

RELIGIONS, CULTS, PHILOSOPHIES

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God bless you as you pray and sincerely ask God to give you a heart for those who need the "real" Jesus. People need Jesus and if we can answer their questions in gentleness and respect the Holy Spirit can use us for HIS glory!! God is with you!!!

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1. ECUMENISM: Is It Biblical?

1. Ecumenism: Is It Biblical?

Should a Christian be involved in the ecumenical movement?"

The important question is this: Are ecumenical ventures right and biblical? Should we be involved with other “Christians” in joint ventures, either locally, nationally or internationally? The answer to this question is not black and white. As is almost always the case, one must weigh out the answer in each situation specifically. However, there are a couple of biblical guidelines which will help us make God-honoring decisions regarding ecumenism.

First of all, Are those we are joining with truly Christians in the biblical sense of the word? Many people and organizations in America and the world “name the Name of Jesus Christ” and even state He is Lord and Savior and yet clearly reject what the Bible says about Him. Obvious examples of this are Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. They will say they are followers of Jesus Christ and are Christian and yet deny with vehemence what the Bible declares concerning Christ’s nature and work. A not-so-obvious example comes in the form of liberal Christianity. Liberal Christianity is found in almost every denomination in the United States and, although it may seem very Christian, usually liberal Christians reject several essential biblical truths such as the inspiration and authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16), Jesus as the only Savior of the entire world (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5), and salvation as God’s free gift to those who believe apart from good works (Romans 3:24, 28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

As seen with the publication of Evangelicals and Catholics Together, there is a major emphasis in our day on ecumenical unity among Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. Those who promote such unity state that both are Christian and both are viable, God-honoring systems of faith. But clearly the substantial differences between the two groups render ECT a ridiculous document. Biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism are two different religions that practice and believe different things about how one is saved, the authority of the Bible, the priesthood of believers, the nature of man, the work of Christ on the cross, etc. The list of irreconcilable differences between what the Bible says and what the Roman Catholic Church says makes any joint mission between the two absolutely impossible. Those who deny this are not being true to what they say they believe, no matter which side they are on. Any Catholic who is serious about his faith will deny what a serious evangelical Christian believes and vice-versa.

The difficulty with ecumenism is that often the above listed groups are passionately like-minded with biblical Christians regarding a given issue. Biblical Christians are usually marked by a strong pro-life belief, a strong traditional view of the family, a strong emphasis on compassion for the homeless and sick, and a strong desire to see justice in the world. The above groups are often marked by the same desires. Thus, the temptation to “pool resources” in pursuit of a common cause is sometimes great. This leads to the next guideline.

Second, what is the ultimate goal of this ecumenical venture? The Scriptures give clear guidance as to how Bible-believing Christians are to live their lives. Colossians 3:17 states our purpose this way, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Regarding our interactions with the lost, unbelieving world,

Jesus states this in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Some familiar verses are Matthew 28:18-20, also known as the Great Commission, “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” In summary, all that we do is to bring glory and honor to God. Regarding the lost of this world, Christians bring glory to God when God uses the believer to further His kingdom through evangelism and discipleship. This is to be the motivation of the Bible-believing Christian’s interaction with the world.

Regarding ecumenical ventures, we need to ask ourselves whether or not these goals are being pursued. Often, in our day, the political and/or social desires of the participants are the driving motivators behind an ecumenical venture. A prime example of this is the current drive to pass a constitutional amendment declaring that the only marriage that will be recognized in the United States is the traditional, man/woman union. If our churches ecumenically join together in pursuit of this goal (passing out fliers, hosting a rally, etc), how are we striving for the above stated biblical purposes? Are we not simply striving for political and social achievement? How will the practicing, unbelieving homosexual view our Savior and Lord if all he sees in us is political activism and no compassion and no outreach? The ultimate goal of our actions should be the salvation of lost sinners, which we once were (Ephesians 2:1-3). The Bible tells us that the angels of heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10). There is no passage that declares that the angels rejoice when a law is passed. This applies to homosexuality, abortion, drug-abuse, etc. God is glorified when we demonstrate Christlikeness to the lost. As we contemplate ecumenical ventures within our society, we need to make sure the venture is one in which God’s kingdom is expanded through pursuing the lost with the gospel, be they practicing immorality, abortion-rights activists, homeless, drug-abusers, criminals, etc.

In conclusion, should we be involved in ecumenical cooperation with other Christians and churches? If the above conditions are met in a God-honoring way, we may freely and joyfully join with other believers in pursuit of God’s kingdom. The ultimate goal is God’s glory and the evangelism and discipleship of the lost. The ecumenical venture must be structured in this way. Thus, those we join with must believe the biblical definition of the gospel and they must also be about seeking the same goal of God’s glory and the salvation of the lost.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/ecumenism-ecumenical.html#ixzz2hJirAmPn>

**2. LIBERAL “CHRISTIAN”
THEOLOGY
&
CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY
COMPARED**

2. LIBERAL “CHRISTIAN” THEOLOGY & CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

	LIBERAL “CHRISTIAN” THEOLOGY	CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
BIBLE	Man’s reason stressed & final authority. The Bible is a good book, a nice guideline for Christian living – read as a novel, but, is NOT the inspired, inerrant, literal Word of God. The Bible stands beside, and often below, other books such as Tradition, Prayer Book, Missal, etc., in authority. In many liberal theology churches, only the New Testament is valid, even though it sits below Tradition in authority. The Old Testament is not even worth reading. The Bible has errors so man must determine which teachings are correct and which are not. Belief that the Bible is “inspired” (in that word’s original meaning) by God is only held by simpletons.	The Bible IS the Holy Spirit inspired, inerrant (God never says, “Oops!”), literal Word of God. The Bible is the final, sole authority for our Christian walk and for our Christian life. The Bible should be accepted literally with “sometimes” a metaphorical or symbolic meaning (then somewhere else in the Bible, you will find the interpretation, the intended meaning). The complete Bible, all sixty-six books are the Word of God and binding upon all mankind. Jesus always spoke of them. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
CHRIST’S DEITY	Many liberals deny the deity of Christ (Jesus is God Almighty - that Christ is “God in the flesh”). They deny that Christ did God’s miracles, that Christ created the world, that Christ was 100% God and 100% man bridging the gap between God and man.	There are many pronouncements of Scripture against those who would deny the deity of Christ (2 Peter 2:1). Scripture also denounces those who would preach a different gospel from what was preached by the apostles (Galatians 1:8)—which is what they do in denying the necessity of Christ’s atoning death & preaching a social gospel instead.
BOOK OF GENESIS	Genesis’ early chapters are reduced to poetry or fantasy, having a message, but not to be taken literally (in spite of Jesus having spoken of them in literal terms).	Jesus spoke of the early Genesis chapters in literal terms. Matthew 19:4 says, “Don’t you know that in the beginning God made them male and female, male and female he made them” and many others.
FALLEN MANKIND	Mankind is not seen as totally depraved, and thus liberal theologians have an optimistic view of the future of mankind.	God made everything “good” in Genesis 1-2. In Chapter 3, we see the “fall of man” and “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Ro.3:23
VIRGIN BIRTH	The virgin birth of Christ is a mythological false teaching.	A literal Virgin Birth is an essential doctrine for the sinlessness of Christ (see Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 2).
RESUR-RECTION	Jesus did not rise again from the grave in bodily form.	There is a resurrection account in all four Gospels and the entire New Testament. (1 Corinthians 15)
JESUS (more than a Teacher and Miracle Worker).	Jesus was a good moral teacher, but His followers and their followers have taken liberties with the history of His life (no “supernatural” miracles). The Gospels were written many years later and merely ascribed to the early disciples in order to give greater weight to their teachings.	This contradicts the 2 Timothy 3:16-17 passage and the doctrine of the supernatural preservation of the Scriptures by God. The Gospels were written by people who had been eye-witnesses of Christ’s majesty, who had walked with Him, and who had seen Him after His resurrection. Many were martyred for their belief.
GOSPEL WRITERS	Most of the human authors of the Bible are not who they are traditionally believed to be. They believe Moses did not write the first five books of the Bible. The book of Daniel had two authors because there is no way that the detailed “prophecies” of the later chapters could have been known ahead of time; they must have been written after the fact. The same thinking is carried over to the New Testament books.	These ideas contradict not only the Scriptures but historical documents which verify the existence of all the people whom the liberals deny. Also, fulfilled prophecies (330 about Christ’s earthly life alone) verify that God’s life is eternal, having no beginning and no ending. Therefore, God knows the future. There are even more prophecies about Christ’s Second Coming than His First Coming yet to be fulfilled.
MAN’S DEPRAVITY	The most important thing for man to do is to “love” his neighbor. What is the loving thing to do in any situation is not what the Bible says is good but what the liberal theologians	This denies the doctrine of total depravity, which states that man is capable to doing nothing good and loving (Jeremiah 17:9) until He has been redeemed by Christ and given a new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17).

	decide is good.	Jesus said, "Only God is good."
THE WAY TO GOD	There are many ways to God. They even accept the Bahia Faith which says Christ isn't coming back but their prophet is.	There is only one Way to God, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Read the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus asked if there was "another way". What father wouldn't show their son another way if there was?
GOD'S POWER	Denies God's power in that it says that there is some inner goodness in man that does not require a rebirth by the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ. Scripture speaks against those who would cry "peace, peace" when there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14)—which liberal theologians do by saying that man can attain peace with God apart from Christ's sacrifice on the cross and that man need not worry about a future judgment before God described in the whole Bible.	The Word of God speaks of a time when men will have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). And it speaks against those who would serve idols instead of the one true God (1 Chronicles 16:26)—which liberal Christianity does in that it creates a false god according to its own liking rather than worshiping God as He is throughout the Bible.
LIVE/LET LIVE or PREACH SALVATION	Folks are taught that they should not be judgmental, live and let live.	Taught that if a brother sins, go and reprove him -- with love. If he will not listen, go again with two or three other mature believers. If he will not listen, take him before the congregation. Then, if he will not listen, exclude him from the fellowship with sincere prayer that this will bring him to his spiritual senses (Matthew 18:15-17).
HELL	Hell is not real. Man is not lost in sin and is not doomed to some future judgment without a relationship with Christ through faith. Man can help himself; no sacrificial death by Christ is necessary since a loving God would not send people to such a place as hell and since man is not born in sin.	This contradicts Jesus Himself, who declared Himself to be the Way to God, through His atoning death (John 14:6). Even Mother Teresa who worked so hard for God, said at the end of her life, "I hope I did enough to get into heaven." What a burden that puts on everyone. But no burden if we ride into heaven on Christ's death and resurrection.
DIVORCE	Acceptable. We now have "massive" divorce since the laws on divorce changed.	One marriage sanctified under God as an example to the world of Christ and His church. Acceptable in cases of adultery but forgiveness/reconciliation still recommended through counsel and healing.
MARRIAGE (God's plan)	Some liberal churches embrace homosexuality (transgender, etc.) as an alternative lifestyle.	We are come under the Christ's Word, the Bible, and His authority. Prayer, healing, commitment to Christ, & obedience is the answer.
SCIENCE	Reconcile Christianity with secular science & modern thinking. Treat science as all-knowing & Bible as fable-laden and false.	True Science proves Bible (young earth, massive flood, life comes from God's life, Christ's witness as to having created everything being there to do it)
SOCIAL GOSPEL	Social gospel is emphasized, while the inability of fallen man to fulfill it is denied. "Salvation through Christ" is no longer the issue; the main thing is how man treats his fellow man -- "love" becoming the defining issue. Teaching and sharing the Gospel of Salvation is overshadowed -- work hard at doing good deeds and that will get you into heaven. What is the "assurance" that "good works" will get people to heaven? How much work is enough?	Evangelism (sharing the Gospel of Salvation with the unsaved) goes hand in hand with missions work. Missions work is going to the unsaved, helping them learn to feed themselves and their families -- and, at the same time, feeding them the Word of God. Yes, it is much easier to tell a person with a full stomach about Jesus, than a man whose stomach is growling from hunger. But, the two must never be separated: feeding the stomach and feeding the soul. Not to just comfort people into hell but give assurance of salvation thru Jesus!!

See: www.altogetherlovely.org **RESOURCES: CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE / DOES THIS PROVE JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH? / WHO DO YOU SAY I AM / THE GOSPEL / ASSURANCE OF SALVATION / etc.**

**3. Roman Catholicism
&
Fundamental, Evangelical
Christianity
Compared**

3. Roman Catholicism & Fundamental, Evangelical Christianity Compared

THEOLOGICAL BELIEF	ROMAN CATHOLICISM	FUNDAMENTALISTS, EVANGELICAL
Apocrypha: (meaning of term)	Books by Christian authors, used by early Christians, but later rejected as non-canonical.	Books by Jewish authors written between the OT and NT times; rejected as non-canonical.
Apostolic Succession	Believe in the Apostolic Succession; ordinations traced back to St. Peter	Concept rejected as historically invalid; it simply didn't happen.
Authority within the church	Vested in the hierarchy of the church	Within the believer (soul freedom)
Baptism, significance of	Sacrament which generates & justifies.	Testimony of a prior regeneration.
Baptism, timing	Usually done as an infant	Usually done later in life after "born again".
Bible, status of	Historically teaches that the original writings by the Bible authors are inerrant.	The original writings by the Bible authors are inerrant.
Change of beliefs, practices	Debate sometimes forbidden	Free discussion allowed
Church structure	Hierarchical	Democratic
Clergy, selection of	Appointed; all male; almost all unmarried.	Elected; mostly male, single or married.
God, access to	Via clergy, saints, Virgin Mary, Jesus	Via Jesus alone.
Hell	More than a physical place, hell is a state of being involving "the pain, frustration, & emptiness of life without God."	A real physical place of eternal torture. Some theologians say hell does not exist.
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Required belief	Denied
Infallibility of the Pope	Required belief in matters of religious doctrine and faith.	Denied
Limbo	A place in hell for infants who die before being baptized, and for OT Saints. Concept is not officially taught	Existence denied.
Lord's supper, Eucharist	A sacrifice. Christ's body and blood are physically present and consumed by participants.	Memorial meal. Christ's body and blood are present symbolically only.
Mary's status	Mary's status is below Jesus', but above those of the saints. Some regard Mary as co-redemptrix with Jesus; not is not current church teaching.	The Virgin Mary plays a relatively minor role. Only trust in Jesus saves a person.

Non-Christian religions	Have some value for the truth they contain.	Many Fundamentalists consider them worthless, dangerous, demon-led.
Prayer	To God. Also may ask Mary or a saint to pray on their behalf.	To God only.
Purgatory	A state of being in which souls are cleansed by purifying punishments before they can enter heaven.	Does not exist.
Sacraments	The means of grace.	The symbols of grace.
Salvation	Dependant on faith, works, and sacraments.	Dependent on faith only.
Salvation, losing	Is lost when a responsible person commits a mortal sin. It can be gained through repentance and the sacrament of confession.	Usually, once a person is saved, they cannot lose their salvation.
Statues, venerating	Frequent veneration of statues and images as symbolic of the individual saints.	Considered idolatry.
Truth	Found in scripture, as interpreted by the church. Also found in church tradition.	Found in scriptures as interpreted by the individual through the Holy Spirit.
Visibility of the Church	The hierarchy of the Church, including the laity, plus the Church's Spirit referred to as the "spotless Bride of Christ."	Invisible fellowship of all believers.

4. Evolution & Christianity Compared

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CAUSE	God was the Cause. For every effect, there is a cause (observable).	There was not cause – 15 billion years ago for no know reason, the universe exploded itself into existence. Time, chance, and natural process created all things. The creation of the universe is an effect with no cause (not observable).
ORIGIN	The universe was spoken into existence by God's Word. Matter cannot be created or destroyed by natural processes (observable).	Began with 'singularity', a tiny infinitely hot and dense point. Matter was created by a natural process (not observable).
ENERGY	We are devolving. Energy goes from a state of usable energy to less usable energy (observable).	We are evolving. Energy goes from a state of less usable energy to more usable energy (not observable).
SPACE	Earth created first (day 1). Stars came afterwards (day 4) with the sun and moon.	Stars formed first. Earth formed afterwards.
Earth's Covering	Water	Fire.
Time Constraints	6 Days – The creation of the World was FINISHED in six days and is no longer taking place (observable).	Infinite Time – 4.6 billion years ago the earth evolved by natural processes. The world is in a continuous process of evolution (not observable).
Quality	Very Good.	Primitive, Violent.
Planning of Life	By design.	Accident.
Origin of Life	God. Life comes from life (observable), no known exceptions.	Forces of Nature. It is possible for life to come from non-life (not observable).
Time needed for Life	2 Days (Faith based) – all animal/human life was created on day 5 and 6.	Millions of years (Faith based) – They don't know how it happened but given enough time they BELIEVE it will.
Species	Kind begets kind (observable).	Kind begets some other kind (not observable).
Animal Life	Birds first, then Reptiles.	Reptiles first, then Birds.
Human Life	Man was created on day six. Man is made in the image of God.	3.5 billion years ago life evolved Humans evolved from ape-like creatures.
Beginning of Death	After Adam sinned, not a process of creation – it is a product of man's sin.	Always been present, part of the creation process – the means by which man evolves into a higher being.

Cause of Death	Sin, there was no death before Adam sinned (plant life not included), the breath of life was breathed into animals but not plants.	Natural process, existed from the beginning of life
Spiritual Death	Both physical and spiritual, you will give an account of your life after you die.	Physical only, no accountability after death.
Sediment Layers, Canyons	Form rapidly (liquefaction). Witnessed during Mt. St. Helen (observable).	Form slowly. No evidence witnessed (not observable).
Fossil Creation	Catastrophic event, rapid burial in water, (observable).	Buried by dust over long periods of time (not observable).
Marine fossils on Mountains	Global flood, Genesis account. Rapid 40 day/night event. Springs of the deep broken up. All creation perished. All mountains covered by at least 20 ft. About 200 legends from cultures all over the world.	Local floods, earth sinking into the ocean and rising again. No written record or legend
Trees through layers	Fossilized trees spanning many layers indicates rapid burial by water, observable with Mt. St. Helen. Can be created in one week (observable).	Over many years plant life died, sank into the earth, and coal formed (not observable).
Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood	Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood, can all be made in a matter of weeks, (observable).	Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood take millions of years to form (not observable).
Biblical Day	Recognize that the Biblical day means 24 hours and accept it as fact. Hebrew word "Yom", in all cases, means short period of time. Defined to be evening and morning, Days are distinguished between seasons and years (Genesis 1:14). God's own word (Exodus 10:11). Writing style of Genesis is narrative, not poetic. Genealogy of human race given.	Some, recognize that the Biblical day means 24 hours but reject the account as a myth. Others, interpret the Biblical definition of day to mean millions of years.

Jesus Christ, as God Almighty, not only declares these things in the Bible but He was there to observe creation because He was the Creator. Either, He was crazy, a liar, or He is the Absolute Truth, He was there, and He did it.

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

5. Baha'i & Christianity Compared

5. Baha'i and Christianity Compared		
	Baha'i View	Christian View
Scripture	Writings of Baha'u'llah	Bible alone
God	Unknowable	Knowable and personal
Jesus	Manifestation of God	Absolute deity
Jesus' death	No salvific value	Atoned for sins of man
Second Coming	Baha'u'llah	Jesus Himself
Spirit of Truth (John 14:16)	Baha'u'llah	The Holy Spirit
World religions	Truth in all	Only Christianity true
Sin	Man imperfect, not fallen	Man fallen in sin
Salvation	Keep Baha'i law	Trust in Christ alone

The Baha'i faith has become a popular religion in an environment of ecumenism, inclusiveness and political correctness. Embraced eagerly by the United Nations and other interfaith organizations, Baha'i is a growing humanist influence on our world. There are currently 17,148 Local Spiritual Assemblies of the Baha'i faith in the world and 4,515 in the United States alone. Members claim a presence in 235 countries and their literature is translated into 700 languages with a total world membership estimated at 5,000,000. The following introduction is meant to be a brief overview Baha'i history, and is by no means an exhaustive history of Baha'i.

The popularity of Baha'i can largely be attributed to its attempts to unify all faiths, prophets and the entire human race. It embraces the humanist philosophy that all religions should be embraced equally because they are not contradictory and are merely successively updated versions of the same basic religious beliefs. They teach that all religions are the result of the same God and the differences stem only from the age in which they were revealed. They promote gender, racial, and economic equality; universal education; harmony between science and religion; balance between nature and technology; and the development of a world Federal system. Those who believe in absolute truths, such as those found in the Bible, are dismissed as intolerant and an obstacle to world peace.

Baha'i grew out of Islam, and is in fact a stepchild of the Islamic faith, albeit a despised one. Rather than naming Muhammad as the greatest of the prophets as the Muslims do, Baha'is hold Baha'u'llah to be the greatest of the prophets.

Baha'i was started in 1844 when Mizra Ali Muhammad ("the Bab" or gate) proclaimed he was the greatest manifestation of God yet to appear. The Bab is purported to be a direct descendant of Muhammad and he claimed to be the fulfillment of the scriptures of all of the world's religions. During his brief 6 year ministry, he taught of another manifestation that would follow (similar to the role of John the Baptist). This manifestation would be even greater than he, and in 1863 Mirza Husayn Ali proclaimed that he was the Great prophet the Bab had spoken of.

Mirza Husayn Ali took the title of "Baha'u'llah" (the Glory of God) and his followers were thereafter called Baha'is. In addition to claiming most favored prophet status, Baha'u'llah also claimed to be the

second coming of Christ and the spirit of truth recorded in John 14:16. He viewed himself as the fulfillment of the coming of Maitreya, the Buddha from the Buddhist scripture, the Krishna for the Hindus, and a fulfillment of "the Day of God" from the Muslim Qur'an. In fact the Baha'is believe all of the world's religions have pointed to the coming of Baha'u'llah, and that during his era, a promised reign of peace will be established.

Thirty years after proclaiming himself to be the fulfillment of all religions, Baha'u'llah died and leadership was passed to his son Abbas Effendi (also known as Abdul-Baha and "the Master") who worked as an interpreter for his fathers many writings. He is responsible for bringing the Baha'i faith to the U.S.

Abbas Effendi was succeeded by his grandson, Shoghi Effendi became the "Guardian of the Cause," and during his lifetime, Baha'is agreed there would perpetually be such a guardian. However, Effendi died before appointing a successor. Consequently, six years after he died, the first Baha'i Universal House of Justice was elected to serve as the Guardian. It has since been the governing body of the Baha'i faith. The Universal House of Justice is a nine-person board that applies the laws of Baha'u'llah and is made up of elected representatives. The first UHJ was comprised of Baha'is who represented Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and came from 4 continents and several ethnic backgrounds. The Baha'i temple in Wilmette, Illinois is a nine-sided building representing the world's nine living religions and is a combination of synagogue, mosque, and cathedral, symbolizing the unity of all religions.

