

ON TRUE RELIGION

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INTRODUCTION

What is true religion?

That is to say, what exactly do I mean by use of such a term?

For example, true as compared to what?

True as compared to fake?

Phony?

Artificial?

Game playing and hustling?

Yes,

yes,

and yes.

We must start with a proposition which I consider to be somewhat a priori, although I am sure that many, if not most!, persons would find many grounds for disagreement.

To me, it is a self-evident fact that “somebody” or “something” has created this material universe in which we currently find ourselves.

Either there is a Creator being or there is not.

Modernly, Darwinists claim that there is no God, and hence no Creator.

In effect, everything has created itself.

“In the beginning was matter” or energy or some similar force.

Matter has, in effect, created God.

Which is considered by them to be nothing more than a fantastical creation of primitive, superstitious minds.

We just simply live and then die.

End of story.

A supreme being is simply wishful thinking, or a projection of our own selves onto the “canvas” of the material universe.

They will start from this postulate and then claim that they can disprove the existence of an ultimate moral authority, in what can only be considered an example of very simplistic circular reasoning.

God does not exist and cannot exist, therefore the universe cannot have been created.

And so they begin on a quest of explaining how the known material universe came into existence on its own, with no animating and organizing force apart from various types of physical events and causes and effects.

Darwin is claimed to have postulated a scheme by which life came from non-life by means of a series of random changes over vast amounts of time by which intelligence is claimed to have evolved from inanimate (and unintelligent) materials.

The mechanism (Deus ex Machina, anyone ?) by which this is claimed to have happened is by means of radiation bombarding

living material (which just “somehow” originated from non-life) and causing changes, most of which were either detrimental to, or in a very small amount of cases, useful to, survival (hence survival of the fittest).

These basic building blocks are claimed to have, effectively, piled, the one on top of the other, over and over again, such that the simple organism becomes more and more complex.

Modern people pretend that this is a "scientific" view to be compared with primitive superstitions of ignorant persons.

While it is pretended that this is some sort of modern masterpiece of highly elevated thinking, it is, in fact, no such thing.

It is, rather, the basis for the religion of Hinduism (the oldest known continuous religion) and is very similar to the Hawaiian creation mythologies (from which some persons believe it was actually derived, as a matter of speculative philosophy by Darwin, as he traveled through the South Seas, e.g. see the Hawaiian creation story and chants, such as ***Kumulipo***).

In Hinduism and many other Eastern offshoots, it is claimed that there are continuous cycles of creation and destruction by which one is claimed to evolve to higher and higher states of being.

Thus, it can readily be seen that religion, and this speculative philosophy which pretends to be provable fact, have been and are intertwined and interwoven with one another right from the very beginning.

That is to say, Darwinism neither "proves", nor disproves anything.

It is speculation, pure and simple.

Nothing more and nothing less.

If one stops and thinks for even one moment, one should realize that if science is a collection of facts, and the fact is that there is a "prime mover" Creator being/force which is animating everything which we see around us, then one cannot have science without acknowledgment of the fact of the initial and ongoing creative force and driver.

The idea that "science" is inherently in opposition to "religion" is then readily seen to be a sham.

Because demonstrable facts are a product of experimental verification and of matters which are observable, measurable and quantifiable, it can be seen that matters such as "the Big Bang theory" and various cosmologies and cosmogonies have no place alongside, for example, Newton's laws of motion, or the analysis of chemical reactions and such like.

This being so plain that one must speak in terms of "hard science" versus other kinds of "soft" science, as if such a distinction has any meaning, whatsoever, other than to claim that theory is, somehow, observable, measurable, quantifiable fact, and hence a matter for scientific inquiry i.e. collecting of facts.

This is a very shaky foundation, indeed, upon which to stake the future state of what is believed to be your eternal soul, if ever there was one.

As one further considers the matter, it becomes painfully evident that we are in a sort of a mist from which we are not going to easily extricate ourselves.

Speculative philosophy, posing as known, measurable, quantifiable facts is not really going to help us much.

It is simplistic and shallow thinking at its heart, and really not worth much when one is trying to figure out what actually is and isn't, in spite of it's apparent (modern) ability to pretend to be the answer to all of our questions about the meaning and purpose of our purported existence.

It opens the door to all kinds of ridiculous speculation, in place of useful knowledge, I would think.

The reason I am pointing these things out is because we are going to run into them over and over again as we consider this, and other, related matters.

Or to state it another way, here is one of the numerous phony religions which I intend to juxtapose against what I am, here, referring to as "true religion".

Again, the "true" in true religion is another way of saying "fact-based" or "factually-based" religion.

While noting that I am using the term religion, here, to mean our relationship with our Creator, as opposed to various rites, rituals, customs, practices, and procedures.

Religion is, hence, here used as a synonym for reality.

Okay now, here is the fatal crux of the matter, so far as the claims that Darwin's speculations somehow rise to the level of measurable, observable, quantifiable "facts" of science ("science" being a collection of facts):

COMPLEXITY!!

I never tire of reminding any and all who care about such matters that when Darwin propounded his speculative philosophical assertions the microscope had only recently been developed.

The nature of DNA was completely unknown and quantum mechanics hadn't even been thought of or considered as a potential reality.

Darwin and his contemporaries looked at the structure of leaves and other plant tissues under a microscope and noticed little empty boxes which appeared to form the framework of the leaf structure.

They called these little boxes "cells", as in an empty room, or a prison cell.

They had no idea that within each of these little boxes had been a whole sea teeming with living organisms, each far more complex than the skeletal leaf structure itself.

I like to think of them as little machines.

Numerous little machines within little machines.

A closer look at each little machine showing yet another layer of complexity within complexity.

It is the same with strands of DNA.

It is the same with the physio/chemical structures and atomic and sub-atomic structures.

It is the same with every single self-replicating enzyme which form the structural skeleton of every single protein molecule.

Yes, complexity within complexity, within complexity, such that it ultimately becomes mathematically ridiculously impossible to account for these structures and their numerous interrelations and their interrelatedness by random processes.

The amount of time being required for such to even potentially take place to far exceed any amount of time which ever has been or ever will be postulated.

This is what I call the “handprints” and “fingerprints” of our Creator.

He having made matters so complex that only a very ignorant person could possibly even consider that things somehow "fell together" on their own.

It is His signature as it were, and will be found over and over again as we begin to even scratch the surface of this, our current inquiry into the nature of what is and what isn't, and what can be known or not known.

So, it seems that what is claimed to be science is actually "science falsely so-called".

It being truly little more than a modern mythology, little different than the stories of the Sumerians, Babylonians and Greeks.

Instead of calling upon some super-human anthropomorphization, these moderns, in willful ignorance, give the same features as found in the ancient cosmogonies to matter.

Just as Sumerian gods and goddesses were claimed to do all sorts of creative acts, here it is energy and various electromagnetic forces to which are ascribed

THE EXACT SAME CREATIVE POWERS.

First with a "big bang", coming out of nowhere, with nothing worthy of an attempt at description preceding it.

Intelligent force simply being replaced by inanimate forces, which are claimed to be "just in the nature of how things are".

Of course, this is little more than a grand cop-out pretending to be deep philosophical insight.

It neither proves, nor disproves anything, any more than saying that Anu, Ea, Enki and the Annunaki are responsible for the creation.

These "moderns" simply hiding behind the fact that because ultimate origins are impossible to demonstrate in an empirical manner, therefore none of their idle speculations can be disproven.

Such that lack of ability to disprove is propounded as proof.

Truly ridiculous, once it is looked at more closely, with discriminating eyes and thought/mind.

They merely obfuscate the entire matter by hiding behind mathematical equations and theorems, which can only be "understood" by a select few, who now pretend to be the duly appointed "keepers of the flame" by nature of such abilities.

A grand game of "hide-and-seek", as it were.

By controlling the ability to "hide the ball" they pretend to some higher knowledge to which they then ascribe the label, "science".

The perpetrators of such being little different from their Sumero/Babylonian ancestral counterparts.

Yes, nothing but a "modernized" form of priestcraft, with the lab tech's clothing replacing the priestly garb of yesteryear.

It is an unmitigated fraud, through and through, so far as I am concerned and little more than replacing one set of speculative/philosophical claims with another.

Merely a replacement of one "religion" by another (using "religion" in the commonly "understood" sense of the term).

Of course this all serving to underscore the need for revelation.

That is to say, man is unable to understand anything worth knowing, when it comes to such matters as ultimate causation, without "the great whoever/whatever" revealing it by one means or another.

Such that now we are confronted with the problem of "seeking" that knowledge and the answers to the perennial problem of "who am I?", and "what am I?", and "why am I here?".

Most certainly NOT matters that can be ascertained by measuring various portions and pieces of the material universe.

We having now begun to enter the realm of what I am here calling "true religion".

ON THE NEED FOR REVELATORY RELIGION

Assuming the existence of a Creator, that being the only reasonable postulate, given the unbelievable layers upon layers of complexity and organization, one is FORCED to seek the answers to ultimate questions either directly from the source (i.e. the Creator) or by listening to the doctrines and dogmas of very ignorant earthbound men, who are locked in their four dimensional prison of space/time, length, height, width, and depth.

I can't help but be reminded of the amoeba which comes out of your stomach, into the toilet of a cruise ship, only to be unceremoniously ejected out into the middle of the Pacific ocean.

What can it really know about the world in which it is residing ?

As it puts on its little amoebic lab coat and begins to quantify and analyze the waters and salts and equal-sized organisms which surround it on every side.

It thinking that it knows and understands what is taking place all around it, yet being so restricted, by virtue of its own physical and psychical limitations, that it is simply unable to perceive or understand the grander scheme of things.

It really having no ability whatsoever to understand the depth of the ocean in which it exists, or the existence of continental land masses, or the numerous stars of heaven.

All of which it can neither perceive nor observe, even though it is surrounded by it on every side.

And what hubris and incredible amount of exaggeration it must take for tiny little Mr. and Mrs. Amoeba to pretend that the specifics of their microscopic world can be generalized into a full and complete knowledge of what is and what is not.

Think about it for a few minutes, and then explain how it is that you and I are any different.

Even with the most over-active imagination, and with the use of numerous mathematical formulae, the poor little amoebae are restricted from knowing any more than any other equally-sized creature, and certainly unable to either perceive or understand such matters as the nature of the greater universe in which they are residing.

Yes, it is all around them, on every side, yet they are lacking the ability to perceive and understand just exactly what it is that they are looking at and experiencing.

I would suggest that you and I are no different.

We suffer from the exact same limitations, yet, somehow unable to realize that such is the case.

What arrogance and incredible stupidity must be required for our modern peers to pretend like they have it all figured out with a high degree of certainty because their mathematical formulae tell them that it is so.

It truly is outlandish, such that it is difficult to take such profoundly ignorant persons seriously.

At the end of the day it can all too readily be seen that without guidance from someone/something far greater than ourselves we will simply remain hopelessly lost within the limitations of our very own existence, with no hope of anything ever being otherwise.

Welcome to the land of metaphysical speculation which will soon enough morph into something which we know of as "religion", with all of its amoeba-like rites, and rituals, and practices, and garb, which taken all together can only form nothing more or less than **PRETENSE**.

Yes, pretended knowledge professing itself to be ultimate knowledge and fact.

Such that one needs to stop and take a long, hard look at these pretensions long enough to reject them as the utter nonsense which they truly are and can only be proven to be moreso and moreso with each passing hour, day, week, and year.

Men simply cannot be trusted, for the most part, when it comes to such matters.

Such that if our Creator wants us to know anything about Himself and our current predicament, then He must make it known to us, if we are ever to get past the very real limitations of our very own material existence.

While noting that it is just such a claim to which the ancient "Judeo-Christian" belief system makes.

While it is easy to make any claim one should so desire, here, it quickly becomes a question of how one can ascertain and "prove" such a matter as that the Creator has spoken in such a manner that we should all sit up and take notice and "listen up".

I will here contend that such is the purpose of what I shall here term as "The Messianic Prophecies".

Something which cannot be so readily and easily manipulated by unbelieving, faithless men and women, who pretend to have personal and private access to such higher knowledge.

Remembering that extreme caution is in order, given that we are, here, dealing with subject matter wherein hucksters will be found to abound in nearly limitless quantity on every side, and all the moreso in this day and age.

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

ON PROPHECY AND PROPHETS IN GENERAL

Given that so-called science is entirely unable to answer any of the questions which deal with ultimate causation, then is there any way that a truth seeker can find answers to any of these questions with a reasonable degree of certainty ?

Or put another way, has the Creator chosen to communicate with us in a way that can give us assurance of His existence ?

While the creation itself is claimed to be a witness in numerous different ways, the Holy Writings which have come down to us in the form known to us as the Old Testament canon is based upon exactly such a claim.

Here the Creator God is said to have communicated directly with a number of individuals.

He is said to have shown Himself openly and plainly to one particular group of persons, from which He chose men who were intended to act as direct “spokesmen”, on His behalf.

So, how can we know who these persons are or were ?

Very simply.

They are/were persons who would tell the immediate and less immediate future histories of kings, persons and nations in advance of the actual fact.

Only with one proviso, i.e. 100% accuracy is required.

If they get even one thing wrong, they are to be killed.
(see *Deuteronomy 18:20*)

It is this prophetic office which provided us with the prophetic writings which are contained in the Old Testament.

