speed up His coming by helping others come into a personal relationship with Jesus...

## **Share the revelation of Christ**

Be a partner with Christ and help share His life story and good news. Follow Him. Be obedient.

This is a basic, yet important belief of Christianity and the reason you're reading this.

## **Suffer for the revelation of Christ**

Most people find Jesus and his Gospel offensive because they don't realize how sick we all are. Christians have been persecuted every day since He was crucified on the cross.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. - 2 Timothy 1:8

The secular world doesn't care for Jesus and nailed him to a chunk of wood for His testimony, so His chosen shouldn't expect to be treated well when they share it either.

There are too many soft pastors preaching a watered down Christianity today. They are supposed to be helping souls find heaven or at least bringing people to a decision regarding their faith.

Most pastors are falling away from the truth in favor of the prosperity, self-help, and love is love gospel. It's a lie.

The remnant church of true believers is being driven underground. The church began in homes and we'll likely finish in homes.

So buckle up Christian. We are appointed to these times, so we are also anointed for these times too. Stay salty and allow God's light to shine.

## **Don't hinder the revelation of Christ**

1 Corinthians 9:12 reminds us to spread the word for God's glory and not our own enrichment. I'm reminded of all the politicians claiming to have faith when it's painfully obvious that they believe in nothing other than what will get them closer to their agendas.

I've also heard business people say things like, "if you want to get rich, build a church." This explains why only 30% of pastors report reading their bibles.

Which means that **70% are reporting that they do not read their bibles.**

God is not a job that you punch in and out of like an assembly line worker. It's also not the next great business venture in the entertainment space. When did "church" become a weekly rock concert anyway?

The true church is being pushed underground in the United States & Canada as the religious complex crumbles from within to corruption.

## **Be not ashamed of the revelation of Christ**

Paul was imprisoned, laughed at, smuggled to safety, and regarded as a fool. He didn't care and kept going. The study bible says "nothing could curb his boldness". He preached the word without shame.

Romans 1:16 tells us that what Jesus did for us on the cross is too great of a gift to be ashamed of it. We have a living God in Heaven that has adopted those who live in faith.

## **Preach the revelation of Christ**

We're compelled to share the good news. You can do it because you want to or you can do it because He tells us to. But maybe stick to the parts that you know and understand well.

Believers should feel like they have gained the secret of life on earth **because they have.**

Who wouldn't want to share that anyway?

Apparently almost everyone in the beginning. That's good because there is a lot to learn, and people tend to misquote the scriptures. 1 Corinthians 9:16 tells us these things and offers a stern warning to unfaithful preachers.

The trick is to figure out the what, where, and how you would like to serve and turn it into a personal miniature ministry. This blog is a good example. This mini-ministry we call Board of the Lord is just a convergence of our interest in Jesus, studying, and writing.

One thing leads to another and growth in Christ always comes through obedience from what I can tell. Baby steps.

## **Be empowered by the revelation of Christ**

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. - 1 Thessalonians 1:5

- **Deserting** in the Greek here refers to a military desertion which is punishable by death.
- **Disturbing** in the Greek here means to shake up, agitate, or stir.
- **Distort** here refers to the early habit of trying to add rules and laws (works) into Christianity as a replacement to salvation through grace.

It's obviously important to tell it as straight as you can according to the basic beliefs of Christianity.

This is how Christians should behave according to what God requires of us.



## 4 – How To Follow Jesus: The Lord’s Prayer

Jesus displays no ego and loves us without emotion. That makes Him like the best dude ever.

The Lord's Prayer is what I would consider to be our template for daily living and also the example Jesus set for us in how He lived His life. He commanded us to follow Him. The text is from Matthew 6:9-13 (NASB).

Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

‘Give us this day our daily bread.

‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen’]

### How to Follow Him

- **My Father: Acknowledge your Father, your King, your God. It's His glory. Not yours.**
- **Your kingdom come:** Realize the story is still unfolding and keep watch. This isn't fantasy. He will come back for us at some point.
- **Your will be done:** Stay out of the way of His plan. Do not hinder the Gospel. Walk in increasing righteousness.
- **Give me this day:** He promises to supply or provision you with the things you need. Be grateful for each day as it's an opportunity to make progress in your walk of faith.
- **Forgive me my debts:** Forgive those who have hurt you before approaching the Lord for forgiveness. It's hypocritical to ask for forgiveness while bearing a grudge against your neighbor. Don't hold yourself back with hate.
- **Deliver me from evil:** Avoid sin by learning more and more about God's Word and put what you've learned into daily practice (walk-the-walk as best you can).
- **Yours is the glory:** Realize that it's all His glory in the entire Bible. We praise Him for what He did for us as we are not able to do it for ourselves or each other. Only His gift saved us. Cherish it.

Let’s unpack that.

### My Father

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

Yes, our God is compassionate. - Psalm 116:5 (NASB)

Being a Christian means that you are a part of God's family. We all get to be born and walk the fleshy path of this life just like Jesus did.

These are perilous days indeed, but know that your father is walking with you. You are never alone.

## **Your kingdom come**

Therefore, be on the alert - for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning - in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, Be on the alert! - Philippians 3:21 (NASB)

God wants us to transform our ways into His ways. We do this through obedience, but knowing what He wants us to do requires digging into the word. Practice makes better, and He will eventually make us complete.

## **Give me this day**

We need God to sustain our spiritual, mental, and physical lives. We live at His mercy.

So we should ask God to give us an opportunity to serve Him with the day He has given us.

## **Forgive me my debts**

God expects us to forgive, don't hold a grudge, and let it go. We reap what we sow: you might not be forgiven if you don't forgive.

People are broken, delusional, and fully willing to do evil. It's not personal anymore because we have been purchased out of that swamp.

You're a child of God and Jesus is your Lord. Focus on His glory: not your hurt.

## **He already saved us....**

All He really wants is for us to repent, spread the Word, and steward everything He gives us including the helpless souls. He would also like us to watch for His coming while we do it so that we are constantly plugged-in to His plan.

## **Deliver me from the evil one**

Believers in Christ should have the desire to "avoid the dangers of sin altogether" (MacArthur note - Matthew 6:13). Our behaviors will often leave us open to Satan's assaults, but we should have the posture of deliverance from our failings.

## **Yours is the glory**

to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.  
Amen. - Ephesians 3:21 (NASB)

The goal of our lives is for all of our actions and words to honor Him because nothing we do will ever be good enough to earn a place in Heaven. It is a gift.

## 5 – How Do I Know I’m Saved

The Bible says in 1 John 5:13 to you that have received Jesus as your savior, “I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life.” Yet we still doubt this is true at times.

Salvation is the gift of adoption into God’s family. WOW. How fortunate are we to be chosen by God Himself?

Being saved cuts through the ego and allows His truths to penetrate us. So pinch yourself daily if you are having difficulty believing He would choose you if that’s what it takes. Why me? Why you? Why not us?

Does God allow everyone to be saved? Jesus prepaid our salvation and says all can take it or leave it as they will. So yes. The only unforgivable sin is not believing in Jesus as God, Lord, and Savior. Everything else you’ve done can be washed away through His work on the cross. And I mean everything.

True Christians receive the gift of salvation and improve on the following 11 traits as they follow Jesus and mature in God’s truth. This is your assurance of salvation:

1. Love for God
2. Repent from sin
3. Genuine humility
4. Devotion to God’s glory
5. Continual prayer
6. Selfless love
7. Separation from the world
8. Spiritual growth
9. Obedient living
10. Hunger for God’s word
11. Transformation of life

### Love for God

Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. – Psalm 73:25

The church is meant to be with Jesus forever, and we’re ready for the wedding feast to begin in Heaven. This anticipation of the ending church age is what it means to be *rapture ready* in my household.

