

TRUTHS, CREEDS AND DOCTRINES

VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS – VOL. XV

PART

**BY
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Copyright Pending – *Truths, Creeds And Doctrines*

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God's Puzzle Completed

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PREFACE

Christians have debated, argued, persecuted and even murdered hapless souls over the notion of *what is the truth*. Creeds and doctrines have developed as points of antagonism between groups and denominations – hence, they compete with each other.

However, Christ wants His people to be united in love. The subject of this book is to biblically substantiate what can be identified as the scriptural truth. What roles do creeds or doctrines play in The Christian Community? These questions need to be resolved in order to unite The Christian Faith.

Comments and criticisms are welcomed. As usual, no money is accepted for these books. All books are absolutely free. We are not a church and are non-denominational. Our job is to spread The Word (freely received – freely given). Your job is to pray and study to show yourself approved.

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INTRODUCTION

The Greatest Gift

The Gift of Eternal Life is far and above the greatest of all the gifts God will bestow upon His churches. This is a most precious gift from God. It is to be sought above all other blessings (I Corinthians 13). This gift is the doorway to The Kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 13

The Apostle Paul describes the many gifts Christians have received and the trials they had to endure to obtain Salvation. Here is what Paul concluded, “*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity [love], I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains and have not charity [love], I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity [love], it profits me nothing*” (I Corinthians 13:1-3). Do you grasp the importance of these words written by Paul? No matter what Christians personally do for God or what truth or doctrines they have, without agapé love, any human work is useless to God. You profit nothing. All your human works are vanity. This is the reason why The Apostle Paul declared how *love fulfills The Law* (Romans 13:10). *Love is the supreme Gift of God. Why is this? It is because*

agapé love is what God is! “*He that loves not, knows not God; for God is love*” (I John 4:8). Obviously, Godly *love* surpasses any truth, creed or doctrine.

All of God’s Laws, physical and spiritual, not only originated from Him but actually manifest The Almighty Father and what is in His heart and mind.

God’s power, greatness, abilities, joy, blessings, goodness and The Gift of Life are magnified, because *God is love*. God has no ego. He is *a completely giving God* and is only motivated by love. How dare anyone seek revenge, argue and even destroy His creation! God, through His longsuffering (severe pain) and patience, allows people to despise or hate each other. God has endured the evilness of individuals for thousands of years. Because of His great love toward the whole world, you are called upon to repent. This is through your free choice, so you, likewise, can manifest His great love for Himself and His creation (I John 4:8).

Job had to learn this lesson, just as others have had to learn it and will be required to learn it. Here is what Job finally came to understand, “*I know that you can do every thing and that no thought can be withholden from you. Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not [his ego]*” (Job 42:2-3).

Job did not understand the identity of The True God. He did not comprehend the superior greatness of God’s love. His *ego* got in the way because of his own *doctrine of self-love or righteousness*.

Here was the final lesson about God's great love and how it was taught to Job, "*I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear [preaching]: but now mine eye sees you. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes*" (Job 42:5-6). Job only knew of God by The Prophets preaching about Him. But Job didn't know who The True God really was. Once Job began to see who God truly was, he abhorred himself and repented. In short, he put his own ego to death.

Offending God's People

Here is Christ's attitude towards sinning Christians, "*Should not you also have had compassion on your fellowservant, even as I had pity on you*" (Matthew 18:33). You must understand the depth of Christ's love. He forgives all sins, even the sins of those whom you do not agree with (about truth or doctrines). Jesus only holds Christians responsible for what they understand. He does not hold them responsible for the truth (what they do not know or understand) (John 9:41). That is why Paul said, "*Whatsoever is not of faith [belief] is sin*" (Romans 14:23).

You all have different levels of spiritual understanding. Only God knows your individual hearts and your inherent level of comprehension. You are His servants and therefore no human is your spiritual master. Heretics, who are trouble-makers in the church, should be disfellowshipped after two or three warnings. Discussing different doctrines or levels of spiritual understanding is fine, but do not offend each other in the church causing dis-

unity. Being in minor disagreement over beliefs in the church is fine, such as concerning The Gentiles and *The Law* (Acts 15). It was *the believing* Pharisees (a sect in the church) who caused the disagreement over the issue of The Gentiles. The Gentiles had not been circumcised, nor did they keep *The Law of Moses* (Acts 15:5). The English word “sect” in Greek is “*heretic*.” Once the question was settled, no problems ensued from The Pharisees, even if they didn’t agree with the decision in Acts 15.