It seems that any number of these Prophets of God left behind writings in which they made and recorded numerous predictions regarding various lands and peoples and kingdoms.

Many of the prophecies seeming to be downright outlandish at the time of their writing.

Beginning with Moses, who was said to have spoken face to face with God, the prophetic tradition begins, and then continues "on again" and "off again", until it finally, altogether ends with John the Baptist, immediately preceding the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, "the man from Galilee".

This is in addition to showing numerous marvelous works and wonders and miraculous interventions by which the hand of an all-seeing, all-powerful being simply could not be denied by any rational person who cares to examine the matter more closely.

As men watched these various historical events unfold before their eyes, in fulfillment of the numerous claims and predictions made by these Prophets, a corpus of writings began to be collected together as compelling evidence of what has happened.

It is within this collection that a series of prophetic passages begin telling of a coming "God-man".

That is to say, a prediction, or series of predictions, claiming that the Creator God, Himself, will appear as a male human being.

As centuries went by, each of a number of different persons added pieces to this puzzle.

Over time the pieces coming together to form a more and more clear picture of what was to come and a more complete picture, as well.

It was as if each prophetic utterance provided yet one more piece in a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.

By the time of Daniel the Prophet, who was kept prisoner in the court of Darius, during the height of Persian power, one particularly specific prophecy told that the Messiah would be "cut off" in his youth, in 490 years from the date of the giving of the decree of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem (which was also prophesied at that same time; see *Daniel 9:24-27*).

Such that those who were keeping track of these prophetic utterances, spanning centuries, now could know exactly when to look for the appearing of this man who was to be known as Emmanuel, meaning, "God with us" (see *Isaiah 7:14*).

It is because of this level of precision that there was an expectation throughout the Middle Eastern lands, and particularly in the tiny little nation of Israel, where this prophetic tradition was centered, 2000 years ago.

People were watching for and waiting for the coming of a man who must be born not too long before the expiration of the 490 years.

It seems to be no coincidence that the three Magi (magicians/soothsayers from the very same Persian court where Daniel's prophecy was made and recorded approximately 500 years earlier) were searching for a newborn babe who would be known as "the Son of God". (see *Daniel 9:20-27*)

It also being, for the same reason, the basis of the belief of Herod that a usurper King was about to be born, causing him to have children under a certain age to be murdered, causing the fulfillment of several more Messianic prophecies.

Yes, there was tremendous expectation throughout the land for the reason that the Creator God had spoken through one of his Prophets to tell, within several years of time, exactly when to expect the fulfillment of over 1200 years of predictions.

Each adding to those made prior, to form a more and more complete picture.

Notice how this was done in a way such that it did not depend upon the whims of any one man, or the peculiar beliefs of any one or two generations.

The prophecies being made in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of the kind of lying hucksterism to which we are currently exposed on a nearly ongoing basis, as numerous modern false prophets and false brethren pretend to know all about the future and exactly how it will unfold.

Of course, these moderns are wrong over and over again, which would have gotten a real prophet wannabe to pay for his (or her) chicanery with his/her life.

The Lord God spending centuries, for over one millennium, laying the groundwork for what was to come.

The exact genealogical lineage being spelled out in great detail, such that there could be no faking the evidence.

The true significance of many of the passages being just unclear enough (dark sayings) such that people didn't even realize until after the fact just how pertinent many of these previously obscure passages actually are or were.

It is against this backdrop that I would like to remind you, dear reader, about HOW the Creator is claimed to have revealed himself to the family members of the human family which would ultimately give birth to the Messiah, known as "the lion of the tribe of Judah" among other names.

For purposes of this immediate discussion I will skip ahead to the patriarch Abraham, while most certainly not intending to diminish the various persons preceding him (e.g. Noah, Enoch, etc.).

God talked directly to Abraham.

It is here that a pattern begins to emerge, which will be seen through both the Old Testament and New Testament writings.

This being what I am herein referring to as "***true religion***".

Direct revelation from the Creator to the created being.

An intense direct communion between the two.

Sometimes by use of dreams, and sometimes face-to-face, as the Creator appears in different forms which we refer to as "theophanies".

"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness".

This is a fundamental premise of a number of arguments which are made by the Apostle Paul regarding the doctrine of soteriology (i.e. the doctrine of salvation).

According to the account in the book of Genesis, God made promises to Abraham.

Abraham was also said to be seeking another, non-earthly, kingdom.

Note these two pieces:

seeking our Creator;

and

our Creator speaking directly to certain individuals, such that actual statements regarding the content of these conversations have been recorded and transmitted from one generation to the next, either in a written form, or in the form of an oral tradition.

Abraham is called "a friend of God".

That is to say he has a certain degree of personal intimacy with his Creator.

Abraham hears instructions which are said to emanate from God.

He is told to go to another land.

He is told of promises of a seed which will come forth out of his loins.

A child of promise.

Various promises are made to him.

Exact statements are made to him, such that it can be said that Abraham was having a two way conversation with the deity.

Abraham is a man of visions and revelations.

His grandson Jacob continues this familial tradition as he sees a ladder going up to Heaven with angels ascending and descending.

He is said to have wrestled with the Angel of the Lord.

A physical confrontation during which Jacob receives injury to his leg, thereby forcing him to concede victory to his opponent.

And there he is named "Israel", a prince of God.

He being given this name by God, Himself.

His son Joseph is a man who has dreams and visions, and who is thought to be so wise and in contact with higher powers that he ends up as nothing less than a counselor to the Pharaohic ruler of Egypt, where he has been sent as a captive, thanks to the treachery of his brothers

Jacob/Israel is said to have produced offspring in the form of 12 sons, who would become known as the 12 tribes of Israel.

Upon his deathbed he makes prophetic statements, including one in which Judah is said to be a lion's whelp, giving rise to the title "lion of the tribe of Judah" which becomes a synonym for Christos/Messiah.

A pattern is thus further beginning to emerge, whereby God is in close contact with specific persons, who were very aware of His presence, and to whom He is communicating precise information, by means of dreams and visions and outright conversations.

A pattern which will be seen to repeat over and over again throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

This being what I refer to as "**true religion**".

Not a series of rites and rituals into which it would, soon enough, degenerate, but rather a relationship.

Or should I say a very personal relationship ?

And a very active and real relationship by which the earthbound recipient is assured of the existence of his Creator, who is directing his steps, while communicating specific and precise information to him.

A little over 400 years after Joseph, his descendant, Moses, is said to have been out wandering one day during which he sees a marvelous sight.

A bush which is burning, yet not consumed by the flame.

Upon investigating the matter he is informed that he is in the presence of deity.

Again, he is given very precise information and directions.

It is at this juncture that God tells what will now become His own covenantal name, implying a bond of very intimate union between Creator and created being.

And then after preparing Moses by means of powerful signs and wonders, the deity manifested Himself to all who were called out of Egypt, out into the wilderness, where another pattern begins to emerge.

A pattern of saying one thing, while doing another.

Of proclaiming obedience, while continuing in disobedience.

Yet all the while carrying about with numerous rites and rituals by which "**true religion**" is quickly transformed into a new form of false religion.

The earlier "**true religion**", which is formed by intimate union, culminating in profound obedience, no matter what the cost, is now transformed into outward conformity, which is then used as a shield behind which to hide the most profound disobedience, as already sick hearts continue to become sicker and sicker, whereby "**true religion**" is replaced by PERSONS who have chosen to "play religion", in place of taking part in the real thing.

The cares of today far overwhelming the thoughts for the morrow, and for the eternal state into which all will, soon enough, enter into.

These being the prototypes of what I refer to, modernly, as "Churchianity", where we all get together and "play church".

Just as little boys and girls play house and play doctor and play cowboys and Indians.

All make-believe.

And most certainly incapable of changing wicked hearts into anything worthy of the name righteous and pure.

And where true, sacrificial love is replaced by a system which is all about what is in it for me.

All things revolving around me, me, me.

I call this system "Churchianity", because EVERYTHING ! revolves around a building, which they call a Church.

Building funds, parking lots, new carpets, new sound systems, etc., etc.

It being a make-believe system which is entirely devoid of any ability to effect change toward real godliness and purity and separation from worldliness.

Yet all the while practicing rites and rituals which pretend to be able to make one a better person, spiritually speaking.

Having "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" as the New Testament so succinctly states the matter.

(see 1Timothy 3:5)

Yes, another Christ, and another gospel, and another spirit, if ever there was one (*see II Corinthians 11:4 and Galatians 1:8-9*).

But, as the Apostle Paul warns us, not really another gospel, but rather a twisting of the gospel.

A twisting to their own destruction, as I am given to understand the matter.

A DIGRESSION

Going back to where we started from,
so, what is “*true religion*”, anyways?

This phrase consists of two words.

One is not so hard to figure out, i.e. what is true ?

The other is not so easy to figure out, i.e. what is religion ?

Let's begin with religion.

As I am using this word it does not mean what YOU
probably think of when you think about such matters.

For example, cult, doctrine, practices, etc.

Of course, this is NOT !! what I am talking about, here.

Rather, I am using the word to mean our relationship
with our Creator.

That is to say, is He at the center of every single thought,
action, and deed ?

Or is He tangential?

Some huge Santa Claus in the sky just waiting to rain goodies
down on us?

Is He just there when we are overwhelmed by helplessness
and material need?

Or is He our reason for life?

Creed and doctrine having little or nothing to do with it.

But, rather, a true relationship with someone or something which we know to exist, based upon past and present experience ?

Are we being constantly touched, and are WE constantly touching and feeling ?

Do we have an inner two-way conversation on a continuous basis ?

Or is all that we think of as religion nothing more than rites, rituals, and customs, and duties owed ?

Once we have defined religion in the way which I am pointing toward, then it doesn't take long to figure out what the "true" part of true religion is.

Another word for it being "actuality".

"True" as in "actual".

In other words, are we playing religion as so many play church ?

Forcing our inner selves into some self-serving outward form of actions to impress all of those around us ?

Or is true religion reality/actuality-based inner response to the calling of the Holy Spirit ?

Am I answering the call, or am I just playing games, in hope of getting something out of it for me and mine ?

Now, let's try to redefine our terms in meaningful synonyms.

True religion is our actual relationship with our Creator, having been actuated by His reaching down and touching us, and making Himself known to us.

Being called to self-sacrificial service.

A giving up of ourselves so that He may more fully work in us, and through us.

Actual relationship actuated by God and NOT man.

Please note that there is little or no place for priests and ministers and other such-like professional hucksters (known by their constant money grubbing, with hands out, ALWAYS demanding that YOU give THEM your time, labor, and hard-earned substance).

No place or need for any people at all.

What I like to refer to as "closet religion", i.e. just the Spirit of the Lord God Omnipotent, intersecting with my very wounded and mangled human spirit.

Nobody knows or needs to know what exactly is going on between me and my Creator.

And so far as I am concerned, it is NONE of their business.

Never has been, and never will be.

An actual relationship, unimpeded by my need or desire to impress my fellow human beings with my apparent religiosity!

That's right, I can, do, and will refuse to allow any of my fellow humans to be, or become, the arbiter of my actual private and very secret relationship with my God and Creator.

Not letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing, as it were.

Note that this simply CANNOT be faked.

When only my God and myself know what exactly it is that is going on in my prayer life in my own sacred inner sanctuary, there is, quite simply, no room for men-pleasing and such like.

That is what makes it true.

There is no lying or deception, because it is and will be utterly pointless.

I knowing that I cannot fool or deceive He who knows all, and who knows my heart and inner being, far better than I do.

I use the written Word of God as my guidebook.

I refer to the written word of God as "the Living Word".

This is because it truly is alive.

It will get inside of you and change you from the inside.

It is the Living Word, as revealed by the Holy Spirit, that shows us our desperate condition, and leads us to the saving grace of the Son of God, Christos/Messiah.

It is by the written word that we learn of Him.

And we also learn of ourselves, and exactly why it is that we are unfit to enter into the Holy of Holies.

Into the presence of The Living God, whom we know of as our Heavenly Father, or Our Father Who art in Heaven.

He is light and we are darkness.

Turn on a light in a dark room, and take note of what happens to the darkness that surrounds you just moments before.

The light simply destroys the darkness, as well as the power of darkness; where the light lands, the darkness is, quite simply, vanquished.

Also take note of the fact that we were surrounded by numerous objects that were simply not visible to us before being revealed by the light.

They were all there, all along.

And while we may grope around the room, and feel that there are, indeed, unseen things and forces at play, it is simply not to be compared to the comprehension that comes from having the lights turned on.

A similar effect takes place as our very dark and sinful selves come into the presence of HIS light.

The closer you come into His light the more you will realize just how full of darkness you really are.

Because so few actually draw close enough to realize the utter state of ruin and darkness in which they exist, there are not many who can tell you, firsthand, what it is like to be fully enveloped in fear, quickly approaching terror, as the all-consuming fire, which is our God, begins to shake us down to our very foundations, as the darkness within becomes all the darker when contrasted with His light.

It is the Living Word which first makes us aware of such things.

It acting as a warning of what is soon enough to come.

For one will, also, soon enough realize just how powerful a hold the forces of darkness have upon us.

We being not just inclined towards sin, but, rather, being horribly in love with it.

Yes, just like the moth that insists on flying into the flame, no matter how many times you try to deflect it from its self-willed path to utter destruction.

All will deny that such is the case, as they beat their little moth wings faster and faster, as they work and strive harder and harder to fly directly into the flame, which will, most assuredly be their undoing.