The goal of the Baha'i faith and its leadership is for the world to become a single super-state with Baha'i as its religion. It's no wonder Baha'i is promoted vigorously by the U.N. and plays a major part in all United Nations spiritual events.

Baha'i literature proclaims the following:

"National rivalries, hatreds, and intrigues will cease, and racial animosity and prejudice will be replaced by racial amity, understanding and cooperation. The causes of religious strife will be permanently removed, economic barriers and restrictions will be completely abolished, and the inordinate distinction between classes will be obliterated. Destitution on the one hand, and gross accumulation of ownership on the other, will disappear."

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

6. New Age Movement & Christianity Compared

6. New Age Movement & Christianity Compared

The New Age Movement (NAM) is hard to define as a singular religion. It is just what it is – a movement. It is essentially a collection of eastern-influenced metaphysical ideologies, a hodge-podge of theologies and philosophies that are bound together by “universal tolerance” and moral relativism. The NAM is the natural progression of humanism. It teaches that humans have evolved biologically, and must now evolve spiritually. Beyond that, it is difficult to define, as there is no hierarchy, doctrine, creed, or membership. You will be hard-pressed to find the “First New Age Church” on any street corner in your town.

Man is the central figure in the NAM. He is viewed as divine, and progressing toward a kind of godhood, or “Christ-Consciousness”. Many NAM divisions are pantheistic – they believe God is in everything, and everything together makes up God. Therefore, as a part of nature, man is part of God. Many New Age practices are designed to push man through the spiritual evolution to godhood. Astral projection (training your soul to have out-of-body experiences), contacting spirit guides, and using crystals to purify your body and mind’s energy systems are among these practices. Many New Agers believe in reincarnation and in Karma.

Some NAM terms you may hear are: holistic, synergistic, unity, oneness, harmony, transformation, personal growth, human potential, awakening, networking, energy, cleansing, and consciousness. A disproportionate amount of NAM books and texts contain the word “self”. That is because, as we said earlier, man is the central figure. One must improve one’s “self” to become one with nature and god. You may also hear New Age followers using Christian terms. This is because they view Jesus as a man who excelled at spiritual evolution and progression, and was tuned into his “Christ Consciousness.” Do not be fooled, though. The Christian terms you will hear will have a different meaning to a New Ager than they will for you.

NEW AGE MOVEMENT	CHRISTIANITY
God is an impersonal force.	God is personal. He is our Heavenly Father who loves us.
God is all and all is God. He is part of creation, as are all of us.	God is the Almighty Creator of the universe, and all within it. Man is finite, and one of God’s creations.
There is no sin, only misunderstanding of truth.	Rebellion from God is sin. All have sinned, and all must be saved.
Man saves himself.	Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins. Only through faith in Him may man be saved.
Heaven and Hell do not exist. They are states of mind.	There is a literal Heaven, and a literal Hell.
Jesus is a man who exemplified “Christ Consciousness, and the divinity that is man.	Jesus is the Son of God, and is part of the triune nature of God.

Perhaps one of the biggest draws of the NAM is the release it provides from personal accountability and responsibility. Moral Relativism claims that there is no such thing as right or wrong. Each PERSON, in their effort to achieve oneness, must travel their own path and make

their own decisions. And those decisions are never wrong, provided they're not wrong in that person's own mind.

As Christians, we recognize the fallacy of that thinking. We know that man is finite and imperfect. In fact, man has a sinful nature. Only through faith in an eternal and omnipotent God may we be saved from our sin. The NAM sees the Christian view of salvation through Christ alone as being divisive and exclusionary. What they don't see, is that the gift of salvation is free to EVERYONE. The stipulation is that each person must accept that. If you believe in the NAM, please realize that the following are irrefutable truths:

- There is such a thing as right and wrong.
- There is a Heaven, and there is a Hell.
- There is only one God, who is eternal in nature, and who created the universe and everything in it.
- Man is finite, imperfect, and sinful.
- God is not impersonal. He loves you more than you can imagine. He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to take on a mortal body, in order to be the final sacrifice for your sins.
- God is just. He has provided this path for your salvation, but you **MUST** accept it.
- God is as loving as He is just. He is not willing that **ANY** should perish.
- Eternal life in Paradise can be yours, provided you confess your sins, and accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

If you have not yet accepted this gift, and wish to, say the following prayer. This prayer is not a magical incantation, and is just an example. If you wish to say it in your own words, feel free.

God, I know now that I am a sinner. I recognize my sinful nature, and the fact that I have sinned against You. I am sorry. I know that you have provided for my salvation, and I want to claim that now. I turn my back on my sinful nature, and I give myself to you. Come into my life, Lord. Cleanse me of my sins. Make me whole. Thank you for this precious gift. Lord, I dedicate my life to you. I pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Bible says that if you confess your sins, God is faithful and just to forgive you. If you prayed the prayer above, you have accepted the gift of salvation. You are a child of God. We welcome you to the family. It is important now to learn as much as possible. All the information you will ever need is in God's Word – the Bible. We encourage you to go buy one as soon as possible. If you cannot afford a Bible, write to us, and we will make sure that you get one. It's also important to fellowship with other believers. If you want to find a good Christian church in your area, but need some help, write to us, and we will do our best to get you in touch with one. Oh, and one other thing. This is something we love! Do you want to talk with God? You can! Just pray! You don't have to do so in a special place, or have any special words. Just talk to Him. If you pray to God in the name of Jesus, He will hear you. The joy in store for you will knock your socks off!! Oh, we're so excited for you!

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

7. Buddhism & Christianity Compared

7. Buddhism and Christianity Compared

What the Bible says about God:	What Buddhism says about God:
There is one true and living God, who exists as three distinct, co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; John 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 13:13; 1 Peter 1:2). God is personal and is to be the only object of worship (Ex. 20:2-3; Isa. 43:10, 44:6; Matt. 4:10).	Buddhists do not worship a God who created and sustains the world. Theravada Buddhism considers the concept of God irrelevant; it is basically atheistic. Mahayana Buddhism worships the Buddha as a god, along with other gods. Other forms of Buddhism add shamanism and elements of the occult.
What the Bible says about Jesus:	What Buddhism says about Jesus:
He is the virgin-born Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-23; Luke 1:35). He is the eternal God, the Creator, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and Holy Spirit (John 1:1-14; Col. 1:15-20; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 1:1-13). Jesus died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3), rose physically from the dead (Matt. 12:38-40; Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:4-8; 1 Peter 1:18-21) and is coming back physically and visibly one day (Matt. 24:29-31; John 14:3; Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:11-16).	Jesus was a great religious teacher who may have achieved enlightenment. Even so, he was one among many and therefore not unique.
What the Bible says about salvation:	What Buddhism says about salvation:
Christ's death at Calvary completely paid our sin debt so that salvation comes by grace alone through faith in the person and work of Jesus (John 3:16, 5:24; Rom. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).	The goal of life is to achieve <i>nirvana</i> , or the cessation of suffering.
What the Bible says about the Bible:	What Buddhism says about the Bible:
The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God, and is His sole written authority for all people (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).	The authoritative writings for Buddhists are the <i>Sutras</i> and the <i>Tripitaka</i> (The Three Baskets). The Bible contains good teaching but is not authoritative.
What the Bible says about man:	What Buddhism says about man:
God created man in His image – with a human spirit, personality and will. A person's life begins at conception and is everlasting, but not eternal; that is, our lives have no end, but they did have a distinct beginning (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 139:13-16).	Buddhists embrace the concept of <i>anatta</i> (no self). In traditional Buddhism, "no self" means there is no permanent identity to continue from one moment to the next. The human personality is made up of five <i>skanda</i> , or parts, which are only momentary, but they group together to give the illusion of permanence, like the flow of a river or the flame of a candle.
What the Bible says about sin:	What Buddhism says about sin:
Sin is a violation of God's perfect and holy standards. All humans are sinners (Rom. 3:10)	There is no such thing as sin against a supreme being. The human condition is suffering, caused

and are under the curse of sin – spiritual and physical death (Gen. 2:17, 3:17-19; Rom. 3:23). Only faith in Christ and His work on our behalf frees us from sin and its consequences (John 3:16, 5:24; Eph. 2:8-9).	by attachment to things and the cravings / desires accompanying the attachment.
What the Bible says about death and the afterlife:	What Buddhism says about death and the afterlife:
Physical and spiritual deaths come upon all people as a consequence of their sin (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1). A person becomes spiritually alive when he or she is “born again” by the Spirit of God (John 3:3-6; Eph. 2:4-5). At physical death, our souls and spirits separate from our bodies [which go into the grave to await resurrection and final judgment] and enter an everlasting state of blessedness [for those born again] or torment [for those who die in their sins] (Luke 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:8).	Buddhists believe the cycle of death and rebirth, known as <i>samsara</i> , has been going on since time without beginning. Their goal is to end this cycle by attaining <i>nirvana</i> , a state of being that is realized through eliminating desire. <i>Nirvana</i> comes at two moments: at awakening or enlightenment, and at <i>parinirvana</i> , when the fire of personality finally flickers out (final death). The path to <i>nirvana</i> is divided into eight categories of disciplines that are meant to avoid bad <i>karma</i> that leads to dangerous and difficult forms of rebirth.
Hell is a place of everlasting conscious existence, where the unbeliever is forever separated from God (Matt. 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 14:9-11, 20:10). As for Heaven, all believers have God’s promise of a home in Heaven, will go there instantly upon physical death, and will return with Christ from Heaven to earth one day (Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 19:14).	There is no heaven or hell as understood by Christians

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

8. Hinduism & Christianity Compared

8. Hinduism & Christianity Compared

The differences between Hinduism and Christianity are vast. Having read numerous stories of people who have left Hinduism for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I've identified that a common theme runs through their stories. These people left a life of hopelessness, where they were dependent on their own works to escape from samsara, to a life of hope and assurance of their salvation. They left their millions-in-one impersonal gods, and found the one true God of the universe, who cares intimately for each one of them. For this reason, it is important to identify the most basic differences between Hinduism and Christianity.

	HINDUISM	CHRISTIANITY
GOD	A vast plurality of gods and goddesses exist as part of the impersonal Brahman.	There is one God, who cares deeply for each one of us. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Deuteronomy 6:4 "And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." Psalm 50:15
MAN	Humans, as with all living things, are just manifestations of Brahman. We have no individual self, or self-worth.	God created mankind, and gave us free will. He cares deeply for us, and places a great deal of worth on His creation. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
THE WORLD	The world and everything on it are manifestations of Brahman.	God created the universe, the world, and everything on it. (Genesis 1). As God did not create Himself, the world exists separately from God.
SIN	Sin is committed against oneself, not against God.	God gave us rules because He cares about us. He also gave us free will – we can choose to disobey. Disobedience (sin) is an offense against God. "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge." Psalm 51:4 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

SIN'S PENALTY	Since "sin" is committed only against oneself, the penalties are accrued only against the self. The penalty is the repeated cycle of rebirths, until you can escape to Nirvana.	Sin cannot exist in the presence of God. Therefore, the penalty of sin is spiritual death, or separation from God. <i>"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23a</i>
SALVATION	Salvation is the release from the wheel of life, the cycle of rebirths, through which we must work to better ourselves, and realize our oneness with Brahman. It must be worked out by each individual through successive lives.	Salvation is a free gift to us from God. We must only accept it. We cannot earn it. Jesus bought our salvation by taking all our sin upon Himself on the cross, dying as a sacrifice for us, and then rising from the dead three days later. Salvation means spending eternity in heaven with our Almighty God! <i>"...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23b</i> <i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16</i> <i>"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9</i>

If you are a Hindu man or woman reading this, please know that a greater hope exists. Indeed, it is more than a hope – it is an **assurance**. You are not relegated to rebirth after rebirth in an attempt to “get it right.” There is a personal God, who cares deeply for you. He knows how many hairs you have on your head, yet he controls every facet of the universe. He loves you, and desires to redeem you unto Himself. All you have to do is accept! Indescribable joy awaits you! To learn more about how to accept the gift of eternal life, go to:

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php> to read about the Roman Road to salvation.

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

9. Islam & Christianity Compared

9. Islam & Christianity Compared

BELIEF	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
God	Only one god - called Allah	Only one God - a triune being called God or Yahweh
Jesus	A prophet who was virgin-born, but not the Son of God.	Divine son of God who was virgin-born. He is God's Word and Savior to humanity.
Crucifixion	Jesus was not crucified. Someone was substituted for Jesus and He hid until He could meet with the disciples.	A fact of history that is necessary for the atonement of sin and the salvation of believers.
Jesus' Resurrection	Muslims do not believe in the Crucifixion, so no need to believe in the Resurrection.	A fact of history that signifies God's victory over sin and death.
Trinity	A blasphemy signifying belief in three gods. In Islam, the Trinity is mistakenly thought to be God, Jesus, and Mary.	The one God is eternally revealed in three coequal and coeternal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
Sin	Sin is disobedience to the established law. Sin does not grieve Allah.	Sin is rebellion against God. Sin grieves God.
Man	Man is created by Allah and is sinless.	Man is created in God's image and is sinful by nature.
Salvation	Salvation is achieved by submitting to the will of Allah. There is no assurance of salvation - granted by Allah's mercy alone.	Salvation is a gift accepted by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross and provided through God's grace.
Bible	Muslims accept the Bible (especially the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Gospels) insofar as it agrees with the Qur'an.	The Bible is the inspired Word of God that is complete and not to be added to.
Qur'an (Koran)	A later revelation that supersedes and corrects errors in the Bible.	Not accepted as divine revelation.
Muhammad	The last in line of prophets and, therefore, the final authority in spiritual matters.	Not accepted as a prophet or legitimate theological source.
Angels	Divine messengers are created from light & are not worshipped. Satan is an angel.	Angels are defined in the Bible as heavenly servants of God who act as His messengers.
Last Days	There will be bodily resurrection and final judgment with final destination. All Muslims go to heaven, though some must be purged of their sins first. All infidels are destined for hell.	There will be bodily resurrection in the last days. Final judgment and eternal destination (heaven or hell) will be decided based on acceptance of Jesus as Savior and His removal of the sin which separates each person from God.

The Real Difference between Islam and Christian Faith: (Dallas M. Roark, Ph.D.)

Let's just look at the real issue of what is going to happen to you and me when we die. Many Muslims I have heard describe their activities of going to the Mosque on Friday, praying 5 times a day, keeping Ramadan, following the teachings of Mohammed in the Qur'an and the hadiths. ... You do good deeds in hope of getting closer to Allah, and hope for the best. The question, "are you going to paradise?" is answered "if Allah wills." but one never knows... "Inshallah" God will decide – whether it be hell or paradise. www.debate.org.uk/debate-topics/apologetic/sonofman/

The word "hell" appears scores of times in the Qur'an. Another fearsome word the Qur'an uses to describe hell is "fire." The unbelievers are clothed with fire of which there is no end. ... If Allah wills, believers may be taken to the gardens of delight where underground streams flow but no one knows what Allah will ultimately decide to do with them. Often Muslims are discouraged from asking questions about ideas in the Qur'an that bother them. One should not question Allah! In Islam Allah is viewed as a far off distant God, a being to be feared, who is always ready to punish wrong doers.

Do you know where you are going? There is no assurance whatever offered in Islam concerning where you will end up. I have heard Muslims say that they are doing good works, trying to live a life pleasing to Allah, but Allah offers no peace, no assurance that they will avoid hell. Their good deeds may never be enough. If you are a woman it is more hopeless. Let me share with you the great story of the Bible. It begins with the story of God's creation of the world and the first man and woman. This is an act of love. The world God created for us is a world that provides all that is needed for life. Unfortunately, man's sin has alienated him from God. How do we get back to God?

The Old Testament foretold a Messiah that would come who would bless mankind. Who is this blessing? Jesus the Christ! What does that mean for us? It is written, "... **God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.** And he has given us (those who have asked Christ for forgiveness and received it and experienced his great love for us all) the work of sharing his message about peace. We were sent to speak for Christ, and God is begging you to listen to our message. We speak for Christ and sincerely ask you to make peace with God." (2 Cor.5:19-20 CEV)

It means that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to reveal what He is like. He sent his Son to bring forgiveness to us. He sent his Son to promise us life in His presence forever. The most awesome truth in the world is that while all people have sinned, God still loves us so much that he made it possible for us to be forgiven and to know Him. Are you bothered by a hollow feeling, an empty feeling, that Allah is distant and you can't find him? Do you long to be saturated with God's peace and love?

You see, Islam is a **religion**. Religion involves doing things, saying prayers, keeping rituals. However, Christian faith is not a religion but a **restored relationship**. **You can have a relationship with Jesus right now.** There is no waiting to see what will happen to you at death. You can claim the promise of eternal life **now** and know that you are going to heaven when you die. Jesus told a religious man, Nicodemus, that he must be born again. A spiritual rebirth must take place now. (Don't assume all Christians have this relationship. There are cultural Christians.)

You can have this relationship, this new birth, right now, by praying to Jesus to come into your life as your Lord and Savior. If you are searching for peace, forgiveness, and eternal life you can have it by receiving Jesus as your Lord right now. As I write this, my hope and prayer is that you will do that for your own sake, your own future. Remember the words of the Gospel:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (John 3:16-18 ESV). <http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

Mohammed said, here is the way of obedience, you must follow it. In contrast, Jesus said, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 ESV) Jesus declared, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 ESV)

Do you think your works can compare with God who loves you so much that he has promised to forgive you if you come to Jesus. Which do you think is wise to chose: the way of works that ends in failure, or the way that leads to life. You have to chose between a **religion** in which you must earn God's approval or a **relationship** with God who forgives and promises everlasting life in His presence. We have nothing to offer God, but He has every thing to offer to us. www.debate.org.uk/
www.debate.org.uk/debate-topics/apologetic/contrads/

10. Freemasonry & Christianity Compared

10. Freemasonry & Christianity Compared

The following is a quote from Alice Bailey's book "The Externalization of the Hierarchy". Alice Bailey was an important leader in the New Age Movement and claimed to speak and write the words of her "Spirit Guide" Master D.K. "the Masonic Fraternity...is...the home of the Mysteries, and the seat of the initiation...It is a far more occult organization than can be realized and is intended to be the training school for the coming advanced occultists..."(p. 511). Master D.K. goes on to say, "...Mysteries will be restored to outer expression through the medium of the Church and the Masonic Fraternity...When the *Great One* comes with His disciples and initiates, we shall have the restoration of the *Mysteries*..."

The roots of Freemasonry extend at least as far back as the Middle Ages. The guildsmen and craftsmen of that time were called Masons. For protection and credibility, these persons formed primitive trade unions (lodges). The content and purpose of this form of Masonry, called operative Masonry, began to change when the lodges were opened up to whoever sought membership.

New members, including politicians, clergymen, and scientists, gradually began to formulate various rituals and doctrines to accompany some of the symbols already in use by the working masons (usually tools of the trade). It was at this point that occultism also began to be brought into the lodges. Eventually the various "grades" workers went through in learning their craft were replaced by degrees of advancement in esoteric knowledge. The eventual result of these changes is modern Masonry - also known as "speculative Masonry" because it speculates as to the true meanings behind the original symbols used in operative Masonry.

The popularity of Freemasonry has made it a model for hundreds of other fraternal societies. As far back as 1927, for instance, nearly all of the 800 fraternal orders of that time had adopted Masonic-like symbols, signs, passwords, rituals, oaths, obligations and degrees. The temple ordinances of the Mormon temple ceremony are also suspiciously close to the ceremony used in Freemasonry. Signs, grips, oaths and tokens used in Mormonism are so close it's almost certain that Joseph Smith borrowed these Masonic practices from Freemasonry. Not that surprising considering Smith was a Mason himself (Documentary History of the Church 4:550-551). In fact the first three presidents of the Mormon Church were all Masons. The Salt Lake City Temple also displays designs peculiar to Masonry, including the All-Seeing Eye, the inverted five-pointed star (known as the eastern star), and the clasped hands or grip.

The Masons, like so many false religions, hold as a core belief one of Satan's biggest lies. That being that all faiths and all scriptures lead to the same God. Freemasonry teaches that there is one God and men of all religions worship that one God using a variety of different names. In a Masonic Lodge, all join in corporate prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe, (GAOTU) and embrace the scripture of any and all religions. The following quote is taken from the Masonic Belief Statement:

"...by the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith by which men find help for today and hope for the morrow, joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best".

The seven volume *History of Freemasonry*, by Albert Mackey, discusses various pagan gods and the people who worshiped them. Among those pagan deities featured in drawings included with the text are Ashtaroath, Abraxas, Vishnu, Dagon, Nergal and Baal. The text states:

They were all Characters of human origin in the Mythologic ages designed as the Saviors of Men, each one emphatically the representative Christos, or Christ of his particular Nation; and the religious system designed to restore the lost and fallen race of Man. (p. 1721, vol VI)

The paragraph concludes, speaking of the men who worshipped those false gods: Now as Masons we decide not between these, but take all in as our Brethren, and the One God as our Heavenly Father, revealed to us as such in the Great Light of Masonry.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob makes it very clear that the Bible is the only Word of God and warns us to stay away from those who would teach otherwise.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9-11)

It is not true that all those who profess a belief in a higher being are worshipping the one true God. The worshippers of Baal learned this truth on Mt. Carmel. In Matthew God has an answer for those who worship gods other than the God of the Bible.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:21-23

FREEMASONRY'S HISTORY

Modern Freemasonry dates to 1717, when several members of four lodges met at London's Goose and Gridiron Tavern to form the first Grand Lodge. By 1723 the organization had adopted James Anderson's Constitution as a guide. Anderson's work clearly reflected a divergence from the Old Charges of operative Masonry, which had been in use since the fourteenth century. The Old Charges were distinctively Christian in tone and, according to *Fraternal Organizations* by Alvin J. Schmidt, dealt primarily with God and religion, the craft of masonry, and regal duty. The Constitutions, however, omitted the Trinitarian formula and "spoke of a 'religion in which all men agree'" (*Fraternal Organizations*, p. 121)

In 1738 Anderson produced another accepted document titled "The Old Charges of the Free and Accepted Masons." By that year, operative Masonry had evolved into accepted Masonry. It continued to evolve until, by the second half of the eighteenth century it had become speculative Masonry, which interpreted "the symbols and artifacts of operative masonry in an allegorical, religious manner". For example, whereas operative Masons built stone edifices, speculative Masons seek to build spiritual edifices.