Christians must have *the liberty* or *freedom* to grow spiritually at their own level or time-frame. They should be unrestricted. Each must be respected as long as they are not trouble-makers concerning doctrines. God’s church should be unified by God’s love and should not argue over some point of truth, creed or doctrine. Competition should not exist among God’s people. Jesus revealed what a real Christian is, “*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love [agapé] one to another*” (John 13:35).

Understanding truth, creeds or doctrines matters not – if a Godly *love* prevails. Here is the reason why this gift is the greatest, “*Charity [love] never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge [truth and doctrine], it shall vanish away*” (I Corinthians 13:8). Creeds, doctrines and all knowledge will vanish. Why is this? It is because the knowledge you possess only allows you to know *in part* (I Corinthians 13:9). On the other hand, agapé love never fails a Christian. It is eternal because God is eternal and God is love!

CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Jesus said, “*Sanctify them [Christians] through your truth: your word is truth*” (John 17:17). Since God gave life and He is The One who created all things, He is The Only One to know what the truth is. Truth is knowledge – which concerns true facts and not theories. God sanctifies or sets apart His people who know and understand His truth.

Is Truth Always The Truth?

According to Christ, *the truth* is absolute (John 17:17). You can always count on *the truth*, or can you? There is always a danger in handling *the truth*. Is it all the totality of truth? The difficulty with knowledge is that it can vanish. How can this be? When you only know *in part*, there must be a vacuum of understanding. For example, to comprehend mathematics, you first need to start with simple arithmetic. Then, you must go on to grasp algebra. Only then can you hope to understand geometry. That is the nature of knowledge. Truth is progressive. (It unfolds step by step). Human nature is such that when you just begin to perceive information, you will tend to think you have a greater grasp than you actually possess. A person doesn't know what they don't know. However, once you experience truth, you will understand it

more deeply. As children, it is inherent to confuse perception with knowledge. This is because of a basic difference between sensation and cognition or thinking. As you grow by having experience, your thoughts will allow you to understand truth in greater depth. Concerning the knowledge of Salvation, The Old Prophets inquired about the *grace* that can be given to you (I Peter 1:10-11). These Prophets were led by God's Holy Spirit. They did not know how The Glory of God would be given by Christ. They only knew and perceived *in part* – but they were certain it would be given. Then, that knowledge was only given to The Apostles in Peter's day (I Peter 1:12). It will take time before you grow to the point of being given The Gift of Salvation. Truth is progressive. Another major human error of logic concerns the identity of the truth (which also can be regressive). By the end of The First Century, Jude had to plead, "*you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3). There is another cog in the wheel concerning truth. Human nature and your inherent tendencies can cause you to experience many other problems.

What Is Babylon?

At The Tower of Babel, it became necessary for God to intervene and confuse the languages. Why was this? It is because God intentionally stopped the process of humans sharing information! With the weakness of the flesh, God halted *informational growth*. God knows that when you have received

too much knowledge or truth, it can be destructive (as was already proven at the time of the building of The Tower of Babel). Here is what The Apostle Paul tells you, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness*” (Romans 1:18).

Human logic can get you into trouble. Knowledge or truth (given ahead of time) can produce evil results. Read the biblical answer to what Babylon represents, “*And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do*” (Genesis 11:6). This is God’s definition of *Babylon* or (the first head of) *The Beast in The Book of Revelation*. The people, who were living at the time of The Tower of Babel, had taken *the truth* of The One God in The Garden of Eden and transformed it into *polytheism*. They turned the teaching about The One God into a concept proclaiming a multitude of mini-gods. With the loss of The Tree of Life, they began to worship other gods. They worshipped The Tree of Life, which they renamed The Christmas Tree (Jeremiah 10). (Read the book, *Satan’s Image*). Knowledge or truth now added many new human ideas. Their use of logic, along with their human reasonings (partial truths), only allowed them to reach *a theory*. It is man’s nature to guess and to come to *unsound so-called truths*. The entire system of *alleged science* is predicated upon human imagination – with no end in sight (conclu-

sion). Some ideas are good while others are evil. That is what happens to you when you leave God out of the picture. Only God knows *the truth* (all the truth). Therefore, it would be prudent if you hesitate to condemn anyone.