Such that whenever you see or hear anyone acting as if they are such a "friend of God", you should be highly suspect.

"None is righteous, no not one", proclaimed David and Solomon, regarding this matter. (see *Psalm 14:1-4*; *Psalm 52:1-3*; and *Ecclesiastes 7:20*)

The written word, by revelation given by the Holy Spirit, leads us to Christ/Messiah.

And Christ leads us to the Father.

Notice that there is no need for idle speculation, as is found amongst the numerous purveyors of would-be religiosity.

No need to try to figure out what is happening, or what to do about it.

It being all plainly written out, for all to see.

It being so patently obvious, that numerous false religions and belief systems had to be created and maintained by the dark lord, in order to cause hopeless confusion, and to deflect and distract from what is all too plain for ALL to see.

Persons pretending as if the plain statements of Holy Writ are somehow too difficult to understand.

They having turned the simplicity which is in Christ, and into Christ, into some grand, complex mystery, the meaning of which can only be ascertained by a select few.

They even created numerous writings (bible substitutes and mimicries), along with false doctrines, which they hold up alongside the true and actual spoken Word of God, as recorded by his holy prophets, as being, somehow, in equality with it.

And then let the confusion begin in earnest, as all waste their time coming up with ways it can be, or may be, rather than using their very short time on this Earth practicing what the Holy Scriptures so plainly teach.

That is,
let your sin find you out,
then acknowledge it,
seek forgiveness,
and change your course of action
(the real meaning of repentance/meTANoia).

Coming before the Father through our High Priest,
Christos/Messiah,

while seeking mystical union with the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, in unity of spirit and purpose.

That's it.

Couldn't get much simpler than that, conceptually speaking.

Our ability to see the unseen becoming more perfected and complete as engrafted faith, based on experience of living for and with our Heavenly Creator/Father, causes us to continue, ever onward.

He becoming more real to us the more we dedicate ourselves to His service; and the more we learn to live our faith on a day-to-day, and on a moment by moment basis.

Not blind faith, but living faith.

This being why one must be so suspicious of men.

They will take the simplicity and put it out of reach, as they will most assuredly put the yoke of the law back upon you so that they may enslave you by use of misdirection and pretended knowledge.

Thereby turning what should be clear as day into an unfathomable mystery.

Misleading and misdirecting by using numerous carnal concerns and methods.

One need only look to the Pharisees of Jesus' day, as well as the Judaizers, soon enough followed by the so-called Talmudic sages, and their Romanist papist progeny, for numerous examples.

One (Talmudists) writing a whole series of new books, full of what seems to many people to be idle speculation, while the other (Romanist/papist offspring) create the legalistic mumbo jumbo system, complete with worship of the Queen of Heaven, Astarte/Minerva, with her new name of Mary, Queen of Heaven.

Such systems being known to the reformers as "antichrist", while remembering that "anti" means, primarily, "to be in the place of".

One can only wonder whether the concept of "antichrist" means, primarily, to take the place of the true Christ (of the red letters), as is seen in such practices, as referred to above.

Are these systems created to replace the system which is expounded in the Prophets and the New Testament = in the place of the actual Christos/Messiah ?

The system of the Father crying out to us,
"come let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be white as snow".

Not because the law has been annulled, or abrogated,
but because it has been fulfilled, to the letter, by Christos,
who has become our atonement (which means a covering).

Our sins having been covered by His precious blood,
just as was seen on the Day of Atonement as the High Priest
entered the Holy of Holies and poured blood on the Mercy Seat
of the Ark, as the angels of heaven spread their wings
over the lid of the Ark, inside containing the tables of the law,
Aaron's rod that budded, and a pot of manna that does
not decay.

The law, the works of man, and the miracles of God all combining
together as symbolic of our lives, and spiritual walk/quest here
on this wicked Earth.

Just as one cannot see through the blood, which is acting as the
type of the spilling of the precious blood of Messiah,
so the Father does not see your filthy sinful self through the
blood which was so selflessly shed on Golgotha.

Yes, the law has been fulfilled.

No need to go back under its yoke.

For now, all who have been cleansed by His blood are free,
in Christ.

Not as a license to do evil, but as a way to make it so that we
have only one need and desire, which is to be more like Him.

The law of expedience replacing the law of Moses, as it were.

My main concern now being only what I can do to come into closer mystical unity/union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, by obedience and faithfulness unto Him.

Along with the regular reading and studying, and meditating upon, the written word of God, as found in the canon of the holy scriptures.

ON SEPARATION

"and I heard another voice from heaven,
saying,

come out of her my people,
that ye be not partakers of her sins,
and that ye receive not of her plagues"

Revelation 18:4

"but as He which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation
(i.e. conduct) because it is written,
be ye holy, for I am holy"

1Peter 1:15-16

"For I am the Lord your God:
Ye shall, therefore, sanctify yourselves
and ye shall be holy; for I am holy"
(re: eating "any creeping thing")

Leviticus 11:44

holy = hagios

Bauer's Greek Lexicon defines hagios as
"reserved for God and his service".

Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines hagios as
"set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his".

I like to think of holiness as being synonymous with separation.

The root of the Greek word "hagios" is "hag".

Its basic meaning is awe.

Our God, being, above all else, awe-some.

His presence being awe-inspiring.

It seems that linguists can't help but equate awesomeness
with setting ourselves apart, for that which so awed us.

We are set apart for the being who has so awed us.

In the above-cited lexical entries, note "reserved for God",
and, "set apart for God".

After considering these matters for a long time I find myself
being forced to conclude that separation from the world
(the flesh and the devil) is the essence of "**true religion**".

I was probably 18 years old, while studying the history
of religions, when I came across something known as
"separatist" Baptists.

I was already aware of Quakers, 18th century "Puritans",
and Amish, and other such-like groups, so that I did have

SOME familiarity with the concept of separation from this world, and from worldliness (although I am not sure any of the aforementioned groups actually are such, just to be certain).

I thought about John the Baptist, and Elijah, and Jesus escaping into the wilderness.

Of Abraham wandering.

Of Noah in his Ark, and of numerous Protestants thrown into dark dungeons, for having the audacity of sharing their knowledge of the Greek New Testament with their neighbors and fellow countrymen.

So, what do all of these have in common, exactly ?

Being alone !!

Or more precisely, having one constant companion, who will not be set aside for any worldly concerns.

There it is, the flesh warring with the spirit.

The flesh being unable, while the spirit becomes more and more willing, wanting, and desiring intimate unity/union with our Heavenly Father, and his blessed Son, and His Holy Spirit !!

The ultimate goal of "**true religion**", therefore, is to be ye separate, because HE is separate.

We are a people set apart, for a purpose.

This world holding nothing for us, but grief and longing for that other world, and that other country.

The one for which faithful Abraham, our spiritual father, was seeking.

This is, after all, what being the heirs to the promises made to Abraham means (*see Galatians 3:7*).

We do not seek carnal things.

Knowing that this world is destined to be consumed by flames in eternal judgment at the parousia/coming of our Lord in flaming vengeance. (*see 2 Peter 3:1-14*)

So, if worldliness and the enticements of the flesh put one at enmity with our Creator, then how could it be possible that rock concerts, prophecy seminars (i.e. ear tickling conventions), barbecues, and picnics are what “crucified in the flesh daily” has, apparently, come to mean ?

And all of this with a great outward show of religiosity.

Do you really suppose that this is what the red letters (words of Christ) are intended to teach us ?

How am I to tell these persons from the world, when they are, in fact, as worldly as any person or group could possibly be ?

And how does this look alongside Isaiah, Elijah, John the Baptist, and our blessed Lord ?

Can you even imagine them behaving as a busload of these persons act ?

I am unable to reconcile the two, myself.

Isaiah was sawn in two for his witness..

John the Baptist was beheaded in trade for the dance of an enticing young girl.

Elijah spent much of his life being chased by King Ahab and Jezebel, who were both intent on killing him.

The 5000 whom Jesus had just fed, left as quickly as they could, once he started pointing out the cost of discipleship.

Jesus told us that those calling themselves Judaeans are not, but are rather, a synagogue of Satan, and that they had ruthlessly murdered the Prophets, and now the Son of God, Himself.

This being further amplified by the testimony of Stephen, the first martyr.

I can only ask, again and again, what is wrong with this picture ?

Dancing, and barbecues, and picnics, and continuous shakedowns for money, and building funds, and parking lots is what has come to replace the good news (gospel) of which we read in the Old and New Testaments ?

(gospel = good news that Christ has, indeed, come in the flesh, as prophesied)

That's right, money, money, money (\$\$\$).

And girl meets nice boy.

And food and entertainment.

Which side of this equation do you suppose John the Baptist was standing as his fate was sealed ?

Which side are you standing on?

Alone, with him, and our blessed Lord ?

Or as one of the partygoers watching aghast as one of the most horrible decisions ever made bears its rotten fruits.

Remember, Herod was eaten of worms. (see *Acts 12:21-23*)

Perfectly illustrating the difference between true religion and false.

Wasn't it a party being hosted by those who had just crossed the Red Sea that Moses came down to from the mount in the wilderness of Sinai ? (see *Exodus ch. 32*)

This being what you will inevitably get, should you decide that your group membership is more important than standing alone, in a self-imposed wilderness.

Yes, separation/holiness is the diametric opposite of carnality, worldliness, and entertaining of the flesh.

Okay now, here is the kicker.

All of this abhorrent behavior is supposed to, somehow, magically become o.k. because we are "saving souls for Jesus".

Something which they ridiculously, and deceitfully, call bringing persons to "accept Christ".

Yes, because their prey are worldly as can be, and because a continuous stream of them are necessary to pay for their building fund, they must lower themselves, and my God, and my religion, down to the level of the lowest common denominator.

The New Testament warns us that by their fruits you will know them. (see **Matthew 7:15-20**)

I would dare say that if your moral relativism, which is what this truly is, after all, leads you to debasing yourself in the manners which I have just described, then you just MAY want to rethink your very untenable position.

My favorite, at this hour, is all of the Judaizing, and searching for end time signs, and the blood moons, and invasions of the "holy land" by some pretended end time person, being little more than a figment of their highly fevered imaginations.

Didn't Jesus say that "a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign" and that the only sign to be given will be "the sign of Jonas" ? (see **Matthew 16:4**, and **Matthew 12:39**)

Then how can you possibly reconcile the claims of these would-be end time prophets, with the Word of God, itself ?

Were we not warned, any number of times, in the New Testament, that these persons would be coming?

Such that there is simply no excuse for not recognizing the rottenness which their "system" demonstrates?

The Apostle John being abundantly clear, in contrast, that you have no need that men teach you, because you have a charisma/anointing from the Holy Spirit of God, which will NOT lead you into error (see **I John 2:27**).

And what of **Jeremiah 31:31** and following, wherein we are told of the New Covenant, whereby our heart of stone will be removed, and replaced with a heart of flesh ? (see also **Ezekiel 36:26-27**).

And that we would have no need to ask anything, because the law will be written in our hearts ?

Yes, as the very Holy Spirit within us causes us to cry out "Abba, father", being interpreted, "Daddy, father".

That is to say, a very high degree of intimacy.

Such that we are nowhere near separated FROM as we are separated TO --- Him.

If the world and the flesh are at enmity with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, then why would any true child of our blessed Lord and Savior, and his Heavenly Father, want to even allow the appearance of worldliness and fleshliness to be any part of their walk/life ?

Isn't that what separation means, after all ?

Separation from the world, the flesh, and the devil ?

Such that for the first 300 years after Christ, those claiming themselves to be "Christians" refused to take part in politics or war.

And typically, at great cost, including forfeiture of life, liberty, and property.

How is it that these moderns claim that we are all supposed to be involved with these very things (i.e. politics and worldly warfare/mass murder) ?

This, in spite of the fact that the Word is abundantly clear that those who have saving faith in Christ are the true heirs to the promises (see **Galatians 3:1-18**).

Why would anyone want to support these purveyors of fraud ?

Especially when they have repeatedly and consistently shown themselves to be so murderous and deceitful ?

Hmmmmm ---

Maybe one should consider who is it that was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, anyway ?

Even being said to be "the father of lies" ?

Surely something seems to be amiss here.

Does this look like separation ?

No, it most clearly does not.

And if we are told to avoid even "the appearance of impropriety" in our worldly pursuits, how much moreso when it comes to the things of God, do you suppose ?

Is this the example which our blessed Lord taught us during His earthly ministry ?

Or wouldn't I be correct in saying very much not so ?

Then, what exactly are these man-made systems
REALLY about, anyway ?

What is the actual driving force behind it, do you suppose ?

slavery

enslavement

mind control

behavior control

and group think !!

We are supposed to live free in Christ.

We are supposed to be in a state of liberty, in Christ.

But, these will put a yoke about your neck,
just as fast as they are able.

EVERYTHING will consist of rules, rules, and more rules.

All man made.

But, while claiming that they are requirements for obtaining
heavenly salvation.

The Word teaches that we are to be led by the Spirit.

But these claim that we owe THEM all of our time and energy, as they PRETEND to be God's earthly representative.

Of course, this is all couched in terms of "serving God", and "planting churches", and "evangelizing poor lost souls".

While they WILL NEVER TELL YOU whose name is on the title deed to their buildings, and who reaps ALL of the gains from the proceeds of sales of "church" buildings and other associated properties.