The first Masonic Lodge was established in the United States on April 13, 1733. In the United States it yielded great influence. In fact, many scholars believe that Freemasonry helped inspire the American Revolution (*Revolution and Freemasonry, 1680 to 1800 by Bernard Fay*). There is also evidence that Freemasonry was influential in the formation of the U.S. Constitution. It has even been theorized that the designs on the back of American currency can be linked to Masonic signs and symbols (*Fraternal Organizations*, p.122).

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

11. Seven Day Adventists & Christianity Compared

Seventh Day Adventists SDA

www.nonsda.org/

SDA Ellen White's Plagiarism

www.nonsda.org/egw/plagiarism.html

SDA: Good General Info

mmoutreachinc.com/seventh_day_adventists/sda_index.html

11a). Seven Day Adventists & Christianity Compared

WRITINGS Adventism

The Bible, including Adventist paraphrase *The Clear Word*. Over 600 published titles with divine revelations and counsel by prophetess Ellen G. White (1827–1915), including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*.

Christianity

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments

GOD Adventism

God is comprised of a unity of three co-eternal Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who are one in motive and purpose but not substance. God the Father is generally understood to possess a physical body. Both trinitarianism and Arian anti-trinitarianism are believed among active Seventh-day Adventists.

Christianity

The triune God: one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is Spirit.

JESUS Adventism

Ellen G. White says God the Father exalted Jesus to be His Son, thus provoking Lucifer's jealousy and a war in heaven. Jesus is our example to prove we can live sinlessly. His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844 He has been applying His blood in heaven in an ongoing "investigative judgment" after which He will return. Also identified as Michael the Archangel; most Adventist founders denied His deity.

Christianity

The second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit and is fully God and man. He died on a cross as full sacrifice and atonement for our sin and rose from death on the third day. He is our Substitute in taking the guilt, punishment, and death for our sin.

HOLY SPIRIT Adventism

Originally thought to be a force or power from God, today the Holy Spirit is understood to be the third Person of the Godhead.

Christianity

The third Person of the Trinity.

SALVATION Adventism

Salvation by grace through faith, but maintained by commandment-keeping and repentance. Seventh-day (Saturday) Sabbath observance is the sign of the seal of God; Sunday worship is the mark of the beast.

Christianity

Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. It must be received by faith. Salvation is maintained by God's grace and by His life which He grants when believers are born again by His Spirit.

DEATH Adventism

Like the incarnate Christ, humans have no immaterial spirit, so at death the body goes into the ground and the breath goes to God. Nothing remains except in God's memory. At judgment the lake of fire annihilates the wicked. The resurrection is essentially a re-creation of the person out of God's memory.

Christianity

The immaterial spirit of believers goes to be with Jesus. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved will live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost will suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (hell). Jesus' resurrection is the promise that believers will receive glorified, resurrection bodies.

SCAPEGOAT Adventism

Satan, who will carry the sins of the saved out of heaven, thus cleansing the sanctuary. He will be punished for being the party responsible for causing the sins of those who are saved.

Christianity:

The Lord Jesus

JUDGMENT Adventism: The “investigative judgment” doctrine is unique to Adventism. Also called the “pre-Advent judgment” (or “sanctuary doctrine”), it is patterned after the details of the Israelite Day of Atonement described in Leviticus. It began in October 1844 when Jesus moved from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary, where he is investigating the records of professing believers. All sins which have been specifically confessed are finally pardoned; all which have been forgotten or otherwise unconfessed are placed back on the persons who committed them. Jesus’ blood carries these sins of the saved into the Most Holy Place where they are held until the end of the investigative judgment. All confessed sins will be removed from heaven when Jesus completes His investigation and places them on Satan the scapegoat.

The years between 1844 and the end of the judgment, culminating in the Time of Trouble, are the “anti-typical Day of Atonement” in which we are currently living. Salvation is not determined until the end of the judgment.

Christianity

Those who believe in Jesus’ death for their sin and in His resurrection from death do not come into judgment but pass from death to life (John 5:24). Those who believe in Jesus are not judged, because He took God’s judgment for sin in their place. Those who do not believe are judged already (John 3:18).

ESCHATOLOGY (ends times) Adventism

The Time of Trouble will occur at the end of the investigative judgment. God’s Spirit will be withdrawn from the earth, and God’s people will have to have attained perfection so they can withstand the Time of Trouble without a Mediator or Intercessor. Those who worship on Sunday will hunt and kill Sabbath-keepers, God’s true believers. The millennium will be spent in heaven; Satan will be “bound” by being restricted to an unpopulated earth. God will spend the millennium explaining His justice so all human questions will be answered. Those who are saved vindicate the character of God before sinless, created beings who live throughout the universe and observe the cosmic drama unfolding.

Christianity

While specific details about the timing of the second coming and the rapture of believers varies, Christianity is united in believing that the issue of faith in Jesus will be the final test between those who are saved and those who are not. God is sovereign, and He owes no creation explanations for His justice and mercy. Jesus lives forever as the intercessor for believers; they never have to live without Him on the basis of their own perfection. Humans never vindicate God’s character to the universe; rather, the cross demonstrated God’s justice for all eternity (Romans 3:26).

OTHER BELIEFS Adventism: The Adventist Church is God’s one, special, end-time remnant church. Old Testament clean/unclean meat laws observed. Adventist “health message” includes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine and advocates veganism. Traditionalist Adventists believe wearing jewelry is sinful. Massive missionary programs, which target nonbelievers as well as professing evangelicals, include “Revelation seminars,” health outreach. Ellen G. White found to have committed extensive plagiarism throughout her prophetic writings.

Christianity: Other beliefs: There is only one church, and it is composed of all who have been born of the Spirit from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) onward. Diet and health do not play a role in holiness or salvation. Jesus is God’s final word to mankind (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Which prophet: Ellen G. White or JESUS CHRIST? SDA’s will show you how the NT. Church went to the synagogue on SATURDAY. Of course, they did – they went there to tell Jews who needed Jesus about Jesus. Then they worshiped on the LORD’S DAY – Sunday!!! They put people under Moses’s Law instead of Christ’s Law (see: Gal.6:2, Rom.8:1-2). The LAW came through Moses – Grace & Truth came through Jesus Christ. We live under Christ’s Law of LOVE, FREEDOM, AND GRACE. It is a higher law. Moses’ law made us aware of our sin and could not be followed. Christ’s LAW is grace and is a higher and more difficult law that cannot be kept but because we have Christ’s Holy Spirit we can be empowered as His lives His life through us. Finally, early Christians would greet each other with, “The Lord is Risen.” Responded to by others, “He is Risen indeed.” The Resurrection was the basis of NT Christians – it provided Hope, Joy, Celebration, etc. Moses’ Law brought sin and death (3,000 died when given) and Christ’s law brings life (3,000 in Acts were saved). contenderministries.org/romanroad.php

12. Mormon (LDS) & Christianity Compared

Mormonism (LDS)

www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/6562/cults/mormlink.html

Mormonism (Jesus v. Smith)

www.goodnewsforlds.com/video.html

Mormonism (Great site)

mmoutreachinc.com/mormons/mormon_index.html

Mormonism (extensive)

www.bible.ca/mormon.htm

Great LDS Sites

www.goodnewsforlds.com/resources.html

12. Mormon (LDS) & Christianity Compared

"Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test," (Brigham Young, May 18, 1873, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 16, p. 46.)

What does Mormonism Teach? Well, here are some of the basics, plain and simple.

God came from another planet. God is a man with a body of flesh and bones. There is a mother goddess. God and his goddess wife are married. You can become gods.

Topic	Christian	Mormon
GOD	There is only one God (Isaiah 43:11; 44:6,8; 45:5).	"And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light (Book of Abraham 4:3).
	God has always been God (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 57:15).	"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , p. 345).
	God is a spirit without flesh and bones (John 4:24; Luke 24:39).	"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's," (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22; Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10). "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 38).
TRINITY	The Trinity is the doctrine that there is only one God in all the universe and that He exists in three eternal, simultaneous persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 35).
JESUS	Jesus was born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:23).	"The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood - was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (<i>Journal of Discourses</i> , vol. 8, p. 115). "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
JESUS	Jesus is the eternal Son. He is second person of the Trinity. He has two natures. He is God in flesh and man (John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9) and the creator of all things (Col. 1:15-17).	Jesus is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer, a creation (<i>Gospel Through the Ages</i> , p. 15).
THE HOLY SPIRIT	The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is not a force. He is a person. (Acts 5:3-4; 13:2)	Mormonism distinguishes between the Holy Spirit (God's presence via an essence) and the holy ghost (the third god in the Mormon doctrine of the trinity). "He [the holy ghost] is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity, and not a mere force, or

		essence," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 144).
SALVATION	Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and deliverance of the sinner from damnation. It is a free gift received by God's grace (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23) and cannot be earned (Rom. 11:6).	Salvation has a double meaning in Mormonism: universal resurrection and . . . "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of <i>General Salvation</i> . The second effect is to open a way for <i>Individual Salvation</i> whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 78-79).
	Salvation (forgiveness of sins) is not by works (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:5; Gal. 2:21).	"As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,'" (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , p. 79).
BIBLE	The inspired inerrant word of God (2 Tim. 3:16). It is authoritative in all subjects it addresses.	"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church).
BIBLE	God promised to preserve His word and to suggest that the Bible was mistranslated and corrupted would be to call God a liar. If God were to give additional revelations they would be consistent with any prior revelations thus eliminating Mormon writings, since they stand in direct opposition to the divine revelation that has already been given in the Bible.	The Church has 4 Standard Works that are authoritative: The Bible (in so far as it is translated correctly), the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Speeches and writings of the current president of the church are also authoritative. The Bible is far below the other standard Works because it is full of errors (wherever it disagrees with Mormon doctrine).

People ask, "Why are you attacking Mormonism? We never malign your faith, so why attack ours?" The fact is, proving it to be a false doctrine is not an attack but a defense of the Christian faith. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism made the first attack by claiming that all Christian denominations are an abomination in God's sight. If a Latter Day Saint should ask you this question, you need only look as far as their own scriptures and to the words of their leaders for an answer:

- Journal of Discourses 5:73--"*When the light came to me I saw that all the so-called Christian world was groveling in darkness.*"
- Journal of Discourses 8:99--"*With a regard to true theology, a more ignorant people never lived than the present so-called Christian world.*"
- Journal of Discourses 6:25--"*What! Are Christians ignorant? Yes, as ignorant of the things of God as the brute beast.*"
- Orson Pratt (Mormon Apostle)--"*..all other churches are entirely destitute of all authority from God; and any person who receives baptism of the Lord's supper from their hands highly offend God, for he looks upon them as the most corrupt of all people*" (The Seer, pg 255)
- Heber C. Kimball (First Counselor to Brigham Young)--"*Christians - those poor, miserable priests Brother Brigham was speaking about - some of them are the biggest whoremasters there are on the earth...*" (Journal of Discourses 5:39)

<http://www.goodnewsforlds.com/video.html> (great information on Mormonism)

13. Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses) & Christianity Compared

Jehovah's Witnesses: Questions using the NWT
mmoutreachinc.com/jehovahs_witnesses/65%20Questions.html
JEHOVAH WITNESSES (SUPER STUFF)
mmoutreachinc.com/jehovahs_witnesses/jehovah_witness_index.html
Jehovah's Witnesses (help people leave)
www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/helping-someone-leave.php
Answers to Jehovah's Witnesses
alwaysbeready.com/jehovahs-witnesses
JW's Doctrine (extensive)
www.bible.ca/watchtower.map
Abuse of God's Divine Name
www.bible.ca/jw-YHWH.htm
Core beliefs
www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/core-watchtower-concepts.php

13a) Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses) & Christianity Compared

Some Christians don't understand why Jehovah Witnesses are a "cult" if they believe in Jesus. Here is a short (not exhaustive) list of some of the major differences between the Jehovah's Witnesses and Christianity

- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that there is no Holy Trinity.
- Christianity teaches that there is the Holy Trinity, i.e., the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the Holy Spirit is only "a force" and not a real person.
- Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, i.e., the third Person of the Trinity.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ is not God, and that he is in fact only a creation of God.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus is God, and He is in fact the Creator of all things.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ was Michael the archangel who became a man.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus is almighty God who created Michael the archangel.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ was only a perfect man.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ was God in flesh.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead in his physical body.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead in his physical (though glorified) body.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that they are the only true church, all others are going to hell.
- Christianity teaches that any church who believes in proper Christian theology is a true church.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that only their church members will be saved.
- Christianity teaches that any person who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her savior will be saved.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that good works are necessary for salvation.
- Christianity teaches that faith in Jesus Christ sacrifice alone is necessary for salvation.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the soul ceases to exist after death.
- Christianity teaches that the soul goes on in the afterlife to either be with God in heaven or to hell (if the person has never accepted Jesus Christ as his savior).
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness will actually go to heaven.
- Christianity teaches that any person who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her savior will go to heaven.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that medical blood transfusions are a sin.
- Christianity teaches no such thing.
- Also, Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate Christmas or birthdays, and they are not allowed to serve in the armed forces.

All Christians must remember, however, that while they need to know these significant differences so as to be forewarned, and to warn others, our goal is also to reach members of the cults with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelism, not conquest, should be our aim.

<http://www.bible.ca/jw-questions.htm>

<http://www.historicjesus.com/1/index.html>

<http://www.wordsofhope.org/manifest.htm>

<http://chbclubbock.org/jehovaswitness/index.html>

<http://christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/jehovahswitness.html>

<http://www.faithfacts.org/world-religions-and-theology/jehovahs-witness>

Doctrine/Belief	JW Support	Christian Response
Only the Watchtower Society can interpret the Bible. Individuals cannot.	"...the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible...the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind" (<i>Watchtower</i> , October 1, 1997, p. 587).	Ephesians 1:17, 18, states that the Spirit will provide wisdom and illumination to the revelation of God in the Bible. According to the belief espoused by JW's, all people that lived until the JW's were Founded by Charles Russell must have been doomed to failure, not being able to interpret the Bible.
The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (the JW Bible version) is the best translation of the Bible, and should be used over any other version.	"Outstanding among Bibles is the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures...Accuracy, uniformity, clarity, and up-to-date language mark this excellent work. Bible study aids without equal make this an indispensable help to sincere searching students of God's Word" (<i>What Has Religion Done For Mankind</i> , 1951, p. 351.)	The JW Bible actually is plagued with errors. Greek scholar Bruce Metzger said that "the Jehovah's Witnesses have incorporated in their translation of the New Testament several quite erroneous renderings of the Greek." ("Jehovah's Witnesses and Jesus Christ," <i>Theology Today</i> , April, 1953).
The Trinity does not exist, and is an evil doctrine that teaches the existence of 3 gods.	"Never was there a more deceptive doctrine advanced than that of the trinity" (<i>Reconciliation</i> , 1928) "...sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God" (<i>Let God Be True</i> , 1946) "Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine" (Ibid.)	Many religions have difficulty with an infinite God, and try to put Him in a box - to define Him in terms they can understand. While the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible as a description of God, the scriptures definitely indicate one God with a triune nature - existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Jesus Christ was Michael the Archangel before becoming a man.	"...the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth" (<i>Reasoning from the Scriptures</i> , p. 218).	There is no basis for this anywhere in the Bible.
After Jesus died, he was resurrected with His original identity as Michael the Archangel.	"Read carefully the following Bible account: 'War broke out in heaven: Michael [who is the resurrected Jesus Christ] and his angels battled with the dragon'" (<i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth</i> , 1982, p. 21).	Michael, on his own, could not rebuke Satan (Jude 1:9), yet in Mark 9:25 Jesus Himself rebukes Satan. Hebrews 2:5 says an angel can't rule the world, but Luke 1:32-33 and Revelation 19:16 show Jesus Christ to be the one who will reign. Therefore, Jesus and Michael can't be one and the same.
Jesus is "a god", and lesser than Jehovah God.	In the JW version of the Bible, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was <u>a</u> god." [emphasis added] "...that is the Word was a powerful godlike one. Clearly, Jesus is not Almighty God." (Ibid., p. 40).	The JW Bible did not provide an accurate or legitimate translation of this verse.
Salvation must be earned through works	"To get one's name written in that book of life will depend on one's works, whether they are in fulfillment of God's will and approved by his Judge and King." (<i>Watchtower</i> , August 15, 1972).	"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works , so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV) (Emphasis added).
We will be gods when we join Christ in heaven.	"...we are begotten of a divine nature...Jehovah is thus our father...we are divine beings - hence all such are Gods...Now we appear like men, and all die naturally as men, but in the resurrection we will rise in our true character as Gods" (<i>Watchtower</i> , December 1881, 1919 repr.).	This obviously flies in the face of the JW claim that they are monotheistic. Isaiah 43:10 and 1 Timothy 2:5 are but two of many verses that confirm there is only One God. To claim we will become gods is blasphemy.

13b) Questions for Jehovah's Witnesses

(Most Question here use the NWT) *"...keep testing whether you are in the faith"* (2 Cor 13:5)

From the 1820's - 1980's 5 people came on the scene in the U.S., four within a couple of hundred miles of each other, Ellen G. White, Mary Baker Eddy, C.T. Russell, Joseph Smith and Herbert W. Armstrong.

(There are lots more even today making the same claims)

All had similar experiences with the "Lord", all claimed special revelations from God, all made prophecies in "the name of the Lord",

(almost all were false, one false prophecy makes that person a false prophet)

all started successful religious groups, all had thousands of followers (some millions)

all are still revered as "true prophets of God", all claimed a special understanding of scriptures,

all published volumes of books, etc. all these groups are still active,

all claimed the bible was not complete, all claimed that their writings superseded scripture,

all went against the bible warning to "not go beyond what is written", all had a different message,

almost all their followers are scared and forbidden to examine the early history of their churches etc.

(Many of these "religions" had backgrounds in the occult as well as other non-biblical practices).

Do you think there is a lot of deception out there and people should be VERY careful who/what they put their eternal salvation in?

Do you think people should be able to check things out themselves and not put their trust in "leadership" but totally on the Word of God?

Can Jehovah's Witnesses hold and discuss openly with other Witnesses opinions that differ from orthodox WTS teachings? If no, why not?

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION:

1a) The committee who worked on the translation of the NWT had no known translators with recognized degrees in Greek or Hebrew exegesis or translation. Many Witnesses who worked at the headquarters during the translation period were fully aware of who they were. They included: Nathan H. Knorr (president of the society at the time), Frederick W. Franz (who later succeeded Knorr as president), Albert D. Schroeder, George Gangas, and Milton G. Henschel (a later president). None of these men had university education except Franz who left school after two years.

Do you think these men were qualified to make the translation?

1b) The boast of the JW's that their "translation" is "the work of competent scholars" more qualified than Wycliffe and Tyndale. There are over 300 "scholars" who have translated the work. Unfortunately they are too "humble" to give their names. These people claim they want to remain anonymous for humility.

When an organization is calling all of Orthodox Christianity's translators wrong (throughout the years as well as well as over "300" denominations) don't you think they should show the names for credibility? Why or why not?

Shouldn't the "translators" "give God the glory" and not themselves? Isn't that true humility?

1c) The WTS claims it uses the Bible as its "supreme authority".

Where in the Bible does anyone count their time in preaching on a slip of paper and are assigned record cards of activity, determining this as a "gauge to their spirituality"?

Where in the Bible are Pioneers, Auxiliary Pioneers, District Overseers, Circuit Overseers, Bethelites, and Kingdom Halls?

1d) We know that the Watchtower Society changed verses in their translation (as in Hebrews 1:6).

Why did the Watchtower Society change their own Bible?

YHWH:

2a) Septuagint: was known/used by Jesus and His apostles. Written by 70 Jewish scholars turning the Hebrew into Greek. Was written 120 years before Jesus' time. Was the Old Testament only. The Jehovah's Witnesses use it as their authority for Old Testament scholarship. They believe over 7,000 times the word JEHOVAH was omitted and they have restored the name. What I have found out though is that NOBODY knows the true name of God. There are four consonants only YHWH and no vowels. In fact nobody can pronounce it as it is impossible to pronounce and the Hebrew sound is almost a "grunt" and "one syllable". In fact, the letter "J" was not even used. **What is the correct spelling of God's proper name, "Yahweh" or "Jehovah"? If Jehovah's Witnesses maintain that "Yahweh" is more proper, why do they misspell it "Jehovah"? If the name of God is so important, then should you not only pronounce it correctly, but spell it correctly too?**

2b) **If the name Jehovah is so important, then why is it never used in the entire Greek New Testament? If men edited out the proper name of God, "YHWH", when they copied the New Testament, as only the WTS claims, thereby altering God's word, then how can we have confidence in ANY of the New Testament? Should we discard the New Testament or the WTS as unreliable?**

THE HOLY SPIRIT: God or "active force":

3a) If the Holy Spirit is God's impersonal "active force", why does he speak directly and refer to himself as "I" and "me" in Acts 13:2 (NWT)?

3b) If the Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force, how could he: Be referred to as "he" and "him" in John 16:7-8 and John 16:13-14; Bear witness (John 15:26); Feel hurt (Isaiah 63:10); Be blasphemed against (Mark 3:29); Say things (Ezekiel 3:24, Acts 8:29, 10:19, 11:12, and Hebrews 10:15-17); Desire (Galatians 5:17); Be outraged (Hebrews 10:29); Search (I Corinthians 2:10); Comfort (Acts 9:31); Be loved (Romans 15:30); Be lied to and be God (Acts 5:3-4)?

JESUS IS GOD (not "a" god):

4a) The NWT translates John 1:1 as "... and the Word was WITH God, and the word was a god."

How can the Word (Jesus) be "a god" if God says in Deut 32:39, "See now that I – I am he, and there are NO gods together with me..."?

4b) In John 20:28, John refers to Jesus in Greek as "Ho kyrios moy kai ho theos moy". This translates literally as "the Lord of me and THE God of me". **Why does Jesus, in John 20:29, affirm Thomas for having come to this realization? If Jesus really wasn't the Lord and THE God of Thomas, why didn't Jesus correct him for making either a false assumption or a blasphemous statement?**

4c) John 1:3 says that Jesus created "all things", but in Isa 44:24, God says that he "by myself created the heavens and the earth" and asks the question "Who was with me?" when the heavens and the earth were created. **How can this be since if Jesus had been created by God, then he would have been with God when everything else was created?**

MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL:

5a) Col 1:16, in talking about Jesus, says that "... All [other] things have been created through him and FOR HIM". **If Jesus were Michael the Archangel at the time of creation, would an angel have created all things for himself? Isa 43:7 says God created "everyone ... for my OWN glory ..."**

5b) Michael is identified in the Bible as an Archangel. Jehovah's Witnesses teach Jesus Christ is Michael. First they taught in the Watchtower of November 1879 that "Michael is not the Son of God", and continued this view into the Watchtower of March 1883, correctly stating that Jesus has "a nature superior to the angels". By 1926, in "The Finished Mystery" Michael was identified as "the Pope" (of Rome). However, over the years their doctrine has evolved into the teaching that Jesus Christ is Michael the Archangel. The "Reasoning" book says on page 218, "...the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth and is known also by that name since his return to heaven...". What an about-face!