God Knows Better

Only God knows how much truth should be disclosed to each individual at any given time. God grants truth or knowledge, in part, for a very wise reason. In church groups, without the proper attitude, the act of being dogmatic can be dangerous. You have seen how truth can be *progressive* as well as *regressive*. Also, too much knowledge can be very dangerous. Only God knows your heart and mind – and when *more* truth can be given to you. To give truth *individually* is relative, but if it is given too early, then it can be damaging. When Israel came before God to receive *The Ten Commandments*, they found The Glory of God to be very frightening. The people were scared to death. God's *glory*, which is *all of God's goodness*, was overwhelming. They only wanted Moses to tell them what God wanted them to do. Then, they declared they would do God's will through Moses and without getting it *first-hand* from God. The Israelites already understood how *the many gods of Egypt* had to be placated. The True God appeared not to be that different so they were frightened of Him and His power. When Israel felt Moses had been absent too long on the mountain, they built something to worship. After God told them not to

worship idols, they disobeyed and built a golden calf. God knew they had a wrong heart and had to start with *The Old Covenant Law of Moses*, so they could understand what *sin was* (Deuteronomy 5:29 and I John 3:4). That proved to be more than they wanted to handle. God knew they would learn more truth in the future. So, that generation died in the wilderness because they didn't seek faith in God.

Truth, *in part*, is the only way God divulges knowledge. God gives free choice to you. When you are ready to obey or desire more truth with a right heart, then God will allow you to begin to understand. As time goes by, with added prayer and studying, God will give you additional truth. God declares how He can only give knowledge or truth to those who are like little babes (they must be teachable) (Isaiah 28). If, after that, you receive too much truth, it may be overwhelming and you might give up and quit. That's what is wrong with the world's educational system. They either give too much or too little. Either that or they mix too many *untruths* in with *the truth*. Either way, it damages many wonderful minds. Only God knows best. *Isaiah 55:6-9* declares, "*Seek God while He might be found.*" The Truth – God's *word* – shows who God is (John 17:17)! You need to discover through Bible study just how God thinks. You need to know what gives God pleasure and what His *will* is. That is The Truth or The Word of God! Jesus said, "*For The Law [doctrine] was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17).

CHAPTER 2

TRUTH GIVES LIBERTY

Now you know what happened to Adam and Eve when they ate from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. There was nothing wrong with The Tree of Good and Evil – they just were not ready for so much *overwhelming truth*. God said all the trees in The Garden were very good (Genesis 1:31). What if they only ate from The Tree of Life (first)? Then, you might wonder what would have happened if Eve never had eaten from The Tree of Good and Evil. What would have happened? That is a good question.

Too Much – Too Soon

Under The New Heaven and on The New Earth, when God will dwell with man, there will not be a Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. It isn't necessary, because everyone will have confessed and will seek The Tree of Life. They will want *to drink from the fountain of waters* along with consuming the healing leaves. Everyone is growing to spiritual maturity and coming to know good and evil on a natural basis.

Cain was told by God that “*sin lies at the door.*” This tendency is resident within your genes and

leads to sin (from birth). It is because of your desire to survive at any cost. You struggle to live even when you know, in the end, you will die. It is truly a dichotomy. God said Cain must master his sins.

When Cain murdered Abel, God forced Cain to leave His property and live in The Land of Nod (the wilderness). Cain knew he was “*going it*” alone (without God) so He said, “*My punishment is greater than I can bear*” (Genesis 4:13). According to the book, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Cain wandered in the wilderness looking for the fountain of waters so he could find the healing leaves and repent. But Cain never found the waters. Likewise, you, with your human nature, cannot find The Truth.

Humanity cannot know *truth* on its own. To fully understand good and evil, you must be taught. Only God understands *right* from *wrong*, because God is *love* and without an ego. God, only, is The One who is good. Jesus answers the human contradiction of life and death. Then Jesus said, “*When you have lifted up the Son of man [Christ’s body], then shall you know that I am he and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things*” (John 8:28).

Christ, from birth, was filled with The Holy Spirit without measure. God’s *words* are true – Jesus was sealed with The Truth. “*For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the Spirit by measure to Him*” (John 3:33-34).

Christ, from childhood, had to grow in wisdom. (Most learn by the hard-knocks of life and therefore suffer too many penalties). **The difference concerns the realization of Jesus being born with God's Holy Spirit.** But still, He had to mature physically and spiritually. Jesus, as a child, "*grew and waxed [became] strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him*" (Luke 2:40). That is why The Pharisees were amazed at His wisdom (at age twelve) when He spoke to them in The Temple. Physically, humans mature rather rapidly. But *spiritual maturity* takes much more time. This is because you are the one who must choose to seek *truth and wisdom*.

Too many are occupied with their place in the world and it captivates them. This is because when you think or function (especially when you are in the prime of your life), you tend to believe you are capable of knowing truth (knowing exactly, what is good for you) on your own.

Jesus, from His birth, knew better, "*And he that sent me is with me: the Father has not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him*" (John 8:29). Now you have the solution for knowing The Truth. When you, on your own, try to decide for yourself what is good and evil, then you will be like Cain who wandered in the wilderness all his life. You may take too much, too soon, on your own. Even Jesus knew better.