Lawyers, and accountants, and real estate deals, and book deals, and concert tours, and plenty of self-promotion, and self-dealing, and self-aggrandizement.

Commercialized (\$\$\$) religion, to the max.

It seems that the concept of "don't make my Father's house an emporium" has somehow escaped these persons.

I'm sure the great works which they pretend to do far outweighing the need to obey God and Christ.

And in this regard, one must never forget that where there are large amounts of assets, there will be numerous thieves and other like-minded persons who will be powerfully attracted, as if to a magnet.

And you can rest assured that they will maneuver themselves, just as quickly as possible, into the driver's seat,

so that they may more readily and thoroughly plunder (just take a look around you, at who is running YOUR little enterprise, if you dare).

This being why “*true religion*” and commercialized religion are at enmity with one another, by their very natures.

Never forget that it was Judas Iscariot who controlled the cash box and who was pilfering it, as did Ananias and Saphira after him.

It seems that this has been a problem long before today and now.

Am I expected to believe that the nature of mammon worshippers has changed between here and there ?

Is anything really any different between then and now ?

Same sinners.

Same temptations

In order to destroy your eternal soul, one of Satan's favorite tools is the use of distraction and diversion.

This being the specialty of the religious hucksters.

All of your focus being upon fulfilling the needs and desires and aspirations of your cultic leader and his followers, "the true believers", who claim to be holding “the keys to life”.

In contrast, I like to think of our Heavenly Creator as the source of ALL positive energy, while we are but conduits through which this positive energy can and should flow, continuously.

For, just as the Sun is reflected by the Moon at night, so we are to become a reflection of HIS heavenly glory, while yet in this darkened earthly prison.

We becoming as thousands of little points of light, in an otherwise very dark night.

The darker the night is, the brighter we shine.

But while ALWAYS remembering that we are but a reflector.

No God and Christos/Messiah in our life means NO reflection can be had.

This, of course, serves to further illustrate the need for personal purity and cleanliness in ALL conduct.

Because, in order to remain in His presence, certain behavior and conduct will be required.

Not as a matter of law, but as a matter of expedience i.e. what is going to get and keep me in continuous ongoing contact with my Creator such that I may radiate HIS peace and glory.

Once one has a grasp of the utter depravity of fallen man, and the utter sovereignty of the one who has the moral and legal right to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor, and who hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would make and follow his own path (he did it HIS way) into utter destruction by gigantic waves, one can see that our Creator is a very scary power, indeed.

With one person He may harden their heart, with another He may just let them have the fruits/wages of their carnal labor, remembering that the wages of sin is death, such that leaving them to their own devices is probably the worst thing possible for them.

Especially as layer upon layer of neural matter is being continuously created through neurogenesis.

Soon enough the layers of neurons will cause evil thoughts to become all-consuming, like a switch that is always turned to "on", but NEVER to "off".

With righteous thoughts, hopefully, the same thing will happen, in reverse.

But with positive energy, and bringing along with it the Fruits of the Spirit, the most important of which is to love.

To love yourself.

To love your neighbor, while remembering the adage "peace on earth and goodwill toward men".

And above all else, to love your God with all of your mind, body, heart, and soul.

Our blessed Lord being in every single thought which is formed deep inside of us.

The true believer not willing to do ANYTHING without seeking heavenly guidance and counsel.

Every single thought being subjected to this process as it originates, and LONG before any action based upon such thoughts ever even has opportunity to happen.

It is as our sin finds us out that we are motivated by the Holy Spirit and made to be willing to do nothing other than to serve our Creator, and to put ourselves totally at His call.

Being willing to drop anything and everything on a moment's notice, when believed to be necessary.

It is as if the Cloud of Glory has begun to move away from the encampment in the wilderness.

If I want to remain in His presence, then I must drop EVERYTHING in order to follow Him.

Never forgetting that when the Glory of the Lord left the Temple, never to be seen there again, as some cried "Ichabod", meaning "the Lord hath departed", others simply continued on, all the way up to and following the coming of the Christos/Messiah, Son of God.

It is as if they didn't even notice that He was no longer in their presence.

And left because of disgust and repugnance caused by their faithlessness, never to return.

This, while the outward appearance of their religion continued on, as if the presence of the covenantal God is no longer a matter over which one should be overly concerned.

In this regard, it seems to me that these modern, stillborn, pretended purveyors of gospel truth should take note and consider the following for just one moment.

That is, if you can have a temple which has become "Ichabod", yet every person simply carries on as if it were not so, then what of the temple which is made without hands ?

Is it possible that you and I could be Ichabod, yet not even know it ?

Could our little cultic centers be void of God's Spirit ?

But with another spirit --- ?

When I look into the mirror at the bodily temple in which I currently reside, in the flesh, should I be crying out Ichabod?

So, what exactly are the distractions and diversions which I have just previously alluded to ?

In order to help to see and define exactly what I am talking about, here, I find it useful to imagine myself standing before the judgment seat of Christ, known in New Testament Greek as the bema (pronounced BAY-ma).

In my mind's eye I imagine what Christ will be asking me, and what I will be answering.

Will he want to know about ballgame scores?

Rock concert ticket sales?

What I think about this or that person?

Or ask me about what YOU did with YOUR life?

Do you suppose He will want to hear my latest rant about politics and worldly affairs ?

Will He care what party I voted for or how I feel about any particular candidate or issue ?

Why is it that none of these things sound like the things which I should be concerned about ?

My main concern being what will elicit the statement, "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

One can readily see how this imagery can act as both a filter and a lens.

It makes it easier to see what it is that we NEED to see, which is, otherwise, quite well obfuscated by all of the cares and concerns of this wicked generation and their world.

Do you suppose our Lord will ask me about you?

Or will He ask me about me?

My purpose in bringing these matters to your attention is to give you ideas about new ways of thinking.

If you feel like all of the doctrines and dogmas of all of these modern Judaizers are doing little more than to obscure your vision, then you are probably going to need some kind of a way to figure out, on your own, what you really should be or need to be doing.

One of the hallmarks of the Protestant Reformation was the idea of ***Sola Scriptura***.

It seeming that ungodly men are always wanting to tell about the things of God while their own personal lives are ungodly and worldly as ever.

It does not seem to take long before they are making claims to some higher secret knowledge and authority.

For example, Romanism with its claims to have an oral tradition which is superior to the written Word of God.

Many strange and foreign doctrines having originated from just such a source.

The post-second Temple authors of the Talmud provide another good example.

They claim to have a written Torah and an oral Torah, with the oral one taking precedence over the written one.

That is to say, a bunch of persons proclaiming themselves to be rabbis (teachers), claim that what are perceived by many to be long-winded and obtuse arguments, among themselves, regarding the meaning of any Mosaic passage of Old Testament Scripture, is superior to the written Word of God, brought to them by Moses, himself, from this very same God, as well as pretending to be superior to the plain, written, statements of the Old Testament prophets, themselves.

The problem with the Papists and the Talmudists is that they add to and take away from plain teachings of the Scriptures in order to superimpose their belief system onto the Word of God.

Better have a good reason for that, wouldn't you think ?

As an example, Jesus specifically said to call no man father.

Yet the Romanists insist on being called exactly that.

Nowhere in the written word is it told that Peter is the first pope of some huge one world cultic mother goddess worshipping system of Churchianity.

No problem.

Just rely on some pretended ancient oral tradition and all will be well.

The Talmudic pretended "sages" simply re-write scriptural passages by interpreting them any which way they like, so long as the plain meaning of the words is not used.

Why ?

More supposedly secret oral traditions.

Sadly, this is the rotten foundation upon which much, if not most, of what passes for modern evangelicalism is resting upon.

The Protestant reformers held to a very different standard, i.e. if it is not plainly spelled out in Holy Writ, then it should probably be of little or no concern to me.

The basis of our faith being grounded and rooted in Scripture alone, ***Sola Scriptura***.

When (ungodly) men come along and want to take away from, or add to, what we are told in the Holy Writings, we are not just suspect, but downright hostile.

Because we have heard and seen far too much nonsense coming from those professing themselves to be wise, but who are ultimately found to be full of folly.

Far, far too many.

And today, it seems, more than ever, as if some abominable plague of locusts, or such like has come upon us.

Sola Scriptura (solely by scripture);
and Sola Fide (solely by faith);
and Sola Gratia (solely by grace)

were the battle cries of these men who first translated the Greek New Testament into their vernacular languages, and then were shocked as can be when comparing what had been written with what was being practiced in the name of the very same author of the writings, i.e. God, by his Holy Spirit.

I am telling all of this as background in order to explain why I will repeatedly and emphatically warn you and admonish you to avoid man, altogether, when it comes to such matters as your eternal state, in Christ; or in outer darkness, with much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

While I can NOT be certain whether the choice is yours, I can say that the Word says that by continually seeking, you shall find.

By asking continuously, you shall be answered.

And by knocking continuously, it shall be opened to you.

"asking you shall receive".

"seeking you shall find", and "knocking it shall be opened".

All three are written in the form of the present active participle in the original Greek text.

This particular usage of the language being used to describe actions that are continuously taking place in the present.

We would probably call it a lifestyle, or a way of life, or our daily conduct, i.e. continuous asking, seeking, and knocking!!

That is our true walk.

The goal, not being to "save souls for Jesus" (the office of the Holy Spirit, in actuality), nearly so much as to the obtaining of personal purity and separation from the filth of this wicked world.

A life dedicated solely to Him and to His purpose.

A life of complete dedication to Him.

So, how am I to find out more about such matters?

By seeking counsel from the Word of God ?

Or from men who will tell the opposite, with lots of sophistry and smooth doubletalk to "prove" their points ?

This being what it will all have come down to as you stand before The Judge of your eternal soul.

While remembering that your only defense can be truth and truthfulness.

No lying will stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

Truth and truth only.

With stakes so high, I hope to get it right.

And I know that it will have to be on my own !

There being so few godly persons who have any real ability, whatsoever, to guide me.

Sola Scriptura.

Sola Fide.

Sola Gratia.

So, what are the distractions and diversions, anyway ?

Anything that keeps you from placing our Lord and His commands front and center.

While it could be job, career, marriage, or numerous other things, I think that the most dangerous of all is false religion, itself.

No need to seek salvation if I believe that I already have it, because some conniving, self-serving, self-dealing man has told me that it is so, wouldn't you think ?

And while all my time is spent pleasing my fellow cult members, how much time am I losing, that should have been used to make preparation for meeting my maker face to face ?

And to learn how to use the great powers which our Lord has given to us to exercise on His behalf.

While, in that regard, I must say, that so far as I am concerned, the ultimate goal of our sacred relationship IS power.

Yes, raw power.

Power for good.

Power for rightness.

Power to repel and bind evil, to name just a few.

When I think of power, I think "God power".

That is to say, all REAL power comes from our Creator.

Because He is the source, we desire to connect with Him.

I need to be "plugged in", as it were.

Because we are not unlikely to be needing TREMENDOUS power at any given moment, one should want to be cautious about doing anything that could possibly reduce or dilute the amount of power available at any given time.

If we are to act as a conduit, then we should want to keep our "pipes" clean so that the power may flow freely, forcefully, and unimpeded.

We should be VERY afraid of ANYTHING which could even POSSIBLY cause blockage.

One analogy that I like to think about when considering this matter likens this conduit concept to a lens on a laser beam.

The Word says that "God is light".

In the world around us we are surrounded by light.

The light which is all around us is scattered light.

So, what do you suppose happens when you "un-scatter" the light ?

Instead, concentrating it into a stream of "coherent light".

Voilà!

You now have the laser beam.

Who would have thought that by bringing all of the light waves to one single wavelength we would get, what is essentially, an explosive force ?

A very hot and VERY intense beam of light.

It can cut right through steel, for example.

In order to make coherent light one must run the highly reflected, diffused, and diffracted light through a series of lenses.

If there is the slightest bit of smudge on the lenses, then as the laser is pushed up to full power, everything will explode at some point.

All of that power hitting that single piece of smudging on the lens causes the destruction of the entire machine.

I use this as an analogy of our vertical relationship.

And as an example of why personal purity of heart, mind, body, and soul is so important.

It is like our Creator is providing the light which He will then shoot through us as we become the lens on the laser.

So long as everything is on low power all will seem normal.

But as the Lord above directs more power and energy into and through us, sooner or later the smudge that is in our hearts and minds will begin to interfere with our use as a conduit.

Just like the smudge on the lens of the laser, as the power running through us is increased there will come a point where it will become self-destructive.

Such that if spiritual power is to be an ultimate goal then one must tend to carefully polishing one's internal lens on a regular basis.

To those who seek HIS power, our walk, and our thought life, and the keeping of our heart, and letting the sin find us out are not casual matters.

And for any who have committed themselves to spiritual warfare, as a manner of life, we must be all the more concerned with obedience to the commands of our Heavenly Father and His blessed Son and His Holy Spirit.

Such persons **MUST** be circumspect in all things.

Because, it is in our thought life and in our hearts that this war rages fully.

Remembering one of the most difficult of principles, which is, that our heart is deceitful above all things (--- “and who can know it ?”).

Such that the idea that if you just follow your heart, all will go well, will likely lead to unexpected results.

When we speak of warring with the flesh, we are really talking about our heart and mind.

It is here where our human sickness will fester.

It is here that our satanic nature can run around, unfettered, and untamed.