Why is there so much confusion about this doctrine with the Jehovah's Witnesses? Do they receive "new light" or "have false doctrines"?

SPIRIT – SOUL – BODY:

6) If the soul is the body, why does Jesus make a distinction between the body and the soul in Mt 10:28?

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS:

7a) Since the WTS prohibits the use of blood transfusions, **why does it permit the infusion of albumin, clotting factors, and gamma globulins, all of which are derived from human blood?**

7b) Since Acts 15:29 clearly refers to the old Jewish law of not EATING blood (Gen 9:4, Lev 3:17, Deut 12:16), and since the WTS has changed its teachings so many times on major issues like organ transplantation, the definition of "generation", the year of Armageddon, etc, etc, and simply calls these changes "New Light", **how can you be sure they won't some day change their teachings on blood transfusions and refer to the change as "New Light" also? Has any of its members died of this?**

REPLACING DOCTRINES & FAILED PROPHECIES:

8a) Does Prov 4:18 really justify an organization replacing doctrines and failed prophecies with new doctrines and prophecies, or does it simply contrast the benefit to the "righteous" of obeying a wise father (Prov 4:10-19)? False teachings can be called "false words" and Prov 13:5 says, "A false word is what the righteous hates..." When the WTS changes a teaching to something that is totally different, is it like a light that is getting brighter and brighter or more like having one false light (word) completely turned off and a totally different light turned on? Do you think the WTS would be critical of any other organization that changed its teachings as many times on as many different issues over the last 100 years as the WTS has?

8b) In Phil 2:9, the NWT inserts the word "other" even though it doesn't appear in the original Greek (See Gr-Engl Interlinear). What is the reason for inserting this word? Is the word "Jehovah" a name? See Exo 6:3, Ps 83:18, and Isa 42:8. How would the verse read if the word "other" had not been inserted?

What does scripture say about adding words to the Bible? See Prov 30:5-6. If Christians are persecuted for the sake of Jehovah's name, why did Christ tell the first Christians that they would be persecuted for the sake of his (Jesus') name, instead of Jehovah's (Mt 24:9, Mk 13:13, Lk 21:12,17, Jn 15:21, Acts 9:16)?

8c) If the name "Jehovah" is so important, then why does Acts 4:12 say, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is not another name [vs 10 Jesus Christ] under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must get saved"? **If the teachings of the WTS are correct, would this not have been the logical place for God to have used the name "YHWH" or "Jehovah"?** Since the word "Jehovah" didn't appear until at least the 12th century, and since the term "Jehovah's Witnesses" wasn't used by the WTS until the early 1930's, doesn't this mean that first century Christians were not known as "Jehovah's Witnesses"?

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION:

9a) Since the WTS claims "apostolic succession", can it trace its roots all the way back to Christ (Mt 16:18)? If so, who was it that "passed the torch of God's spirit" to C. T. Russell when he founded the organization? What was the name of this individual or individuals?

9b) Since the WTS currently rejects most of the teachings of its founder, Charles Taze Russell (who was president of the organization from 1879-1916), and since they also reject "judge" Joseph Franklin Rutherford, who succeeded Russell as president from 1916-1942, how can you be sure that in 25 more years, the WTS won't reject the current president, Milton Henschel (1992-present), as they did Russell and Rutherford? What kind of confidence can you have in an organization that rejected its founder and first two presidents for the first 63 years of its existence - over 50% of the time they have existed?!

CROSS OR "TORTURE STAKE"?:

10a) If Jesus was executed on a torture stake, with both hands together over his head, as only the WTS teaches, why does John 20:25 say "... unless I see in his hands the print of the nailS...", **indicating that there was more than one nail used for his hands?** Two nails would have been used if he was crucified on a cross. **Where was the sign put above Jesus' head put if it was a stake with his hands above him?**

11) To what was Jesus referring to by the term "this temple" in Jn 2:18-19? In Jn 2:21 John clearly states that when Jesus used the term "this temple", he was referring to his body. If what the WTS teaches about Jesus' body after his death is correct, then how do you explain these verses?

12) Jesus Christ is referred to as "Mighty God" in Isa 9:6 ("For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us... And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God..."). Jehovah is referred to as "Mighty God" in Isa 10:20-21. How can this be if there is only ONE God?

13) The NWT translates the Greek word "kyrios" (Gr - lord) as "Jehovah" more than 25 times in the New Testament (Mt 3:3, Lk 2:9, Jn 1:23, Acts 21:14, Rom 12:19, Col 1:10, 1Thess5:2, 1Pet 1:25, Rev 4:8, etc.). Why is the word "Jehovah" translated when it does not appear in the Greek text? Why is the NWT not consistent in translating kyrios (kurion) as "Jehovah" in Rom 10:9, 1Cor 12:3, Phil 2:11, 2Thess 2:1. and Rev 22:21 (see Gr- Engl Interlinear)?

14) The NWT translates the Greek words "ego eimi" () as "I am" every time it appears (Jn 6:34, 6:41, 8:24, 13:19, 15:5, etc.), except in Jn 8:58 where it is translated as "I have been". What is the reason for the inconsistency in this translation? If "ego eimi" was translated in Jn 8:58 the same way it is translated in every other verse in which it appears, how would Jn 8:58 read? See Exo 3:14.

15) In Rev 22:12-13, Jesus Christ, the one who is "coming quickly", says of himself, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end". In Rev 1:17-18, Jesus, the one who "became dead, but, look! I am living forever and ever", refers to himself as the first and the last. Rev 21:6, in speaking of God, says, "...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end ..". God is also referred to as the "first" and the "last" in Isa 44:6 and Isa 48:12. How can this be since by definition of these words there can only be one first and one last?

16) Jn 1:3 says in reference to Christ, "All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence". How could Christ have been a created being if ALL things came into existence through him? If Jesus was a created being, then according to Jn 1:3, Jesus would have had to create himself.

17) If Christians are persecuted for the sake of Jehovah's name, why did Christ tell the first Christians that they would be persecuted for the sake of his (Jesus') name instead of Jehovah's (Mt 24:9, Mk 13:13, Lk 21:12, 17, Jn 15:2 and Acts 9-16)?

18) In Mt 1:23, who is Matthew referring to here that has been given the name which means "With Us Is God"?

19) The Bible says that ONLY God is our savior (Hos 13:4, Isa 43:11,45:21, etc.). How can it be then, that the Bible repeatedly says that Jesus Christ is our savior (Lk 2:11, Phil 3:20. Tit 2:13, 3:6, 2Pet 1:1, 2:20, 3:18, etc.)?

20) In Lk 24:36-39 and in Jn 20:26-27, Jesus showed his disciples the wounds in his body as proof of his resurrection. If Jesus' body had been destroyed by God after he died, how could Jesus show the disciples his body which had the wounds in his hands, feet, and side and claim that he is not just a spirit, "because a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you behold that I have" (Lk 24:39)?

21) If Christ was created by God and was the wisdom of God (Prov 8:1-4, 12, 22-31), then before Jesus would have been created, God would have had to have been without wisdom. How is it possible that God could have ever been without wisdom?

22) In Mt 28:19, Jesus tells his disciples to baptize "people of all the nations ...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit". Why would the disciples be instructed to baptize in the name of

anybody or anything who was not God? Do Jehovah's Witnesses follow the command of Jesus and baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit"?

23) The Watchtower Society teaches that the earth will never be destroyed or depopulated. How can it be, then, that God says in Isa 51:6, "... the earth itself will wear out, and its inhabitants will die like a mere gnat...", and that Jesus says in Mt 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away...", and that John says in Rev 21:1 that he saw "... a new heaven and a NEW earth, for the former heaven and the FORMER earth had passed away, and the sea is NO MORE."?

24) Who or what does the spirit of Christ (Phil 1:19, Gal 4:6, Rom 8:9) refer to? In Gal 4:6, how is it possible that the spirit of Christ could come into our hearts? How is it possible that the spirit of CHRIST could reside in someone? If what the Watchtower Society teaches is true, how could Paul make this statement if Christ was a spirit person residing in heaven?

25) In Jn 8:56, Jesus says, "Abraham your father rejoiced greatly in the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced". Since Abraham died hundreds of years before Jesus said this, how could Jesus say that Abraham "saw it and rejoiced", if there is no conscious awareness after death?

26) In Jn 6:51, Jesus says that a person must eat "of this bread" in order to "live forever", and that "the bread that I give IS my flesh". In Jn 6:63, Jesus says "... Unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves." In Jn 6:54-55, Jesus says, "He that feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life..." and "... for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink." Do you partake of the flesh of Christ, as Jesus commanded, in order to have life in yourself and in order to live forever?

27) The WTS teaches that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will not reside with Christ in his heavenly kingdom. How then do you explain Mt 8:11 in which Jesus says, "But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens"?

28) Every true Christian would agree that we should follow the commands of God. In Mk 9:7, God the Father commands us to listen to Jesus. Do you follow this command and listen to Jesus? After all, Jesus died for your personal sins (1Jn 2:2, 1Pet 2:24). Jesus tells us to go directly to him (Mt 11:28-30), and the Father commanded us to listen to Jesus. Why? Because JESUS gives us everlasting life (Jn 10:28), and so that JESUS will enter our house and be with us and give us the right to sit on his throne (Rev 3:20-21). Do you pray to Jesus as Paul and the early Christians did (1Cor 1:2)? Do you partake of the flesh of Christ as Jesus commanded (Jn 6:51)? If not, then are you following the command of the Father who said "Listen to him"?

13c) MORE NWT QUESTIONS

JESUS' RETURN TO EARTH (1914) / 144,000 / END TIMES:

1. The WTS claims that Ezekial's prophecy of the Jews returning to their land is fulfilled in their organization. Ezek 36:24, 28 says "and I will take you out of the nations and collect you together out of all the lands and bring you in upon your own soil" and "You will certainly dwell in the land that I gave to your forefathers, and you must become my people and I myself shall become your God." If this is fulfilled in the Watchtower organization, then how are they returning to the land of CANAAN as promised to the forefathers? Ps 105:8-11
 2. Regarding Jesus' return to earth, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that it occurred in 1914 as an invisible return. That event is described in Zechariah 14:4, which states, "... *and his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees which is in front of Jerusalem on the east.*" If Jesus has no body and if his return was invisible, how do you explain this verse?
 3. Paul said, "... *for as often as you eat this loaf and drink this cup, you keep proclaiming the death of the Lord, until he arrives.*" (1Cor 11:26). If Christ arrived in 1914, why do Jehovah's Witnesses continue to partake of the bread and wine? Shouldn't they have stopped in 1914?
 4. Since the WTS has received "new light" regarding the 1914 generation, and completely changed their views on this, does this mean that all the former Witnesses who were disfellowshipped years ago for the same view the organization is now teaching will automatically be accepted back into fellowship again? Were these ex-Witnesses in fact disfellowshipped for what is now taught as "the Truth"?
 5. If Christ will not have a visible return to earth, then how will he be seen by "ALL the tribes of the earth" (Mt 24:30), and by "EVERY eye" (Rev 1:7) when he returns? How can Christ "APPEAR" a second time (Heb 9:28) if he will not have a visible return to earth?
 6. In Rev 19:1, where does it say that the great crowd will be?
 7. The WTS teaches that the 144,000 of Rev 7:4 is to be taken literally. If chapter 7 of Revelation is to be taken literally, where then does the Bible say that the 144,000 will come from? See Rev 7: 5-8.
 8. If there are 144,000 spirit anointed people who have a heavenly hope, and a great crowd of people who have another hope of everlasting life on paradise earth, why does Paul say that there is only ONE hope (Eph 4:4), instead of two?
 9. Is it true that the WTS's prophecy that Armageddon will come before "the end of the generation of 1914" (You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth, pg 154), is no longer taught as "the Truth"? If so, then does this mean that this teaching of the WTS, which they have taught as "the Truth" for decades, was really a false teaching? Since the WTS claims that they are the "one channel that the Lord is using during the last days of this system of things" (Jehovah's Witnesses-Proclaimers of God's Kingdom, pg 626) and that the governing body is "the mouthpiece of Jehovah God", does this mean that God changed His mind about this teaching and the definition of "generation"? Is it possible that God could change His mind? Has the WTS ever changed their mind before about a teaching that they once taught as "the Truth"?
- The WTS has taught that Armageddon was going to occur in: 1914 -
The Time Is At Hand, 1888 (1911 ed.), pg 101; Zion 's Watchtower, 1/15/1892, pg22
1918 - The Finished Mystery, 1917, pg 62, 485
1925 - Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920, pg 89-90, Watchtower, 7/15/24, pg 211
WWII - Watchtower, 9/15/41, pg 288
1975 - Kingdom Ministry, 6/69, pg 3; AWAKE!, 10/8/68, etc.
Before the end of the generation of 1914 - You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth, pg 154; A WAKE}
10/8/95, pg 4

Since the WTS claimed that their teaching that Armageddon would come before "the end of the generation of 1914" was "Jehovah's prophetic word" (WT, 5/15/84, pg 6) and "the Creator's promise" (AWAKE! 10/8/95, 9/22/95, 9/8/95, etc. pg 4), therefore speaking "in the name of God" (Deut 18:22), then according to Deut 18:20-22, doesn't this mean that the WTS is truly a modern day false prophet? See Mt 7:15, 24:11, Mk 13:22, 2Pet 2:1, 1Jn 4:1, Rev 19:20,20:10.

NO CONSCIOUS AWARENESS AFTER DEATH:

13a) If there is no conscious awareness after death, how could the "spirits in prison", who lived during the time of Noah, be preached to by Christ after His death (I Pet 3:18-20) and how could the good news be "declared even unto the dead" (I Pet 4:5-6)?

13b) In Rev 14:13, how can the dead be "happy" and find "rest", if there is no conscious awareness after death?

OLD TEACHINGS / NEW TEACHINGS:

18. On pgs. 66, 69, 211, 423, 560, 648, and 719 of Jehovah's Witnesses--Proclaimers of God's Kingdom, reference is made to The Finished Mystery, which was the 7th of the Studies in the Scriptures series published by the WTS in 1917 (pg 66, 719), and was the major publication of the WTS at that time. On pgs. 88, 648, and 651, a picture of this book appears, complete with the winged disk symbol of the Egyptian sun god Ra on its front cover. Is it true that The Finished Mystery taught that Christ was the Almighty of Rev 1:8 (pg 15), that Christ established a "Church" (pg 17), that Christ returned invisibly in 1874 (pg 54, 60, 68), that the Holy Spirit has a personality (pg 57), that the great pyramid of Giza was God's stone witness and was used to predict the year of Armageddon (pg 60), that Armageddon would definitely occur in the spring of 1918 (pg 62), that Christ was crucified (pg 68), that Leviathan of the Bible refers to the steam locomotive (pg 85), and that Michael is the Pope of Rome and the angels are his bishops (pg 188)? According to "current" WTS teachings, Christ returned invisibly in 1914 and in 1918 chose the WTS as his earthly organization because they were the only ones teaching "the Truth". If this was so, then Jesus would have known the teachings of the WTS as put forth in The Finished Mystery, published in 1917. Do you really think that Jesus would have chosen an organization which taught so many things that were not correct according to "current" WTS teachings and are no longer taught as "the truth"?

PRIMITIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:

28. The WTS makes the claim, "Like the Primitive Christian Community - the religious publication 'Interpretation' stated in July 1956: 'In their organization and witnessing work, they [Jehovah's Witnesses] come as close as any group to approximating the primitive Christian community...'"- Jehovah's Witnesses- Proclaimers of God's Kingdom, pg 234, and on pg 677 of the same book, a caption appears titled "Like the early Christians". Do Jehovah's Witnesses pray the "Our Father" (Mt 6:9-13), break bread together (celebrate the Eucharist) frequently (1Cor 10:16-17, 1Cor 11:26-27), come together on Sunday to break bread (Acts 20:7), confirm the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:15-17, 19:5-6, Heb 6:2, 2Tim 1:6), ordain (appoint) priests (elders) through the laying on of hands (Acts 6:5-6, 13:2-3), pray to Jesus (Mt 11:28, Acts 7:59-60, 1Cor 16:22-23, Rev 22:20), anoint the sick with oil (Mk 6:12-13, Jas 5:14), often kneel down to pray (Acts 9:40, 20:36, 21:5, Lk 22:41), consider themselves to be witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8, 10:39, 13:31), have deacons (1Tim 3:8, 10, 12), fast from then Jesus Christ (Acts 4:10-12), celebrate Pentecost (Acts 2:1, 20:16, 1Cor 16:8), have special people that look after widows and orphans (Acts 6:1-4, Jas 1:27), occasionally drink wine (1Tim 5:23)? If not, then how can Jehovah's Witnesses consider themselves to be like the primitive Christian community?

13d) Who is Michael?

Michael is identified in the Bible as an Archangel. Jehovah's Witnesses teach Jesus Christ is Michael.

First they taught in the Watchtower of November 1879 that "Michael is not the Son of God", and continued this view into the Watchtower of March 1883, correctly stating that Jesus has *"a nature superior to the angels"*. By 1926, in "The Finished Mystery" Michael was identified as "the Pope" (of Rome). However, over the years their doctrine has evolved into the teaching that Jesus Christ is Michael the Archangel. The "Reasoning" book says on page 218, *"...the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth and is known also by that name since his return to heaven..."*. What an about-face!

The Seventh-day Adventists teach that Jesus Christ is Michael, while at the same time being God! The Mormons, (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), on the other hand, teach that Michael came down to earth and became the first man, Adam, in the Garden of Eden. He supposedly brought one of his celestial wives with him and started the human race!

With all this confusion over the identity of Michael, we need to know for sure just who Michael is, according to scripture. The name "Michael" means *"who is like to God", or "who is like God?"*

Some have suggested that this meaning sounds like a description of Jesus Christ, but does it? To adequately answer this question, we need to look carefully at ALL scriptures dealing with Michael, and see if they line up with other scriptures describing Jesus Christ.

Could Jesus be Michael, or could He not be Michael? Let's let the Bible speak. Below you will find a chart dealing with all the scriptures on Michael, and their application. Who is Michael ?

SCRIPTURES RELATING TO MICHAEL

DANIEL 10:13: "...Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the Kings of Persia". [NAS]	Michael is only one of several other "chief princes". He is not unique.	Jesus is never called "Chief Prince" in the Bible. It is not one of His titles. He is called, however "King of Kings" and Lord of Lords." [Rev. 19:16]
DANIEL 10:21: "...Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince." [NAS]	Michael is portrayed as "your prince". That is, the "prince" for the exiled nation of Israel, who fights for them. This battle is between angelic forces.	Jesus does have angelic forces with him when He fights [see Mat. 25:31], but He is never referred to as the "Prince" of these forces, rather He is identified as "the King" [Matt. 25:34]
DANIEL 12:1: "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people will arise...". [NAS]	Michael is here portrayed as a "great prince" who stands guard over Israel. Possibly a guardian angel	Jesus is never called a "great prince" in the Bible, nor a guardian.
JUDE 9: "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "THE LORD REBUKE YOU". [NAS]	1. Michael is an Archangel. The New American Standard Concordance p.1636 lists the meaning of "Archangel" as " a chief angel". This agrees with Daniel 10:13. 2. Michael did not dare to rebuke Satan. 3. Michael spoke of "The Lord" ["Kurios" in Greek] rebuking Satan.	1. Jesus is not a "Chief Angel", nor is He a "Chief OVER the angels" as the SDA's have tried to twist the scriptures to say. 2. Whereas Michael did not have the power to rebuke Satan, Jesus rebuked Satan many times. [see Matt.17:18, Mark 9:25, etc.] Therefore Jesus is not Michael. 3. Michael referred to "the Lord" as separate from himself. "The Lord" is a New Testament reference to Jesus, and an Old Testament reference to YHWH.
REVELATION 12:7: "And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon, And the dragon and his angels waged war."	Michael is fighting at the head of his angels, which is only proper, since he is a chief angel.	Revelation 12:5, 6 just previous to this scripture portrays Christ as a "male", a "son". Verse 10 following calls Him "Christ". Jesus is not called an angel in the book of Revelation.
1 THESSALONIANS 4:16: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first." [NAS]	1. The Lord Himself descends. 2. "with" shouting. 3. "with" the voice of the archangel. 4. "with" the trumpet of God.	1. The Lord Jesus Christ is identified. 2-4. All these things are WITH Christ, "a shout", "the voice of the archangel", and the trumpet of God". If we say this verse is saying that Jesus is an archangel because the voice of the archangel is WITH HIM , then we must also say that Jesus is "a shout", "a voice", and "a trumpet"! Ridiculous!

13e) Jesus Is GOD (Scriptural Proofs)

Born again Conservative Protestant Christians do not believe that Jesus is God the Father, but that He has the nature of God like God the Father. Yet Jesus is also a human being. He is the God-man (The Son of Man: all-exclusive man and The Son of God: all-exclusive God). 100% God and 100% man.

We Have to believe Jesus is God, to get eternal life:

John 8:24, 58 Jesus said we will die in our sins (no eternal life) if we do not believe He is the "I am" (of Ex.3:14)

Jesus is called God

Matthew 1:23 "Immanuel" means: God with us.

John 1:1 The word was God.

John 1:14 The word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 20:28 Thomas called Jesus God. If Jesus was not God, as a good Rabbi he would have rebuked Thomas for blasphemy. But instead, he congratulates Thomas.

Acts 20:28 God Purchased the church with His blood. God the Father is spirit, so Hhe didn't shed blood, but Jesus did.

Romans 9:5 Christ is God over all.

Phillippians 2:6 Jesus' nature is God.

1 Timothy 1:17 Jesus is called the only God.

Jesus refers to Himself as God

Matthew 4:7 When the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16 "Do not test the Lord your God". Jesus was referring to Himself.

John 5:18 Jesus was making Himself equal with God.