Only God can give you His goodness by His Holy

Spirit. Until you turn to God and diligently seek Him, you are on your own. You have already proven this when you are left to yourself and you are in a state of confusion (or Babylon). It is your lack of truth to discern good from evil because of your vivid imaginations (Genesis 11:6).

What causes your delay in seeking God? It is your personal wants or true inner *desires* that keep you from being wise (Proverbs 18:1-6). Idolatry is the problem. Remember, *covetousness* is *idolatry* (Colossians 3:5).

Whatever you desire, above all else, is what you worship. It has become your idol. Even life, itself, can become an idol. You seek to be part of this world and all the things in it. This is long before you seek The True God. It may cause a hindrance in your eventual quest to begin searching for The Truth. God is The Only One who has The Truth.

As Paul said, being *human* means it is the best you can know – it is only *a part* (I Corinthians 13:9). Paul also reminds you not to think so highly of yourself (Galatians 6:3).

Knowing The Truth

It is only God's Holy Spirit which can give or reveal the truth. How can you be sure that you, on your own, have the truth? God's word, *The Bible*, should be read for what it really states. Don't interpret it and try to make it mean what you think

it should mean. Each time you study, you need to ask yourself, “*Does The Word of God really mean what it seems to be telling me?*” Does your interpretation come from your imagination or from your personal reasonings? Be candid with yourself and don’t think you are so superior. Always be open, as a little child, to learn more about God’s truth. That is why God warns by explaining how He only gives knowledge to those who are teachable (as babes) (Isaiah 28).

This is Principle #1. Don’t be so insistent in thinking that only you know the truth. Stop offending God’s other children. Once you stay humble and remain eager to be taught, then God will give you more of The Truth. How can you know when you have received the truth? Jesus again gives you the answer, “*And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32).

The English word “*free*” in Greek is “*eleutheroo*” or “*complete liberty*.” Where in *The Bible* will you find a contradiction? For hundreds of years, *Science* has tried to explain what *the truth of evolution is*. To this day, cosmologists are still seeking *the mother of all theories*.

Each time Science believes they have found the answer, then new options or possible truths appear on the horizon. Given tens or hundreds of years, Science will have millions of new answers. It is unending – forever guessing with more and more options. *Absolute truth is absolute*. There are no

more variables or any unanswered options. You must apply this same criteria to *The Bible*.

Once *The Bible* makes a clear and simple statement (which no honest person can deny) then no contradictions to that truth should appear in any part of The Word of God. That is why the scholars of Jesus' day were overwhelmed by His wisdom when He was not yet a teenager. As adults, The Pharisees asked, "*How can Jesus speak so authoritatively when He was not a scholar with letters or degrees?*" (Paraphrased). He could not be contradicted. His truth was free and was so simple that everyone could grasp it. No one could contradict Him. When Jesus chose to speak in parables, it was only to those who were being directed and allowed to understand by means of God's Holy Spirit. That is why in His parables, He said, "*Those who had ears to hear and eyes to see could understand the truth of His teachings*" (Matthew 13:11).

How do you know the difference when no contradictions are found? Again, Jesus states, "*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by your words you shalt be justified and by your words you shall be condemned*" (Matthew 12:35-37).

CHAPTER 3

CREEDS AND CREEDS

A “creed” is “the foundation of everything you believe as *the truth*.” The problem is – there are *creeds* and then, there are *creeds*. Every Christian denomination has some difference in its foundational beliefs of faith. How can there be so many creeds which only seem to produce competition in Christianity? Some believers have killed and murdered others over these creeds. *The Bible* does not contain any example of Christians killing Christians. How can this be? You are about to scripturally discover how God has only *one foundational creed*.

Only One Creed

It is an error for Christians to base their creed upon notions that divide one another. *The Bible* only mandates *one creed*. You might say it is the only true creed.

Too many groups feel they must openly declare what truth they presume to know – then, label it as a creed. Paul clearly said that Christians only know *in part*. If *acceptance* by a particular church demands that Christians be at the same level of spiritual understanding just like everyone else, then no group will ever be *in unity*. Paul told Chris-

tians to “*work out your own Salvation with fear and trembling*” (Philippians 2:12).

If you adhere to Paul’s statement as being a creed, then you would have less trouble (doctrinally). Any denominational church who abides by a certain creed creates a situation where any debate about how to keep that creed tends to divide their members into competing groups. *The Bible* contains a very general or broad *creed* concerning who God accepts.

This is what The Apostle Peter (who had the keys to The Kingdom) had to say about which individuals God would accept (Matthew 16), “*But in every nation he that fears Him and works righteousness, is accepted with Him* [by God]” (Acts 10:35).