A very dangerous place, indeed.

It is here where our disunion between God and man and our inner self will begin and end.

If the tongue is lit on fire of Gehenna/Hell, then how much more so THE SOURCE of the speech which comes flying out of our mouths during certain unguarded moments.

It is here that your sins WILL find you out.

Herein lies the swamp that is in great need of draining.

A veritable cesspool of thought which will precede action.

And one can only begin to imagine the effect of a continuous barrage of ungodly poison coming at my contemporaries from every side and every quarter.

Between the television (image of the beast ?), the movies, the radio, magazines, and pretended "news"papers it may simply become impossible to keep the lens clean.

WHILE THEREBY DESTROYING YOUR POWER !!

Such that you can have an outward form of religiosity, but completely lacking ANY power, whatsoever.

The lens in most people's heart having become so filthy that it would be hopeless to try to run concentrated energy through it without causing the person who is the conduit to simply explode into flames and vanish.

So now, instead of a life steeped in miracle power, one is forced to seek a life of further distraction and diversion.

One no longer tends to the needs of the inner person, as they are, effectively, tossed about, like floating around in a tempestuous sea after the moorings have broken loose.

They now go from one guru to the next.

From one leader of "the faithful", to the next.

From one system of belief to the next.

Until finally there remains no system and no growth in saving faith.

Talking the talk, but having no idea how to walk the walk, having never actually done so.

So now outward conformity with man-made systems takes the place of a power filled life of freedom and liberty in Christ.

Our freedom traded in for numerous musty old rules in which will be found no power whatsoever.

Instead one will look down to see that they are covered in chains which are so heavy as to end any possibility of flying (or, even walking) free in the Spirit.

Our concerns now becoming how to impress and please our fellow lost souls, instead of how to commune with our living God, to the exclusion of all else.

The time is so short, and the job of cleansing our inner lives of all of their inner filth so large, that there is bound to be a disconnect at some point.

There being no time to waste on doing what it takes to be spotless and without blemish, in boldness, as we come to stand before Him as He comes in flaming judgment.

Every second that is wasted on our all-too-human diversions and distractions causing us to have that much less time to get it right.

This being one of the main problems with “Churchianity”.

It being, fundamentally,
THE ULTIMATE DISTRACTION AND DIVERSION.

For now, instead of listening to that tiny little quiet voice at the back of our heads, we are continuously bombarded by everything except that.

Instead of seeking guidance from our Heavenly Father on a breath by breath basis, we look to our fellow humans for our instructions and directions.

Again, the more we are doing this, the less time we have to deal with Him and with His spirit.

The more we listen to man, the further we are removing ourselves from the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

More man, less God.

Oh, but how ironic can you get, as you are actually moving further and further away from Him, you are becoming more and more of a master at outward religiosity.

Yes, the very one that is totally lacking in power.

Our lens has become so smudged by the cares of this world and the things of man-pleasing that very little power can be run through this conduit without causing it to fracture into many numerous tiny pieces.

But outwardly, more religious than ever.

Maybe even more zealous of whatever particular cult or cultic center than ever.

This is how the ubiquitous building fund and fraudulent missionary work comes to take top place in our hierarchy of values, as we zealously build cult centers and parking lots and promote picnics and barbecues and "Christianized" worldliness and fleshliness.

The hearts which are deceitful above all things leading the way down the road to perdition as we live for the commands of man, more and more to the disregarding of the voice of the Holy Spirit, WHICH IS FINALLY STILLED ALTOGETHER.

As I am so busy worrying about saving souls for Jesus (which is the office of the Holy Spirit, and not man, never forget) and "planting churches" (i.e. buying real estate and getting others to pay for it) that I soon enough forget my first love, as true religion steadily decays, moment by moment, into commercialized religion (\$\$\$).

Which will ultimately be found to be of very little use.

As I am told by my spiritual slave masters all that I must do to promote their own earthly desires and demands, more and more to the exclusion of doing that which I ought to be doing instead, SOON ENOUGH, TIME WILL RUN OUT !!

And what was thought to be a good way to go turns out to be the exact opposite of everything we first thought and hoped it to be.

A slow and insidious process made all the more destructive by virtue of such.

Rite and ritual having replaced internal cleansing, as my soul becomes more and more complacent, as I soon enough feel the cold chill of impending death and judgment, for which I find myself completely unready, in no small part due to the very persons who pretended to be paving my way to heavenly glory.

That is to say, ultimately fatal to our spiritual well-being.

Yes, FATAL distractions and diversions.

Working stealthily to undermine the TRUE POWER
and TRUE GODLINESS, without spot or blemish before Him
at His judgment seat.

And what a loss that is going to be.

ON PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

The Word tells us that we should pray without ceasing.

I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have heard supposed (or should I say, pretended) pastors and ministers tell their little flock, that this is to be taken figuratively.

Because, “Anyone knows that this is simply impossible to do”.

I not only disagree, rather I believe that this is the single most important concept that there is (aside from loving one another with self-sacrificial love, as a lifestyle).

What has happened is that they have confused petitioning with continuous intellectual and spiritual intercourse, because they fundamentally think of their religion as a way to make connection with some great Santa Claus in the sky (Bacchus ?).

Therefore, prayer IS petition, so far as they are concerned.

It is this same mentality which will read out of some stale old prayer book and expect that this will have any power to get ANYTHING accomplished.

For most of us it is during times of intense emotional and mental and physical crisis that we actually learn how to pray in a way which can be pleasing to our Lord, God, and Creator.

This being one of the benefits of a life full of crisis.

I think of times when the life of a loved one is hanging in the balance.

Or a time when I am trapped, alone, in the wilderness.

Or during very imminent wholesale destruction, e.g being on a sinking ship, or having a huge storm bearing down on you with certain death and judgment written all over it.

That which causes us to say that there are no atheists in the middle of a huge storm as their ship begins taking on serious amounts of water.

Trapped like a rat.

And knowing that the time is quickly approaching for a reckoning with your ultimate reality, WHATEVER that may be.

So far I have been talking about WHAT prayer is.

Now, let's look at HOW.

The word says that the fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much.

Notice the kind of prayer which is spoken of:

fervent prayer.

intense prayer.

focused prayer.

And not just any old person doing the praying, but a righteous person.

A person who stands RIGHT before God.
(Sounds like a consecrated life to me).

But, this is really not what I am talking about
when I talk about praying without ceasing.

Here I am speaking of something, which is indeed,
rooted in the same ideas of intensity and right living,
but the "without ceasing" part tells us that this must be
something which we can do continuously, at all times,
and in all manner of circumstances.

In order to be done "without ceasing" it seems that IT must be
done in a manner which does NOT require us to stop everything
until finished.

Rather, my idea is, that what is being spoken of here,
is an inner conversation with our God.

One that goes on continuously.

As an example, in my own (idealized) life I know that I
converse with our God and his blessed Son nearly every minute
of every day.

I have trained myself to monitor every single thought,
as it originates.

And then to weigh it and analyze it.

And then begins the discussion with our Lord, above.

Sometimes I am in a monologue form, as if reciting
a soliloquy, while at other times I believe that the Lord
takes part in a two-way conversation.

And at other times the Lord will SHOW ME object lessons, by which He challenges my thoughts.

Sometimes to make a point, while at other times to show me either how right or how wrong I am, or have become.

The word of God says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."

It is faith (belief) which becomes saving faith, by means of an ongoing process.

Note how it says "substance" and "evidence".

Faith is not blind faith.

It is NOT something for which we have no empirical experience or evidence.

This is where our prayer life really begins to more fully come into play.

It is where our Lord can and does make Himself known to us.

As He shows Himself more and more we will respond more and more.

Upon realizing that our living God provides us with guidance, we soon enough learn to seek and rely upon that guidance.

And, soon enough, a strong believer will become dependent upon that guidance.

It being a sort of a feedback loop.

More asking and waiting on the Lord turns into more refined guidance which turns into more dependence upon that guidance, which is now causing our God to become very real to us.

Faith/belief becoming stronger by virtue of this process.

As can be readily imagined, it will not take long before your internal relationship with our living God becomes something which you cherish so greatly that you want to do nothing that will interfere with that.

As we draw closer to Him we become more and more desirous of pleasing Him.

We being no longer driven and motivated by rules and regulations, but by intense and very real self-sacrificial love.

God IS love.

And to be in His presence is to know love.

To have His love directed toward our innermost being will cause a resonance deep within, as we become less worldly/carnally minded, and begin to reflect His heavenly glory with each and every thought, deed and action.

Our thought life begins to matter more and more to us as we soon enough realize that this is where the real battleground lies.

We learn, by experience, and by our union/contact with Him, that we must take every thought into captivity, and that we must subject it, before it subjects us.

We learn to take each aberrant and abhorrent thought at its very genesis, and to lay it upon the altar within our soul, in order to reframe it; or to destroy it, along with its power over our future actions.

We thereby learning of spiritual warfare.

No action being allowed until we have contained and isolated the thought, and then taken it before our Heavenly Father for close examination and scrutiny.

Ever seeking our Lord's guidance

This is real prayer life.

Not some reciting of poetry and incantation-like formulae, but an ongoing discourse and seeking for instruction and illumination, coming from Him who made us and who well knows our inner parts and how they have become so perverse.

Now, instead of flailing about and never knowing what is going on in us and around us, we grow more deeply in love with He who guides us and is willing to come and reason with us regarding our apparently sordid and pathetic condition.

Always wanting to please, but never being able to.

Always wanting to do right, but with wrong somehow always coming to predominate, just when we thought we had it all worked out.

Thousands of good intentions being wiped out in an instant.

Because we should have stopped and sought counsel from Him, instead of acting while unchecked, and following some fatal inner impulse to our immediate and oftentimes permanent undoing.

Two choices standing before us.

One being to stop and wait on our Heavenly Father to lead us, and to give us His input; while the other choice is to just go forward without stopping and waiting.

Without seeking His guidance.

And without waiting on Him, while flying headlong into our own ultimate and very sure undoing and destruction.

Can you see, dear reader, why our prayer life MUST be continuous?

If I am NOT praying without ceasing, how can this process take place ?

Less internal discourse while actions take place based upon thoughts which should have been dealt with long before they became actions.

It REALLY being pray without ceasing, or face the consequences of utter ruination, caused by our fallen nature becoming our guide, in place of His heavenly wisdom and guidance.

In this regard, allow me to remind you of the process by which we grow in grace and saving faith.

We first let our sin find us out.

This is your thought life.

As we think deeply, we begin to realize that all is not well deep down inside of us.

We, therefore, allow and encourage the Holy Spirit to put the light on this darkness within

Instead of running from it and hiding from it, we work hard to bring it out into the open, where we can take a good, long, hard look at it.

We bring it to the altar before our loving and forgiving God Almighty, and we examine it closely, TOGETHER.

We “come and reason together” as we plead with our Heavenly King to help us to understand and come to terms with our own colossal failings.

We don't play games.

And we don't play hide and seek.

This ongoing process being far too important to allow it to degenerate into fake sanctimoniousness based upon utter denial of our true inward condition.

We acknowledge our wrongness with forthrightness.

What the word terms as confessing your sins.

That is, to be "homologeō", in the original Greek (pronounced "homo-lo-GEE-oh").

"Homo" meaning same, while "logeo" means thought, word, or saying.

We are to be at one word with Him.

Meaning that we are both calling it the same thing.

We both agreeing that I am coming up short, and have completely "missed the mark".

No whitewashing.

No pretending.

No make-believe.

No saying that bad is good, or that black is white, or that up is down.

No moral relativism i.e. it's okay, because of whatever carnal circumstance.

God is light.

And in Him is no darkness at all.

Not a lot of room for moral relativism.

He is unchanging.

What is wrong now is not going to somehow become okay because of --- whatever.

Upon completion of our truthful acknowledgment of our utter failing The Word tells us that our Lord will separate this sin from off of us.

This being the meaning of the greek word "aphiemi" (pronounced "ah-FEE-ay-mee"), which is translated "forgive".

He being faithful to forgive.

Meaning faithful to lift this sin off of us, or to separate us from it.

Thereby freeing us from the bondage which our shortcomings are sure to put us into.

This is the framework of our prayer life.

Because our thoughts, deeds, and actions are continuous, so must be our taking of them into captivity.

So long as you're thinking is taking place, the above-referenced process must also be taking place.

Continuous thoughts creating the need for continuous discourse with our Heavenly Father.

Praying continuously without ceasing, without which, we will continuously suffer consequences of our failure to do so.

Soon enough realizing that not only is it possible to pray without ceasing, it is imperative !!

As an illustration of this process I would like to digress for just a moment to share with you something we have only recently learned, thanks to modern medical imaging of the brain.

It seems that as you formulate thought, tissue is created, which corresponds to that thought and thinking.

Many will be familiar with the concept of synapse formation.

Every long term memory requiring long term synapse creation and maintenance.

As we get older our memories begin to fail us because our synapses are being made and maintained less and less.

First the short term memory fails, then the long-term, as the synapses begin to degenerate more and more with each passing day.

But, what you probably didn't know, and haven't seen, is that within several hours after thinking fresh thoughts a little sphere appears along the length of a nerve fiber (a dendritic spine).

It looks like a little grape.

It rises up from inside the nerve tissue and forms a little bulb which now sits on the outside of the nerve fiber.

While you thought it was fleeting and gone, it is, instead, contained inside that little sphere.