John 8:57-58 Jesus said he is the "I am" of Exodus 3:14. Jesus was claiming to be God, because the Jews picked up stones to kill him for blasphemy. Jesus was not claiming to be Messiah, because under Jewish law, claiming to be the messiah was not a reason to stone someone to death. If Jesus was claiming to be Messiah, surely He would have objected to the Jews stoning him. But instead, He hid Himself.

God the Father calls Jesus God

Hebrews 1:8 Thy throne, O God, is forever.

Jesus is the creator

Colossians 1:16-17 Jesus created all things visible and invisible. Jesus existed before anything was made.

Jesus is God in human flesh

Colossians 2:9 In Jesus, all the fullness of the deity dwells in bodily form.

Hebrews 2:9 Jesus made Himself a little lower than the angels. Only God can do that, a created being cannot.

Who raised Jesus body?

John 2:19-21 Jesus raised His own body.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 God the Father raised Jesus' body.

Who is the alpha and omega, the first and last?

Isaiah 44:6 The Father Isaiah 48:12 The Father
Rev. 1:8 The Father Rev. 1:17-18 Jesus Rev. 2:8 Jesus Rev. 21:6 The Father Rev. 22:12-13 Jesus

Who should we worship?

Exodus 34:14 God only	Matthew 4:10 Jesus
Matthew 28:9 Jesus	Matthew 28:17 Jesus
John 9:38 Jesus	John 4:23 the Father
Hebrews 1:6 Jesus	Rev. 5:11-14 Jesus
Rev. 4:10 the Father	Rev. 22:8-9 God

13f) Eleven OBJECTIONS (with answers) - Jesus is not God because:

1) Proverbs 8:22 God produced Jesus as the first of His works

ANSWER

Wisdom is speaking in this verse. Yet Proverbs 1:20, 4:7-8, 8:22, & 9:1 show that wisdom is female. And Proverbs 8:12 says that Prudence lives with wisdom. So these verses could not be referring to Jesus.

2) Mark 5:30/ Luke 8:45 When Jesus was walking through a crowd, He didn't know who touched Him.

3) Mark 13:32 Jesus didn't know when He was coming back.

ANSWER

Jesus didn't know who touched Him or when He was coming back because He "gave up his place with God, and made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7) to come and live among mankind. He voluntarily ceased using some of His divine attributes in order to accomplish His objectives (He laid aside his glory as God, so that he might be born in the likeness of men). Jesus made himself a little lower than the angels (Hebrews 2:9), so He must have existed as something higher than the angels before he came to earth. In John 17:5, Jesus asks the Father to give Him the glory he had before the world began.

4) Mark 10:18 Jesus does not consider Himself good, but tells a man no one is good but God.

ANSWER

Where in the verse does Jesus explicitly say He is not good? Merely asking the question: "Why do you call me good?" is not a confession that Christ is not good. Jesus wasn't claiming that He did not have the goodness characteristic of God, nor was he denying that He was God. Jesus was asking the young ruler to examine the implications of what He was saying. Jesus was forcing Him to a very uncomfortable dilemma: either Jesus was good and God, or He was bad and man. A good God, or a bad man, but not merely a good man. No good man would claim to be God when he wasn't. Jesus statement could be summarized: If I am not God, don't call me good, for only God is good. Or: you have given me a title which belongs only to God. Do you understand and mean it?

5) John 14:28 Jesus said: "my Father is greater than I".

ANSWER

Jesus is not speaking about His nature or His essential being, but rather His lowly position in the incarnation. Jesus did not say my Father is better than I. The Father is greater than Jesus because He has a higher position. (That is why the Father knew when Jesus was coming back and Jesus did not). But the Father is not better than Jesus. Example: the president of the United States is greater than us because of the office he holds. But the president of the United States is not better than us. Greater is position. Better is nature. The Father has a greater position than Jesus, but not a better nature.

6) John 10:30 Jesus said: "I and the Father are one". This could not mean Jesus is God, because it contradicts John 17:11, 21-22.

John 17:11, 21-22 Jesus asks the Father that the disciples may be one with Him, just as Jesus is one with the Father.

ANSWER

The context in the above 2 chapters of John are entirely different. In John 10:33, the Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus for claiming to be God in verse 30. If that is not what Jesus meant, He would have corrected them. John 17:11, 21-22 are discussing unity of will and purpose, not becoming one in essence. Jesus disciple's were subject to the world's evil influence, and the protective power of Jesus physical presence was soon to be withdrawn. He is praying that His Father (whose holiness separates Him from the world) will keep all who belong to Him holy and separate, and that by the disciple's love for each other, they may reflect the unity of will and purpose that exists between the Father and Himself.

7) John 20:17 Jesus said: "I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God".

ANSWER

Since Christ came as a man, and since one of the proper duties of man is to worship, pray to, and adore God, it was perfectly proper for Jesus to call the father: "my God", and to address him in prayer. Positionally speaking, as a man and as a Jew Jesus could address the father as God. However, Jesus did not relate to the father in this way until he emptied himself and became man as it says in Philippians 2:6-8. The reason Jesus did not say: I am ascending to our father and our God, is because Jesus was always careful to distinguish his relationship with the father (God's son by nature), from the relationship humans had to the father (God's son by adoption).

8) 1 Corinthians 11:3 "The Head of Christ is God"

ANSWER

This verse also says that Christ is the head of man, and that man is the head of woman. The Bible is clear that men and women are equal in terms of nature. Even though men and women are equal in nature, there exists differences between their functions. In the same way, Christ and the Father are utterly equal in their divine being even though Jesus is functionally under the Father's headship during the time that he possesses His human nature.

9) Colossians 1:15 Jesus was born, He had a beginning. Yet God always was and always will be.

ANSWER

Firstborn in Greek means preeminent, not the first one born. This verse is saying that Jesus was preeminent over creation. Firstborn in Hebrew means both the first one born and can also mean preeminent. Example: In Genesis 41:51-52 Manassah is the firstborn. Yet in Jeremiah 31:9, Ephraim is firstborn (preeminent over Manassah). Manassah was dropped out because of his sins.

10) Revelation 3:14 Jesus is the beginning of God's creation. He had a beginning.

ANSWER

The word beginning in this verse is from the Greek word arche, which means first cause. Some translations render this verse "JESUS IS: the beginner (Goodspeed), the moving cause (Barclays), the prime source (NEB), the ultimate source (JB) OF GOD'S CREATION". Since the use of the Greek word arche in Revelation 1:8 and 21:6 does not mean that God the Father had a created beginning, why insist that arche in Revelation 3:14 means that Jesus had a created beginning?

11) Jesus is not God because the doctrine of the trinity was borrowed from pagan beliefs. Example: A carving found in a temple on Elphanta Island, Bombay, India claims three Gods - Destruction, Creator, Preserver. These 3 Gods are treated as one. This illustrates the pagan form of the trinity as expressed in the mythology of Hinduism.

ANSWER

Artwork from Hindus and Buddhists that depict triad or trinity Gods were created centuries after the trinity had become the official religion of the Roman empire. It is possible then, that the Hindus and Buddhists of that time period got their ideas from the Christians. Pagans teach the concept of a great flood that killed much of mankind, and the idea of a messiah like figure named Tammuz who was resurrected. But just because false religions have similarities to biblical teachings, this does not discount the truthfulness of the biblical teachings.

13g) God's Name: Was it Revealed in Scripture?

How wonderful that our God has loved us enough to reveal His personal name to us, and let us know that we can call Him by name! How satisfying to serve the personal God of Christianity and the Bible, rather than the impersonal "Cosmic Force" of the Eastern Hinduistic religions.

GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

The revealing of His name was done personally by God Almighty Himself, as HE spoke to the prophet Moses. Moses was preparing to go in before Pharaoh to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Exodus 3:13 and 14 records, "Then Moses said to God, *"Behold I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you' Now they may say to me, 'What is His Name? What shall I say to them.' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM' and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Notice that in direct response to the question, "What is your name?", God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say "I AM" has sent me unto you." God first gave Moses a name he could "say" or "speak", and then He proceeded to give him another name. Read on to verse 15 of Exodus chapter three. "And God furthermore said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "YHWH, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me unto you."

God ends this giving of the two names, by concluding, *"THIS is MY NAME forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations."*

No person apparently did say the second revealed name of God, for it is the four consonants YHWH. It has no vowels [A,E,I,O,U] which are necessary for speech. The Israelites got around this by writing "YHWH", but when reading scriptures aloud, they said "ADONAI" or "LORD", and many Bibles today put in "LORD" in all capitals to signify the translation of "YHWH". There is no evidence that any attempt to pronounce "YHWH" was ever made by the Israelites, the early church, or by Jesus Christ.

WHAT ABOUT "JEHOVAH" ?

Some people in recent years have used the name "JEHOVAH" in place of "YHWH". According to the Watchtower Society of Jehovah's Witnesses, this name was first recorded in 1270 A.D. more than a thousand years after the death of Christ, by a Catholic Monk, Raymundus Martini. [See Aid to Bible Understanding, pages 884, 885].

Scholars recognize that this "patched-up" name of God invented a mere 700 years ago, with the vowels from "ADONAI" inserted between the consonants "YHWH" and then further altered with the letters, "J" and "V" is incorrect.

The following encyclopedias consider the name "JEHOVAH" to be FALSE. Merits Student Encyclopedia; Encyclopedia Americana; The Jewish Encyclopedia; Encyclopedia International

The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible; The New Catholic Encyclopedia; The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, and many more. In addition to revealing His name as the "I AM" and "YHWH", **God also tells us that His name is "JEALOUS" [Exodus 34:14], and " HOLY" [Isaiah 57:15].**

SALVATION IN GOD'S NAME

The Psalmist cried out, *"Save me O GOD, by thy NAME! [Psalm 54:1], and also, "Help us, O GOD of our Salvation, for the Glory of thy NAME, and deliver us and forgive our sins for Thy NAME's sake."* [Psalm 79:9].

YHWH stated in Isaiah 43:11, *"There is no Savior besides ME"*. In Zechariah 12:10, YHWH prophesied that *"they will look upon Me whom they have pierced."* In Zechariah 11:12,13, YHWH revealed that HE HIMSELF would be sold for 30 pieces of silver. YHWH further promised that one day He would be King over all the earth and that His name would be the only one. [Zechariah 14:9]

How would this come about? The Virgin Mary was told that, *"Behold the Virgin shall be with Child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name "Emmanuel", which translated means "GOD WITH US"*. [Matthew 1:23].

Jesus, whose name means "YHWH'S SALVATION" had come! Jesus revealed to the Jews that HE was the "I AM", taking the memorial NAME of God to all generations, and applying it to HIMSELF! (John 8:58). This truth is very evident in all translations with the exception of the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures published by the Watchtower Society of Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses, it was necessary for the Translation Committee of the Watchtower Society to drastically alter this text in John 8:58, since their polytheistic theology (belief in more than one true god) does not allow for Jesus to be Jehovah. They mistranslated "Ego Emi" into "I have been" instead of the correct, "I AM".

In 1950 they claimed it was in the "perfect indefinite tense". There is no such tense. In 1961, they changed it to "the perfect tense indicative", which is impossible for the verb "to be". They tried again in 1969 with a footnote reading "perfect tense". All are incorrect.

Witnesses can check out their Kingdom Interlinear Translation and find the words, "I am" under "Ego Emi" on the Greek/English side of the page. Reputable scholars agree that Jesus was here quoting Exodus 3:14, claiming to be the "I AM" or "YHWH" of the Hebrew scriptures. The J.W.'s likewise altered the text in Exodus in an attempt to prevent this revealing connection.

After stating in no uncertain terms that He was the "I AM", Jesus also said "Unless you believe that "I AM" you shall die in your sins." [John 8:24]. Salvation had come in the Name of God! Listen to Jesus' words in John 17:11,12,

"And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to Thee, Holy Father, keep them in THY NAME, the NAME WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME, that they may be one, even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in THE NAME WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME".

No wonder Acts 20:28 says that:

" God purchased the Church WITH HIS OWN BLOOD!"

Will you turn to the NAME OF GOD and be saved? Acts 4:12 says of JESUS [YHWH'S Salvation],

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is NO OTHER NAME under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Savior and the "I AM" who can cleanse you of sin and give you salvation. [John 8:24].
2. Invite Jesus into your heart -- simply tell Him you repent and are ready to receive Him. Read John 1:12, 13 and notice that this verse says, "as many as received Him" [not just 144,000]. Recognize that you must be "born again" by receiving Christ if you hope to be in the Kingdom. [See John Chapter 3].
3. Bow your knee in worship to "THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME", recognizing, Christ as Lord. [Philippians 2: 9, 11].
4. Get ready to meet Him! The Almighty God is coming again! [Read Rev. 18; Rev 22:7-20] Will you be one of those who bear God's NAME for all eternity?

"And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see HIS face, and HIS NAME shall be on their foreheads." [Revelation 22:3,4].

13h) Could Jesus be "a god"

Many persons today deny that Jesus Christ is God. Some are willing to concede that He may be "a god", but not God Almighty. Some believe that Jesus is the Son of God only, a lesser created personage, forever inferior to the Father God. This is the belief of groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and others like them.

While teaching that Jesus is Jehovah, the Mormons (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints) believe that Jesus is one of a plurality of gods, and Jehovah is not the Father. Mormons hope to be gods themselves one day.

Eastern Hinduistic religions which have spread to the West allow for Jesus to be "a god" along with their gurus, and followers also hope to be gods one day.

We turn to the Bible as our reliable guide - the only book that has proven itself to be historically correct - the only book that has accurately foretold events that have proven to be true - the only book God has given to man, *"inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction..."* (2 Timothy 3:16)

Let's let the Bible answer the question "could Jesus be 'a god' or "Is Jesus God Almighty?"

ONLY ONE TRUE ETERNAL GOD

According to the Bible, there is only ONE, TRUE, ETERNAL GOD by nature. All others are created, and by biblical definition, FALSE.

"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am GOD, and THERE IS NO OTHER." (Isaiah 45:22).

"God is ONLY ONE." (Galatians 3:20).

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, in order that we might know HIM WHO IS TRUE, and we are in HIM WHO IS TRUE, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is THE TRUE GOD and eternal life." (1 John 5:20).

"You believe that GOD IS ONE, you do well; the demons also believe, and shudder...." (James 2:19)

So, the Scriptures are clear. There is only one true eternal God. The words ONE, TRUE, ETERNAL indicate that all other gods outside of this one TRUE ETERNAL ONE must be, by biblical definition, FALSE. The other gods are also not eternal, but created by someone.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GODS?

The Bible acknowledges the existence of other gods, but places them in categories other than the exclusive position of the ONE TRUE GOD. These "gods" are, without exception, CREATED AND FALSE. They are not GOD by nature.

"However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which BY NATURE ARE NO GODS." (Galatians 4:8).

"For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but ONE GOD the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and ONE LORD, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we exist through Him." (1 Cor.8:5-6).

Belief in the ONE TRUE GOD of Scripture has always necessitated renouncing ALL OTHER GODS. The Ten Commandments begin,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME... You shall not worship them or serve them for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God..." (Exodus 20:2, 3, 5).

CATEGORIES OF "GODS" IN SCRIPTURE

Category 1 - Satanic

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19)

"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4:4).

It is evident, if we believe Jesus to be "a god", He would NOT fit this category!

Category 2 - Idols

A. Carved Idols -

"And he did evil in the sight of the Lord as Manasseh his father had done, and Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served them." (2 Chronicles 33:22).

B. Molten Images -

"They shall be turned back and be utterly put to shame who trust in idols, who say to molten images, "you are our gods". (Isaiah 42:17)

"And do not be idolators." (1 Cor. 10:7)

If we think that Jesus is "a god", He would NOT fit into the above category!

Category 3

Exaltation of Humans to Gods

"Jesus answered them, 'Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods?'" (John 10:34)

Who were called "gods" by Jesus? It was the judges who ruled Israel before the days of the Kings. These judges had the power of life and death over the people, and were called "gods".

Were they true gods or false gods? Psalm 82 tells us in verses 1 and 2,

"God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?"

Yes, God's judgement awaited these men-"gods".

"I said, 'You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. Nevertheless you will die like men..." (Psalm 82:6-7).

No exalted man is a true god, but a false one. Do not be deceived by the same lie Satan told Eve in the garden of Eden...

"...You will be like God (or, 'as gods') knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)

The teaching that any man can become a god is unscriptural. GOD has an exclusive on godship. If we think Jesus is "a god", we see that we cannot place Him in this category of corrupt men. This concludes the biblical categories of "gods". Jesus fits NONE of them.

Jesus is NOT "a god"

COULD JESUS BE THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL?

The Archangel Michael is specifically mentioned in three books of the Bible; Daniel, Jude and Revelation.

"Michael, one of the chief princes" (Daniel 10:13)

"Michael your prince" (Daniel 10:21)

"Now at that time Michael the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people." Daniel 12:1

Notice that Michael is just **"one of the chief princes"** - not unique at all. Michael is obviously a strong guardian angel, and nothing more is implied in Daniel. On to Jude.

"But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgement, but said "the Lord rebuke you." (Jude 9)

This Scripture proves that Jesus is not the Archangel Michael since Jesus repeatedly rebuked the devil (Matthew 17:18, Mark 9:25 etc.), while Michael did not dare rebuke the devil.

"And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon." (Revelation 12:7)

Again we see an archangel in charge of angels. Michael is Michael just as Gabriel is Gabriel. All the angels of God are commanded to worship Jesus in Hebrews 1:6. If Jesus is the archangel Michael then we are stuck with angels worshipping an archangel. No Scripture says Jesus is Michael and so Jesus is NOT Michael the Archangel.

IS JESUS CREATED OR THE CREATOR?

The following Scriptures are used in an attempt to prove Jesus' "creation".

"and He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15)

The word in Greek for "**first-created**" is "protoktistos". This term is NOT used in connection with Jesus. The term "firstborn" means in Greek, "**Preeminence in rank**". Christ was preeminent before all creation and is therefore the Creator. Read John 1:3-4 and Colossians 1:16-17. *"...the beginning of the creation of God says this" (Revelation 3:14)*

The word "beginning" in Greek means "Supervisor", "Designer", "Origin", "Source". Jesus is the Creator.

The term "only begotten" referring to Jesus occurs in John 1:14, 18; 3:16-18; Hebrews 11:17; and 1 John 4:9. This term has no application to the time of Jesus' so-called "creation", but Acts 13:33 applies it to the time of the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

*"that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that HE RAISED UP JESUS, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "Thou are my Son; **TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE.**"*

Jesus is nowhere in Scripture spoken of as being created - rather He is called "eternal". "Eternal Father, Mighty God" in Isaiah 9:6, and in Micah 5:2 His goings forth are from "the days of eternity".

Jesus is NOT created and HE IS THE CREATOR.

13i) Mental Terrorism (from L. P. a JW for over 40 yrs)

I am writing about a danger which is very real. There are people, who may be grieving, who may be suffering from depression, who feel an emptiness, who feel a spiritual longing, who want hope in a world that seems hopeless, and others who are very vulnerable to this danger. There are children who are in danger. There are many who have paid a tremendously high price to obtain freedom from this danger, and bear the marks and will bear the marks for the rest of their lives

The people who pose the danger are very nice people. They themselves don't really even know they are dangerous. They are victims, who in turn are well-trained to victimize others. They think they are serving God. They think they are earning everlasting life and giving it to others. They are Jehovah's Witnesses.

There are big news flashes about some cults and their dangerous practices and mass suicides, etc. But there are hundreds of thousands of former Jehovah's Witnesses who, as I mentioned above, have paid dearly for their freedom.

Two of them come to your door. They are so nice and polite, and they quote the Bible. They offer nice looking publications with interesting subjects, free of charge. Formerly they charged a price, but since the sales tax laws changed, they give it free, but will accept donations.

They offer you a free home Bible study. They talk about paradise, just around the corner, the answer to all the problems in the world. It sounds wonderful. You start your "bible" study by studying a little booklet or book.

You read the paragraph, and you answer the question printed in the publication from what you just read in the paragraph. Some scriptures are cited. You look up some of them. They are somewhat of the same subject as the paragraph but if examined in context and objectively don't always prove the point, rather it is the fact that you are looking into the Bible which convinces you that this really is a "Bible" study. You are expected to answer what you have just read, not what you think. They get upset if you answer something different. You learn quickly to answer by rote what is there printed. The loss of freedom to think has begun subtly.

First of all, everything is rosy that you learn. You feel all warm and fuzzy. You start to learn then that everything you ever believed is false. You rejoice to have finally found "the truth". I admit they do have some truth. You learn that all other religions and worshippers apart from Jehovah's witnesses are part of Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, directed personally by Satan and his demons. You are advised never to read literature put out by other religions, it would be dining at the table of demons. You have lost more freedom to think and investigate for yourself. Gradually the walls around your mind are being built of rock.

You start attending meetings. You make huge changes in your life, some admittedly beneficial, such as quitting smoking, quitting immorality, quitting alcoholism, quitting drug abuse, etc. You are told that this proves that they are God's people, you could never have done this alone. What you are not told is that every religion has many success stories of changed lives, as does Alcoholics Anonymous, psychotherapy, support groups, nicoret, etc.

But you are delighted with your newfound strength which proves you have found the truth. You are told not to enter any church buildings, not to do business with them, to curtail any contact with non-witnesses. The walls go higher.

You decide to become a witness. You joyfully decide to be baptized. At your baptism, you agree that this baptism (contrary to the Biblical idea of baptism) identifies you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. This was not done formerly, but is done now for legal purposes, since if they slander you and kick you out and shun you and abuse you you can't now sue them, you agreed to put yourself in their power at your baptism.

But you are so happy. You are IN. You are one of the ones who will be saved when the whole world is destroyed soon. They keep telling you it will happen soon (contrary to the Biblical warning of Jesus in Luke 21:8). The pictures of the beautiful split-level houses in paradise conditions continue to be shown with happy people and abundance of everything good, always just around the corner, always just out of reach. New converts are not told of the many many false dates and prophecies. Doctrines change as they become ridiculous because of events proving them wrong. Yet they sing a song about how Jehovah never changes, and see no contradiction in belonging to such a fluid organization.

Higher education is allowed now, it wasn't until just recently, but is still frowned upon. You might just learn to think if you go to university. So the majority slave at horrible jobs. Freedom to decide, to choose, how to live your life is gone.

Loyalty to the organization is huge on the list of priorities. Never speak to a former witness, they will only lie to you.

What you don't know is that these people, like me, who are perhaps third generation witnesses, know about all the foolish presumptuous prophecies which never came true, and about the lame excuses, and lies used to cover up.

Some of us can read their history which they have recently published, and wonder how they printed it without blushing, it is so whitewashed. Supposedly a candid history.