This statement is quite broad. As long as you fear God and labor intensely to be *righteous*, then God will accept you. What you may accept as *righteousness* varies according to your own understanding. This becomes your personal level of *doctrinal knowledge*. Christians in The First Century were known as God-fearers – God does accept them as legitimate believers of The Way.

The differences in doctrinal comprehension during The First Century were vast in all of *Christ’s churches* (Revelation 2 and 3). Most had many beliefs – which included false doctrines. Jesus’ answer was that He *loved them all* but would chastise those who were not growing *spiritually in the truth*.

In fact, Jesus allowed this diversity in His churches. He will not make a judgment until He returns to earth. Wow! What great love and grace will be bestowed upon you – all His followers. Paul determined to write an entire chapter to clearly show *the love and tolerance* Christians should have for each other and future Christians (Romans 14). You may hold to a doctrine about the need for being a *vegetarian* or about *judging what day you feel the need to observe for worship*. Furthermore, you may think *it is a sin to drink wine*. But, God allows you the free choice to drink wine or to be a vegetarian – or even to choose which day you wish to keep. If it is okay with God, then why are you meddling with another Christian’s level of growth? That is why Paul ends with a warning, “*for whatsoever is not of faith is sin*” (Romans 14:23). The verse is saying, “*that whatever level of belief you accept, you better keep [to] it faithfully.*” Why is this? It is because *what is not of faith (belief) is sin*. Never, ever compare yourself to another.

To coerce someone to accept another’s standard of Christianity is *very unchristian*. After three warnings, troublemakers who continue to cause division are to be expelled from brotherly companionship. Paul said, “*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual, but as to carnal [beasts], even as to babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk [baby food] and not with meat [spiritual]: for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able. For you are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you [Christians] envying and strife and divisions [de-*

nominations], *are you not carnal* [beasts] *and walk as men* [unconverted]?” (I Corinthians 3:1-3). These **troublemakers** (after two or three warnings) are to be asked to leave the fellowship, so The Church can dwell in unity within the rest of the body. Those troublemakers upset everyone which is contrary to The Spirit of God.

That is also the reason Paul said, when you follow Christ, you are not to be “*tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine*” (Ephesians 4). Doctrine is important, but *different faiths of belief* should not cause dissension – especially when churches strive to have *brotherly love*. *Christian love* does not cause *dissension*.

Christ – *In You*

What does Christ “*In You*” mean (Colossians 1:27)? *The Book of Colossians* defines Christ “*In You,*” as “*Whom we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect* [mature] *in Christ Jesus*” (Colossians 1:28). This is accomplished by following Christ and allowing Him to be duplicated – “*In You.*” Why is this? “*For in Him* [Christ] *dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily* [fully]” (Colossians 2:9). You become complete whenever you are just like Jesus. At that time, you will be *perfect*.

Spiritual growth does not occur when you judge people concerning when or whether they choose to keep certain Holy Days, Sabbaths or even to ad-

here to other doctrines. Those are their own individual personal responsibilities. You must strive to be just *like Jesus*. Christ said He did only God's *will* and spoke only God's *words*. Christ admonished you to follow the same path, "*For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17).

Arguing or debating about *The Law* is not the way to be a Christian. You should, instead, be like Christ so you can receive His grace and truth. *Truth* only comes by being like Jesus in following the example He had set. It is not a matter of doctrine concerning *The Law*.

The Law tells what *sin is*, but *life eternal* only comes through Christ. Are you finally coming to understand what *the creed* for Christians really is? "*For other foundation [creed] can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (I Corinthians 3:11). It can't be said any simpler. Doctrine isn't the main point – but rather to be like Jesus is what Christianity should be all about. Paul reveals that every preacher will be tried by fire (tested) concerning what he teaches. This trial of fire purges sin away (the dross) (Isaiah 6:5-7).

Paul warns that the content of what a man preaches will be put to the test (of fire) (I Corinthians 3). The false doctrine will be lost, but the preacher will be saved because of the fire which will purge him. The negative result points to that church denomination as being guaranteed to split!

Clearly, there is only one creed for Christians. That creed is *to be, to do and to think* like Christ. That is Christ – “*In You.*” Jesus brings mercy, grace and truth. That is why Jesus said He is The Master of The Sabbath when you keep The Sabbath. Therefore, in principle, it is *lawful* to do hard work even on The Sabbath, as long as it is a *good work*.

Jesus said He gives mercy and so there will be no Sabbath-breaking *penalty* (a sacrifice). This hard work can be as laborious as pulling a lamb out of the ditch. Why is this? It is because The Sabbath was originally made for man – not man for The Sabbath (when everything was very good) (Genesis 1:31). It is lawful to do good works on The Sabbath – including hard work (Matthew 12:12).