## Repentance from Sin

Children that love their fathers tend to model their behaviors after them. This is why Christians try to eliminate sin from their lives and ask forgiveness for their daily stumbles.

Are you trying to honor your God in Heaven with obedient behavior? It all begins with asking forgiveness and avoiding sin as much as possible going forward.

This battle is the daily Christian struggle that will not end until we see Him in Heaven.

## Genuine Humility

Jesus says it best in The Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-11.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit
- Blessed are those who mourn
- Blessed are the gentle
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Blessed are the merciful
- Blessed are the pure in heart
- Blessed are the peacemakers
- Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness
- Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

### **Blessed means happy, fortunate, and blissful.**

Jesus, according to The MacArthur Study Bible, is “describing the divinely bestowed well-being that belongs only to the faithful.” Wow. The formula for happiness has been here all along, and we don’t need some “best selling self-help” guru pushing fake virtue on us anymore.

We’ve got the real deal Christian. Let’s turn our personalities away from narcissistic, selfish, and ugly desires so that we can be whole.

### **Here’s an action plan for blessings based on what we now know:**

- Realize that you are lost and hopeless without divine grace.
- Sin should cause sorrow or sadness in our lives.
- Do not lose control of yourself. Be gentle and steady.
- Let God define righteousness (not you) and seek it.
- Forgive and don’t hold a grudge because it corrupts you.
- Don’t be fake.

- Display sincere good will towards everyone because your enemies can also repent and receive grace.
- Following Jesus catches the attention of evil. Persecution should be expected.

## **Devotion to God's Glory**

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. – 1 Corinthians 10:31

No more ego...enough said.

## **Continual Prayer**

What are we supposed to pray about? Everything. Full bandwidth. How often are we supposed to pray? Constantly. Non-stop.

He expects us to communicate with Him because He is our eternal Father. The world will say you're crazy, but we all know what crazy looks like in these last days. Find your voice.

## **Selfless Love**

Following Jesus means not being a habitual hater or having the type of lifestyle that causes you to walk in darkness. We are to walk in light so that we know where we're going and do not stumble.

Some people are hard to love though. Folks that revel in sin have their hearts hardened and do not get the option of salvation. Jesus says to them "I never knew you" and closes the door. It's a relationship remember?

So remember to hate the world and not the people in it. This evil world hates Jesus through you because Satan knows God loves you. True Christians are adopted into God's family. That's why you are persecuted.

Your neighbors just need a good teammate and Christian example.

## **Separation from the World**

1 Corinthians 2:12 says that "we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we know the things freely given to us by God."

So God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and gave us His Word to study. This is where and how we learn His truths after being born again. Jesus sent us the teacher and the guide to righteousness.

Salvation through rapture is immanent according to Bible prophesy. We should invite Him in and begin transforming ourselves according to His Word immediately. You don't do that by holding onto the world too tightly.

This nasty world is not your reward.

## Spiritual Growth

The MacArthur Study Bible has some notes concerning this about Luke 8:15.

1. **Hear the Word:** understand and believe.
2. **Hold the Word:** be forever obedient.
3. **Bear fruit:** act according to the Word and good works will follow.

Then just learn more of the word and repeat. Don't become a person that requires trauma in order to change.

## Obedient Living

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. – Matthew 7:14

Growing your relationship with Jesus is the result of hearing God's Word, understanding God's Word, and then responding accordingly.

The Bible isn't about us. It's about Him and what He expects from us.

## Hunger for God's Word

Spiritual growth is always preceded by a phase of delight in God's Word. God put you into this world, made sure you learned how to read, and wrote a "who you are" user manual to eternal life. That's how much He loves you. Wow!

We should be interested in what He has to say. Would you love others if knew them as well as you know yourself? God does!