But we don't have a voice. We spent all our money on them, we gave them all our lives, we loyally didn't think for so long through so much spiritual rape and mental terrorism and are exhausted emotionally and physically, but of course we have no pensions to fall back on. The end was coming. It was a sin to plan for the future back in the 50's 60's and 70's. The newer ones now are given better advice, but still they are counselled to let the organization decide everything for them.

Do you know how it feels to be brainwashed from childhood? Do you know the agonizing guilt of starting to doubt the people who are supposed to speak for God? I know and so do many others. It took me 15 years of suicidal depression and much professional help, and finally I try to be free, but I'm always not quite. When I read the Bible and pray and think of the truth about Jesus Christ I am free. But when I see them, their publications or talk to one of them, it's a continuing struggle to not cringe into nothingness of guilt.

But I will with the help of God continue to struggle until I am completely free. I love the creator. I love the Bible.

But they have fought long and hard in the courts of this free land for the freedom to rob others of their freedom.

We don't have fancy lawyers or money, but I think we should be heard. Why do we have to allow mental terrorism to prove we're a free country? It's a crime to slander, but they call us "apostates", "liars", they say we left because we wanted to be immoral, they tell all kinds of lies about us, but they'll sue the pants off someone who tries to stop them victimizing others.

The ones who aren't out -- 50% are on antidepressants. The other 40% are in power over others given to them by the organization which gives them their kicks in life, and the other 10% are actually happy not to ever have to think in their lives.

This letter sounds bitter, I know. But why are terrorists free? To take the freedom of others? To twist and destroy minds as the Trade Centre was twisted and destroyed. I say wage war on the mental terrorists. Take away their freedom to bind others. Stop the terrible shunning where they decide who can talk to their family and who can't. Stop the propagation of hatred and division and intolerance. They are the ones who fought for the freedom from these very things. This country gave them freedom, and now they deny this freedom to their members.

Please, please give us injured, raped, freedom seekers a voice. This letter does not give 1% of the abuse taking place within that organization. I could go on for hours. But I trust that you will understand my concern for present, past and future victims. Terrorism in any form is unacceptable. L. P

14. RESOURCES

(Christ's Deity, The Holy Spirit, The Trinity)

THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE – TRULY GOD – TRULY MAN!!

GOD:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. (Psalm 89:26)

Applied to the Son Jesus: But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)

MIGHTY GOD:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, (Jeremiah 32:18)

Applied to the Son Jesus: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

TRUE GOD:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. (Jeremiah 10:10)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)

ALMIGHTY GOD:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. (Genesis 17:1)

Applied to the Son Jesus: I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (Rev.1:8)

ONLY GOD:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:22)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:16-17)

LORD OF LORDS:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: (Deut.10:17)

Applied to the Son Jesus: These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Rev. 17:14)

REDEEMER:

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. (Isaiah 6:3)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (Rev. 4:8)

HOLY ONE

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee. (Isaiah 12:6)

Applied to the Son Jesus: But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; (Acts 3:14)

I AM

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3:14)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 8:58)

CREATOR

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; (Isaiah 44:24)

Applied to the Son Jesus: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (Colossians 1:16)

SAVIOR

Applied to the Father Jehovah: I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. (Isaiah 43:11)

Applied to the Son Jesus: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

KING

Applied to the Father Jehovah: The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. (Psalm 29:10)

Applied to the Son Jesus: These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Rev. 17:14)

REDEEMED PEOPLE

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods? For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God. (2 Samuel 7:23-24)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:14)

FATHER

Applied to the Father Jehovah: After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (Matthew 6:9)

Applied to the Son Jesus: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

ROCK

Applied to the Father Jehovah: He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deut. 32:4)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4)

JUDGE

Applied to the Father Jehovah: That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Gen. 18:25)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Tim. 4:8)

SHEPHERD

Applied to the Father Jehovah: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

Applied to the Son Jesus: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

SAME

Applied to the Father Jehovah: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. (Psalm 102:27)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. (Hebrews 1:12)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8)

FIRST AND LAST

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: (Rev.1:17)

ABOVE ALL

Applied to the Father Jehovah: For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods. (Psalm 97:9)

Applied to the Son Jesus: He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. (John 3:31)

OVER ALL

Applied to the Father Jehovah: The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. (Psalm 103:19)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)

WORSHIPPED

Applied to the Father Jehovah: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. (Psalm 95:6)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. (Matthew 28:9)

CONTROL ELEMENTS

Applied to the Father Jehovah: He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. (Psalm 107:29)

Applied to the Son Jesus: But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! (Matthew 8:27)

NO END TO YEARS

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. (Psalm 102:25-27)

Applied to the Son Jesus: And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. (Hebrews 1:10-12)

EVERLASTING THRONE

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. (Psalm 93:2)

Applied to the Son Jesus: But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)

ENDLESS KINGDOM

Applied to the Father Jehovah: The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 146:10)

Applied to the Son Jesus: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11)

EXALTED

Applied to the Father Jehovah: Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth; (Psalm 108:5)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (Philippians 2:9)

PIERCED

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Rev. 1:7)

ONLY MASTER

Applied to the Father Jehovah: For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 4)

Applied to the Son Jesus: (Jeremiah 3:14)

EVERY KNEE WILL BOW AND CONFESS HIM

Applied to the Father Jehovah:

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. (Isaiah 45:23)

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (Romans 14:11)

Applied to the Son Jesus: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (Philippians 2:10)

WHOEVER CALLS UPON HIM WILL BE SAVED

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. (Joel 2:32)

Applied to the Son Jesus: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:9-13)

BOTH VALUED AND SOLD FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

Applied to the Father Jehovah: And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD. (Zechariah 11:12-13)

Applied to the Son Jesus: Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him. (Matthew 26:14-16)

TRULY GOD'S BLOOD PURCHASED THE CHURCH

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

The Divinity of Christ

revealed in the Gospel of John Chapters 1 – 21

- I remember once talking with a lady who said she did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, although she believed He was a good man, and admired very much the teaching He had left. Strangely enough, I found her (with all the beautiful inconsistency of a woman's mind, and that inconsistency is frequently very beautiful and much better than the logical consistency of man's mind) particularly fond of the sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of St. John; such, for instance, as "In My Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you." "Now," I said, "will you go home and read again the Gospel of St. John, and cross out every word that intimates He is Divine, and say you don't believe that and that?" She thought it would be a good idea, and I gave her little Testament and told her to mark and cut it as much as she liked. She came back in a week, as she had promised. "Well, how did you get along?" "I didn't get along at all. The truth is, I found I had to cross out the whole of the first chapter, and I began to think, 'If it's like this, what'll become of the beautiful promises and sayings?' so I stopped and cried, 'Lord, I see it is so. I accept Thee as Son of God, my Lord and my God.'" (Dr. Pentecost.)

Christ the true God:

-- Two gentlemen were once disputing on the Divinity of Christ. One of them, who argued against it, said, "If it were true, it certainly would have been expressed in more clear, unequivocal terms." "Well," said the other, "admitting that you believe it, were authorized to teach it, and allowed to use your own language, how would you express the doctrine to make it clear and indubitable?" "I would say," replied the first, "that Jesus Christ is the true God." "You are happy," rejoined the other, "in the choice of your words, for you have happened to hit upon the very words of inspiration. John, speaking of Jesus, says, 'This is the true God and eternal life.'"

Christ is God:

-- The commencement of Christian work in Japan happened thus: An American lady, of the name of Prince, interested herself in the country, and four or five missionaries were sent out, but only occupied themselves in the translation of the Scriptures. After some time this lady offered to teach English to a young Japanese, and gave him the Gospel of St. John to translate. Shortly after, it was observed that he became very agitated and restless, walking up and down the room constantly. At last he could contain himself no longer, and burst out with the question, "Who is this Man about whom I am reading -- this Jesus? You call Him a Man, but He must be a God." Thus the simple word itself had forced on him the conviction that Jesus Christ was indeed God.

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Christ is God

Jehovah (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3); As Jehovah of glory (Psalms 24:7,10; 1 Cor.2:8; James 2:1); As Jehovah, our Righteousness (Jer.23:5,6; 1 Cor.1:30); As Jehovah, above all (Psalms 97:9; John 3:31); As Jehovah, the First and Last (Isa.44:6; Rev.1:17; Isa.48:12-16; Rev.22:13); As Jehovah, Fellow and Equal (Zech.13:7; Phil.2:6); As Jehovah of Hosts (Isa.6:1-3; John 12:41; Isa.8:13,14; 1 Pet.2:8); As Jehovah, the Shepherd (Isa.40:11; Heb.13:20); As Jehovah, for whose glory all things were created (Pro.16:4; Col.1:16); As Jehovah, the Messenger of the covenant (Mal.3:1; Mark 1:2; Luke 2:27); Invoked as Jehovah (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; 1 Cor.1:2); As the Eternal God and Creator (Psalms 102:24-27; Heb.1:8, 10-12); As Mighty God (Isa.9:6); As the Great God and Savior (Hos.1:7; Titus 2:13); As God over all (Psa.45:6,7; Romans 9:5); As the true God (Jer.10:10; 1 John 5:20); As God the Word (John 1:1); As God, the judge (Ecc.12:14; 1 Cor.4:5; 2 Cor.5:10; 2 Tim.4:1); Immanuel (Isa.7:14; Matt.1:23); As King of kings and Lord of lords (Deut.10:17; Rev.1:5; 17:14); As the Holy One (1 Sam.2:2; Acts 3:14); As the Lord from heaven (1 Cor.15:47); As Lord of the Sabbath (Gen.2:3; Matt.12:8); As Lord of all (Acts 10:36; Romans 10:11-13); As Son of God (Matt.26:63-67); As the Only-begotten Son of the Father (John 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9); His blood is called the blood of God (Acts 20:28); As one with the Father (John 10:30,38; 12:45; 14:7-10; 17:10); As sending the Spirit, equally with the Father (John 14:16; 15:26); As entitled to equal honour with the Father (John 5:23); As Owner of all things, equally with the Father (John 16:15); As unrestricted by the law of the sabbath, equally with the Father (John 5:17); As the Source of grace, equally with the Father (1 Thess.3:11; 2 Thess.2:26,17); As unsearchable, equally with the Father (Pro.30:4; Matt.11:27); As Creator of all things (Isaiah 40:28; John 1:3; Col.1:16; Heb.1:2); As Supporter and Preserver of all things (Neh.9:6; Col.1:17; Heb.1:3); As possessed of the fulness of the God head (Col.2:9; Heb.1:3); As raising the dead John 5:21; 6:40, 54); As raising himself from the dead (John 2:19,21; 10:18); As Eternal (Isa.9:6; Micah 5:2; John 1:1; Col.1:17; Heb.1:8-10; Rev.1:8); As Omnipresent (Matt.18:20; 28:20; John 3:13); As Omnipotent (Psa.45:3; Phil.3:21; Rev.1:8); As Omniscient (John 16:30; 21:17); As discerning the thoughts of the heart (1 Kings 16:30; 1 Kings 8:39; Luke 5:22; Eze.11:5; John 2:24,25; Rev.2:23); As unchangeable (Mal.3:6; Heb.1:12; 13:8); As having power to forgive sins (Col.3:13; Mark 2:7,10); As Giver of pastors to the Church (Jer.3:15; Eph.4:11-13); As Husband of the Church (Isa.54:5; Eph.5:25-32; Isa.62:5; Rev.21:2,9); As the object of divine worship (Acts 7:59; 2 Cor.12:8,9; Heb.1:6; Rev.5:12); As the object of faith (Psa.2:12; 1 Pet.2:6; Jer.17:5,7; John 14:1); As God, he redeems and purifies the Church to himself (Rev.5:9; Titus 2:14); As God, he presents the Church to himself (Eph.5:27; Jude 1:24,25); Saints live to him as God (Romans 6:11; Galatians 2:19; 2 Cor.5:15); Acknowledged by his Apostles (John 2:28); Acknowledged by the Old Testament saints (Gen.17:1; 48:15-16; 32:24-30; Hos.12:3-5; Judges 6:22-24; 13:21,22; Job 19:25-27)

THE TRINITY IN THE BIBLE

The Bible does not have any verse that specifically uses the word trinity. However, it does have many verses that explain or reveal the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

First, Isaiah 48:16-17 makes a definitive statement revealing the Trinity. It reads, "Come near me and listen to this: 'From the first announcement, I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens I am there.' And now the Sovereign God has sent me, with his Spirit. This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.'" This passage reveals God the Father sending his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Second, certain passages reveal the Trinity by speaking of the worship of God in Trinitarian concepts. Numbers 6:24-26 reads, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Isaiah 6:3 says, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." In these two passages we see that the worship of God, using the words the Lord and holy, are repeated three times to reveal the tri-part Godhead.

Third, the Trinity is revealed through the language used. In Isaiah 54:5, God is a plural noun. The word "maker" is plural. In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew name for God, Elohim, is plural for Eloha, but the verb is singular.

Fourth, in Genesis 1:26 and 3:22 as well as Isaiah 6:8, the pronouns used for God are in plural form. Isaiah 6:8 reads, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'" In Genesis 1:26 God says, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." Genesis 3:22a says, "And now the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.'" Also, in Genesis 11:7, after the inhabitants of the earth were constructing the tower of Babel, God says, "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Fifth, the Persons of the Godhead are distinguished from each other as God. In Psalm 2:7 it is written, "I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'" Each part of the Trinity has a role to play in bringing about the majesty of God. Similarly in Isaiah 9:6 it is revealed, "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Names attributed to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are on this list.

Sixth, Jesus taught that God is trinity. In John 14:16 and 15:26 he reveals the roles of the Godhead. In John 14:16-17a Jesus says, "And I will ask the Father and he will give another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth." The Spirit testifies to Jesus as revealed in John 15:26: "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." Remember that in John 2:25, John writes that Jesus does not need testimony by men. And in John 5:31-38 Jesus says he has a testimony weightier than John the Baptist and that this testimony is valid. It is the testimony of the Father and the Spirit that Jesus upholds because each is the essence of the Godhead.

Seventh, the baptism of Jesus exhibits the Trinity. Matthew 3:16-17 reads, "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Eighth, as Hebrews 9:13-14 explains, each member of the Godhead cooperates individually as God. It says, "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" Only God can forgive sins. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice through the Spirit to the Father so that we can be saved. Through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we have forgiveness of sins.

Finally, there are two other aspects that reveal the Trinity in the Bible. First, the New Testament church acknowledged the doctrine of the Trinity. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commands, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." By baptizing people in this way, the disciples showed that God was trinity. Second, the New Testament church used Trinitarian formulas. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 13:14, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Throughout the Bible, God is revealed as a tripartite being in its language, God's statements to prophets, through Jesus' words, and the early church leaders' writings.

PROOF OF THE TRINITY

The Trinity is Shown Throughout the Bible / The Holy Spirit is God Almighty

All Called (One) God:

The Father Jehovah: He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. (Psalms 89:26)

Jesus: Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:16-17)

The Holy Spirit: But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4)

All (One) Creator:

The Father Jehovah: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. (Isaiah 43:1)
For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:18)

Jesus: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (Colossians 1:16)

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

The Holy Spirit: The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (Job 33:4)

All Raised Jesus (once):

The Father Jehovah: For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:9-10)

Jesus: Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. (John 2:19-21)

The Holy Spirit: But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Romans 8:11)

All Wrote Scripture:

The Father Jehovah: And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. (Exodus 20:22)

Jesus: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

The Holy Spirit: Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (1 Timothy 4:1)

All Directed God's Work:

The Father Jehovah: Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3)

But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us. (Zechariah 1:6)

Jesus: And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:17-20)

The Holy Spirit: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)

Blasphemy Punished:

The Father Jehovah: Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)

Jesus: Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. (Luke 12:8-9)

The Holy Spirit: Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. (Matthew 12:31)

All Eternal:

The Father Jehovah: Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. (Psalms 93:2)

Jesus: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The Holy Spirit: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb. 9:14)

All "All-Knowing" (Omniscient):

The Father Jehovah: Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. (Psalms 147:5)

Jesus: But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. (John 2:24-25)

The Holy Spirit: Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? (Isaiah 40:13-14)

All "All-Present" (Omnipresent):

The Father Jehovah: Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24)

Jesus: For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)

The Holy Spirit: Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (Psalms 139:7-10)

The Holy Spirit is God

As Jehovah (Exodus 17:7; Hebrews 3:7-9; Numbers 12:6; 2 Peter 1:21); As Jehovah of hosts (Isa.6:3,8-10; Acts 28:25); As Jehovah, Most High (Psa.78:17,21; Acts 7:51); Being invoked as Jehovah (Luke 2:26-29; Acts 4:23-25; 1:16,20; 2 Thess.3:5); As called God (Acts 5:3,4); As joined with the Father and the Son in the baptismal formula (Matt.28:19); As eternal (Hebrews 9:14); As omnipresent (Psalms 139:7-13); As omniscient (1 Cor.2:10); As omnipotent (Luke 1:35; Romans 15:19); As the Spirit of glory and of God (1 Pet.4:14); As Creator (Gen.1:26,27; Job 33:4); As equal to, and one with the Father (Matt.28:19; 2 Cor.13:14); As Sovereign Disposer of all things (Dan.4:35; 1 Cor.12:6,11); As Author of the new birth (John 3:5,6; 1 John 5:4); As raising Christ from the dead (Acts 2:24; 1 Pet.3:18; Heb.13:20; Rom.1:4); As inspiring Scripture (2 Tim.3:16; 2 Pet.1:21); As the source of wisdom (1 Cor.12:8; Isa.11:2; John 16:13; 14:26); As the source of miraculous power (Matt.12:28; Luke 11:20; Acts 19:11, Rom.15:19); As appointing and sending ministers (Acts 13:2,4; 9:38; 20:28); As directing where the gospel should be preached (Acts 16:6,7,10) As dwelling in saints (John 14:17; 1 Cor.14:25; 3:16; 6:19); As Comforter of the Church (Acts 9:31; 2 Cor.1:3); As sanctifying the Church (Eze.37:28; Rom.15:16); As the Witness (Heb.10:15; 1 John 5:9); As convincing of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11)

15.THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SABBATH

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SABBATH

"Search the New Testament carefully: you cannot find a single record of the meeting together on the seventh day of the week of a company of Christian believers for worship! There is no such record. They did not meet on that day. The day on which the primitive Christians met for worship was the first day of the week." (see: THE FIRST-DAY SABBATH by Wilson Thomas Hogue further down)

First, let us start this study by looking at the most important week in human history. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey on Psalm Sunday. It was the first day of the week and the start of the week. This was the long awaited fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy 9:25-27 (as well as many other fulfillments). On Psalm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem, Monday to Wednesday He ministered to the people (among other things). Thursday, He celebrated the Passover and instituted Communion. In the evening, His "bleeding" started as His sweat was like drops of blood. He was taken by the Jewish leaders and His suffering entered into its second phase. Friday, He was condemned, crucified, and died. On Saturday (the Sabbath) He was in the grave. On Sunday, the beginning of the next week, He arose!!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ happened on the "eighth" day of this historical week. Yes, it was the first day of the week but more importantly, it was the "eighth day". Let's look at the number EIGHT and what it means in the study of numerology – it denotes resurrection, regeneration; a new beginning or commencement. The eighth is a new first. Hence the octave in music, color, days of the week. It is the number which has to do with the Lord, Who rose on the eighth, or new "first-day". This is, therefore, the *Dominical* number. By Gematria (the addition of the numerical value of the letters together) the Greek letters for Jesus makes the numbers 888. It, or its multiple is, impressed on all that has to do with the Lord's Names, the Lord's People, and the Lord's works.

We remember that "eight people" survived the flood (Genesis 7:13, 23). That circumcision took place on the eighth day (Genesis 17:12). And in John 20:26 we read, "Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" (ESV).

The number 8 is the Resurrection Day. It is the number of the NEW ORDER. There is something special about this new order. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

The covenants, feasts, prophecies, etc. point to Jesus. The resurrection gave us LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST - and the conquering of death. We have become new creatures, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The rest God gave after He created the world in Genesis has now become the true rest of God in Christ Jesus, "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." (Hebrews 3:17-4:1). We have entered into God's rest for all eternity and not for a day of the week!!

The hostility between the Jews & Gentiles is over in Christ, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are

built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:13-22).

During Jesus’ ministry, Jesus ministered to the Jews and fulfilled the Law. “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17). Jesus was a Jew and His amazing words in Matthew tell us something NEW!! “Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” (Matthew 5:21-22). What words? **“Ye have heard that it was said”** (Jesus quotes the Law) and then goes on to say, **“But I say unto you”** (He gives us a NEW ORDER!). This is repeated in Matthew 5:27-28; 5:31-32; 5:33-34; 5:38-39; 5:33-34. He goes on and says, “Therefore I say unto you, (Matthew 6:25) and, “And yet I say unto you, (Matthew 6:29). And the greatest sermon ever given culminates with, “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matthew 7:28-29). Do you see how a New Order was happening? The One Who gave the Law (and three thousand died that day in the desert as the Law made us aware of sin and gave us death for nobody could keep it) was now superseding the Law by saying, **“BUT I SAY UNTO YOU,”** Can you feel that something NEW is happening. (And by the way, Jesus said it is better that I go so the Holy Spirit would come – and when He did, Three thousand were saved that day!!)

I once had a “Saturday Sabbath-keeper” tell me that Paul and the apostles went to the synagogue on Saturday proving that they worshipped on Saturday. I told him that they went to the synagogue on Saturday to tell the Jews (who were not saved) about Jesus and the LORD’S DAY!! To tell them of the freedom they could have by believing in Christ’s death and resurrection. That Jesus was no longer in the GRAVE. Remember, the week that Jesus came into Jerusalem on Psalm Sunday? Well, where was Jesus on SATURDAY? HE WAS IN THE GRAVE – DEAD – NO LIFE – MURDERED. And we were in Him. But praise God we can leave our OLD MAN in the grave and we can have RESURRECTION SUNDAY – the greatest day of all time – the day Christ arose and gave us all NEW LIFE – NEW BIRTH – NEW HOPE - NEW ORDER – NEW BEATHE - NEW NEW NEW!!!

Oh, we must not lose our freedom!! “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1). Or we end up being bond to the Law instead of being bond-servants of Christ and the freedom that gives us!!

Many denominations still use baptism as a means of salvation. It has caused more death because people look back to their “baptism” and they do not put their faith in the death & resurrection of Christ.