That little sphere will later form into the long term structure of memory, inside the dendritic spine.

One can only imagine that if that sphere contains good thoughts, then the more the better.

But what if it contains thoughts of torture, murder, rape and plunder, as so many do in THIS day and age ?

What will happen as more and more of THESE little spheres are piled on top of one another ?

One can only shudder to think about such a matter.

Soon enough the thoughts will rule you, instead of you ruling them.

I see this little sphere attached to the nerve fiber when I think of the power of continuous, ongoing spiritual intercourse with our heavenly Creator.

If that little sphere represents my giving in to evil, then I will want to minimize the effects of its existence.

Better yet, I should want to make it non-existent.

I will want it lifted off of me, and separated from me, just as our blessed Lord and Savior has promised to do.

That little node showing to me that our thoughts will inevitably have consequence, just as surely as they have a physical storage space inside my cranium.

Now, the reason that I am telling you about these things is because I think that they give a useful way to visualize what the process is by which one is more able to take control of one's thought life in order to make good use of matters discussed above.

If I can visualize a disgusting thought forming itself into one of those little nodes, I can also imagine myself not allowing that little node to even form in the first place.

I have a way to visualize, in my mind's eye, what it is that is taking place, and to take control of the process.

Instead of amorphous, fleeting thoughts, here now, and then gone, a moment from now, and of no immediate concern once out of my mind, and of even less consequence, I have a way of becoming cognizant of the fact that my thought life DOES have consequence, thereby causing me to be much more alert and guarded than I otherwise would be.

As I think about those hideous little bulbs sprouting up inside my head, I find myself much more motivated to take control of my thought life.

It is out of the heart that the issues of life proceed, and it is out of the heart that the mouth speaketh.

Therefore, if I want all to go well, I realize that I must diligently and VERY consistently deal with what is in my heart/mind.

No more wild devil's playground, while thinking that it really does not matter.

Instead of just allowing my thoughts to go crazy inside my head, I will actively and aggressively attack any which I feel to be offensive to my God, and will put a forceful and immediate stop to the process of internal degeneration by taking it to the Lord in prayer.

Thinking without ceasing, causing praying without ceasing.

No longer a secret, hidden battleground.

But, instead my mind has become a place of peace and respite.

A place where I may escape from the clamor of this world, which is going on all about me, virtually non-stop.

My mind now having become an oasis, in an otherwise arid wilderness, where I may go and spend time with my best and most favorite friend and mentor to discuss how I may overcome the numerous obstacles which are nearly continuously placed in my path by Satan and his minions.

Where others cannot stand silence, while seeking continuous mental distraction so that they don't even ever have to deal with themselves, I thrive on stillness and quietness, so that I may go deep inside my own mind, soul, and spirit in order to consider deep things, and to commune with my beloved Savior.

Remembering that the object of my faith is to become more like Him.

As John the Baptist so well stated the matter,
He must increase and I must decrease.

Such is the case in my thought life.

More of Him and less of me.

More focus on what I believe my wonderful Lord will find to be pleasing, with far less concern about entertaining the numerous demands of the flesh, which cause me to become an object of utter disgust, within my own self.

And now, instead of getting a little bit sicker with each passing minute, I am learning to become a warrior and an overcomer.

Instead of being full of fear and trepidation, I become more and more full of God-given power and wisdom from above.

A life of growth replacing a life of degeneration, and the making of an eternal bond with my eternal Creator.

All of the negatives of life being slowly, but very steadily, replaced by positives and positivism.

As life becomes uglier, and more brutal, senseless, pointless, and meaningless to many others, my life takes on new meaning with each additional day which our Lord is kind enough to gift me with.

A life of thanksgiving replacing a life of pretended entitlement with all of the disappointment which that is certain to cause.

A world of despair and uncertainty being replaced by a world of magical wonder and knowledge of blessedness.

Unfortunately, much of our time is NOT spent in perfect union with our Lord.

At times we will quietly drift away, often without even realizing it.

At other times we will find the cares of the moment far outweigh our ability to do what we know to be right, while we instead embrace evil, quite knowingly and willingly.

There are most certainly numerous times when we can become obstinate and half-hearted, if not downright willful and disobedient.

Instead of being a sweet savor unto our Lord, we can become a stench in His nostrils.

Finally, upon realizing the error of our ways and the absurdity of our position, at war with our Creator, and even with our own selves, we must learn the meaning of penance and penitential prayer.

When our sorrow is real, our need to attempt to restore fellowship with our God also becomes very real.

Soon enough we shall find ourselves on our knees, crying out for mercy as a recalcitrant sinner in utter bondage to open rebellion, our baser nature having gained the upper hand, if but for even one moment.

Suddenly we find ourselves at a distance from that to which we desire to draw near.

Upon realizing the error of our ways we seek to restore the fellowship which once tasted and felt so good.

A true believer cannot go for very long in opposition without feeling that dreaded loss of fellowship.

It is at this juncture that one will cry out for mercy, as if lost in a barren wilderness of our own making.

As we become grieved by the very grievousness which we have become, we will cry out in utter shame, while begging for mercy, as we all too suddenly go from a feeling of strength to a feeling of helplessness and despair, as if irretrievably lost.

I believe that everyone has areas in their life where they have less than complete mastery.

Areas in which we live in total weakness and failure.

As we meet up with “that sin that doth so easily beset us”, everything which I have been telling thus far begins to come into play with full force.

First, we will fail even to recognize what is happening to us, being so much more familiar with outright rebellion than with humble obedience.

Then, upon realizing what IS happening, we find ourselves denying the reality and the seriousness of our actions, as we begin to make excuses and seek rationalizations.

Telling ourselves how it is not really so bad, or that it will just be this one time, not yet realizing that we are refusing to acknowledge our sin and our sinfulness.

As we refuse to be "homologeo" i.e. at one word, it will not take long before we realize our loss of fellowship with God and Christ/Messiah, as we grieve the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Soon enough, we believe that God has abandoned us, not realizing that it is us who are abandoning Him.

For a season, as our sin has not yet found us out, our earthly existence and the cares of this wicked world far outweigh our ability to sense the full gravity of our present course of action.

If we truly are children of God, then at some point the Holy Spirit will prick our heart, as we suddenly realize the perilous position we have so stupidly put ourselves into.

Truly it is time to stop everything and to stop moving further and further away from His light as we stupidly and ignorantly feel that we have been abandoned, in spite of the fact that we are the one doing the abandoning.

This being our constant and continuous war with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

As we more fully come to realize that the flesh must truly be put to death, if we are ever to successfully continue on our spiritual quest, and to gain the mastery over our own very unruly heart, then we will need to come more fully to realize our need to get down on our knees and to cry out for mercy, and to begin, once again, the restorative process.

Being careful not to confuse repentance with penance.

The one being a change of direction, while the other consists of heartfelt sorrow and remorse.

I, suspecting that the sorrow will have to come before the change of course is likely to take effect.

Because our Lord, and our ongoing relationship with Him, is most precious to us, we will stop everything until we get this matter right, as we are forced to come to terms with the deeper meaning of "**true religion**".

A process by which we are changed from a wretched creature, unable to see its own wretchedness, into a blessed creature unable to even desire to live without continuous and vital union with our Creator, and His blessed Son, and His Holy Spirit.

World without end.

Amen.

MESSIANISM

Messiah is a person who was prophesied.

The word means "to be anointed".

It is the same meaning as the word "Christos" in New Testament Greek.

There is nothing new about what most people will refer to as "Christianity".

Most people have no idea that when they use this word that they are actually saying "Messianism".

While the life of Jesus of Nazareth can be said to have taken place approximately 2000 years ago, the idea of which it is the fulfillment goes all the way back to the writings of Moses, about 1500 years before that !

First in a promise that is said to have been made to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

And then again in ***Deuteronomy chapter 18***, where one like unto Moses is prophesied.

One need look no further than the ancient mythologies to discover this theme of a coming "super-being".

He is found again and again in stories of heroes and demi- gods.

Such beliefs permeating the entire ancient world for millennia prior to Moses.

That is to say, there appears to have been an oral tradition, which preceded the written traditions, and which circulated alongside the first known cuneiform writings.

Having so many similarities with one another that moderns try to pretend that the later writings (Moses) are merely retellings of the same earlier (Sumerian) writings.

Rather than realizing that there is, likely, one original and earlier source, from which both came, which branched out into numerous localized variants, they, instead, pretend that the one is merely a plagiarized replication of the other.

I am, of course, mainly thinking of the so-called "Noah stories" of ancient Sumero/Babylon, as being an excellent example of this process.

Sadly, solely due to apparent social biases, it is claimed that the Noah story of Genesis is merely a retelling of the stories of Utnapishtim, Ziusudra, Atrahasis, and Gilgamesh.

Their methodological basis being deeply flawed with reasoning that looks only at similarities but never at the differences.

The earlier tellings being full of mythological ideas such as being able to swim to the bottom of the deepest seas, or to fly into outer space on the back of an eagle.

Lots of magical actions and magico/religious thinking.

After all, these are people who are claimed to be half-man and half-God, such that they are barely constrained by the physical limitations which both you and I take for granted.

A reading of the story of Genesis being a far cry from the Sumero/Babylonian tradition.

No magic, being purely providence, instead.

Just a big barge loaded with animals, with exact measurements of the various depth soundings, along with numerous exact measurements of time.

Reading much more like a modern historical account, than ANYTHING you will find in the extant writings preceding it.

Such that one must ask oneself, which is more likely, that an oral tradition becomes MORE precise over time, or less precise ?

Of course, to ask it is to answer it.

After all, it IS self-evident, if nothing else, that fireside tales get wilder and wilder with each telling and re-telling.

Actual measurements and other such details being relegated to somewhere other than the retelling of the story.

In this regard I should like to note a couple of matters regarding oral traditions.

The ancients would sing their stories, tell their stories, and act out their stories in cultic rituals.

It is because of these things that the ideas of the moderns regarding the unreliability of oral and ancient traditions have no merit, whatsoever.

My favorite example of this inherent conservatism is the religion of Old Kingdom Egypt, as compared with Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom Egypt.

There being 3000 years of continuous history, with plenty of material remains to study.

Based upon the ideas of our contemporaries one would expect to see a tremendous variety of beliefs and ideas.

But, such is, most certainly, NOT the case.

It is, rather the consistency which stands out so conspicuously.

Thereby demonstrating the incredible conservatism of this process.

It is because the moderns pretend that ignorant and foolish storytellers just made all of this stuff up while sitting around campfires and entertaining little children, that they believe that there will be embellishment upon embellishment, the one laid upon the other, each time it is retold.

But, this is not how the process is KNOWN to have taken place.

The main ingredient, which is all too casually "forgotten", is that the story is considered important enough, by an entire culture, that they feel a need to have a way to transmit the data from one generation to the next, while maintaining continuity of all important and consequential material facts.

Yes, the story begins with facts and real life historical events considered to be so important that cultic rituals and re-enactments become commonplace amongst ALL such systems.

The process being innately conservative as can be, as shown by the 3000 years of ancient Egyptian religions.

These are just the opposite of what you are told how it should be.

I would suggest that it is this same process by which Egyptian religion maintained its form for three millennia, which was used in order to communicate/transfer the oral traditions prior to the writing of the Hebrew alphabet, through multiple generations, for the most part intact.

The reason why I am bringing this up is because the book of Genesis makes reference to an apparently oral tradition which began in the Garden of Eden i.e. the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent, but will have his heel bruised as a result thereof; along with clothing them with animal skins, requiring shedding of blood while providing a covering (which is, after all, the meaning of atonement).

This is followed by another, concerning Cain and Abel, wherein a sin offering was said to lay at Cain's door, and wherein Cain's works were rejected, while Abel's apparent faith (i.e. not works) WAS found to be acceptable.

Followed by Noah's bringing seven of certain kinds of sacrificial animals into the Ark, and his building an altar while making animal sacrifice to He who had saved him from the worldwide deluge, after landing.

Some call it "the scarlet thread" which runs through both the Old and New Testaments, and thereby tying them together into one book i.e. the blood of Christ/Messiah.

The need for shedding of blood as an atonement (i.e. a covering) for sin.

The theme of the suffering servant running all the way through the Holy Spirit inspired writings from one end to the other (see I Peter 1:11-12)

Nevertheless, in regard to seeing and understanding such matters, one must remember that spiritual things are spiritually discerned, which means no indwelling Holy Spirit equals no spiritual discernment.

This being why so many men are unable to see or tell the difference between the writings of the Apostles, the Prophets, and Torah, and those of pretended rabbis/teachers and their far too numerous progeny.

You cannot report about what you cannot see.

And you cannot see when you don't have eyes to see with.

And herein lies the problem.

Natural man, as brute beasts, pretending to some kind of life outside of Christ/Messiah, while actually being dead and blind in sin and trespass, while actually having no idea that such is the case !

Uglier than sin, while believing they are beauty personified.

A stench in the nostrils, while pretending to be a sweet savor unto the Lord.

First, they must remake Christ into their own image, and then come up with a new "gospel message" of financial security and money raining from heaven, and goodies for everybody.

And, of course, this all being animated by another spirit.

Not God's Spirit, but man's.

Man's Christ.

Man's good news.

And man's spirit.

A very unholy trinity if ever there was one.

The number of man times 3 = 666, the number of the beast.

Man's man-made temporal system versus God's God-made eternal system.