## Transformation of Life

When you're "in Christ" you are a new creature. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "...the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

- You have a new spiritual ability to see, hear, and become aware
- You now live for eternity instead of just today
- Old plans are gone

- God is now a constant reality for yourself
- You have a faith that produces works

Hopefully these 11 assurances of salvation will embolden you to dive into a study bible with the desire to understand the Word of God and grow your relationship with Jesus.



## 6 – Things That are Meaningless to Your Faith

Religion is harmful because it allows evil people to impersonate the righteous Christian and thus hinder the revelation of Jesus. The Jesus-hating crowd loves to pile on their ignorant lies and use these instances to do more evil.

Salvation is possible only through divine grace. This might sound strange with so many apostate churches teaching that being good will get you to Heaven. It won't. The Bible clearly says that this is false teaching.

Going to Heaven requires a personal relationship with Jesus, and He plays second fiddle to nothing in your life. So be aware that displaying the following 7 "evidences of faith" doesn't mean the person has a relationship with Jesus.

1. Visible Morality
2. Intellectual Knowledge
3. Religious Involvement
4. Active Ministry
5. Conviction of Sin
6. Assurance of Salvation
7. Time of Decision

### Visible Morality

Having morals is a good thing, but will that get your name added to the book of life? No. The parable of 10 virgins in *Matthew 25* tells us that only 50% of the Church has a personal relationship with Christ.

That means half the Church shows up out of cultural repetition. They have religion. They do not have Jesus.

**Jesus hates religion.**

So not stealing is good. Not murdering is good. Bearing true witness is good. Having a relationship with **Jesus is salvation**. More of us need to understand the difference between being good and being saved before it's too late.

## **Intellectual Knowledge**

The apostle Paul tells us that many know of God but do not glorify Him. They do not accept Him as lord and yet appear wise in their knowledge to others. They are actually fools that have rationalized their sin.

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. - Romans 1:21

So do not form theories about God without evidence and give thanks to Him because everything good you enjoy in life comes from God.

**Let's not get it twisted like fools. We walk in truth.**

## **Religious Involvement**

Salvation is having a personal relationship with Jesus. Being involved with religion won't save you and even half the church congregation might not be saved according to the Bible in Matthew 25.

Let's look at it. Five of the bridesmaids were ready for the bridegroom's coming and five were not. The bridegroom claimed to not know the 5 who were not ready. This tells us that half the people in Church will miss the Rapture and go through the 7 year Tribulation.

It is my hope and prayer that many in the 50% group that's left behind will repent during Tribulation and receive salvation through Jesus.

## **Active Ministry**

The sad joke going around is that modern Seminary will teach you how to build a big church. They used to teach men how to save souls for God. Evil has infiltrated Seminary.

The deceivers are preaching false doctrine loud and proud these days. It is important for us to build a strong foundation in truth to protect us from their lies. There are pastors on TV giving warm fuzzy sermons with personal bank accounts worth millions of dollars. If that's not a red flag, what is?

Mr. "Joel" is reportedly worth \$100,000,000. Does that sound like the bank account of an unashamed workmen? No it does not. Be on guard and use your study Bible to verify what you hear.

## **Conviction of Sin**

Authentic Christians strive for self-control and practice conforming to God's standard. We're following Jesus in our own broken ways with our own skill-sets. We're not simply trying to be good people and hoping that it counts for something later. We understand that sin dishonors God.

Sadly, living your life to the letter of God's Law doesn't make up for not knowing Jesus as your lord. Many people are doing it day in and day out. That's what I like to call *missing the point*.

So let's both remember exactly who we sin against and who paid the cost of our sins on the cross.

## Assurance

Even cult members that deny Jesus as God act like they have security in God (Mormon, Jehovah Witness, etc). What they don't know is that without Jesus their assurance is nothing but a superficial good luck charm.

*Matthew 23:5* teaches us that many people do things to look good and holy in the sight of others. Crowd pleasing is common in our communities. They seek the public approval of men to appear hyper spiritual.