They also, many times, put more emphasis on a secondary doctrine of “the Sabbath Day” then they do on “salvation” and the “born again” experience. Many times the doctrine just becomes a dry thing to discuss & argue about and it never gives LIFE – only JESUS GIVES LIFE AS HE IS ETERNAL LIFE!!! Death could not keep him down. He is ALIVE – resurrected!! Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth! He is worthy to be worshipped – and we worship Him by living for Him on a daily basis. We no longer have to sacrifice calves, goats, etc. day after day but now something NEW has taken place – He has conquered sin and death once and for all by the cross and He has given us NEW LIFE in Him through His Resurrection!!!

For more on this subject please read the following:

It is often claimed that “God instituted the Sabbath in Eden” because of the connection between the Sabbath and creation in Exodus 20:11. Although God's rest on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) did foreshadow a future Sabbath law, there is no biblical record of the Sabbath before the children of Israel left the land of Egypt. Nowhere in Scripture is there any hint that Sabbath-keeping was practiced from Adam to Moses.

The Word of God makes it quite clear that Sabbath observance was a special sign between God and Israel: “The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested” (Exodus 31:16–17).

In Deuteronomy 5, Moses restates the Ten Commandments to the next generation of Israelites. Here, after commanding Sabbath observance in verses 12–14, Moses gives the reason the Sabbath was given to the nation Israel: “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day” (Deuteronomy 5:15).

God's intent for giving the Sabbath to Israel was not that they would remember creation, but that they would remember their Egyptian slavery and the Lord's deliverance. Note the requirements for Sabbath-keeping: A person placed under that Sabbath law could not leave his home on the Sabbath (Exodus 16:29), he could not build a fire (Exodus 35:3), and he could not cause anyone else to work (Deuteronomy 5:14). A person breaking the Sabbath law was to be put to death (Exodus 31:15; Numbers 15:32–35).

An examination of New Testament passages shows us four important points:

- 1) Whenever Christ appears in His resurrected form and the day is mentioned, it is always the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1, 9, 10; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1, 13, 15; John 20:19, 26).
- 2) The only time the Sabbath is mentioned from Acts through Revelation it is for evangelistic purposes to the Jews and the setting is usually in a synagogue (Acts chapters 13–18). Paul wrote, “to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews” (1 Corinthians 9:20). Paul did not go to the synagogue to fellowship with and edify the saints, but to convict and save the lost.
- 3) Once Paul states “from now on I will go to the Gentiles” (Acts 18:6), the Sabbath is never again mentioned.
- 4) instead of suggesting adherence to the Sabbath day, the remainder of the New Testament implies the opposite (including the one exception to point 3 above, found in Colossians 2:16).

Looking more closely at point 4 above will reveal that there is no obligation for the New Testament believer to keep the Sabbath, and will also show that the idea of a Sunday “Christian Sabbath” is also unscriptural. As discussed above, there is one time the Sabbath is mentioned after Paul began to focus on the Gentiles, “Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” (Colossians 2:16–17). The Jewish Sabbath was abolished at the cross where Christ “canceled the written code, with its regulations” (Colossians 2:14).

This idea is repeated more than once in the New Testament: “One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully

convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord" (Romans 14:5–6a). "But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years" (Galatians 4:9–10).

But some claim that a mandate by Constantine in A.D. 321 "changed" the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. On what day did the early church meet for worship? Scripture never mentions any Sabbath (Saturday) gatherings by believers for fellowship or worship. However, there are clear passages that mention the first day of the week. For instance, Acts 20:7 states that "on the first day of the week we came together to break bread." In 1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul urges the Corinthian believers "on the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income." Since Paul designates this offering as "service" in 2 Corinthians 9:12, this collection must have been linked with the Sunday worship service of the Christian assembly. Historically Sunday, not Saturday, was the normal meeting day for Christians in the church, and its practice dates back to the first century.

The Sabbath was given to Israel, not the church. The Sabbath is still Saturday, not Sunday, and has never been changed. But the Sabbath is part of the Old Testament Law, and Christians are free from the bondage of the Law (Galatians 4:1–26; Romans 6:14). Sabbath keeping is not required of the Christian—be it Saturday or Sunday. The first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10) celebrates the New Creation, with Christ as our resurrected Head. We are not obligated to follow the Mosaic Sabbath—resting, but are now free to follow the risen Christ—serving. The Apostle Paul said that each individual Christian should decide whether to observe a Sabbath rest, "One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind" (Romans 14:5). We are to worship God every day, not just on Saturday or Sunday.

The commandment in Exodus 20:8–11 states that the seventh day of the week, Saturday, is the day which the Lord selected as the day of rest and worship. However, in the New Testament the Christian church began to worship and rest on the first day of the week, Sunday. Are most Christians violating the Sabbath commandment by worshipping on the first day of the week rather than the seventh day? I do not think so. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. He did this to establish a pattern of work and rest for man to follow. (Illustration from the Creation Facts Screen Saver.) A Pattern of Rest and Work The basis for the command to observe the Sabbath, as stated in Exodus 20:11, is that God rested on the seventh day after six days of work, and that God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. The Sabbath day was instituted as a day of rest and worship. The people of God were to follow God's example in His pattern of work and rest. However, as Jesus said in correcting the distorted Sabbath view of the Pharisees, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." —Mark 2:27 The point Jesus made is that the Sabbath was not instituted to enslave people, but to benefit them. The spirit of Sabbath observance is continued in the New Testament observance of rest and worship on the first day of the week. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. —Acts 20:7 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. —1 Corinthians 16:1–2 A shadow of the redemption, a symbol It must be remembered that, according to Colossians 2:17, the Sabbath was "a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ." The Sabbath

observance was associated with redemption in Deuteronomy 5:15 where Moses stated, "Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day." The Sabbath was a shadow of the redemption that would be provided in Christ. It symbolized the rest from our works and an entrance into the rest of God provided by His finished work. The New Testament Although the moral principles expressed in the commandments are reaffirmed in the New Testament, the command to set Saturday apart as a day of rest and worship is the only commandment not repeated. There are very good reasons for this. New Testament believers are not under the Old Testament Law (Romans 6:14; Galatians 3:24-25; 2 Corinthians 3:7, 11, 13; Hebrews 7:12). By Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1), His continued appearances on succeeding Sundays (John 20:26), and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Sunday (Acts 2:1), the early church was given the pattern of Sunday worship. The early church met on Sunday regularly (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Sunday worship was further hallowed by our Lord who appeared to John in that last great vision on "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). It is for these reasons that most Christians worship on Sunday, rather than on the Jewish Sabbath.

Hebrew verb: shabbath, meaning "to rest from labor"; the day of rest. The Sabbath is first mentioned as having been instituted in Paradise, when man was in innocence (Gen. 2:2). "The sabbath was made for man," as a day of rest and refreshment for the body and of blessing to the soul. It is next referred to in connection with the gift of manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness (Ex. 16:23); and afterwards, when the law was given from Sinai (20:11), the people were solemnly charged to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Thus it is spoken of as an institution already existing. In the Mosaic law strict regulations were laid down regarding its observance (Ex. 35:2, 3; Lev. 23:3; 26:34). These were peculiar to that dispensation. In the subsequent history of the Jews frequent references are made to the sanctity of the Sabbath (Isa. 56:2, 4, 6, 7; 58:13-14; Jer. 17:20-22; Neh. 13:19). In later times they perverted the Sabbath by their traditions. Our Lord rescued it from their perversions, and recalled to them its true nature and intent (Matt. 12:10-13; Mark 2:27; Luke 13:10-17). The Sabbath, originally instituted for man at his creation, is of permanent and universal obligation. The physical necessities of man require a Sabbath of rest. He is so constituted that his bodily welfare needs at least one day in seven for rest from ordinary labor. Experience also proves that the moral and spiritual necessities of men also demand a Sabbath of rest. "I am more and more sure by experience that the reason for the observance of the Sabbath lies deep in the everlasting necessities of human nature, and that as long as man is man the blessedness of keeping it, not as a day of rest only, but as a day of spiritual rest, will never be annulled. I certainly do feel by experience the eternal obligation, because of the eternal necessity, of the Sabbath. The soul withers without it. It thrives in proportion to its observance. The Sabbath was made for man. God made it for men in a certain spiritual state because they needed it. The need, therefore, is deeply hidden in human nature. He who can dispense with it must be holy and spiritual indeed. And he who, still unholy and unspiritual, would yet dispense with it is a man that would fain be wiser than his Maker" (F. W. Robertson). THE CHANGE OF THE DAY Originally at Creation, the seventh day of the week was set apart and consecrated as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is now observed as the Sabbath. Has God authorized this change? There is an obvious distinction between the Sabbath as an institution and the particular day set apart for its observance. The question, therefore, as to the change of the day in no way affects the perpetual obligation of the Sabbath as an institution. Change of the day or no change, the Sabbath remains as a sacred institution the same. It cannot be abrogated. If any change of the day has been made, it must have been by Christ or by his authority. Christ has a right to make such a change (Mark 2:23-28). As Creator, Christ was the original Lord of the Sabbath (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:10). It was originally a memorial of Creation. A work vastly greater than

that of Creation has now been accomplished by him, the work of redemption. We would naturally expect just such a change as would make the Sabbath a memorial of that greater work. True, we can give no text authorizing the change in so many words. We have no express law declaring the change. But there are evidences of another kind. We know for a fact that the first day of the week has been observed from apostolic times, and the necessary conclusion is, that it was observed by the apostles and their immediate disciples. This, we may be sure, they never would have done without the permission or the authority of their Lord. After his resurrection, which took place on the first day of the week (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1), we never find Christ meeting with his disciples on the seventh day. But he specially honored the first day by manifesting himself to them on four separate occasions (Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:34, 18-33; John 20:19-23). Again, on the next first day of the week, Jesus appeared to his disciples (John 20:26). Some have calculated that Christ's ascension took place on the first day of the week. And there can be no doubt that the descent of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost was on that day (Acts 2:1). Thus Christ appears as instituting a new day to be observed by his people as the Sabbath, a day to be henceforth known amongst them as the "Lord's day." The observance of this "Lord's day" as the Sabbath was the general custom of the primitive churches, and must have had apostolic sanction (compare Acts 20:3-7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2) and authority, and so the sanction and authority of Jesus Christ. The words "at her sabbaths" (Lam. 1:7, Authorized Version) ought probably to be, as in the Revised Version, "at her desolations."

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THE FIRST-DAY SABBATH

by **Wilson Thomas Hogue**

**An Outline Argument
In Defense of The First Day of the Week
As the Proper Christian Sabbath**

Second Edition

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By Wilson T. Hogue**

PREFATORY NOTE

The principal matter of this booklet was originally published as a series of editorials in the "Free Methodist" in October 1895. Numerous calls have since been made from time to time for its publication in a cheap and convenient form for general circulation. This circumstance, together with the fact that the publishers find there is a demand for a cheap publication outlining the argument in defense of the First-day Sabbath such as they have been unable to furnish, has determined the author to revise the articles, add a chapter on "Hallowing the Sabbath," and give them to the public in their present form.

Due credit has generally been given in the body of the work for verbal extracts from other writers, but in addition thereto the author acknowledges indebtedness to "Watson's Institutes," "Lee's Theology," "Faussett's Bible Cyclopaedia," Briggs on "The Sabbath," and Besse on "The Sabbath and its Changes with the Chronology of the Ages," for much which enters into the structure of the general argument. Nothing like a complete discussion of the subject is attempted, the argument in defense of the first day of the week, or "Lord's Day," as the true Christian Sabbath being given only in outline.

Trusting, however, that, unpretentious as it is, it may be found adapted in some measure to refuting the error of those who still contend for the observance of the Jewish Sabbath, thereby endeavoring to bring Christians under the yoke of Legalism, and that it may also be a means of confirming those whose faith in the First-day Sabbath has been in any wise disturbed in the belief and assurance that our Lord's Resurrection day is the true and proper Sabbath of the new dispensation, this little treatise is committed to a charitable Christian public by

The Author.

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Chapter 1

MEANING OF THE SABBATH

We are often asked if there is Scriptural authority for observing the first day of the week, or Sunday, as the Sabbath. If we answer in the affirmative we are usually Challenged at once to produce the authority. The question has been raised anew of late, and by some who are perplexed and honest inquirers after light. Complete discussion of the question would require a more pretentious volume and cannot be attempted within the limits here allowed. An outline of the proofs in support of the First-day Sabbath as divinely authorized may, however, be of value to some who are in perplexity, and such an outline we venture herewith to present.

The meaning of the Sabbath is the first thing to be determined in order to an intelligent discussion of the subject. Is the term Sabbath the name of a particular and an unchangeable sacred day, or is it the name of a sacred institution with which the association of a particular day as appropriate for its celebration is incidental rather than essential? That Sabbath is to be understood in the latter sense is our firm belief, and for reasons which we now proceed to show.

I. The term Sabbath contains nothing in its orthography which limits its meaning to that of a particular sacred day. Dr. Young, in his Analytical Concordance, gives the meaning of the Hebrew word Shabbath as "cessation." Dr. Smith, in his Dictionary of the Bible, says the term is from Shabbath, "to cease to do, to rest." Canon Faussett, in his Bible Cyclopaedia, defines it as "rest." This being the root idea of the word it will readily be seen that its orthography does not carry with it any thought or suggestion of a particular day, but, abstractly considered, Sabbath is a name which applies to any rest observed at any time.

2. There is nothing in the original scriptural use of the term Sabbath which limits its meaning or application to any particular day. At its institution the Sabbath was enforced by divine example, rather than by divine command. "God rested on the seventh day" (Genesis 2: 2). But that Jehovah's Sabbath was not limited to the seventh day of twenty-four hours is evident from the fact that the divine Sabbath still continues. With him all days are Sabbaths since he concluded his creative works. The seventh day was "blessed" and "sanctified" as a Sabbath of rest at the beginning because of its special fitness to memorialize the completion of God's work as Creator and the Sabbath upon which he then entered, but this was incidental rather than essential to the existence of the Sabbath itself. On the very face of the record the Sabbath appears as an institution distinguishable from the day of its celebration. In other words, there was a Sabbath before there was an appointment of a Sabbath day, just as American Independence was a fact before Independence Day was established.

3. The way in which the term Sabbath is applied to various sacred festivals and festival days in scripture is proof that its meaning is not limited to any particular day. In the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus the term is applied to various Hebrew festivals. There were Sabbath days, sabbatic months and sabbatic years. Besides the regular septenary Sabbath there were other Sabbaths as follows:

(1) The great day of atonement, which fell on the tenth day of the seventh month. This was ordained of God to be a Sabbath of solemn rest to the people of Israel throughout their generations. But according to the Hebrew calendar, as revised at the exodus, the first, eighth, fifteenth, twenty-second and twenty-ninth of the seventh month were the regular septenary Sabbaths. The great day of atonement, then, falling as it always did between the eighth and the fifteenth of the month, is one instance of a divinely appointed Sabbath, and that so sacred that we are told the Septuagint calls it "the Sabbath of the Sabbaths," which occurred between the regular septenary Sabbath days.

(2) The festival of Pentecost. This was a day of sacred rest and religious observance to which the Sabbath law forbidding all "servile work" applied, and which therefore was, to all intents and purposes, a divinely authorized Sabbath. The day of Pentecost, however, always occurred the next day after the completion of the seventh weekly Sabbath, or on the first day of the week (Lev. 23: 15-21), and so out of the regular septenary order.

(3) The scale of Hebrew sabbatic observance. Not alone was the seventh day sacred, but the seventh month, the seventh year and the year of jubilee, with the septenary Sabbaths, formed a scale or series of Sabbaths, all of divine appointment, all of a most hallowed character and all of binding authority upon the whole people of Israel. Every seventh month was sacred (Lev. 23). Every seventh year was designated as "a Sabbath unto the Lord" (Lev. 25:1-7), and every fiftieth year as a jubilee Sabbath (Lev. 25:8-17). ALL the days of the sabbatic year were certainly Sabbaths unto the Lord, and it should be particularly noted that the day of atonement, the holiest of all the Hebrew Sabbaths, came but once a year and then wholly out of the septenary order.

(4) We have now seen that Sabbath does not necessarily mean the seventh day, but that any day to which God applies the name has all the sacredness and lawfulness of the original Edenic Sabbath. Moreover, in the light of the foregoing discussion the true meaning of the term Sabbath appears, which is neither more nor less than what Dr. Briggs terms "the sacred proper name of a movable festival."

Chapter 2

THE ORIGINAL SABBATH

The next step in the discussion is to consider several facts connected with the institution and observance of the original Sabbath.

1. The primeval Sabbath was instituted and sanctified in Eden. "And God rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made; and God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it he had rested from all his work" (Gen. 2:2,3). This was the Eden Sabbath. On those who contend for the keeping of Saturday as the original Sabbath day rests the burden of proving the identity of Saturday with the primeval day which was sanctified in Eden. In all arguments for the Saturday Sabbath, so far as we know, this point is assumed with no attempt to prove it. We shall now attempt to show,

2. That the original Sabbath hallowed in Eden corresponds to the present First-day Sabbath observed by Christians:

(1) From the creation to the giving of the law the primeval weekly Sabbath was generally observed. For scriptural proof of this the reader is referred to (a) Genesis 4:3, where Cain and Abel are said to have brought their offerings unto the Lord, "at the end of clays" (margin), which is generally understood as meaning at the end of a septenary, or week of seven days; (b) Genesis 8:10-12, where Noah, in sending out the dove is represented as having measured time by weeks of seven days; (c) Job 1:6 and 2:1, where a particular periodic day of appearing before the Lord for worship is mentioned as belonging to patriarchal times; and (d) Genesis 29: 27-28, where, in Jacob's negotiations for Rachel, the Hebrew custom of measuring time by weeks is unmistakably set forth. Other passages might be produced, but these will suffice to show that in patriarchal days the septenary division of time made by the hallowing of the original Sabbath day was generally observed.

The testimony of scripture on this point is corroborated by profane history, and shows the practice of observing one day in seven not to have been confined to the patriarchal line, but to have been universal. Even heathen nations held to the septenary division of time, and observed a weekly Sabbath. Says Dr. M. H. Briggs, in his work on "The Sabbath:"

"This fact we learn from Homer, Hesiod, Herodotus, and other ancient writers. Philo, the Jewish philosopher of Alexandria, says without qualification: 'The Sabbath is not a festival peculiar to my people or country, but is common to the whole world.' La Place has this strikingly philosophic statement: 'The week is perhaps the most incontestable monument of human knowledge. It appears to point out a common source whence that knowledge proceeded.' It is certain beyond attempt at contradiction that the septenary division of time prevailed among Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Greeks, Italians, Celts and Indians. Chaldean cuneiform characters show a weekly rest-day, the name of which bears a striking likeness to the Hebrew Sabbath and means 'a rest of the heart.'"

In "The Sabbath and its Changes with the Chronology of the Ages," the Rev. H. T. Besse quotes as follows from profane historians on this point:

"Porphyry says the 'Phoenicians consecrated one day in seven as holy.' Josephus says, 'There is no city, either of Greeks or Barbarians, or any other nation, where the religion of the Sabbath is not known.' Eusebius says, 'Almost all philosophers and poets acknowledge the seventh day as holy.' Grotius says, 'that the memory of the creation being performed in seven days was preserved, not only among the Greeks and Italians, but among the Celts and Indians, all of whom divide their time into weeks.'"

Dr. Smith also informs us that he found an Assyrian calendar which divides every month into four weeks, and the seventh days are marked out as days in which no work is to be done.

(2) The seventh day, observed as sacred among all nations before the giving of the law, was not the same as the seventh day afterward observed by the Hebrew race, but corresponded, if our investigations are correct, to our present First-day Sabbath. ^[1] A change was made in the Hebrew calendar, as we have seen, at the time of the Exodus. Compare Ex. 12:1, 2 with Ex. 23:15, and it will be seen that the month Abib became the first month of the Jewish year after the Exodus, though it had never been so reckoned before.

A little careful study will also show that a new Sabbath day was given to this liberated people with this change of calendar. Formerly they had observed the primeval Sabbath day, in common with all other nations. The observance of a Sabbath among early heathen nations can be accounted for only on the ground that they had perpetuated the primeval Sabbath, though they had perverted it to a means of propagating idolatry. The earliest and most prevalent idolatry was that of sun worship. So the primeval Sabbath was perverted into Sun's day, or the day to worship the sun. For many generations the covenant

people worshipped Jehovah on the same day. At last the religion of the Israelites became corrupted by association with heathen neighbors, and they too worshipped the Sun, as represented in the golden-headed bull of Egypt. Hence their relapse into this worship while Moses tarried in the mount of God. (For proofs of the foregoing see Ex. 32:1-24, Joshua 24:14, Ezek. 20:5-9, Acts 7: 41-42.)

One object of changing the calendar when the Israelites departed from Egypt evidently was to cut them off more effectually from connection with idolaters. It was a wise and politic movement, worthy of the divine mind which ordained it. With the change of calendar Saturday (Saturn's day) became the new Hebrew Sabbath, and its observance was required to extend from evening to evening (Lev. 23:32). Those, therefore, who now keep Saturday as Sabbath are certainly not keeping the primeval Sabbath day which the Lord hallowed in Eden, but are rather observing that day which was set apart exclusively as a Jewish Sabbath day, and which, as a day for celebrating the Sabbath, was abolished when the ceremonial law was done away by Christ (See Col. 2:16, 17, and Gal. 4:9, 10).

Jehovah's Sabbath, or the Lord's day, is that which was instituted in Eden, and not the day which temporarily memorialized Israel's emancipation and separated them from the idolatry into which they had fallen. The original Sabbath day, according to the best evidence we can gather from Biblical chronology, would, if carried forward to the beginning of the Christian era, be found identical with the present First-day Sabbath, which is called preeminently "the Lord's day," as it memorializes alike the completion of the Lord's creative and redemptive work.

[1](#) See this point discussed ably and at length in Briggs on "The Sabbath," pp. 50-65.

Chapter 3

THE HEBREW SABBATH

It will help us to understand more fully the grounds upon which the observance of the First-day Sabbath are justified if we now consider more particularly than we have done so far the character and significance of the Hebrew Sabbath.