Therein lie the real lines of demarcation.

Oh, and don't forget, how they will load up their conversation with the same words which have become so dear to you from your reading of the Old and New Testaments, but giving them meanings which are very different from those intended by the languages, and by contemporaneous common usage thereof.

Such that you think you are both talking about the same thing, but you most certainly are not.

And then speak of “love” and call people “brother” and “sister” and take on all kinds of chameleon-like attributes designed for nothing less than to deceive the real sheep into believing that these are, indeed, truly, part of the selfsame flock.

Wolves in sheep's clothing.

Whited sepulchres.

Clouds without rain.

A blot.

Stains.

Tares (stealthily planted by “the enemy”).

These are but a few of the names by which they are readily identifiable for any who are willing to look just a little bit closer.

Then as people wake up and complain of what a fraud has been perpetrated upon them, these can be heard to tell all about the imminent demise of our faith, while complaining that their pews are no longer full, but are, instead, empty.

Failing to even begin to recognize that people no longer flocking to their cultic disinformation centers is one of the best things that can happen for all the rest of us.

Yes, “get out of her my people --- lest you partake of her plagues”, is what I remember hearing from on high.

Messiah means anointed.

Christos is the Greek form of the same word.

Hence Messianism and Christ-ianity are actually one and the same thing.

Both looking forward to the coming of a person who is said to have been anointed.

For that is the core meaning of the words.

One who is anointed, as the Old Testament kings of old were anointed with oil before taking office.

They were anointed by a man.

But this One will be anointed by no less than the Creator, Himself.

A human, anointed as a King, by God, instead of by man.

Never forget this.

(Ungodly) men love to create much confusion by throwing around the words Christ, Jesus, Christian, and church, and grace, and faith, and such like.

They will add many new meanings and shades of meaning, while avoiding the actual meaning as if it never existed.

Messiah and Christ are words whose real relevance exists long before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Looking FORWARD to a day when God's earthly representative would take up His throne amongst fallen man.

This is the promise.

In *Deuteronomy chapter 18* Moses tells that God will send a prophet, like unto Moses.

And that whoever refuses to listen to Him will be held accountable.

That is the promise.

The Heavenly Father will make Himself manifest (see, for example *Isaiah 9:6-7*).

He will walk amongst men and will talk amongst men, but will be soundly rejected, scorned, and ultimately slaughtered by the very persons who claim to be his good friends.

Ouch !

That is the Messianic promise.

A redeemer.

A deliverer.

A substitutionary sacrifice on behalf of fallen, wicked man.

That is the promise.

Which first started as an oral tradition, with reverberations throughout all of the ancient mythologies, and especially the so-called hero myths, which then awaited the invention

of an alphabetic language from Phoenecian, to Hebrew, to Greek, in order to add much more detail, which was now recorded in a written form.

For 500 years of Persian ascendancy our God providentially saw to the building of the Eastern roads by which this alphabetic writing would be able to freely spread.

After which the Western roads were built by the Greeks and Romans, until the entire ancient world found itself covered with a huge road network by which Paul and the Apostles would be able to freely travel from one end of the world to the other.

Thus bringing about the fulfillment of promise by making the communications system come into existence by which this gospel (good news) would be spread and communicated to all to whom the Lord had ordained from before the foundation of the world, in one generation.

Nothing left to chance, as the Lord God Omnipotent effectually carries His desires into effect, in spite of much opposition from Satan and his followers.

A war which is being fought continuously, while you and I are barely aware, if at all, as to what is taking place all around us, on every side.

So, again, I must ask, rhetorically, but of course, what is Messianism ?

It is the waiting for this person to come to this Earth and make His presence known.

It is the fact that provision has been made, and that every detail has been, or will be, caused to take place, under the direction of the Highest Power.

Messianism is the believing in and looking forward to the revealing of the Son of God in human flesh.

The revealing of the God-man as king over all the earth and all created beings.

It is the waiting and watching for this supernatural person to become manifest.

We look for one who is anointed by our Father who Art in Heaven, as His earthly manifestation and representation, containing the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Because He is supernatural, it would only naturally be expected that His earthly presence would be surrounded by the supernatural.

A supernatural being surrounded by supernatural goings on.

The revealing of the One who was prophesied from ancient times.

A person who would most definitely STAND OUT from the rest of the crowd.

A Messianic expectation.

So, Messianism begins with a promise, and expectation, and finally, a fulfillment in the form of an extraordinary being.

And of course, with all of the controversy that can and will surround such a series of claims and beliefs, before, during, and after the fact of the revealing of such an entity.

This, of course, includes our recognition of and response to this series of events.

For once one becomes cognizant, one becomes responsible, and hopefully, responsive.

Watching and waiting.

Searching and seeking.

Until the Son of God is finally and fully revealed to us in this world.

Awaiting His coming.

Accordingly, men diligently searched the prophetic writings for clues as to who it would be (see I Peter 1:1-11).

Where He would come from.

How one would recognize Him.

And how one could or would tell Him from numerous deceivers and pretended messiahs.

Satan did not sleep during all of this.

Being the deceiver that he is (the father of lies) it didn't take him long to start creating false prophets, and false religions, and false messiahs.

All with just enough truth to trick the unwary.

Many world religions and philosophies and belief systems were created by the dark lord to turn many away from truth so that they may pay homage to him and his system of lies and half-truths, and obfuscations, and changing of the plain meaning of words.

Such that one is so inundated with false signals that it would seem to be hopeless to know Messiah when seeing Him.

You can hear the same lies every day, right now, as people claim that Jesus of Nazareth is an avatar, or a prophet, just like Buddha, or Mohammed.

Then, because our Heavenly Father chose to give us a BOOK for guidance, now everyone else has a book of their own, to compete with the Holy Spirit-inspired (God- breathed) writings.

Rites and rituals which were created as models and types of things to come (e.g. the temple and animal sacrifice) become a part of this panoply of ideas.

Because the seed of a woman was promised, all of a sudden every single Satan-inspired mimicry has a mother and child of its own.

With statues of same being created early on, and then being clothed, “fed”, and carried about in idol processions, and worshipped by all.

All of a sudden there are stories of creatures that are claimed to be half-human and half-God (demigods) sprouting up all over the place.

Stories of God-like heroes abound on every side.

Through means of cross-cultural exchange, soon enough, every culture has some kind of similar sets of stories, all claiming to originate from some source of ultimate truth.

And no end of soothsayers and prognosticators, and all of their huckster enablers, all trying to make a living (\$\$\$) off of their pretended secret knowledge.

Create so many look-alikes, and sound-alikes, that it becomes a seemingly overwhelming task to even begin to untangle this web of deceit and lies and misdirection and confusion.

Whereby Satan causes the hope which comes from the promise to turn into hopelessness and a feeling of never being able to ascertain which is truth and which is fiction.

The hopelessness which causes one to throw one's hands up into the air, as one decides to just reject all of it, all at once.

Living in ignorance and despair seeming to be far more desirable than this state of affairs.

Noting that this model of confusion has worked so well that it was used for thousands of years before, and now thousands of years after, the revealing of Messiah.

With slight permutations from system to system,
but all essentially the same when looked upon more closely.

So much so that comparative mythology has become an object
for study in which the things in common are shown to be
numerous and widespread.

One does not even have any idea how to even begin to untangle
this Gordian knot.

And with all of the religious "helpers" assisting you,
each claiming to be divinely inspired and authoritative,
things become even more hopeless, as I begin to despair
just from describing it here.

This being why I make such a marked distinction between
the man-made religions versus God-made truth from above.

When everyone has a different opinion, while all claim to be
equally authoritative, there are bound to be problems with
numerous divisions and schisms having become the order
of the day.

Numerous false Christ's, false messiahs, and false systems
all competing for your very limited attention and lifespan.

With hopelessness posing as divine guidance each and every
step of the way.

So, what to do?

By continuous seeking you shall find.

By continuous asking it shall be answered.

By continuous knocking it shall be opened to you.

And behold I send you the Paraclete (Holy Spirit) who will show you all things and bring them to remembrance.

Sola scriptura.

Sola fide.

Sola gratia.

That is, solely by scripture, solely by faith, and solely by grace.

This was the battle cry of the reformers during what has come to be known as the Protestant Reformation, following centuries of having been clearly led astray by their fellow co-religionists, who had replaced Scripture with tradition.

Replaced living faith with (pretended) blind faith in transubstantiation.

My faith in God now having been turned into faith in man, those who claim to be turning bread into flesh, and wine into blood, so they may bow down and idolatrously worship it.

The fact that chemical analysis shows that no such transformation, or any transformation at all, has actually taken place by means of these pretended sacrificial rites causing purveyors of this system to cry out that one must blindly believe what they are being told, and that this is what scriptural faith is.

Of course, no such usage of the Greek word translated "faith" can be shown to exist in the New Testament, causing them to now claim that this is another type of faith, and that God has demanded that they turn off their critical faculties and just believe in the fairytales and ungodly concoctions which are being purveyed to them.

Always for a price (\$\$\$).

Bought and paid for in gold and silver and precious objects, seemingly without end, but of course.

A huckster "heaven" if ever there was one.

So now stupid blind ignorance is held up as a virtue, as the plain meaning of words are subtly and craftily changed to suit the purposes of those who would lord it over their fellow man, to the detriment of ALL living creatures, as it turns out.

So, faith, which is belief, has been turned, ever so subtly, into a system of works.

While the Apostle Paul is abundantly clear that the two are mutually exclusive, that can simply be disregarded as just another man's opinion, because we have loads and loads of tradition which says otherwise.

And grace is no longer grace.

For now it is not something given freely, which is the plain meaning of the word, but is now pretended to be the means by which one is to pull oneself up by one's own bootstraps, as grace now becomes a debt owed to us because of our good works.

And now, all of a sudden good works become working for their cult of Maryolotry, which they now further claim to be the one and only true system.

A rather ridiculous claim in light of Scripture and history.

For how did the Western system rise to such pretended ascendancy, anyhow?

Oh, by means of murdering as many as possible who belonged to the Eastern and original system, in what has come to be known in history as "The Great Schism of 1054".

Yes, declare all of the "others" as schismatics and simply murder them all on this basis, and voilà, suddenly the Greek New Testament, whose text is being protected by greek speaking persons, whose native language it is, has been replaced by Jerome's highly corrupted Latin Vulgate.

Nasty old Greek from the East having been replaced by the Latin vernacular of the West.

A model which has served well these moderns who proclaim that we now cannot know the true and original text, such that who knows what Bible to believe?

So now the very Word of God is castigated and kicked off to the sidelines as being somehow unreliable.

Confusion replacing certainty just a little bit more each day, as secular humanism (i.e. nihilism) becomes the true religion of our day, while claiming to be far more intellectually superior to those ancient superstitions of ignorant backwards people.

Such that now we have an entire society of ungodly, not-too-bright persons, who now think that their Heavenly Father is "The Great Ape" of planet Earth.

And that life has come from non-life, without even one shred of empirical evidence, i.e. no one can show such a process taking place, or can demonstrate an actual process by which such has happened or even COULD happen!

All hypothesis and theory replacing any kind of certainty, and then calling this “science”, as they sneer down at all who aren't going for this utterly ridiculous nonsense, and, but of course, they are able to point at all of the phony purveyors of false religions as their example of your only other choice.

Two forms of unreason and nonsense being given to you as your only intellectual and spiritual choices.

A false dichotomy if ever there was one.

Is it any wonder that downright nihilism has become the vanguard of our age ?

With secular materialism and unbridled mammon worshipping lust having become the order of the day ?

And here I stand at this dark hour as I survey all of the human wreckage on every side.

Surely by its rotten, murderous, mammon worshipping fruits, you should be able to see it and know it for what it truly is.

But, alas, such is not the case at all.

Not now and never has been.

Lies upon lies upon lies having become far more desirable than even the slightest amount of truth.

It is as if you are very much alone in your quest for truth.

But, not to get too upset, for such it has been from the very beginning, it would seem.

It does seem as if there has always been two peoples when it comes to matters of faith.

And this appears to have been so from the very start.

One has looked for the Coming One as seen in the Old Testament prophecies, while the other is quite happy to take the entire Old Testament system, which was designed to cause them to look forward to and to understand the significance of Christ crucified (i.e the temple economy and its sacrificial system), and to stop history at that point in time.

Thus they could never see past their own carnality, while embracing the type of that which is to come, as if it were an end in and of itself.

Two persons, one spiritual, and one fleshly.

While the Lord God Omnipotent spoke to the spiritual persons in the form of Old Testament prophecy, the fleshly ones had no real desire for or taste for the things of The Spirit.

These are the ones who murdered the Prophets and then set up their own counterfeit system within the already existing temple economy.

They are all too happy to take part in rites and rituals.

But with little or no understanding of just exactly what it truly IS all about.

They love to think of themselves as “God's chosen”, even while they are unfaithful as can be when it comes to obedience and “the weightier matters of the law”.

The Prophets are full of warnings and rebukes concerning these types of persons.

It is said that these persons refused to take part in these weightier matters of the law, using that which was designed to free a man from spiritual bondage for the very opposite purpose of enslaving their fellow man, as they continuously fleece them as if it is their own private flock of sheep.

Justice and mercy and love of one another all being tossed aside while demands for obedience to their own man-made systems, a form of idolatrous spiritual bondage and slavery, no less, becomes more and more their only concern.