There is only one creed for Christians – that is to be like Christ. Moreover, exactly like Christ. That’s it! Doctrine does not matter, which is totally another point addressed elsewhere. Now you know what *creed The Bible* demands. It is Christ – “*In You.*” There is nothing more. Doctrine is conditional and is extremely vital to Christian growth but your priority is to be like Christ.

CHAPTER 4

A TEACHING AND A LEARNING

Any school which you may attend or have attended has different levels of understanding concerning almost every subject. As a student, you will progress from arithmetic to higher levels of mathematics – such as algebra, geometry and calculus. Each has its own mode of being taught because different learning processes are involved. That process compares with the meaning of “*doctrine*” in Hebrew and Greek.

Doctrines

What is generally not understood about truth is how God chooses to teach it. It is taught by the same method in any school – when the instructor teaches a specific subject. Salvation, as a biblical subject or doctrine, can be learned by any Disciple of Christ. It only depends upon the level which a person has reached. One Disciple may have one talent, another two, five or ten talents (Matthew 25).

Everyone is at a different level – *spiritually*. A student cannot proceed to algebra until he understands arithmetic. Geometry cannot be mastered without some basic knowledge of algebra. So it is with Salvation – or receiving your *pass* to enter

The Kingdom of God (as a gift). To learn Godly knowledge, you must begin at a *kindergarten level* as a mere babe (Isaiah 28). “*Doctrine*” in Hebrew or Greek means “*a learning or teaching.*” In God’s school, He starts doctrinal teaching in a very basic method. In The Garden of Eden, God’s first two students or Disciples were Adam and Eve. All they had to do was grow from their original innocence by using *alphabet blocks* (just as in kindergarten). Literally, the word “*kindergarten*” in German means “*a child’s garden.*”

Salvation was achievable by eating from The Tree of Life instead of from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then, the first couple learned in kindergarten the reason they must die. It was because they chose to eat the fruit from the wrong tree. It is exactly like teaching a child not to touch a hot stove – or not to run across a busy street. This is the first recorded Godly *doctrine* in *The Bible*.

This was the beginning of Babylon. Adam and Eve chose to learn by themselves without God’s input, who was not only their Father, but their teacher. They were home-schooled. However, they chose to learn doctrine on their own without listening to their Father. They also chose not to be taught by a teacher (about their future). This is the reason Cain said, when he had to leave Eden and go to Nod, “*My punishment is greater than I can bear*” (Genesis 4:13). He was completely on his own, in the wilderness, where many wanted to kill him. This was a harsh choice for Cain, so God had to place

a mark upon him so other members of his family would not kill him. Cain had to exist on his own. He was in the ultimate *Babylon* with his carnal human nature. Adam and Eve chose to turn their backs on God (their doctrinal teacher). Still, they were in Eden where God walked with them – but no longer dwelt with them. They had to survive by themselves, although they still lived on God’s land or property. They were secure on God’s farm, but now they had to do all the work. No longer were they in God’s *rest* where God did the work. In The Garden, their only chore was to dress and keep God’s garden. Cain was completely on his own. He was required to learn like any animal and was forced to survive by living with the wild beasts. In the first four chapters of *The Bible*, God changed His doctrine or teachings three different times:

- 1) In the beginning, Salvation could be gained by eating from The Tree of Life.
- 2) When Adam and Eve sinned, God changed his doctrine to let them learn on their own. When Adam and Eve chose to learn by themselves, it meant that without God, they were living in Babylon (Genesis 11:6).
- 3) Cain, the killer, had to learn by himself, but he also had to make every effort to survive. These are biblical examples of the three methods for illustrating *the doctrines* which God taught. Your *Bible* documents these facts.

Noah To Moses

When The Noachian Flood receded, God started to teach doctrine, once more. He needed to lay down *The Law*. Later, He changed His teaching about doctrine. This time, since the world ended in violence, God needed to protect *the people* from themselves. Eventually, He would, again, offer Salvation. God knew humans would only learn an important lesson when they made a decision to do so on their own. Teaching someone *by force* doesn't work. In The Kingdom of God, everyone has liberty or freedom to do what they choose to do (Romans 8:21). Therefore, God gives total free choice, so He can allow individuals to choose whether they would like to be in His *kingdom* or not (this is when they are ready to make their personal decision). When you mature *spiritually*, like Christ, God will know you are ready to decide by yourselves what is good and evil. Christ – “*In You*” is the only way you will be able to do it (Colossians 1:27).