1. As we have already had occasion to observe, the Hebrew Sabbath was a changed Sabbath. That is, it was not observed on the same day of the week after the Mosaic law was given as that on which they had celebrated it before. This point is generally overlooked by opposers of the First-day Sabbath who hold that no change in the day for proper Sabbath observance has ever been divinely authorized. It has been shown in a preceding section that the primeval Sabbath day sanctified in Eden was generally observed among all nations, and particularly observed among the patriarchs and the covenant people, down to the time of the Exodus. It has also been shown that, at the Exodus, the Hebrew calendar was changed, and with it the day for celebrating the Sabbath festival or rest was changed, from Sun's day to Saturn's day, which was the seventh day of the week according to the Jewish calendar as changed by Moses under divine direction. It is certain therefore that one change in the day for celebrating the Sabbath has occurred since the primeval Sabbath was instituted, and that by divine appointment. And if one change has been divinely authorized, who shall say that another similar change could never have been made? If contenders for the Seventh-day Sabbath object to the First-day Sabbath as giving Sun's day -- the day of celebrating an ancient heathen festival -- too much prominence, we have only to remind them that the observers of the Seventh-day Sabbath are giving equal dignity and sanction to Saturn's day -- the day on which the corruptest of all heathen festivals was celebrated. The odds, therefore, in this case, is in favor of the First-day Sabbath.

2. The particular day for celebrating the Hebrew Sabbath was chosen to memorialize events which had no practical significance to any but the Hebrew people.

(1) It commemorated the covenant made with them in Horeb. "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep and do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day" (Deut. 5:1-3). This formed part of the preface to the rehearsal of the Ten Commandments, in which Israel was enjoined to "Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord thy God commanded thee" (v.13).

(2) It was expressive of their separation from idolatrous nations. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, Saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you" (Ex. 31:12, 13). Thus they were to be perpetually reminded that God had sanctified, set apart, or separated them, by special covenant relation, from all other peoples on the earth.

(3) It memorialized their deliverance from Egypt. "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day" (Deut. 5:15).

These reasons for keeping the Hebrew Sabbath are such as could apply to no other people, and such as could have no practical significance or force after the Jewish dispensation was abolished. Hence we may reasonably infer that the observance of the Seventh-day Sabbath, as enjoined on Israel after the Exodus, was designed to be only a temporary arrangement, which should cease with the termination of the Jewish and the inauguration of the Christian dispensation.

(4) The Hebrew Sabbath, so far as their particular day of observing sabbatic rest is concerned, was abrogated by the introduction of Christianity. In the foregoing section we barely stated this point, which we now proceed to consider more fully. If it be the case, as we have endeavored to show, that the enactment of the Seventh day as the period of sabbatic rest and devotion, was a part of that ceremonialism which was binding only upon the Hebrew people and during the Jewish age, then it follows, per consequence, that with the end of the Jewish dispensation came the abrogation of the Jewish Sabbath, so far as its exclusively Jewish aspects are concerned. But let us see what the scriptures say on this point. In writing to the Colossians St. Paul, after declaring the old Jewish ordinances to have been done away by Christ, says: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Chap. 2:16, 17). The whole system of exclusively Jewish "Sabbath days" is here shown to have pointed to Christ, to have been done away in Christ, and hence to have no binding authority upon Christians. Also in Galatians 4:10, the observance of Jewish "days [Sabbaths], and months, and times, and years" is declared to be a "turning again to the weak and beggarly elements" whereunto the backsliding Galatians "desired again to be in bondage." Too bad it is, that so much Galatian apostasy prevails even in the twentieth century, in this respect, and that so many simple souls are turned thereby from freedom in Christ to the bondage of what we believe these scriptures prove to be an abrogated Jewish law.

Chapter 4

THE FIRST-DAY SABBATH

We now proceed to prove that the setting apart of the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord arose from the dead, as the Christian Sabbath, or "the Lord's day," has the unmistakable warrant of Scripture.

1. It is warranted by Jewish types. In the Jewish feasts mentioned in Leviticus 23 we have seen one at least in which a Sabbath observance was prescribed which came on the first day of the week. Referring to the whole system of Hebrew Sabbaths Paul says they were "a shadow of things to come" (Col. 2:16-17). It is but fair then to regard the occasional first-day Sabbaths as types of a new dispensation.

2. It is warranted by prophecy. "The Stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psa, 118:22-24). This prophecy unmistakably refers to the resurrection of Christ. The evidence of this may be found in the utterances of both Jesus and his apostles. (See Matt. 21:42, Acts 4:10,11, and I Peter 2:7.)

To what else do the words, "this is the day which the Lord hath made," refer, if not to the Christian Sabbath, the day commemorative of the resurrection of Christ and in which the rejected Stone was made "the head of the corner"? Some day of special and great significance is here predicted, and expositors have failed to point out any other day as of sufficient importance to be thus incorporated with the prophecy of our Lord's triumph over death and the grave and identified as the object of the same.

3. It is warranted from the fact that the change from the seventh day to the first took place under apostolic recognition and authority. Their first religious meeting after Christ's resurrection was "on the first day of the week," the day he arose, and was specially graced and blessed with his presence (John 20:19). Their next recorded religious service was held on the following "first day of the week," on which occasion Jesus again miraculously appeared in their midst and gave them his blessing (John 20: 26). Twenty-five years later we have the record of the disciples at Troas meeting "on the first day of the week to break bread," and Paul preaching to them, "ready to depart on the morrow," etc. (Acts 20:7). This was evidently a religious service, and Paul tarried and preached for them on that occasion, as he would not resume his journeying until the Christian Sabbath was past, which is indicated by the expression "ready to depart on the morrow." Commenting on this passage, the late Rev. B. T. Roberts has well and forcibly said:

"The verse plainly teaches, (1) That the Christians of that early age did not meet together for worship on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. For Paul was there seven days (v.6). He must, then, have been there on the Jewish Sabbath, but did not preach to the Christians on that day, because that was not their day for worship. No other reason can be given.

"(2) That they, the Christians, did meet for worship on the first day of the week. This was not a special meeting. It was their stated day for worship. The language plainly teaches this. It can have no other meaning. The disciples were not called together to hear Paul. They came together, according to their custom, for Christian worship. This is implied in the words, 'And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, being present, preached unto them.'

"To say that because Paul preached in the evening, they did not meet together in the day time is too absurd to need even contradiction. What possible proof can a Sunday evening meeting be that there was no religious service there in the day time?

"But in other places it is recorded that Paul preached on the Sabbath day. So it is, as in Acts 13:42, 16:13, 17:2, 18:4. Read carefully these passages and you will find that it was not to a Christian congregation that he preached, but to the Jews and to the Gentiles who met with them for worship.

"Search the New Testament carefully: you cannot find a single record of the meeting together on the seventh day of the week of a company of Christian believers for worship! There is no such record. They did not meet on that day. The day on which the primitive Christians met for worship was the first day of the week."

About a year after the meeting with the disciples at Troas Paul wrote as follows to the church at Corinth: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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." (1 Cor. 16:1, 2.) It is quite evident from this that the first day of the week was observed at that time by the churches of Galatia and Corinth as the day of their principal religious "gatherings," and was considered by St. Paul as the most suitable occasion for bringing together "the collection for the saints."

4. The warrant for the First-day Sabbath is strengthened by the fact that the apostles were invested with authority to make such a change as we have seen was made under their administration. This appears when we consider (1) That they were inspired men, which no Christian denies. (2) That they were invested with this prerogative by virtue of the authority conferred upon them to organize and establish the Christian church and to reject or retain so much of the Hebrew ceremonial as they judged appropriate. This is the force of the following commission: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 18:18). (3) That they were guaranteed against error in their establishment of the church and its regulations by the special impartation of the Holy Spirit to be their teacher and guide. Jesus said unto them: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "And when he is come, he will guide you into all truth," etc. (John 16:13).

We believe it has now been shown: (1) That there is nothing in the meaning of the term Sabbath that limits its proper observance unchangeably to any particular day; (2) that by divine appointment a change was made at the Exodus from the primeval Sabbath day, previously observed throughout the world, to a day for Sabbath observance commemorative of events pertaining particularly to the Hebrew nation; (3) that from its very character the Seventh-day Sabbath of the Hebrews was to be observed only during the Jewish dispensation; (4) that even under the Jewish economy other days than the seventh or Saturn's day (and particularly the first day of the week) were hallowed as Sabbaths by divine appointment; (5) that, so far as the best information we can get is concerned, the original day hallowed as a Sabbath in Eden would, if carried forward to the present, synchronize with the First-day Sabbath observed by Christians; and (6) that the change from the seventh day to the first after the establishment of Christianity has the warrant of scripture, in that it is typified, foretold, provided for in the authority conferred upon our Lord's apostles, authorized by the example of the apostles and the early church, and sanctioned by the special, miraculous and visible presence of the Lord with his primitive followers when first they made his resurrection day the day which they observed in Sabbath worship. These reasons we regard as sufficient to prove that the practice of Christians generally in keeping the first day of the week as the Sabbath, in commemoration of

God's completed work both in creation and redemption, is in keeping with God's original plan and fully authorized by scripture.

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Col. 2:16, 17).

Chapter 5

HISTORIC EVIDENCE

A correspondent in writing us on this subject says: "In Chambers' Encyclopedia I read that Constantine changed the day [of the Sabbath] from the seventh to the first -- 321 years after Christ. If that be true, what right had man to change God's law?" etc. Sure enough! But it isn't true. Nor does Chambers say it is, as a closer scrutiny of the passage referred to will fully prove.

In the first place, we have shown by abundant scripture testimony that the change was made by the apostles of our Lord, with the divine warrant and approval. In the next place, the passage from Chambers has been misunderstood and misquoted. After rehearsing the scriptural grounds on which the primitive Christians made the first day of the week the day of holding their religious assemblies, and after quoting Justin Martyr in his Apology to Antoninus Pius, written between A. D. 138 and A. D. 150, as giving several reasons why Christians then observed the first day of the week, Chambers says:

"But whatever may have been the opinion and practice of these early Christians in regard to cessation from labor on the Sunday, unquestionably the first law, ecclesiastical or civil, by which the sabbatical observance of that day is known to have been ordained, is the edict of Constantine, 321 A. D.," etc. So Chambers clearly teaches that, instead of Constantine changing the day, he merely enacted a law requiring all his subjects to observe that day as sacred which Christians had observed ever since the resurrection of Christ. Whether ignorantly or otherwise, the pleaders for a Saturday Sabbath have committed "a flagrant falsification of history," in alleging Constantine to have changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. The very terms in which his edict was expressed imply that Sunday had long been observed as a sacred day, though voluntarily and not by legal enactment. He says: "Let all judges, inhabitants of cities, and artificers rest on the venerable Sunday," etc. Thus his own words refute the charge that he first changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week.

In the earliest days of the church the term Sabbath was not applied to the first day, although the Sabbath character was ascribed to it. It was commonly called "the Lord's day," "First-day," or "Resurrection-day," to distinguish it from the day observed by the Jews and by them for ages called the Sabbath. That the first day was observed in the early church from apostolic times and that it was invested with a sabbatic character is amply proved by the testimony of the ancient Fathers, as many reputable authors have shown.

Ignatius was a disciple of St. John, and is reputed to have been made bishop of Antioch by that apostle. In his epistle to the Magnesians, he says: "If they who were brought up in these ancient laws, come nevertheless to the newness of hope, no longer observing Sabbaths [of a Jewish character] but keeping the Lord's day, in which our life is sprung up by him," etc. This proves (1) that Christians did not then keep the Hebrew Sabbath; (2) that they did observe "the Lord's day" instead of the Sabbath of the law; and (3) that "the Lord's day" was the day our Lord arose from the dead.

Barnabas, believed to have been the companion of St. Paul as mentioned in the book of Acts, speaks in his epistle of "the eighth day" as the day of Jehovah's choice, and rest, because it is "the beginning of the

other world;" and adds: "For which cause we observe the eighth day with gladness, in which Jesus arose from the dead," etc.

Justin Martyr, in the Apology already cited, assigning reasons why Christians of his day held Sunday meetings, says: "We all of us assemble together on Sunday because it is the first day, in which God changed darkness and matter, and made the world. On the same day also, Jesus Christ our Saviour arose from the dead." Justin, therefore, regarded the first day of the week as the suitable day for Sabbath observance (1) as commemorating the creation of the world, and (2) as commemorating the resurrection of Christ.

Eusebius, A. D. 267-339, referring to the heresy of the Ebionites, says: "They also observe the Sabbath and other discipline of the Jews, but also on the other hand, they celebrate the Lord's day very much like us." This shows that at that time orthodox Christians did not observe the Jewish Sabbath, and that they did observe the Lord's day instead.

Many other equally pertinent quotations might be adduced, but these must suffice. Having traced in outline the history of the Sabbath and its changes from the creation far into the Christian era, and having presented what we consider abundant scriptural and historical warrant that the observance of the First-day Sabbath by Christians is divinely authorized, we take our leave of the subject, indulging the hope that what we have written may clear up the matter in some degree to such of our readers as have been in doubt or perplexity on this important matter.

May the Christian Sabbath become ever brighter and dearer to us all, and may we ever be able confidently to say, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Chapter 6

HALLOWING THE SABBATH

"The Sabbath was made for man" -- to meet the necessities of his physical, mental, moral and spiritual natures. Man was made for labor, and only in laborious activity can he secure his highest good for the life that now is and for the life to come. But he who labors as he should six-sevenths of the time will find that resting from secular toil the other seventh is a physical as well as a moral necessity and blessing.

While the day to be recognized as the Sabbath is based on positive law, or divine appointment, and therefore may be changed at the will of the lawgiver, the Sabbath as an institution is based on physical and moral necessity back of all positive law, and hence can never be abrogated. Having been "made for man," as an institution designed to conserve and promote his highest well-being, the requirement for hallowing it was made a part of the moral law, originally graven by the finger of God on tables of stone as significant of its permanent character. Hence it is that, though the day for celebrating the Sabbath has been changed and the gospel furnishes different motives than did the law for its observance, the hallowing of the Sabbath is as incumbent upon Christians as upon the Jews of old. While the gospel frees from the observance of the Sabbath in its purely Jewish aspects, it does not, and can not, in its abrogation of the Hebrew economy, annul or abrogate the Sabbath institution. As such it existed before the Mosaic law was given, and was designed to meet a universal necessity of the human race.

But how should the Christian Sabbath be observed? Let Isaiah, the evangelical prophet, answer: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause

thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Chapter 58:13,14). Observe,

I. The Things Which Are Here Prohibited:

1. We are not to do our own ways. That is, we are not to make the Sabbath a day for attending to our own lawful but secular concerns. The law of the Sabbath prohibits buying, selling, laboring, traveling, making business plans and calculations, taking inventories, footing up accounts, engaging in business correspondence, holding business interviews, etc., on the Lord's day (Exodus 20:8, etc.). Nor should we employ others to do on the Sabbath what would be unsuited in its character to our own performance. To ignore the rights of our employee or of public servants to the Sabbath and its privileges is criminal in the sight of God.

2. We are not to pursue our own pleasure. It is a grievous abuse of the Christian Sabbath to convert it from a holy day into a holiday. The tendency in this country toward the continental method of Sabbath observance -- toward making it a gala day, a day of recreation, amusement, jollification, carousal and debauchery -- is an evil omen. Many kinds of pleasure wholly innocent on other days are sadly desecrating on the Sabbath. Excursions, journeys, parties, games, athletic sports, social visitation, the perusal of secular papers or books, festivity and mirth of all kinds -- these are wholly unbecoming the sacredness of the holy Sabbath, and ought not to be engaged in or countenanced by the followers of Christ.

3. We are not to speak our own words. In other terms, we should not engage in secular or jocular discourse. The Sabbath is not a day for discussing matters of business, commerce, politics, science, or any other purely secular themes; and much less is it a day for the indulgence of hilarious discourse, or for the many pleasantries which might be regarded innocent on other days. The extent of the prohibition includes abstinence in action, speech and feeling from all that is unsuited to keeping the Sabbath distinctively holy.

II. The Things Which Are Here Enjoined:

1. That we call the Sabbath "a delight." We are not to observe either its prohibitions or injunctions in a legal but in an evangelical Spirit. It is not a day for sadness, gloominess, long faces, penances, mortifications, or ascetic practices of any kind; but a day rather for cessation from the wearying toil of life, and for delightful engagement in those holy occupations, contemplations, exercises and fellowships, which we can scarce find time to cultivate during our busy laboring days. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will be glad and rejoice in it."

2. That we regard it as "the holy of the Lord." It is emphatically "the Lord's day" -- the day set apart as exclusively devoted to his service -- and therefore a holy day, or rather the holy day of Jehovah. Hence the command to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." We should study and exercise ourselves to spend it in all respects in a holy manner. Both negatively and positively -- by refraining from all that is profane or secular, and by engagement, so far as practicable, in whatever will tend to promote the glory of God and the well-being of men -- we should keep the Sabbath holy.

3. That we call it "honorable." The Christian Sabbath is the day God has honored as he has honored no other day, in making it the memorial alike of a finished creation and a finished redemption. The risen Jesus honored it; apostles honored it; the martyrs and confessors of the early church honored it; the church catholic through all the ages of Christian history has honored it; and in some degree at least all civilized nations recognize and honor it. God has also ever honored it with special promises and blessings bestowed on those who duly observe it. Shall we not then regard it as the "holy of the Lord and honorable?" If we do thus honor it, think you it will be the shortest day of the week with us? Will it be a

day for sleeping, lounging, trifling, visiting, roaming, or selfish and unprofitable pursuits of any kind? Assuredly not. We shall instead give it fully to God's service, to meditation upon and exercise in divine things, and to that culture of the religious life for which the Creator has instituted and ordained it. III. Motives To Hallowing The Sabbath:

1. The delight in God resulting therefrom. "Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord" -- in the sight of his countenance, in the manifestations of his grace, in abiding fellowship with him.

2. The spiritual exaltation promised. "I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth." Honor and exalt the Sabbath and God will exalt and honor thee.

3. The goodly heritage assured. "I will feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father." The God of Jacob will be thy God. This includes all temporal and spiritual blessing, our highest good in every sense, and that for time and for eternity; all of which is ratified by the immutable word of Jehovah who hath spoken it.

THE END

**16. WARNING TRACT:
MORMONISM
&
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

WARNING

There are two **cults** going door-to-door: Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses. They claim to be Christian religions, but they are not.

Mormonism teaches:

- God used to be a man on another planet and Mormon members may become gods of their own worlds.¹
- There are many many gods.²
- The Trinity is three separate Gods.³
- Entrance into celestial heaven is by the consent of God and the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.⁴
- God has a body of flesh and bones.⁵
- God is married and produces spirit babies by having physical relations with his goddess wife.⁶
- Jesus, Satan, and all of us are spirit brothers and sisters procreated in a pre-existent spirit life.⁷
- God had relations with Mary to make Jesus' body.⁸
- You must shed your own blood for the forgiveness of some sins.⁹
- Good works are necessary for the forgiveness of sins.¹⁰

MORMON WRITINGS

- 1) Mormon Doctrine by Bruce McConkie, p.321.
- 2) Ibid., p.163.
- 3) Ibid., p.319.
- 4) Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 7, p.289.
- 5) Doctrine & Covenants 130:22.
- 6) McConkie, p.516.
- 7) Ibid., p.192; 589.
- 8) Ibid., p.741-742; The Seer, p. 158.
- 9) Doctrines of Salvation (Joseph Smith), Vol.I p.135.
- 10) Articles of Faith, p. 79

Be careful. Rarely will they mention these 'higher' doctrines. Therefore, you really don't know what they are teaching until long after you have joined. **Be warned.**

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach:

- Their church organization is the prophet of God.¹¹
- Jesus returned invisibly in 1914.¹²
- Blood transfusions are sinful.¹³
- The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force.¹⁴
- Only their church members will be saved.¹⁵
- Jesus was an angel who became a man.¹⁶
- Jesus did not rise from the dead physically.¹⁷
- There is no Trinity.¹⁸
- Good works are necessary for the forgiveness of sins.¹⁹

J. W. WRITINGS

- 11) The Watchtower, April 1, 1972, pp.197, 200.
- 12) You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, 1982, p. 147.
- 13) Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp 70-76.
- 14) Holy Spirit, 1976, p. 11.
- 15) Ibid., Feb. 15, 1979, p. 30.
- 16) Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1152; New Heavens and New Earth, p. 30.
- 17) You Can Live Forever...pp. 143, 144, 172.
- 18) Let God be True, p. 101.

Be careful. Jehovah's Witnesses will want to begin a home 'Bible study' with you. What they really want is for you to join their religion.

CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN??

These groups are non-Christian cults because they deny the true biblical doctrines of Jesus and salvation. First, Mormonism says Jesus is the brother of the Devil.⁷ J.W.'s teach that he is an angel who became a man.¹⁶ These teachings are not biblical.

Second, both these cults erroneously say that in order to be saved you must cooperate with God by doing good works. The Bible says that salvation is a free gift from God.²¹ The Bible condemns the addition of our works to the finished sacrifice of Jesus.²² Galatians 2:21 says that if salvation comes by works ("if righteousness comes through the Law"), then Jesus died needlessly. Salvation comes by God's grace through faith alone, not by our works²¹ which are impure.²⁹ Simply put, they each preach a false message of salvation.

The Bible teaches: there is only one God;²³ God is spirit;²⁴ Jesus' sacrifice cleanses from all sin;²⁵ Jesus is the only way to God;²⁶ all who receive Jesus as Savior will be saved;²⁷ and Jesus is God in flesh²⁰ who rose from the dead in the same body He died in.²⁸ These are some of the things the Christian church has always believed. These two cults distort them and thus lead many into eternal damnation. Why? Because...

Only the Jesus of the Bible saves, not the brother of Satan (Mormonism), not an angel made into a man (Jehovah's Witnesses). Faith works only when you trust someone who is true.

The Mormons and J.W.'s are good people and we love them; but, they are misled.³⁰ They do not know that the true gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins and that we receive His forgiveness by faith alone (faith in the true Jesus). Satan has blinded them.³⁰ Jesus said that if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit.³¹ That is why this Christian ministry is exposing these cults, so you won't be deceived.

If you want to be assured of the forgiveness of your sins and have peace with God, then you must realize that you have sinned against God,³² and are separated from Him.³³ Then, ask Jesus into your life; ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and save you. He will.²⁷ He is Savior and Lord and He is as close as the call of your heart. Then read your Bible and go to church. At least now you know which two not to join. Eternity is a long time to be wrong.

FROM THE BIBLE (THE WORD OF GOD)

- 20) John 1:1,14, 8:58, 10:30; Col. 2:9.
- 21) Rom. 6:23;3:28;4:5. Eph. 2:8-9.
- 22) Gal. 3:1-2;5:1-4.
- 23) Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8.
- 24) John 4:24.
- 25) 1 John 1:7,2:2.
- 26) John 14:6.
- 27) John 1:12; Rom. 10:9-10.
- 28) Luke 24:39; John 2:19-21.
- 29) Isaiah 64:6
- 30) 2 Cor. 4:3-4.
- 31) Luke 6:39.
- 32) Rom. 3:23, 5:12.
- 33) Isaiah 59:2.