So that while the coming Messiah is actually the entire focus of the Old Testament writings, these persons change that into their seeking of their own earthly glory.

So that they begin to worship the building and the furniture and the rites and rituals and warmaking abilities in place of coming closer to our Creator in the abject humility which is appropriate to the circumstances.

Just as today, so it was then.

The men ending up worshiping themselves, and the works of their own hands, in place of obedience to a living, loving God.

So, just as today people speak of a church as being the building instead of the people, so these came to regard their temple service and its buildings to be the goal of their religion, to the exclusion of all else.

The flesh warring against the spirit, with a vengeance !!

With the flesh easily prevailing and dominating,
over and over again.

So that instead of looking for a new heavens and earth,
as did Abraham and the Prophets, these are perfectly happy
with this current, hellish, material existence.

That is, so long as they can prevail over their fellow humans
and to lord it over them.

Two peoples from the very beginning.

One fleshly, worldly, and carnal, while the other is concerned
only with how to be a sweet savor unto our Lord, with their
focus being upon that other Kingdom, a non-earthly one,
for which our spiritual father Abraham was said to be searching.

That heavenly Jerusalem which the Prophet Isaiah tells of
in the last chapter of HIS prophetic writings.

While, all too conveniently forgetting that Jeremiah the Prophet
told of a new covenant which was to replace the old covenant,
as did Ezekiel, also.

One in which we would be changed from within, and one
in which we would need to call no man rabbi/teacher,
because God himself will write His law upon our hearts,
such that we will know right from wrong, without having
to be told which is which by some man or group of men.

That is to say, that change over time was built into the system from the very start; as we move from image and type into actuality and reality of our daily existence, and experience-based belief/faith.

No Judaeans and no Goyim, but rather, those who will obey from the transformed heart, and those who will not obey.

So that where God made a system, which was intended to change as one grows wiser in revelation from our Creator, the other has become frozen in time.

As events progress, they becoming less and less relevant by the minute, as they become more and more detached from historical reality.

So that instead of wanting to continue moving forward toward our ultimate spiritual goal of unity/union with Messiah, they want everything to be frozen in time.

They wanting to go back in time to their former glory days instead of forward towards something which they apparently do not want or care to know about.

The flesh dominating over the spirit.

The carnal and fleshly being far more desirous to them than the things above, which they are unable to perceive with their carnal senses.

So far as they are concerned, if it is not of the flesh, then it is of no concern or interest to them.

The worldly concerns being their only real concerns, while the otherworldly is relegated to anywhere but here.

Such that even after having been ignominiously driven out of the carnal land of Israel because of their grotesque infidelity and continuous covenant breaking, their modern imitators insist that these Israelites are God's chosen and that the land which He drove the real Judaeans from is actually their's, and that the temple which was destroyed by God himself will be rebuilt as we are all forced back into submission under their yoke of bondage.

(10 lost tribe fantasies replayed ?)

To which I MUST add this warning:

all of those Judaizers who pretend to be bringing about the end of this world as they wait for some pretended rapture followed by a restoration of the Old Testament temple economy, complete with blasphemous animal sacrifice, in rejection of the once-for-all ultimate sacrifice of our loving Messiah, who laid down his life for his sheep, are very much on the wrong side of history.

They can say Jesus, Jesus, all they want (ANOTHER Christ ?).

And they can tell how "Christian" they are all they want (another gospel ?).

And tell how they are saving souls for Jesus by appeals to the flesh and worldliness, all they want (another spirit ?).

They are, quite simply, quite wrong!!

“Get out of her my people --- lest you partake of her plagues”
is, again, what comes to mind as I continue to survey all of this
spiritual wreckage and chicanery.

And here it can so readily be seen.

The fleshly persons persecuting those who are faithful to
the spiritual tenets of our Master, now as then, all over again.

What I am driving at here is that there really is not and never has
been a line of demarcation between any one race of humans and
all of their fellows.

People having mistaken the messenger for the message.

There have always been only two different kinds of persons.

One believing.

The other unbelieving.

One faithful.

The other faithless.

One being obedient.

The other disobedient.

These are far more the dividing lines than are such artificial
constructs as Judaeans and Gentile.

While NEVER forgetting that we are ALL members of
the fallen Adamic race.

"There is NONE righteous, no not one", was the exclamation of the Prophet.

"We have all gone astray, like sheep, each one to his own way" is a further elucidation of this same concept.

And, "all of our righteousness is as filthy rags" should tell us all we need to know about seeking immortality on our own terms.

These principles and matters did not change as we went from Old Testament to New Testament.

They remain just as valid today as they were on the day following Adam's fall.

The imputation of the perfect righteousness of Christos/Messiah.

If one thinks that by means of so-called response to (pretended) "prevenient grace" or some other artifice of men, that they can be pleasing to our God as a result of their own works, then they simply lack understanding of the gospel message.

They truly are under the spell of "another gospel".

One in which wicked men suddenly and magically become transformed into something which it is simply impossible for them ever to become.

And now spiritual pride and human reasoning will all too quickly take the place of the written Word of God.

Having become darkened, once again, and all to no avail.

Messiah as our substitute.

That is the heart of what I am here referring to as Messianism.

Once again, no different in the Old Testament than it is in the New Testament.

The only material difference between the two being that one is form while the other is substance.

One is type.

The other fulfillment.

One is precursor.

The other being the genuine article with all of its radiant splendor.

Old Testament as shadow of things to come, while the New Testament is the actual thing, itself.

Not two different plans and programs.

Not two different dispensations.

All one and the same program.

The only difference being that the Old Testament looked forward to what was to become, while the New Testament records the actual coming itself, in the form of eyewitness testimony.

The coming ONE becoming the one who HAS come.

Unbelievers never believing, either before, during, or after.

Whether Judaeans, or Gentiles.

The disobedient continuing in their disobedience, whether Judaeans, or Gentiles.

And the obedient being obedient, whether Judaeans, or Gentiles.

Neither race, nor religion, nor philosophy being the ultimate determinants, but, rather, a pure heart and a believing spirit, whether Judaeans, or Gentiles.

Same in Old Testament as New Testament.

The Christ/Messiah providing the continuity between the two.

Just as He is eternal and is said to come from eternity, so are the principles upon which rest the foundation of our belief or our unbelief.

Only the props and the costumes changing, while everything else remains the same.

We are told in the Old Testament that we will be able to stop sinning when the leopard can change his spots or the Ethiopian can change his skin.

Do you really think this has changed ?

And this simply because you live in years calculated as "Anno Domini" (a.d.), instead of "before Christ" (b.c.) ?

Just take a good look around you.

Are men any different now than they were then ?

Just ask the victim of the rape, or the robbery, or the murder.

Ask the person who has been enslaved by his evil neighbors.

Just what exactly has changed such that wicked men, with their minds and hearts full of fornication, lying, adultery, theft, and murder, are somehow expected to walk in the paths of righteousness in any real and meaningful way ?

Think I'm being a little bit overly harsh ?

Then go turn on that one-eyed beast in your living room, or look at various internet sites, or go to the movies, and you will get far more of these things than you ever could have even imagined.

And why is this ?

Because the best the natural man can hope for is to be a whited sepulchre ?

Beautiful to look at from the outside, but not such a pretty sight, or smell, once one pulls back the thin veneer of the sarcophagus lid and takes a long, hard look, while taking a long, deep breath.

Ironically, nearly everyone will tell you how this is not so.

Truly amazing.

There it is right in front of your face, and on every side of you, and all about you, but you will adamantly deny it, nevertheless.

Doesn't sound like a very promising condition to me.

This is why Messiah/Christ came to fulfill the law to the letter, in order to ransom His sheep out of this wicked state of affairs.

We simply being unable to comply with even the simplest of the Commandments.

Just how hard can it be anyway ?

Don't rob your neighbor.

Don't rape your neighbor.

Don't murder your neighbor.

How can there even be a controversy about such matters ?

Yet we can easily be defined as predator or victim in any given situation.

To the predator inside of me I must not kill, unless ---.

I must not steal, unless ---.

I must not rape and defile, unless ---.

Amazingly this is where the religious "man of the cloth" comes in.

He will tell us when it is okay, and when it is not, and how much \$\$\$ we must give him as our "toll fee" (e.g. indulgences).

But when it is I who am the victim, I will see these things in an entirely different light.

There will be no "unless".

And I will be utterly disgusted by YOUR "religious authority" who has so cavalierly diminished the gravity and seriousness of YOUR crime.

I will abhor your pretended "man of the cloth", no matter how wonderful you tell me he and his religion are.

Messiah/Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

No vacillating.

No game playing.

No hucksterism.

No, "it's okay just this one time".

Or, "you can do it without consequence to your soul because of ---."

What a slippery slope that is sure to become, and all too rapidly.

Our blessed Lord is able to look deep within the hearts and motivations of both perpetrator and victim.

And is very able to judge wisely and righteously.

He being the only judge worthy of the name, it would seem.

Bad didn't somehow become good.

And evil did not somehow become righteous, as we passed from prophecy to fulfillment.

All remains the same.

Except that now believers will be filled with the Holy Spirit of promise.

They will be constrained by the law written in their hearts.

They may use their conscience as their guide, if they will but listen to it, and obey it, without recourse to flawed reasoning used to justify whatever action one sees fit to be a part of on any given day.

Mediating forces.

Tempering forces.

Remembering of what is right, and what is not, and how I should conduct myself in light of reality!

The Lord made a covenant with Old Testament Israel.

It was not for their own self-glorification, as they seem to have believed.

They were not “God's chosen”, in some sense which gives them the right to lord it over their fellow man.

The Lord God Omnipotent using them to illustrate matters that would be of tremendous concern to the writers of the New Testament fulfillment of the ancient Messianic prophecies.

The various buildings, instruments, rites and rituals ALL being symbolic.

Symbols of Messiah/Christ and the Messianic office.

As an example, they have a temple built of stone.

But it is symbolic of the real temple, which is made WITHOUT hands.

They have a high priest, as do we, in Messiah/Christ.

They have a concept of a chosen people called out of Egypt.

This being merely a type or symbol of those who were called out of this wicked world.

They celebrate sacrificial shedding of blood.

This symbol or type of our blessed Lord hanging on the tree, as our Heavenly Father poured out His wrath upon him.

A people removed out of servitude to Egypt, as the symbol or type of those who will be purchased by the blood of Messiah/Christ, from their hellish overlord and master, Satan.

The concept of the scapegoat causing us to think about the concept of the imputation of sin, which later will give rise to our understanding of the concept of imputation of righteousness (see **Leviticus 16:10 ff**).

Just as the goat did nothing to merit the sin, so our Lord did nothing to merit the wrath.

As the brazen serpent was raised in the wilderness, such that those who looked upon it were healed from the poison

of the fiery asps (see **Numbers 21:6 ff**), so those looking upon Christ/Messiah crucified will have their sins removed by looking upon Him, with the eyes of belief having been opened from above.

These being just a few examples.

The Old Testament promises were predicated upon obedience, of which there was always very little.

And of what little there was, mainly half-hearted.

A stubborn and rebellious people, more interested in the leeks and onions of Egypt than their own souls and eternal state.

Is it really so different now ?

Are we really all that different when put to the test ?

The Old Covenant was highly conditional.

And was broken repeatedly, until the people were driven from the land on two different occasions.

And finally, after the death of Messiah, at the hands of these very same persons, they were driven from the land entirely and permanently, and utterly destroyed, as was prophesied by Moses, while the people were yet in the wilderness.

As being those who are simply unable to keep their word, no matter what the consequences, and no matter how numerous the warnings.

Of course, for this, they are willfully ignorant of the ancient scriptures.

And they are willfully forgetful of Jeremiah's prophecy of a new covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31 ff**).

That's right, the New Covenant is prophesied in the Old Testament writings.

Such that after 2000 years of fulfillment of those promises, these moderns pretend that such is not the case, in spite of all of the centuries of evidence to the contrary.

And now we have huge mega-bucks organizations, run by modern Judaizers, joining in this most unfortunate delusion, acting as enablers, while pretending to be "Christians".

Claiming that the Old Testament "dispensation" continues right on, unabated, with the so-called "church age" being nothing more than a parenthesis.

Almost as if some sort of afterthought.

The Prophets are claimed to having known little or nothing of this age, when in fact it is central to their prophecies, and is, in fact, the culmination of them (**see I Peter 1:11-12**).

So that now we are told to watch for signs and wonders, and to interpret portents, as if we are some ancient Babylonian readers of entrails, bowing down to Baal.

As we wait for a "catching away into secret chambers", exactly as Jesus told would NOT be happening.

We being specifically commanded to NOT believe it, should they tell you that it is so (**see Matthew 24:26**).

Such that now the sophistry of man replaces the leadings and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Our heart of stone having been replaced with a heart of flesh, just as Jeremiah prophesied.

Not needing to be told what is right and wrong, just as Jeremiah prophesied.

Just as has always been, one group obedient, and the other disobedient.

One group believing, while the other is disbelieving, while having learned how to feign belief and brotherly love.

One looking to scriptural matters, while the other is carnal as carnal can be or get.

Has anything really changed ?

Or, wouldn't it be fair to say that continuity is the order of the day.

Not really old and new.

But prophesied and fulfilled.

Not really Judaeen and Gentile.

But believing and unbelieving.

Faithful and unfaithful.

Obedient and disobedient.

Unreality and ultimate reality.