It is vital to realize how this method of *doctrinal change* came later. With the flood occurring in the past, God once again turned to His Prophets, who served as His substitute teachers (Hebrews 1). However, for the world's good, God needed to institute His first codified Law (circumcision and the rainbow). A New Law was taught in this classroom. When a man murders someone or an animal kills a person, that person or animal must be put to death. This creates a healthy respect in the society, so no one will be inclined to kill again. This wouldn't

completely stop murder – but it would cause a hindrance to the aggressive ones. Societies needed to be protected from murderers. There will be no repeat murder in God’s school.

Today, convicted murderers can wait twenty years before they are put to death. On the other hand, when a vicious animal kills a human, they are put to death within a day or two. This was God’s fourth doctrinal change in His method of teaching. A murderer, if proven or if he/she confesses to the crime, should not be spared for years and years. This is intrinsically unjust, when considering the rights of the victim. By the time Israel came along as a nation and was directed by Moses, a new teaching method was once again adopted by God. No longer would God use Prophets to instruct people *one on one*. Rather, you find, now, a nation was involved in this very different process.

God had to issue a textbook for Salvation. It was called *The Torah* – known in Hebrew as “*the way*” or “*the path*.” Because His people still didn’t want to learn or obey, God would need to add further instructions to *The Torah*.

When God gave them His *Ten Commandments*, orally, He knew they still had a wrong heart (Deuteronomy 5:29). Sure enough, when Moses went to meet with God on the mountain for forty days, Israel worshipped the golden calf down below. They did this even though they knew God’s Commandments would forbid any *idolatry*. God was ready

to lead them and be their *teacher*. Israel did *not want to learn*, so God didn't lead them. He doesn't force anyone. Once again, He had to institute *The Old Covenant* (only to Israel) because their hearts led them to follow the wrong paths (Deuteronomy 5:3).

That is why Paul said, "*The Law, with its curses, was made for the unrighteous or criminals with a wrong heart*" (I Timothy 1:7-10 and Deuteronomy 28). The Israelites could not enter God's rest or The Promised Land until they were tested in the wilderness. *The Book of Deuteronomy* was added to *The Torah* and then, *The Torah* or *The Way* had a codified law to include God's people – the bad and the good. No longer would God lead them. He appointed an angel, not as a teacher but as a judge (Exodus 23:20-21).

God would still teach them through Moses, as this instruction came through God's glory from The Tabernacle. Israel, who had a wrong heart, now had a judge (an angel) to watch them (Hebrews 3:8-10). Once again God changes His *doctrine* or *way of teaching*. This was God's fifth doctrinal change.

Jesus, The Author

When Christ came, a totally new doctrinal teaching was to be instituted. This was after He paid for everyone's sins. Now the curse of *The Law* was removed and grace (mercy) was given in its place. "*For the law was given by Moses, but grace* [mercy]

and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). This is God's sixth doctrinal change. No longer is *The Old Covenant Law* in force along with its curses. Now, Jesus was the genesis of a new method of doctrinal teaching, which would lead them to the truth. With this *New Covenant* or *teacher's contract* all set, *The Old Covenant doctrine* would vanish away. This happened in 70 A.D. with the destruction of The Temple (Hebrews 8:13).

God's new doctrine of teaching actually writes His Law in your heart and mind without *The Letter of The Law*. *The Letter of The Law* only outlines for you the definition of sin (Hebrews 10). By God's Holy Spirit changing your heart, you can be taught The Truth through Christ, The Author of Salvation (Romans 5:5, Philippians 2:12 and Hebrews 12:2).

This sixth doctrinal change occurred when God removed the judge of *The Old Covenant*. Now, instead, God teaches Christians with His chosen new teacher, His Son, Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2). This new teacher is qualified to teach you since He has the experience of having lived what He now preaches. What a doctrinal change! *The New Covenant* or doctrine (teaching) guarantees success by means of having a tutor and a teacher – which are The Holy Spirit and Christ! Wow! The seventh doctrinal change to come is for World Salvation. It can be found under the teaching about The New Heaven and The New Earth. This is where everyone will finally have access to *the restored* Tree of Life. There will be the healing leaves for all the

saved nations. This tree and the leaves accompany God's Fountain of Life. Always remember how truth comes only through Christ (John 1:17).

Grace or mercy is given to everyone who confesses before God. Then Salvation will be made available to everyone in The Kingdom of God (Romans 10:10). Truths, creeds and doctrines will then be simple to understand *scripturally*. God has indeed planned a wonderful eternal life for you. Truth comes from Christ through *grace*. Your only creed should be focused on Jesus, the only foundation upon which you will need to emulate and grow.

CHAPTER 5

A GUARANTEED SYSTEM

Throughout the world, when God teaches His children, He does it with a perfect plan in mind (Psalm 24:1-2). It is time for you to put God's all inclusive puzzle together. God's *word* is what will set you free, so you can be in The Kingdom of God. This process includes God's *creeds* and *doctrines*.