But you and I desire to seek the private approval of God. We understand that salvation is rooted in a divine gift (John 3:16). The resurrection of Jesus is our assurance. Without Him there is only delusion.

## Time of Decision

Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on in their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. - Luke 8:13-14

The Bible goes on to say that there are those who hear the word with "an honest and good heart." They continue to believe the Gospel and bear fruit because that's who they've become. Unashamed workmen.

Authentic Christianity is adoption into God's family. I want to bring it home with an obvious call to action: **seek truth.**

## 7 – Is The Church Age Ending?

The definitions below show how we get to rapture since the actual word isn't in the Bible. It is a simple translation from Greek to English. The word "Bible" isn't in the Bible either.

- **Greek:** *harpazo* - to snatch or take away
- **Latin:** *rapturo* - to be caught up
- **English:** *rapture* - being carried away

25% of the Bible is prophetic and Scripture tells us what is about to go down. It's a shame that so many simple bible churches have disappeared. We could really use more book-by-book and verse-by-verse preachers, but deception is the game and Lucifer is his name.

We should always ask:

1. What did God say?
2. What did God mean?
3. How does God expect me to respond?

We should **not** ask “what does this mean to me” because it doesn’t matter what it means to us. He expects obedience.

But how did we get here and where exactly is here anyway?

### The Biblical Timeline

The beginning	4000 BC	Adam
Day 1	3000 BC	Noah
Day 2	2000 BC	Abraham
Day 3	1000 BC	David
Day 4	0	Jesus Christ
Day 5	AD 1000	Church age
Day 6	AD 2000	Church age - <b>Today</b>
Day 7	AD 3000	Millennium

God's view of time is different than ours because He is eternal. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:8 tells us that 1000 years is like a day to God and a day is like 1000 years.

This gets interesting when you compare the story of creation in Genesis with the biblical timeline. Doing so makes it clear that we're approaching Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, which is also known as the days of Jacob's trouble.

What this means for believers is that we're now in the season of rapture. It's time to look up and become watchmen.

## God's Countdown Clock

It's said that every generation thinks they'll be the last, but they couldn't be because God's countdown clock didn't start until 1948.

1. God says that the Jewish people will be back in the land **before His 2nd coming**.
2. The Jews were scattered by the Romans in 70 AD when the temple was completely dismantled.
3. Israel became a nation again and the Jews began returning to the land in 1948 just like the Bible said it would.
4. Bible prophesy speaks of the Second Coming, but we know that the rapture will be first because we come back with Him in the Second Coming. We can't be here and there at the same time.
5. It looks like we find ourselves within the biblical rapture window according to Scripture, but not because Israel is a nation again. It's because we see **all** the signs spoken of by Jesus.

This means that you and I are part of the last generation that will enter Tribulation. Praise God for sparing the Church from that hour, and be sure to focus on your relationship with Jesus and not just go through the motions.

He says that He will deliver us "**from**" that hour and **not through that hour**. That's an important distinction, but life is still fragile on this planet. We should prepare for increasingly worse times like labor pains until we're snatched up.

He also said that there is a reward for those who watch for His return.

## The Antichrist Sign - The Final Sign

Paul tells us that apostasy, as in The Great Apostasy, has to happen before the day of the Lord can occur. I believe that most biblical scholars place Rapture between the Apostasy and the beginning of Tribulation.

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction - 2 Thessalonians 2:3

## **When You See These Things**

Firstly: **stop what you're doing and give thanks to Jesus for choosing you during a time of such apostasy as this.** Amen!

It's time to repent and submit to Jesus if you haven't as the Church Age is ending before our eyes in real-time.

There's more to prophecy, but I believe everyone should be informed of the "big rock" since we're currently living it. God is wrapping up this part of the story friend.

### **As always:**

Believing in Jesus and developing a literal personal relationship with Him is the only path to salvation. All you have to gain is everything my friend: nobody wants to lose paradise!

And if I don't see you in this life, hopefully I'll see you with Jesus in the next. Take care.