The Puzzle

The puzzle of God is called The Mystery of God. Satan always attempts to confuse God's *mystery* by sowing his tares among God's growing seeds (Matthew 13). The tares comprise the deception Satan sows. Eve believed Satan when he told her she could eat of any tree in The Garden of Eden (in particular – The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil). She was only told she would know the difference between good and evil. She had no idea she would die. Adam followed his wife by also eating the fruit. Both were now left to themselves to decide right from wrong. This was the beginning of The Mystery of Babylon. Long after The Flood (3,000 – 2,500 B.C.) at The Tower of Babel, everyone spoke one language. They stood united and began to build The Tower of Babel to accompany their heathen worship. God ended this union for a very good reason. He confused their languages

and divided the nations worldwide. Why is this? Read Genesis 11:6. Human nature does not and cannot know good or evil without God. Humans, left to themselves, are in a state of *Babylon*. *The tares of Satan* had been sown worldwide and are still being sown.

The Torah

The Torah did not become God's Law until four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. This codified *Torah* was added to *The Original Torah*, which then became *The Torah Law* (Galatians 3:17). Moses wrote the first five books of *The Bible* from Genesis to Deuteronomy. The definition for the two words of "*The Torah*" in Hebrew and Greek, merely means "*the way*" or "*the path.*" But, it is the path to what? It is *The Law*, or all *The Torah* which was added and is included in The Book of Deuteronomy. This was now known as *The Old Covenant* (Galatians 3:24 and Deuteronomy 5:3).

The Old Covenant was added to *The Torah* (the way or path) because Israel had a wrong heart (Deuteronomy 5:29). They needed homework or perhaps time in a corner to mull over what they had done wrong and make a decision never to do that particular sin again. Israel proved they had a wrong heart by worshipping *the golden calf*. God then had to add *The Law of Moses* because all Israel was unrighteous. Then, *The Torah* became a law so the unrighteous could be led to The Path or The Way. The Way declares how *The Torah Law* was

designed to lead them to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Christ is *The Torah* or *The Way*.

Christ, The Way

With *The Added Law of Moses*, *The Torah* made it possible for the unrighteous to find Salvation along with *the righteous*. God made a path for the whole world to follow, so the people could eventually be saved. God sent His Son, Jesus, so they could be saved (I John 4:14). Christ came to give grace (forgiveness/mercy) and truth (John 1:17). *The Law*, brought by Moses, was meant to bring you to Christ. Only Jesus, The Christ, brought mercy and truth. You have discovered how truth is defined as God's *word*. It will make you free. You will become a Son of God through adoption from your human parents. (Read the book, *Sons Of God*). Jesus was crucified and through His sacrifice, He paid for the sins of the world. You don't need The Letter of *The Law* with its works to bring you to perfection (Ephesians 4:11-13). Jesus is The Author or Way to Salvation. With this *gift* from Christ of God's Holy Spirit, He writes His Laws in your heart and mind. The Letter of The Law is no longer needed as God changes your human nature from *an all-too-human mind* into The Mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). The Mystery of God is revealed, which is Christ – "*In You*" (Colossians 1:27). You can possess Christ's heart and mind by God's love, which is given to you by His Holy Spirit (Romans 5). Your creed is now Christ – "*In You*" which is The Foundation of God. *The Way* is

The Doctrine of Christ. Christians are The Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3). Paul said, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh [Babylon], but after the Spirit*” (Romans 8:1). Through Christ, you receive grace/mercy and truth. “*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh [Babylon], God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh*” (Romans 8:3). Through *The Law of Christ*, God gives Christians freedom from death to become The Very Sons of God. These are the ones who are led by The Spirit of God (Romans 8:14). By following Christ through The Holy Spirit, you have The True Creed, which is Christ – “*In You.*” You also have the doctrines or teachings for everyone to be in The Kingdom of God. Your only creed should be Christ, who will give you *truth*. You need to concentrate only on what is important (which is Christ – “*In You*”). Let the carnal and the unrighteous argue about doctrine. You have more important matters which you must attend to. You have to make sure you steer yourself to follow God, your Father and Christ, your Brother. It’s a big job – but with Christ “*In You,*” you can do it. *The light* at the end of *the tunnel* is so fabulous you must never, ever, take it for granted. It’s to your advantage to ask God to help you to be prepared for The First Resurrection. God, Christ, The Angels and *The Bible* are there as tutors to help you to grow so you can pass the tests and finally obtain God’s mind – “*In You.*” Then you can be in God’s *kingdom*, eternally. You and God can walk together because you, Christ and God are in complete agreement (Amos 3:3).